

## CHICA-HANDIC

### Executive 2010

**President:** Risa Cashmore RN BSc CIC CCHN(c)  
**President-Elect:** Mark Jefferson RN BScN CIC  
**Secretary:** Andrea Iacurti RN CIC  
**Treasurer:** Connie Gittens-Webber BSc MLT ART CIC  
**Past President:** Barbara Shea MLT ART Microbiology CIC

### Executive 2011

**President:** Risa Cashmore RN BSc CIC CCHN(c)  
**President-Elect:** Mark Jefferson RN BScN, CIC  
**Secretary:** Cheryl Collins RN BScN CIC  
**Treasurer:** Connie Gittens-Webber BSc MLT ART CIC  
**Chapter Webmaster:** May Griffiths-Turner MLT CIC  
**Educational Committee Chair:** Tamara Johnson RN  
**Past President:** Barbara Shea MLT ART Microbiology CIC

**Number of Members:** 137

**Geographic Area Served:** Hamilton and Neighbouring Districts (Hamilton, Halton, Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Mississauga, Cambridge, Fergus, Guelph, Brantford, St. Catharines, Niagara, Haldimand-Norfolk)

### Membership

The CHICA-HANDIC membership includes novice and experienced professionals from varying disciplines: nurses, public health inspectors, medical laboratory technologists and industry representatives of varying backgrounds. The majority of members hold positions and/or responsibilities in infection prevention and control in acute care, long term care, community health, public health and regional infection control networks (RICNs).

### Meetings

Full day meetings are held on the third Friday of February, April, July, September and December. Our morning is devoted to chapter business, updates and questions, followed by a networking lunch. Afternoon sessions have an educational component provided by an invited guest or chapter members. Standing agenda items for chapter business include: celebration of CIC and SARE successes, alerts and outbreak reports from members as well as reports from the president, treasurer, interest groups, CHICA-Canada, Infection Control Ontario and the RICNs.

### Initiatives Related to the CHICA-Canada 2010-2015 Strategic Plan

#### GOAL 1: Raise the profile of the association and its activities

- Hosted our 14th annual educational day attended by 374 health care workers from all sectors.
- Representatives from EMS are now active members.

#### GOAL TWO: Enhance the mix of products and services

- Development of a new CHICA- HANDIC logo (an update from our original logo) consistent with the updated CHICA-Canada branding. A logo contest was held. Cheryl Collins created the winning design.
- Minutes and agendas are posted to the members area of our Chapter website.
- Our new “Welcome brochure” is posted to our web site for new members.
- Our annual education day presentations are videotaped and housed in our library for lending. (Note: our library is located in the Central South Infection Control Network Office, in the facility in which we meet.)

#### GOAL THREE: Expand the association’s education initiatives

- Development of a “mentor” system for new chapter members.
- Development of an inventory of educational tools & resources that were shared with participants at the annual education day. Educational tools include signs, posters and fact sheets for families, patients/residents/clients, health care workers and visitors. These resources are available from the CHICA-HANDIC library

#### **GOAL FOUR: Expand and develop the membership base**

- Retention of retirees:
  - Diane Thornley, a founding member of CHICA-HANDIC, donated funds for an “Out of the Box Award”. Diane was invited to attend our November chapter meeting and presented the award to Trish Hutton, the first recipient of the award. The winning project was “Nurse Jackson”, an application of a positive deviance initiative.
  - Initiation of a “Retirement Certificate” which recognizes members who have retired: “Long May She Wash Her Hands!”
  
- Plans for next year include seeking out members from correctional services, funeral homes, industry, etc.
- Encouragement of creativity and innovation with our “Out of the Box Award” and “Hygeia Award”
- CHICA-HANDIC provides financial support for our member’s Infection Control Week activities. This is very popular with our membership.
- CHICA-HANDIC funds attendance to the annual CHICA-Canada educational conference. Applicants must attend chapter meetings regularly to be eligible.
- CHICA-Canada is promoted at a booth at our annual education day; pamphlets are distributed about the benefits of membership.

#### **GOAL FIVE: Provide national and international leadership**

- The president, president-elect and past president serve two years in each role, thereby serving as succession planning.
- CHICA-HANDIC has developed a CHICA-HANDIC Chapter Executive Manual including each executive member’s role, job description, executive function and timelines. This is in the form of an electronic manual to provide information to members who may be interested in a chapter executive role as well as assisting new executive members. Forms and templates are also available plus a calendar of important events and deadlines for CHICA-Canada and CHICA-HANDIC.
- CHICA-HANDIC works collaboratively and in partnership with the local Ontario Regional Infection Control Networks (RICNs) to promote and support the annual CHICA-HANDIC educational day.
- Our community linkages extend to inviting industry vendors to have booths at our annual CHICA-HANDIC educational day. Because of the large number of participants at our conference, vendors are eager to assist and support this venture with many returning year after year.
- Four of our CHICA-HANDIC members have become CHICA-Canada presidents: Sandra Callery, Adrienne Brown, Joanne Laalo, and Anne Bialachowski.
- CHICA-HANDIC supports the chapter president to attend the annual CHICA-Canada conference. It was recently voted and passed by the membership for the president-elect to also be supported to attend the annual CHICA-Canada conference
- Chapter membership extends to five public health units, two RICNs and industry partners.
- Three of our chapter members attended the IFIC conference in Lithuania.
- Members from our chapter are represented on the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care/Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion Core Competency Development Working Group.
- Some of our chapter members are members of Ontario’s Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committees.

#### **Highlights**

- Our CHICA-HANDIC 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Day held June 18<sup>th</sup> at a local convention centre. Entitled: “All In the Family”. Topics included:
  - a. IPAC Challenges in Day Care Settings
  - b. IPAC Horrors in the Home
  - c. Cultural Fads and their Infection Control Implications
  - d. Bed Bugs
  - e. Challenges and Strategies for dealing with Cognitive Impairment, Non-Compliance and Mental Health Risks
  - f. Positive Deviance
  - g. IPAC Tips, Tools and Take-Aways

- Chapter Educational sessions included
  - Our IFIC Experience in Lithuania by Virginia Tirilis and Debbie Valickis (chapter members)
  - Primary Care for Physicians Event – videotaped sessions by Dr. Neil Rau, Dr. Barbara Yaffey, Dr. Monir Taha and Dr. Eileen DeVilla. Topics included planning for H1N1, Routine Practices, etc.
  - Dr. Cheryl Main presented ESBL and NDM1
  - Out of the Box Award Presentations and selection
- Development, update and adoption of a new chapter logo – as above
- Revision of our chapter website is in progress.
- Our Hygeia Award recipient was May Griffiths-Turner. She was presented with the award at the CHICA-HANDIC annual educational day.
- The Out-of-the-Box award was initiated and presented to the winner at our November meeting.
- Certificates are presented and/or sent/distributed to retirees, award winners and “great idea” (logo contest) winners.
- Journal submission for the Winter newsletter was submitted by the CHICA-HANDIC executive and Lois LaCroix (chapter member).
- Our chapter terms of reference had not been revised since 2006, thus were reviewed and amended. Changes included expanding the executive, financially supporting the president-elect to attend the annual CHICA-Canada conference, and addition of a chapter webmaster. The changes will be forwarded to CHICA-Canada for acceptance and posting.
- Our chapter received the 3M Chapter Award in 2009. In February 2010, our chapter celebrated by meeting at a local winery to enjoy wine and cheese and a talk by guest speaker Dr. Basidur, whose topic was “Creative Thinking”
- Approximately 20 of our members attended the CHICA-Canada Educational Conference in Vancouver
- Members' special accomplishments include:
  - An article published in The Canadian Journal of Infection Control Vol. 25 No. 4 Winter 2010 by May Griffiths-Turner: “Documentation Tool for Infection Prevention and Control”
  - Various posters and talks at the CHICA-Canada Educational Conference in Vancouver
  - Various presentations at other Infection Prevention and Control related conferences
 (Note: Our chapter is submitting a 3M chapter award, thus, more details regarding the above and other accomplishments will follow.)
- Development of our “Welcome Brochure” and associated electronic manual/binder is in progress
- Updating the CHICA-HANDIC website is in progress
- Our Chapter Executive Manual is in final drafts

*Risa Cashmore RN BS CIC*  
*Chapter President*