

Ah, spring has sprung or did winter ever arrive in the Atlantic Provinces? As with a new season upon us, AGM time arrived as well. APATA held its AGM on April 21<sup>st</sup> at Saint Mary's University. We were very pleased with this year's turnout with over 14 members in attendance, translating into 32% of the APATA population making the drive to SMU. This year our president and treasurer remain Jackie Vandertuin and Ann Booth respectively with our new Vice President as Angela Wylie. A big thank you goes out to Al MacFarlane for his contributions during his time as Vice President.

Here are some highlights from this year's AGM. Our membership recognized the importance of the implementation of a general legal fund that was discussed at last year's PPC meeting. We've decided to increase our membership fees by 10% for 2013 with the 10% hike being earmarked for a general legal fund. This applies to all categories of membership within APATA. Also, at our AGM we were treated to a presentation by Destination Halifax to highlight some potential benefits for our regional chapter hosting a national conference in Halifax. Those in attendance were very excited over the potential benefits of hosting a conference. Jeff Turner, from Destination Halifax, indicated that government funding may be available if we were able to provide a public component to the conference. This is an idea that we may explore depending on the number of members involved with the conference committee. The APATA BoD is keenly interested in discovering what is important to our members and as such Jackie Vandertuin will be creating a survey to determine what issues our membership feels is important. From the responses, committees will be struck within the region to tackle those issues. This is to ensure that our membership is receiving what it needs to continue to work in Athletic Therapy.

Many of our members took part in a symposium entitled Concussion Nova Scotia. The focus of this meeting was a gathering of like-minded individuals interested in finding pathways to assess and manage concussions amongst the Nova Scotia population. Athletic Therapists were well represented with Tara Sutherland CAT(C) and Ange Wylie CAT(C) along with Dr. David Cudmore presenting to the group present of their successes they've had with their concussion assessment and management programme out of Antigonish. Tara and Angela, who run the concussion clinic, spoke of the distance many in the province travel for assessment and management of their concussions. What was even more impressive was a speech from Dr. Robert Strang, Nova Scotia's Chief Public Health Officer, who spoke of his experiences with Athletic Therapists and rugby and the vital role they played.

APATA is excited to be taking part in the Scotia Bank Bluenose Marathon. We will be supporting the Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia (BIANS). A group of runners will be wearing our bright orange shirts along with helmets and running/walking through the streets of Halifax to raise awareness for

BIANS and our association. The Scotia Bank Bluenose Marathon draws approximately 10,000 runners each year and APATA should be standing out, particularly with our group wearing CSA approved helmets!

Congratulations are extended to Colin King CAT(C) after successfully defending his master's thesis at Memorial University. Colin's research will undoubtedly play an important role in any modifications/changes to the current national exam. He completed his project on a study of concurrent validity characteristics of the written and practical components of the CATA National Certification Exam. As well, Heather MacLeod will be starting a BSc programme at the British College of Osteopathy which will eventually lead to a masters focusing on treatment of sports injuries, paediatrics and treatment of animals.

2013 will prove to be another exciting year of growth for APATA. We are tremendously excited about our new avenues of promotion of Athletic Therapy and our continued growth in our membership.