



This year's conference, on the theme of health, aging and the creative arts, was especially exciting. Our meetings took place along the Okanagan Lake in Penticton, BC, a small resort town nestled in the middle of vineyards and orchards. The weather was warm, ideal for strolls along the beach. Those who drove to Penticton witnessed amazing fall colours ranging from brilliant gold to shades of red, pink and purple.



Penticton Lakeshore Resort

Our 55 participants listened to 23 informative, heart warming presentations that lifted our spirits, while they encouraged and supported efforts concerning dementia care and the arts. Here are some of the responses we received on our evaluations forms:

*"Thank you again for such an inspirational and heart expanding conference."*

*"I know the conference will be a major stepping stone/trampoline/launching mechanism into ever increasing activity in this area."*



Conference Participants

*"I woke up this morning absolutely awash with gratitude for the experience that I had at your conference...I walked into the conference quite world weary – and walked away – in touch with my larger vision for my life and work."*

*"Thanks again for offering such a great experience for all of us. While I was tired yesterday I feel soul-recharged and ready to work!!!"*

*"It was wonderful to meet you all & be part of this fantastic conference. Thank you to everyone on the Society also who helped with the massive job of organizing such a rich & inspiring conference...My vision has been expanded, my heart & soul have been nourished & filled! We will have so many ideas to share with those in our part of the world. With many thanks and appreciation."*

*"Thanks again for an incredible conference and so many beautiful and collaboratively inspiring connections with colleagues."*

*"What an amazingly pro-active Society you have here in Canada! Thanks for the opportunity to be here with you all... It was a privilege to be there to see and hear all the wonderful people. I shall not forget it and I know that [my facility] will be a better place because of the creative ideas we will bring back there."*

*"The conference was wonderful and I'm still pondering all I absorbed that long weekend. I was already asked to talk at our local library about it".*

Julie Gross McAdam returned to Australia and sent us the following note, which summed up our feelings and thoughts:

*"This year's annual conference of the CECD Society (Canada) at Penticton BC inspired all and delivered much. The presentations revealed surprising similarities between countries and cultures and reinforced the notion that individuals living with dementia have a profound capacity to enjoy and engage in the creative arts. Dalia Gottlieb-Tanaka and her Board of Directors have once again brought together leading individuals from around the world to discuss and present thoughts and ideas that promote and explore both the concept and best practices encapsulated in innovative program design for those living with dementia."*



Julie & Dalia with Presenters

With more comments in the same spirit, our Executive Board experienced a great energy boost for future events. Planning for the next conference is already underway -- so get ready for Toronto in 2011! Details will be posted as they become available.



Pamela, Jeff & Peter

On September 30, four workshops given by Bernie Warren, Judith-Kate Friedman, Shelley Klammer and David Barnet were praised for their innovative work and practices. The same presenters also gave lectures during the following two days of the conference. They were joined by Peter Graf, Dalia Gottlieb-Tanaka, Pamela Brett-MacLean, Jan Clark, Jeni Winslow, Marlene Cox-Bishop, Paddy Bruce, Asa Don Brown, Julie Gross McAdam, Jeanne Sommerfield, Richard Coaten, Julia Clark, Michael McGaughy, Scott Stuart, Emily Nickerson, and Jeff Nachtigall.

The conference ended each day in a lively discussion with panels selected from our presenters. These discussions are important; they provide an opportunity to share ideas with experts and colleagues, express frustration, talk about what works and what does not. They are an opportunity to speak out, link and connect with

others; in short, a chance to feel less isolated. These sessions are particularly beneficial for participants and we enjoy the exchanges tremendously.

This year we viewed several short films documenting the work of practitioners and researchers in dementia care and the arts. It was amazing to see how people with dementia respond when care, love and meaningful activities engage them. If we had to pick only one message that came out of this conference, I would say that the human aspect in our interactions with people with dementia is the most potent ingredient for reaching the soul of the other. All the other attributes, such as acquired skills, space design and program planning, are extremely important; however, they are still secondary to the precious human touch.

The newly elected Board of the Society for the Arts in Dementia Care wishes you satisfying and uplifting experiences with your clients and among yourselves. Thank you for coming to Penticton and mark your calendars for Toronto next year.

All the best,

The Society for the Arts in Dementia Care

Vancouver, BC, Canada



Banquet Dinner