

Annual Report 2010

My name is Rosalind Minaji, President of Canadian Parents for French in Hamilton-Wentworth. We are proud to be celebrating many accomplishments in our ninth year in Hamilton Wentworth.

MEMBERSHIP

\$16 of each \$25 membership is returned to the local chapter for local activities and advocacy.

CPF Hamilton Membership 2010	Total # of memberships
Total Members	100
Public School	75
Separate School	20
Corporate & Other	5

We are always looking for new members, so please tell your friends and neighbours about CPF. We speak with a more powerful voice at the school board when we have more members. We are also constantly looking for volunteers for our Executive Committee, especially from the east end, and from our Catholic schools. Several of the people on our current executive committee were founding members of the chapter and are looking to pass the torch along.

SPECIAL EVENTS 2009/2010

Spring Event

Last spring we held an information session on French Immersion programs at the two area high schools, as well as French language careers, the International Baccalaureate program for FI students, and various the grants and exchange programs accessible by high school students. The winners of the student French short film festival sponsored by the Centre Francais were present to show their winning film.

Fall Event

Our Frenchaplooza event in November featured parent information sessions on helping with homework, finding French activities outside of the classroom, and French resources at the public library, along with a French book sale and French activities for children. We hope to run a similar format event again this Fall. This event was attended by approximately 120 people.

Hamilton Reads

CPF also worked with the Hamilton Public Library this year to sponsor a French author as part of the Hamilton Reads celebration. Marylyn Peranger presented her French stories at a special reading at Westdale library on a Saturday afternoon in January.

French concert

This year CPF was able to present a show with a difference; 'Gotta love that French' took the form of a live TV show in which kids participated in songs and contests. Hélène Nicole Richard brought her performance to Hamilton schools and helped students fall in love with French.

French public speaking contests

In March and April inter-school French public speaking competitions were held by the Public and Catholic school boards. The winners in the various Core and Immersion French categories are advancing to the Provincial level contest at Glendon College in Toronto this month. This provincial contest is organized and sponsored by CPF Ontario. A total of twenty prizes were purchased by CPF Hamilton-Wentworth for the first and second place winners of these local competitions.

ADVOCACY

Each year, CPF is involved in advocacy issues at both school boards. Members of CPF attend the French Immersion Advisory Committee for the Public School Board and the French Immersion Parent Advisory Committee for the Separate School Board. We help to advocate for the formation of new public school Immersion programs in Hamilton, for the provision of transportation for FI students. This coming year we will be exploring the issue of secondary school accommodation for FI students. One of our Executive members also sits on the CPF Ontario Board and takes part in advocacy activities at the Provincial level with the Ministry of Education.

OUTREACH

SK information night promotion

In January, the Hamilton-Wentworth Chapter received a grant of \$600 to be used to promote French Immersion programs in Hamilton. This money was only available to municipalities which had a CPF Chapter. We mailed posters highlighting the Immersion program to over 80 local daycares and encouraged those parents to find out more. We prepared a French Immersion promotion brochure which distributed to libraries, arenas and community centres. Chapter Executive members attended the eighteen Kindergarten Information Nights offered by the Public and Separate School Boards to offer support and answer questions. We are happy to report that FI enrollment across Hamilton Wentworth continues to increase

COMMUNICATION

Newsletters

Three issues of the CPF Hamilton-Wentworth newsletter have been produced this year to inform Hamilton parents about special events and CPF activities. About 3,700 copies of each newsletter are printed and distributed. Copies of the newsletter are delivered by the Chapter Executive members to the schools they represent and sent home to each French Immersion student. Board staff and school trustees contacts are also sent copies of each issue. Back issues of the newsletter are handed out at various school events. We provide these newsletters to all French Immersion students in order to build connections among parents and students in this special program.

Web site

Our web site is a great resource It includes:

- monthly updates on Chapter initiatives;
- tips and resources to help parents assist their children;
- links to French web sites of interest;
- minutes and agendas for Chapter Executive meetings;
- discussion of the benefits of French Immersion;
- map and contact information for FI Schools across the City;
- information on high school Immersion programs in Hamilton;
- back issues of CPF newsletters

Approval of Chapter Executive for 2010/2011

President/Chapter Contact:	Rosalind Minaji
Treasurer:	Cameron More
Membership Secretary (joint):	Kaywana Gargarello/Alicia Bragg
Communications:	Christel Elliot
Recording Secretary:	Louise Adam

Approval of Chapter Financial Statement for 2010/2011

STARTING BALANCE April 1st, 2009	1851.90
Income	5036.52
Expenses	4624.66
BALANCE AS OF MARCH 31st 2010	2263.76