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Upcoming Events

- The 2012 CASA Conference will take place in beautiful Whistler, British Columbia. The conference runs from July 5 through to July 8.

Message From The President: The Effects Of Creativity And Innovation

In this issue, we are continuing our conversation about our upcoming summer conference theme, "Creativity and Innovation in Education."

As we enter the wondrous season of spring, we are busy preparing for our annual gathering in Whistler, British Columbia. On behalf of the CASA executive, I would like to acknowledge the excellent response that we have received from educational administrators from across Canada to support our summer conference.

This year we have been investigating the two concepts of creativity and innovation in education to delve deeper into how they are affecting our Canadian schools and the leadership of our Canadian administrators.

These two words are alive and active in our Canadian classrooms as we witness the ever-changing advances in educational technology, the growth of alternative learning environments for students to support and encourage ownership and responsibility for their own learning, and the continuous review of programs from early learning to graduation to enhance the learning of all students.

When we examine the concepts of creativity and innovation in education, as educational



Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells
CASA president

leaders we sometimes wonder whether the new programs and new ways of teaching and assessing are actually making a difference for our learners. Our all-encompassing approach to creativity and innovation in the 21st century challenges our roles as educational leaders and our own thinking about these concepts in our own school districts.

However, as we move forward with advancements in student-centred learning and teaching and assessing, the roles that we play are continually changing in order to support students in their creative and innovative endeavours. It is essential that all students learn about themselves, others and the world around them in their own country and outside of Canada, implementing creative and innovative practices during their time in Canadian schools.

As Canadian educational leaders, it is essential that we continue the conversations with all staff in our school districts about what it takes to foster creative cultures of innovation and to sustain innovation for the benefit of all students in Canadian schools.

The CASA 2012 conference is an excellent example of this commitment to creativity and innovation in Canadian education. We

(Continued on page 2)

Message From The Executive Director: A Chance To Network And Learn With Your Colleagues

Canadian schools thrive on the creativity and innovation of our teachers. Finding a new and better way to present information and curriculum at every grade level is the norm for most teachers. Few are ever satisfied with their delivery and most spend hours reworking and polishing lessons to gain those special results.

Students appreciate the efforts of good teachers, and they relish and adopt better learning.

Senior administrators must be aware of the creativity and innovation in their schools. They must study the best improvements in their schools and across their districts. And they must support this creativity and innovation by finding ways to improve and add resources.

This July in Whistler, CASA will bring together educators from across Canada to share ideas on building school cultures to embrace creativity, providing for diversity and equity, using a creative approach to implement a community-supported anti-bullying climate, innovative use of technology, supporting differentiated instruction and working effectively with social media.

Other sessions will provide creative methods for keeping at-risk students in school, using wikis in the classroom, developing new internship programs to encourage creative leadership and providing innovative alternative learning methods.

This conference will provide all participants with new ideas to take away and practise in their own districts.

Supervisory officers who attend will have the chance to network with their counterparts in other provinces, and to appraise and refine what they see so they can implement it with the fine teachers in their home districts.

We look forward to the truly great innovations that you will share with us in the coming year.



Frank Kelly
CASA executive director

Message From The President: The Effects Of Creativity And Innovation, continued

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will once again join together to share best practices displaying how learning is a creative and innovative process for all of us in Canadian education.

Margaret J. Wheatley reminds us “The things we fear most

**We must continue conversations
about what it takes to foster
creative cultures of innovation.**

in organizations—fluctuations, disturbances, imbalances—are the primary sources of creativity.”

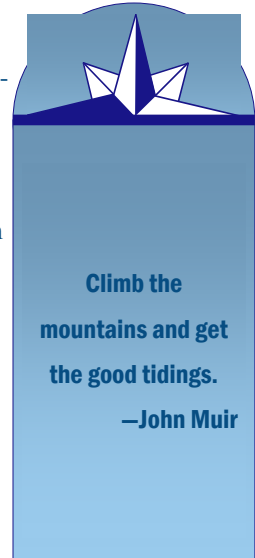
Therefore, as we prepare to reconnect with colleagues from jurisdictions from across Canada at the summer conference,

**Our roles are continually changing
to support students in their creative
and innovative endeavours.**

we are encouraged to welcome the fluctuations, disturbances, and imbalances that creativity and innovation present for us.

We will continue to embrace creativity and innovation with what Warren Bennis has called “courageous patience” to continue to improve Canadian education for all students. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in beautiful BC in July.

Happy spring!



Preview Of The 2012 Preconference Activities: A Guide To Mountaintop Adventure And Relaxation



A lovely summer evening in the village of Whistler, British Columbia.

Photo by Mike Crane/Tourism Whistler

Have you registered your team for this summer's CASA conference? Have you signed up for the preconference activities? Are you wondering whether or not to bring your family?

Conference registration packages are now available on the CASA website at www.casa-acas.ca. Remember, you must register for preconference activities by June 12.

There are three days worth of preconference activities, with something for everyone whether your idea of fun includes adventure, food, relaxation or spectacular sights.

On July 3, you may choose from four activities throughout the day.

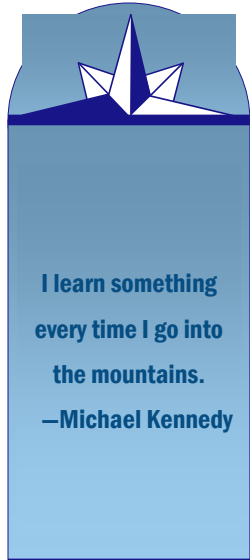
Option A is a three-hour ATV tour in Whistler's backcountry. You'll climb high into the mountains and see beautiful views of the valleys below. A deli-style lunch is included, as is a helmet, outerwear, boots, gloves, dust masks (if required) and glasses/goggles. Participants are advised to wear comfortable clothing, including a warm shirt or outer layer; no open-toe shoes or sandals. ATV driver must be 16 years old with a valid driver's licence, and be accompanied with an adult (19+) on tour. Children must be four feet tall, able to hang on to an adult and fit the tour company's size small helmet. You do not have to have previous ATV experience. Fees for drivers are \$145 (including taxes and insurance) and passengers are \$90; children 12 and under are free when riding with an adult.

Perhaps you'd like to be up even higher—why not try a zipline tour? Option B, the three-hour Ziptrek Eagle tour,

features five ziplines, including one that travels from the base on Blackcomb Mountain all the way back to Whistler Village. Tours run rain or shine, and rain gear (jacket and pants) are available if needed. Participants should wear comfortable, supportive athletic or hiking shoes; no open-toe or dress shoes or sandals. The harness weight requirement is a minimum of 65 pounds (30 kg) to a maximum of 275 pounds (125 kg). Fees are \$145 for adults and \$123 for youth (6-14) and seniors (65+), including taxes. As this is an afternoon tour, there will be no meal.

Option C is a mountaintop salmon bake supper. Sample West Coast fare, including fresh cedar-plank barbecued BC wild salmon, salads and desserts, at an elevation of 6,000 feet on top of Blackcomb Mountain. You'll journey to the Crystal Hut, your dinner destination, by ATV. In addition to the panoramic views, you'll also be able to enjoy live entertainment as dinner is prepared. The cost is \$190 for ATV drivers, \$125 for passengers and \$45 for children (age 4 to 12).

We've saved the best for last: Option D is a nearly three-hour evening dessert tour in Whistler. You'll sample selections from some of the best chefs in town, taste a few decadent cocktails/mocktails and wind up the tour with a champagne sabering lesson. Yes, that's exactly what it sounds like: chopping open a bottle
(Continued on page 4)



**I learn something
every time I go into
the mountains.
—Michael Kennedy**

Preview Of The 2012 Preconference Activities: A Guide To Mountaintop Adventure And Relaxation, cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

of champagne with a sword. The saberage takes place in an incredible 15,000-bottle wine cellar at the Bearfoot Bistro. Along the way you'll learn about the dining scene and history of Whistler, and collect playing cards for a chance to win prizes for the best poker hand at the last stop. This tour costs \$69 per person, and includes taxes and gratuities for restaurant servers. Guests must be 19 or older for this tour.

There are six adventures to choose from on July 4.

Option E is an all-day whitewater rafting adventure on the Elaho and Squamish rivers. This eight-hour experience includes three on the water (class 3-4 rapids), a fully catered gourmet barbecue lunch, detailed instruction and professional guides, and transportation to and from the rivers. The cost is \$165 for adults and \$150 for youth (16 and under).

Option F is for those who want whitewater adventure but prefer a shorter experience more suited to first-timers. You'll spend over an hour on the Green River, which boasts beautiful scenery and fun rapids. The whole tour takes just two and a half hours and includes detailed instruction and professional guides. It's \$80 for adults and \$70 for youth.

The early bird gets the...waffle? The sunrise waffle ATV tour (Option G) offers just that. Drive up scenic trails to the Crystal Hut on Blackcomb Mountain for a fantastic spread of Belgian waffles, seasonal fruit and of course Canadian maple syrup. Costs are \$160 for adults, \$125 for seniors, \$110 for youth and children 12 and under ride free.

Hungry for more than just waffles? Sign up for Option H, a five-hour culinary tour. Stops include the Pemberton Distillery for a tour and tasting of the award-winning Schramm potato vodka, the Pemberton Valley Vineyard for lunch and wine tasting and the Nairn Falls. The cost is \$135 per person.

For those who couldn't get enough of or missed out on the zipline the day before, you'll get another chance. Option I is a three-hour zipline tour with a twist. Zoom Zipline allows two guests to ride side by side, each on their own cable, during a three-hour scenic tour. It includes five dual ziplines, including one that is over 1,500 feet long, 400 feet above the ground and a 200-foot drop from launch to landing, reaching speeds of up to 100 km/h. The cost is \$90 per person (age seven and up), including taxes.

You've heard about the diamond runs on ski hills, but do you know about the Hidden Gems Dinner Tour? Option J is a



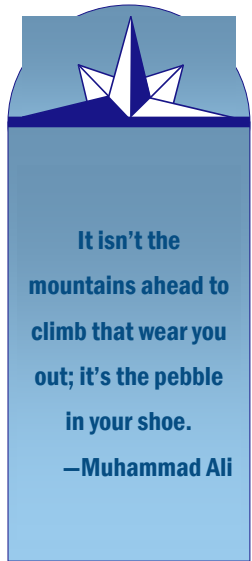
Whether you're in the air or on the water, you're going to have the adventure of a lifetime in Whistler.

Photos by Ziptrek Ecotours (above), Steve Rogers/Tourism Whistler



four-hour culinary tour of Whistler, featuring multiple courses at several restaurants, including Elements, Bavaria and Kypriaki Norte. You'll also enjoy samples of three kinds of beer at the Whistler Brewhouse and dessert and treats along the way. Your guide will share their knowledge of the Whistler dining scene, and you'll collect playing cards at each stop for a chance to win a prize at the last stop. You'll also have the option for wine pairings and an ice wine sample. The main tour costs \$105 per person and the wine pairings option is an extra \$28; both

(Continued on page 5)



It isn't the mountains ahead to climb that wear you out; it's the pebble in your shoe.

—Muhammad Ali

Preview Of The 2012 Preconference Activities: A Guide To Mountaintop Adventure And Relaxation, cont'd

(Continued from page 4)

prices include gratuities for restaurant servers.

July 5 offers five preconference activity options.

Option K is a one-and-a-half hour Western horseback ride for beginners. You'll ride alongside beautiful Green Lake and in secluded forest trails. This is an opportunity for adventure that the whole family can enjoy, at just \$76 per rider.

For more experienced riders, there's a half-day mountain ride (three hours on horseback). The terrain on Option L's tour includes fields, forests, creeks and of course mountains. This tour includes a gourmet deli lunch and costs \$135 per rider.

Ready for some real rest and relaxation? You'll want to sign up for a day at the Taman Sari Spa (Option M), the only fully authentic Javanese-style spa in North America. There are a range of treatments to choose from, and prices vary. Please call the spa directly to book your appointment; payment will also be made directly to the spa.

Another great family option is the Hummer wilderness explorer tour. Option N lets you travel a vast network of off-

road trails into the backcountry of the Soo Valley and Cougar and Rainbow mountains. You'll see spectacular views, beautiful lakes, rugged backcountry and possibly some wildlife—all from the comfort of customized Hummers that run on 100 per cent vegetable oil! This tour costs \$95 per adult and \$75 per youth (13 to 18).

There's one more chance to try the zipline tours with Option O. This Zoom Zipline tour lets two participants ride side by side on their own cables during a three-hour zipline trek. (See complete description on page four.) Cost is \$90 per person (age seven and up).


The summer conference also features a number of ticketed events, some of which require additional fees for guests.

At 9pm on July 5, CASA delegates and their guests are invited to take part in a reception at the Mount Currie Ball Room, where Olympic gold medalist **Ashleigh McIvor** will be on hand. Meet this superstar athlete, get an autograph and have your photo taken with her gold medal. There will be a variety of hors d'oeuvres and snacks on

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Enjoy the beauty of the alpine forests from the zipline or while touring on ATVs. Photos by Ziptrek Ecotours (left), Mike Crane/Tourism Whistler



Every mountain top
is within reach if you
just keep climbing.
—Barry Finlay

Ashleigh McIvor: Olympic Gold Medalist, Reigning World Champion And Whistler 2012 Featured Keynote Speaker

Over the years, CASA has brought in some outstanding keynote speakers to share their ideas and experiences at the annual conference. This year's keynote speaker won't have too far to travel. That's because she calls Whistler home, and Whistler calls her a hometown hero. She's **Ashleigh McIvor**, the first-ever Olympic gold medalist in Women's Skicross.

Ashleigh grew up an avid skier and biker, perfect activities for living in Whistler. Her potential as an athlete became apparent at an early age, and her competitive drive landed her on the podium through summers and winters alike. Originally an Alpine ski racer, Ashleigh's wild side got the best of her and steered her ski career toward Freeskiing—big lines, powder and cliffs—in perfect time to prepare her for the sport in which she was seemingly destined to represent her country: Skicross.

Ashleigh saw success right away. She won the US Freeskiing Open in Vail, Colorado, qualified for the X Games and placed second in her first World Cup. She was the youngest competitor in the sport at that time. Her natural talent and ability, in conjunction with unmatched charisma, drew TV producers to pick Ashleigh as the athlete to speak with and made her the new ambassador of this high-intensity, made-for-TV sport.

The sport of Skicross became more and more popular—so did Ashleigh. She's caught the attention of marketing specialists, sports and fashion photographers, and other media producers. Her time away from the slopes became just as busy as time on the slopes, with photo shoots, TV shows, modelling jobs, fashion shows and travelling around the world as a spokesperson for sponsors and events.

A few years later, Skicross was named as the newest sport in the Winter Olympics. In 2009, Ashleigh became the Skicross World Champion, which earned her a spot on the 2010 Canadian Olympic Team. With the Vancouver



Ashleigh McIvor, Olympic champion

Games just one year away and only 100km away from her hometown of Whistler, Ashleigh set her sights on one goal: Olympic gold!

Once the 2010 season began, there was no question that Ashleigh was ready to win. She made the finals in six of eight races, earned five World Cup podiums, moved up the ranks to second in the World Cup standings and won a silver medal at the X Games.

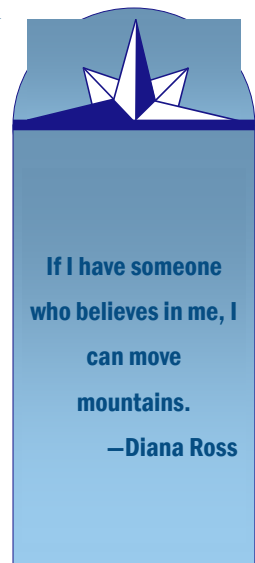
Then, on February 23, 2010, Ashleigh made history. She became the first ever Olympic gold medalist in Women's Skicross, a Freestyle Skiing event, fulfilling what had seemed like a far-off dream a few years earlier.

At just 26 years old, Ashleigh is only beginning to realize her potential as a true champion and innovative athlete.

CASA delegates and their guests will have the opportunity to hear Ashleigh share her inspiring story on Thursday, July 5, during the conference's opening keynote address. Ashleigh will speak at 8pm, following the conference opening ceremonies and the 2012 Xerox EXL Awards presentations. After an hour-long talk, Ashleigh will be on hand for an informal meet and greet during a catered reception. Delegates and guests will have the opportunity to see her Olympic gold medal, as well as pose for photos and ask for autographs. Be sure to take a moment to congratulate this tremendously talented Canadian athlete on all of her accomplishments.

Recent Accomplishments

- 1st: 2010 Olympic Winter Games
- 1st: FIS World Cup (France)
- 2nd: Winter X Games, FIS World Cups (Canada, Italy and Switzerland)
- 3rd: FIS World Cup (France)
- 4th: FIS World Cup (USA)
- 5th: FIS World Cups (Italy and Switzerland)
- 2nd: Overall World Rank for 2010



If I have someone
who believes in me, I
can move
mountains.
—Diana Ross

Recognize An Outstanding CASA Colleague: Nominate Them For The 2012 Xerox EXL Award

CASA members who show exemplary leadership ability and who enhance school administration are eligible for the EXL Award. The award, jointly sponsored by Xerox Canada Limited and CASA, has been presented since 2002. It includes an honorary life membership in CASA.

If you work with an outstanding CASA member or know a leader in our field who deserves to be recognized, why not nominate them this year? You can share your suggestion with the executive director of your provincial association.



The Xerox EXL Award

These are individuals who are recognized as role models and teachers to those around them.

Each provincial association of CASA elects a nominee to represent their province. The national award recipient, selected from these provincial nominations, is announced during the opening ceremonies at the CASA Annual Conference.

Previous winners include **John Darroch** (2002), **Roy Seidler** (2003), **Ed Wittchen** (2004), **Edie Wilde** (2005), **Ron Canuel** (2006), **Carol Gray** (2007), **Geoff Williams** (2008), **Johanne Messner** (2009), **John Mackle** (2010), and **Linda Fabi** and **Curtis Brown** (2011).

What kind of qualities should an EXL Award nominee have?

They will have brought honour to themselves, their colleagues and their profession. They have given exemplary service to their provincial or national professional association. They have made significant contributions to the field of education through their service, writings or other activities.

Nomination forms and submission guidelines for the EXL Award, Distinguished Service Award and Honorary Life Membership can be found on the CASA website at www.casa-acas.ca.

Whistler 2012 Details: Host Hotel Information

If you're planning on attending this year's annual conference in Whistler, consider staying right on site at our host hotel, the Hilton Whistler Resort & Spa. It's been named the 10th top resort in Canada by Condé Nast Traveler Magazine and recently received the Four Diamond Award by the CAA/AAA.

Individual reservations can be guaranteed with a credit card or advance deposit. To get negotiated rates, guests must specify the event name "CASA 2012 Annual Conference" when making reservations.

CASA has a room block of 90 Hilton Rooms or King/Queen Junior Suites available at the guaranteed rate of \$164 (plus 14.2 per cent tax). Hilton Rooms have a maximum occupancy of four people; King/Queen Junior Suites hold two. Rates are applicable three days before and three days after the July 5 to 7 conference dates.

Wired and wireless guest room internet access and local telephone calls are included. A \$30 charge applies to each additional adult (over 18) over double occupancy. Secured underground

parking is available for \$27 per night for self parking or \$30 for valet parking (plus 12 per cent HST).

You can also guarantee your reservations for late arrival with a major credit card. The hotel will accept cancellation or changes to individual reservations up to 14 days before arrival.

Contact the Hilton Whistler Resort & Spa toll free at 1 (800) 515-4050.



Beautiful mountaintop views in Whistler.

Photo by Mike Crane/Tourism Whistler

**Short is the little
time which remains
to thee of life. Live
as on a mountain.
—Marcus Aurelius**

Contact CASA:

1123 Glenashton Drive
Oakville, ON
L6H 5M1
Canada

T: (905) 845-2345
F: (905) 845-2044
frank_kelly@opsoa.org

www.casa-acas.ca

Editor: Tara Lee Wittchen
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Our Mission

CASA exists to promote and enhance effective administration and leadership in the provision of quality in education in Canada.



Our Beliefs

- School system administration is a noble profession.
- Effective leadership and administration of school systems are essential.
- Individually and collectively, school system administrators provide leadership for quality in education.
- Communication and cooperation with other stakeholder groups in education are vital.
- Individually and collectively, school system administrators can assist one another.

Our Goals

- To provide a national voice on education matters.
- To promote and provide opportunity for professional development of the membership.
- To promote communication and liaison with national and international organizations having an interest in education.
- To provide a variety of services to the membership.
- To recognize outstanding contributions to education in Canada.

Preview Of The 2012 Preconference Activities: A Guide To Mountaintop Adventure And Relaxation, cont'd

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hand, as well as a no-host (cash) bar. This event is free for registered CASA delegates and their guests.

There will be ticketed buffet lunches at the Cinnamon Bear Grille on July 6 and 7. CASA delegates are free; guest tickets are available for \$25 each. Menus change each day and include a variety of breads and rolls, gourmet soups and salads, pasta, chicken, seasonal fresh fruit salad and desserts including squares, cakes, pies, pastries and biscotti.

With such a spectacular setting for the 2012 conference, the closing and featured activity had to be equally spectacular. And it is! On July 7, each delegate will have the opportunity to take part in the Peak 2 Peak Gondola Alpine Experience. This activity is free for all registered delegates, and only \$40 for each guest. The gondola is truly an engineering marvel that links Blackcomb and Whistler mountains together at their peaks. Peak 2 Peak boasts the longest unsupported lift span in the world—3.024 km—and is also the highest lift of its kind (elevation: 1,427 feet or 434 metres).

If you need more information about any of the preconfere-

nce activities or ticketed events, please contact **Marion Holmes** of PD Pros by phone at (403) 386-3860 or by email at holmes3@telusplanet.net. Schedules and updated details are on the CASA website.

See you in Whistler!



The air is indeed rare up here on the amazing Peak 2 Peak Gondola.
Photo by Steve Rogers/Tourism Whistler