



Building Relationships



7th Annual LOFF Conference & AGM
May 13-15 , 2016

Nottawasaga Inn Resort and Conference Centre, Alliston, Ontario

Sharla Peltier



Sharla is a member of the Loon Clan, Chippewas of Rama First Nation, Ontario and is a speech and language pathologist. She works for the Rainbow District School Board in the First Nation Métis and Inuit Program as the Learning, Teaching Cultural Specialist. Sharla lives in Sudbury with her husband, Stanley and have four children and seven grandchildren.

Sharla utilizes Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being in her academic research and professional approach. She currently is a PhD Candidate in the Interdisciplinary Human Studies program at Laurentian University. Her current research is an exploration of Indigenous traditions of educational and cultural thought and experiences within the context of negotiating space for Aboriginal perspectives within schools. Sharla has researched and illustrated the pragmatics of First Nations storytelling in an investigation of the oral tradition with Anishinaabe children and Elders.

Sharla has presented at national and international conferences and delivered numerous workshops for professionals and community practitioners working with Aboriginal children. Sharla has extensive professional and research experience with First Nations and engages in critical thinking within the fields of education and health and within speech language pathology in particular, to support the development and implementation of culturally safe and socially responsible services to Aboriginal people, families and communities. Her publications capture her understandings gained from personal and professional experience. First Nation English dialects impact the Aboriginal student's language and literacy learning and Sharla provides educator consultation and training to facilitate use of appropriate teaching strategies and educational tools in the classroom. Sharla shares Anishinaabe Grandmother Teachings to incorporate Anishinaabe pedagogy in the home, school, and health services. This honours the child's special gifts and builds self-identity and knowing self-in-relation to *Aki* (the Land) and each other. Sharla's work supports participation in the truth and reconciliation socio-political movement underway in Canada.

Reconciliation as Relationship Keynote

In light of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's work and recent Calls to Action, all Canadians are coming to understand the importance of building for the future by looking to, and learning from, the past. Aboriginal families have been disrupted from engaging in the transmission of cultural values and identity from one generation to the next. Responding to the TRC's Calls for Action requires dedication to provide Aboriginal children in temporary and permanent care with a culturally appropriate environment.

This keynote presentation will demonstrate what relationship-building looks like from an Anishinaabe perspective. Family and learning/teaching roles and opportunities abound and are shared to inspire you.

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LOFF Conference

Schedule

Friday, May 13, 2016	
4:00 – 9:00	Main Registration
5:00 – 6:30	Dinner Buffet
7:00	Silent Auction Opens
7:30	Traditional Opening Song – John Rice
	Welcoming Remarks
9:00 – 10:30	Hospitality Suite

Saturday, May 14, 2016	
7:30 – 8:45	Breakfast Buffet / Day Registration
9:00 – 11:45	Session One AM1 Empowering the Coach in You AM2 Circle of Light AM3 Queer Friendly Home AM4 Children with Fear and Trauma
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:15 – 4:00	Session Two PM1 Suicide Prevention PM2 FASD is Forever, Frustration is Not PM3 Living with Mental Illness PM4 Attachment Focused Parenting
4:00 – 5:00	Cocktail Hour in the Starlite Lounge (Resort Bar)
4:45	Silent Auction Closes
5:00 or 5:45	Dinner Buffet
6:30	Dessert/Coffee in Plenary Room
7:30	Sharla Peltier “Reconciliation as Relationship” Keynote in Plenary Room
9:00 – 11:00	Hospitality Suite

Sunday, May 15, 2016	
7:30 – 8:45	Breakfast Buffet
9:30 – 12:00	LOFF Annual General Meeting
	Box lunches will be provided.

John Rice ~ *Traditional Opening Song*

John is a Drum Maker/Story Teller and works as an Aboriginal (FNMI) Services Counsellor - Early Psychosis Intervention with Canadian Mental Health Association - Simcoe County Branch. John will perform a Traditional Opening Song to welcome us to this land.



Calvin Lawrence ~ *Empowering the Coach in You*

AM1



Calvin Lawrence is a life coach and motivational speaker with a strong passion to help people overcome obstacles, conquer fears, and maximize potential. The workshop will teach how parents can use coaching skills to bring potential to life. He has coached in various areas including relationship, performance, and goal-setting. Client demographics include teenagers, young adults, and more mature adults.

As an experienced IT project manager he uses coaching and motivational skills to resolve conflicts while working with persons of varying skills, backgrounds, and ethnicities.

Having volunteered with three organizations in Ontario as tutor, mission volunteer, and empowerment coach Calvin is aware that there are many challenges faced by parents and children and the groups and organizations which support and care for them.

Sharla Peltier ~ *Circle of Light*

AM2

The Circle provides an opportunity for us to come together for the creation of relationship. Participants will examine beliefs and values to expand understanding about where each of us is on the cultural competency continuum. New learning about Aboriginal ways of being-in-relationship with nature, each other, and children will be explored through demonstrations, discussions, and group activities. The facilitator is an Anishinaabe Grandmother and experienced educator who shares through the oral tradition of story. Please join the Circle as everyone is welcome! See Keynote Speaker for full bio.



Christine Pratt ~ *Queer Friendly Home*

AM3



Christine Pratt, a foster parent with Ottawa CAS, has been working with queer youth in the Ottawa area for many years. Earlier this year she helped create and facilitated a monthly youth group for queer and trans youth in foster care. This group supports the youth in advocating for their unique needs within the system while giving them a safe space to express themselves.

During this workshop you will hear some stories from queer identified youth who have come out while in foster care and discover what they felt helped them thrive. You will leave this workshop with the basic knowledge and skills needed to support the growing number of queer and transgender youth coming into foster care.

Jill Foley & Valerie Good ~ *Children with Fear and Trauma* AM4

Jill is a Supervisor at New Path Youth and Family Services and is a Registered Psychotherapist and Certified Trauma Treatment Specialist. She has worked extensively with children, youth, and adults who have experienced trauma and has published articles on trauma interventions for clinicians and families.

Valerie holds a Masters degree in Counselling and is a Registered

Psychotherapist. Valerie works as a Youth and Family Therapist at New Path Youth and Family Services as a member of the trauma assessment and treatment team. She has extensive experience with a variety of mental health concerns including: anxiety, depression, trauma (past and present), sexual offending, attachment issues, domestic violence, youth justice problems, abuse, OCD and ADHD.

This workshop will explore the impacts of trauma and the emotional response of fear on children's behaviours and interactions with others. Methods of early behavioural awareness and intervention will be discussed as will strategies for supporting children and youth in communicating about and coping with these issues. This workshop will include experiential learning opportunities.



Jennifer Mulcaster & Gillian Golden ~ *Suicide Prevention* PM1



Jenn is currently the Executive Director at WES for Youth Online in the Grey Bruce area. Jenn has worked closely with local high schools and youth friendly organizations trying to relieve the stigma surrounding youth and mental health issues. Motivated by the death of her sister Melissa, by suicide, and armed with her passion for youth mental health and wellness she is dedicated to helping young people know they are not alone and there is help. WES for

Youth Online was founded by Yolanda and Jamie Cameron after losing their son, Wes, to suicide.

Gillian is currently working as the Youth Outreach Coordinator for WES for Youth Online. She has worked as a child youth worker in schools, a youth program facilitator focusing on youth homelessness and Up2U, an anonymous confidential drop in program focusing on drug relapse prevention. Gillian is married and her wife is a Registered Nurse at South Grey Bruce Health Centre.

The workshop will focus on suicide prevention including a highlight of at-risk groups, the impact of social media, signs to look for, proactive responses before the risk is there and supports and resources.

Jeff Noble ~ *FASD is Forever, Frustration is Not* **PM2**



Jeff Noble is the Founder and CEO of Noble Initiatives, an organization that provides hope and education to people caring for someone living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) through online applications and in-person training sessions, demonstrations and consultations.

Jeff is an author, helper, a leader and an innovator. His focus is FASD, but his expertise is building community through social media. Using an interactive, yet personal approach, Jeff delivers relevant, useful and need-to-know information to help and support front line workers, educators and caregivers of those living with FASD.

Heather Legault ~ *Living with Mental Illness* **PM3**

Heather has fostered for over 25 years and had 68 children. She has worked as a treatment home for children with multiple diagnosis from FASD to Bi Polar Disorder. Heather was Treasurer and President of her local FPA, Director and Treasurer of the FPSO and coordinated three FPSO conferences.

Heather will share the strategies and skills she has developed working with children challenged with mental illness. Some suggestions for advocating for specific needs and navigating the education system will also be included.



Kathy Luoma ~ *Attachment Focused Parenting* **PM4**



Kathy is currently employed as a Supervisor of Family Support Services for the Nipissing and Parry Sound District Children's Aid Society. She has worked in the field of Child Welfare for the 9 years and in Children's Mental Health for over 25 years. Kathy is also a therapist in private practice in serving families and adults in the areas of mental health, family conflict and

trauma/ abuse. Over the last 3 years, Kathy's primary focus has been research and learning in the area of neuroscience and the impact of trauma on the child's developing brain.

This session will introduce a variety of skills that emphasize the unique needs of children who have been separated from their families as a result of maltreatment, trauma and abuse. These skills will heighten your knowledge of what children who have attachment issues require from caregivers in order to promote their sense of felt safety, growth and development as well as to promote overall stability. In addition there will be an overview of how the developing brain can be impacted when there has been neglect or trauma and the rationale behind using Attachment Focused Parenting approaches. A brief overview of the concepts of attachment is also included.

Nottawasaga Inn Resort & Conference Centre

6015 Highway 89, Alliston, ON, L9R 1A4

705-435-5501

1-800-669-5501

www.nottawasagaresort.com

From Toronto: Take Highway 400 north to Highway 89 (exit #75 west). Drive west on 89 for 14km. The Nottawasaga Inn Resort is on the south side of the highway.

From Pearson International Airport: Take Highway 401 east to Highway 400 drive north to Highway 89 (exit #75 west). Drive west on 89 for 14km. The Nottawasaga Inn Resort is on the south side of the highway.

From Barrie: Take Highway 400 south to Highway 89 (exit #75 west). Drive west on 89 for 14km. The Nottawasaga Inn Resort is on the south side of the highway.



Play a round of golf on one of two golf courses offering 45 regulation holes of golf or participate in the non-stop recreational activities available within the 70,000 sq.ft. health and fitness centre.

Take an exhilarating ride down our 3 storey 100 ft waterslide, splash in the indoor Tropical Rainforest themed 25 m swimming pool, perfect your shot on the indoor mini-golf adventure, enjoy a relaxing massage or workout in the fully equipped gym featuring indoor squash and tennis courts.

Wanted

Donations for the Silent Auction. A sponsor letter is available for individuals to take to local businesses requesting donations for the auction. The letter will be posted on the web page.

Remember to send in the name of sponsors so that they can be recognized and bring any donated items with you to the conference.

Training for Advocates

This workshop for advocates will provide participants with an opportunity to practice their skills by role playing various scenarios based on real experiences. There will be a review of key concepts, establishing a mandate, the role of safety planning and how to develop the advocacy program within your agency.

Thursday, May 12, 2016

5:00 – 6:00	Registration
6:00 – 7:00	Dinner

Friday, May 13, 2016

7:30 – 8:45	Breakfast / Day Registration
9:30 – 12:00	Morning Session – Sara Hay & Marie Fortier
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:30– 3:30	Afternoon Session – Sara Hay & Marie Fortier

Sara Hay is a retired teacher, a foster parent, past President of the Muskoka Foster Family Association and an advocate. Sara is one of the founding members of LOFF.

Marie Fortier has been fostering teen boys in Ottawa and Renfrew for the past 18 years. Marie and her husband Pete have 3 grown children, 2 grandchildren and are currently fostering a 17 year old boy. They also do relief and respite for older teens. Marie has been an Advocate (Support Team Rep) with the Ottawa FPA for the past 14 years. She is also a Pride and LAC Trainer.

*Please note that the fee for this training is in addition to the conference fees. Costs are listed on the conference registration page.

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Registration

Select a Conference Package

Same prices as 2015!

- Double occupancy per person \$410.00
Includes: Friday & Saturday Accommodation & Meals
- Single occupancy per person \$515.00
Includes: Friday & Saturday Accommodation & Meals
- Saturday day package - Day Includes: 2 workshops and lunch \$110.00
 Day & Evening Includes: 2 workshops, lunch, dinner & keynote \$160.00

Optional - Friday Advocacy Training (cost in addition to conference fees)

- Double Occupancy Thursday Accommodation & Meals \$205.00
- Single Occupancy Thursday Accommodation & Meals \$260.00
- Day Package Friday lunch \$110.00

Workshop Selections: (Please put a 1 beside your 1st choice and a 2 beside your 2nd choice)

AM		AM1 Empowering the Coach in You
		AM2 Circle of Light
		AM3 Queer Friendly Home
		AM4 Children with Fear and Trauma

PM		PM1 Suicide Prevention
		PM2 FASD is Forever, Frustration is Not
		PM3 Living with Mental Illness
		PM4 Attachment Focused Parenting

Registration Deadline – April 15, 2016

Make cheques payable to: LOFF

Early Bird Registration – March 25, 2016

Mail Registrations to: Heather Legault
#8 Parkins Ave
St. Thomas, ON N5P 1X4
(519) 631-4078

Each person registered and paid in full by March 25, 2016 will receive an entry for their FFA/FPA in a draw prize of \$500 payable to the FFA/FPA. Refunds for cancellations may be considered if received prior to April 15, 2016.

(Registrations accepted based on space availability)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ City/Town: _____ Postal Code: _____

E-mail: _____ Roommate: _____

Agency: _____

Please Indicate if you are: Foster Parent Youth CAS Staff
For further information, please contact Heather Legault at (519) 631-4078.

Save the Date

Join us at Nottawasaga next year for LOFF 2017



Keynote Speaker Barbara Coloroso

May 26-28, 2017

She's witty; she's wise; she's compassionate; she's sensible... she offers adults clear, manageable tips for building nurturing relations with children and teens.”
– Canadian Guider

“Hearing Barbara Coloroso talk about raising kids is like being exposed to good art- both experiences resonate with clarity, insight, honesty, and all the components are in ideal proportion.”
– Chicago Parent

“Sure kids rebel: It's part of that process called growing up. Just knowing that doesn't make parenting easier, but knowing Barbara Coloroso might.”
- The St. Paul Pioneer Press

Barbara Coloroso is an internationally recognized speaker and author in the areas of parenting, teaching, school discipline, non-violent conflict resolution and reconciliatory justice. She is an educational consultant for school districts, the medical and business community, the criminal justice system and other educational associations around the world.

Barbara has served as a classroom teacher, a laboratory school instructor, and a university instructor. She is the author of five international bestsellers.