

CANADIAN RENTAL ASSOCIATION

Ontario N

## **Ontario Board of Directors**

**Neil De Jong** Chair CRA Ontario **ITE Rentals** 905-545-6011 neil@iterentals.com

James Morden President Rentshop 705-435-3844 jamesmorden@rentshopinc.com

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**First Vice President Ingersoll Rent-All** 519-485-4231 mike@ingersollrentall.ca

#### **Dale Brinklow**

Second Vice President **Minden Hills Rent-All** 705-286-3047 mhra@cottagecountry.net

## Penny O'Sullivan

Ontario CRA Director ABCO Equipment & Supplies 877-424-5118 penny@abco-equip.ca

#### **Jeff Campbell CRA** Director at Large

St. Thomas Rent-All Sales & Service 519-631-5450 jeff@stthomasrentall.com

#### Peter Webster. CERP

Director McLean-Sherwood **Party Rental & Supply** 905-459-5781 peter@mcleansherwood.com

**James Urguhart** 

Associate Director **Huron Tractor** 519-270-5132 ju479@hurontractor.com

Ken Malott

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## **Shirley McCormick**

Secretary Honorary Member 905-697-0380 smc1smc2@gmail.com



# Canadian Rental Association ONTARIO MemberUpda

## October 2010 • www.CRArental.org

## A message from your president

**S** pecial thanks to Paul Everitt, Rentquip Canada, and his 2010 golf committee for another successful tournament. We had 96 golfers and 22 hole sponsors support our annual event. Please see the list of sponsors in this issue and be sure to thank them when you deal with them. Of course, our event could not have been possible without the assistance of our volunteers: Shirley and Claude McCormick, retired; Wally Carruthers, retired; Scott Ritchie, National Hose; Burton Smith, Western Financial Group Insurance Solutions; and

Louise Everitt. Your efforts do not go unnoticed or unappreciated. We hope to see you next year!

## **Our October meeting** is at A World of Rentals

in Kingston. Colin and Chris have arranged tours of their facility throughout the afternoon and then we'll take a dinner cruise of the 1.000 islands in the evening. I know how much fun everyone had

on our Toronto harbour cruise, so be sure not to miss your opportunity to see the fall colours at their peak and some truly stunning vistas.

Social media efforts work. A customer was searching YouTube (now the second-most-utilized search engine next to Google) for videos on steam cleaners and came across our page. There he watched two short videos and called to rent the unit we purchased at **The Rental Show** this past year in Orlando. Most importantly, the customer was from outside our area and only found us because of his search. We would not have had the

rental with a directory ad. We also have had confirmed rentals of products we have featured on our Facebook page. The social media venues work, but best of all, they are fluid, dynamic and interactive! The way you market your brand is

changing. Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and the like offer you the ability to adjust, focus and enhance your marketing efforts.

> However, with more than 2 billion (yes, with a "b") tweets a month on Twitter and more than 500 million people with active Facebook accounts, it is increasingly important to have mass behind your social media efforts. Therefore, your entire team should be engaged in a common social media goal. Too risky, you say? Someone might post something that will reflect

negatively on your company? Don't fret. The risk is no greater than having someone do or say something in person - that is if you implement some simple policies and strategies.

#### You need to have a social media

policy. I have posted links on the CRA Facebook page outlining how to create one. Remember you are not trying to control the conversation; rather you want to encourage individuals (both inside and outside your company) to talk about your brand while promoting respectful input.

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"I suggest you start off by following marketing and branding experts on Twitter and Facebook."

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

## Oct. 20, 2010

## Member meeting: A World of Rentals, Kingston

Nov. 17, 2010 Member meeting: To be determined

## Jan. 22, 2011

Tabletop Show: Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre, London

Feb. 27-March 2, 2011 The Rental Show, Las Vegas

## March 16, 2011

Member meeting: Diamond Products Tyrolit, Mississauga (co-sponsored by George Daan Supplies)

April 20, 2011 Member meeting: Orangeville

Pre-registration required. Call: 519-485-4231

#### IAIN WATSON President 26 Benfield Drive St. Catharines, ON Canada L2S3V5 TEL: 905-685-4243 FAX: 905-685-4243 FAX: 905-685-4243 FAX: 905-685-113 EMAIL: iwatson@flagro.ca WEBSITE: www.flagro.ca

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 Home office Fac: (905) 553-1596

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 Email: jan.marcus@ca.atlascopco.com



## President's message continued from page 1

## You need to invest in education. Most

of us are curious about how social media work in both business and personal contexts, so seek out and offer employees opportunities to learn about etiquette or shoot and post a YouTube video, for example. All of these resources are available online for free. Time is your only investment! I suggest you start off by following marketing and branding experts on Twitter and Facebook; you will be amazed at the resources and expertise that are available free of charge. Arm your employees with the proper skills and knowledge, then watch as they become your brand ambassadors online not just at the counter!

#### You need to encourage and engage in social media conversations. Social

media author and entrepreneur Amber Macarthur believes that customers who are searching online are expecting to find companies that are actively participating in social media. She suggests that a good way to share your brand is by "personalizing" your content and promoting your company culture by posting photos and video from inside your office, i.e., profiling employees and by just having fun with the interactions. I have posted and captioned pictures and video of me using equipment at home: drilling post holes with a skid-steer, dethatching the lawn, installing baseboard with a compressor and brad nailer, etc. It may seem silly, but think about how many times you get asked, "Have you done this job or used this equipment?" when you rent to your customers. Studies show that many people's purchasing decisions are influenced by their perceptions of a company's culture. By sharing this simple content, my advice at the point of rental has been given legitimacy in the eyes of the consumer: I am "a rental professional," and my brand is stronger because of it.

So go forth and carve out your own social media success and have some fun while doing it!  $\blacklozenge$ 

— James Morden CRA Ontario president

# Nominations sought for CRA Ontario board elections

N ominations for the positions of secretary, treasurer, second vice president and associate director on the CRA Ontario board of directors will begin in a few short weeks in preparation for the April 2011 elections.

"We are making an unprecedented effort this year to reach out to our members to ensure the strongest possible slate of candidates is presented at our elections in April 2011," says James Morden, CRA Ontario

president.

If you would like to take an active role in the governance of your association, or if you know someone whose skill set would benefit the board, please note the following information:

Directors are elected for a two-year term

beginning in August and may, if they wish, stand for re-election. Directors are required to attend monthly board meetings, participate on at least one committee of the board and demonstrate their support by attending several CRA Ontario events throughout the year.

- Candidates must be a member in good standing of the Canadian Rental Association or its designated representative.
- Nominations will be accepted until the close of business on Friday April 15, 2011, or in person from the floor prior to the membership vote at the general members' meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2011.

"If you have any questions regarding any of these positions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the board," Morden says. "We are anxious to discuss this volunteer leadership opportunity with you."



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# Nominations sought for CKA Ontario Doard e

Contribute to your CRA Ontario newsletter

If you have a story to share, please write a quick item and e-mail it to Dale Brinklow at mhra@ cottagecountry.net.

# Host a meeting

If you are a general or associate member and are interested in hosting an upcoming CRA Ontario meeting, please contact Mike Maltby at 519-485-4231 or Mike @ ingersollrentall.ca. If he is not available, please contact any other member of the board.



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CRA Ontario Golf Tournament 2010: Another successful event

Once again, the CRA Ontario Golf Tournament was a great success. Thanks to all who participated and our sponsors, including those companies listed below, who donated to our prize table. Your continued support is appreciated by everyone.

## 2010 Hole Sponsors

- A & E Sales
- All Cover Portable Systems
- Bartell Morrison Chipping Contest
- Bobcat
- Bobcat
- Bradford Rental Sales & Service — \$10,000 Hole-In-One
- Clarke Sanders
- DK Imports Closest to Table • Winners: Men: Brant Flaherty, Hose Power Canada Women: Penny O'Sullivan, Abco Equipment & Supplies
- Echo Power Equipment Canada — Closest to Pin Winner: Phil Demers, Stephenson's Rental Services
- Etobicoke Iron Works
- Golfer's Green Childhood Cancer Foundation Charity
- Grip Clinch Canada –
   Putting Contest Winner:

Dean Nasato, Wacker-Neuson

- Hose Power Canada
- Husqvarna Construction Equipment
- Hy-Cor International
- Impact Canopies
- Minden Hills Rent-All \$10,000 Hole-In-One
- National Hose Longest Drive • Winner: Jeff Bowering, Bradford Rental Sales & Service
- Rentquip Canada Free Beer
- Stihl Closest to Pin Winner: Mike Fantauzzi, Solideal Canada
- Vulcan Demolition Tools
- Wacker-Neuson Closest to Pin • Winner: Gord deBruin, Claessen Pumps
- Western Financial Group Insurance Solutions

## **Most Honest Golfers**

GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

18 HOLES

The Abco Equipment & Supplies group combined skill and expertise. They shot a sincere +18 for a total of 88. Congratulations Penny O'Sullivan, Dennis Black, Paul Tomc and Charlie O'Hara.

## Low-gross Team

Brant Flaherty and Mark Forget, both from Hose Power Canada, and Ed Cosman from Annex Publishing shot a blistering -10 for a total of 60.

Special thanks also go to our volunteers who assisted with our tournament: Shirley and Claude McCormick, retired; Wally Carruthers, retired; Scott Ritchie, National Hose; Burton Smith, Western Financial Group Insurance Solutions; and Louise Everitt. ◆

## Tabletop Show • Jan. 22, 2011



Don't miss the CRA Ontario's tabletop show, Jan. 22, at the Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre in London. In addition to great fun and networking, there will be a Loonie Auction, so bring lots of Loonies. Watch this newsletter for more information. If you have questions, contact a CRA Ontario board member.





# Find answers and connect with your peers through ARA's Member-to-Member Forum

What are the best ways to subrent equipment? What should you look for before buying commercial washers and dryers? What is the best way to format a customer survey?

If you recently looked on the American Rental Association's (ARA) Member-to-Member Forum, you would find answers to these questions and so many more.

Reading the the Memberto-Member Forum has helped Mike Maltby, manager at Ingersoll Rent-All in Ingersoll. "Anytime we are looking to add a new piece of equipment to our rental fleet, I always check the member forum to see if other members have any recommendations on brands or models to consider (or to avoid)," he

## says. "I have yet to find a product that hasn't been discussed on the forum."

As Maltby and rental operators from around the world have discovered, the Member-to-Member Forum — a free benefit of membership in ARA — is the place to learn what other rental operators are doing to solve rental business issues.

Discover how ARA's Member-to-Member Forum can help you find the answers you need. Log on to **www.ARArental.org**. Under "My ARA," select "Member Forums." ◆

# Join us for a store tour and evening cruise on Oct. 20

Our October members' meeting will begin with a tour of A World of Rentals, a family-owned rental business in Kingston that caters to the small contractor and do-it-yourself rental markets. After the tour, we'll take an evening dinner cruise on the Island Star Dinner Cruise Ship.

The Island Star is a Bateau-Mouche-styled catamaran dining ship that seats up to 180 people. Her defining feature is the full translucent glass and lexan canopy over the cabin with an openair second deck.

This is an event that you won't want to miss. The details include:

- Noon-4:30 p.m.: Tour A World of Rentals 154 Railway St. • Kingston
- 4:45-5:15 p.m.: Board the Island Star Dinner Cruise Ship



Kingston 1000 Islands Cruises 1 Brock St. (Next to Confederation Place Park) • Kingston

## 5:30-8:30 p.m.: Enjoy dinner cruise and entertainment

Tour a CRA Ontario rental business and then enjoy a great evening of fellowship with your rental peers. The cost for the dinner cruise is \$45 for members and \$65 for nonmembers. To register, call **Mike Maltby** at **519-485-4231**. **Registration deadline is Oct. 13.** 

# Don't miss any of the CRA activities at The Rental Show in Las Vegas

t's the place to leverage your rental investment – **The Rental Show**, Feb. 27-March 2 at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center in Las Vegas. That includes learning the latest news from the Canadian Rental Association (CRA) and benefiting from networking with other rental business owners from across Canada.

#### In addition to:

- **Events & Tents**, Saturday afternoon, Feb. 26, through Sunday morning, Feb. 27
- Lunch With ARA and evening reception at LAX Nightclub in the Luxor on Sunday, Feb. 26.
- Keynote session on Monday, Feb. 28, featuring Leigh Anne Tuohy, whose life was depicted by Sandra Bullock in the film "The Blind Side."
- Educational seminars on Sunday, Feb. 26,

and the mornings of March 1 and 2.

- The trade show Monday, Feb. 28, to March 2.
- ARA Foundation auction on Tuesday, March 1.

You won't want to miss these Canadian-specific events:

- The CRA Annual General Meeting from 4-5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28.
- Region 10 Reception from 5-6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28. The cost is \$15 per person. Preorder your tickets with your Show registration.
- Canadian Hospitality night that immediately follows the Region 10 Reception at 6:30 p.m. and continues until 11 p.m. This is a no-charge, sponsored event. Enjoy the hot appetizers and networking.

The CRA kiosk in the Member Resource Center on the Show floor. Mandy Wellnitz,



CRA executive director, will be there along with Ken Fingler and Justin Friesen from Western Financial Group Insurance Solutions.

Sign up for the **Canadian block of hotel** rooms at the Mandalay Bay and Luxor. **Call Travel Planners at 800-221-3531** or 212-532-1660.

Plus, take advantage of the **Internet-only \$99 Show registration special before Oct. 31.** To register and for Show details, go to www.TheRentalShow.com.  $\blacklozenge$ 

