

November 2010

Volume 1, Issue 3

### Upcoming Events

- Continuing Education  
Conflict Resolution
- MDAA Annual Business  
Meeting Thursday, January  
27, 2011
- MDA Annual Conference  
January 27 – 30, 2011

[Click here to go to our  
website](#)

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### **Mission**

"To advance the careers of dental assistants in Manitoba and to promote the dental assisting profession in matters of education and professional activities which enhance the delivery of quality dental healthcare to the *public.*"

**We are working towards a paper-free office and have sent this newsletter electronically to everyone who has given us their email. If you received a paper copy of this newsletter it means that we either don't have your email address or don't have your correct email. Please contact Kathy at the office at 586-7383 with your information.**

**LET'S SAVE TREES!**



17-595 Clifton Street, Winnipeg, MB R3G 2X5  
1-204-586-7383, toll free 1-877-475-6322

E-mail: [mdaa@mdaa.ca](mailto:mdaa@mdaa.ca)

Website: [www.mdaa.ca](http://www.mdaa.ca)

**\*\*WE HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS\*\***

[mdaa@mdaa.ca](mailto:mdaa@mdaa.ca)

**WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ATTEND YOUR  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2011, 7:00 PM  
WINNIPEG CONVENTION CENTRE**

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE  
REGISTERED FOR THE CONVENTION  
TO ATTEND & YOU CAN EARN  
CREDIT HOURS**

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION POINTS**

The end of our first three-year cycle is fast approaching! If you are part of this group you have until January 31, 2011 to complete your 36 credit hours. We will be hosting one last continuing education session on January 8, 2011, where you can earn 3 credit hours. As well, you can earn additional credit hours by attending the Manitoba Dental Association Convention and our Annual General Meeting Thursday, January 27, 2011, to Saturday, January 29, 2011, at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. If you have concerns that you may not be able to attain your hours please contact Rafi Mohammed at the Manitoba Dental Association at 988-5300.

**REMEMBER YOUR JOB COULD BE IN JEOPARDY IF YOU DO NOT COMPLETE YOUR CREDIT HOURS AS YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REGISTER AS A DENTAL ASSISTANT WITHOUT THE FULL 36 HOURS!**

## WE'VE BEEN BUSY!

The summer is a relatively slow time for our office so we took the opportunity to set up a new filing system as well as update our accounting records. We set up our electronic emailing system and still encourage everyone to send in their email address if they have not done so already. Our Board met in late August and in November. Our President and Vice-President attended the CDAA Annual Convention in Saskatoon in September as well as the outgoing and incoming MDAA Representatives to the CDAA. Our President also attended the Annual Meeting for the NDAEB in Ottawa in October. Throughout this time meetings have been held with the MDA with regards to bylaw changes, the upcoming convention and our budget for 2011. In October we held two con-ed sessions with 88 RDAs in total attending either the morning or afternoon sessions. Presently we are working at setting up a con-ed in early January and organizing our AGM at the MDA Annual Convention on Thursday, January 27, 2011.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

The MDAA is currently putting together a Con-Ed Session to be held Saturday, January 8, 2011 at the Viscount Gort Hotel. This session will be a half-day event (3 credit hours) starting at 10:00 am on How to Deal with Difficult People presented by Mediation Services. Please see the registration form on the last page of this newsletter. Please note the absolute last day registration will be accepted is Thursday, December 23, 2010.

## Did you know...

- ❖ That spore testing should be done a weekly basis
- ❖ That fixer and development solution should NOT be put down the drain
- ❖ Where do you put used lead or amalgam?
- ❖ That all bloody gauze needs to go into the bio-waste site

## Don't Forget - Membership Benefits Available!

- **CHOICE HOTELS CANADA**

When making any travel plans, remember the MDAA has negotiated with Choice Hotels for a discounted rate for our members. Check out our website for further information.

- **SHAPES FITNESS CENTRES**

If you are a member or would like to be a member of Shapes, please let us know ASAP. The MDAA has secured a Shapes corporate rate for MDAA members. This rate is dependent on the number of RDAs who are currently enrolled or want to enroll with Shapes, the greater the number the bigger the discount. IE: If we have 150 members who are already members/or want to become members, we could get a corporate rate as low as \$15 every two weeks.

**MANITOBA DENTAL ASSOCIATION  
MIDWINTER CONVENTION "THE FUTURE"  
JANUARY 27 - 29, 2011**

Registration deadline is Wednesday, January 12, 2011, to attend any or all of the MDA 127<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Please click on this [link](#) to print the registration form.

The MDAA is pleased to present Mr. Chris Scappatura of Contagious Enthusiasm Inc. as our guest speaker at the MDA Midwinter Convention on Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Chris lives life in general with an enthusiasm that can only be described as contagious and recently celebrated 25 great years as an entrepreneur.



In the early 1990's, Chris began sharing his knowledge and experiences through workshops and seminars that included topics on business start-ups, marketing, business development and personal development.

In 1995, Chris began developing business management systems for the dental health industry. He has helped many dental practitioners implement lasting solutions with his ability to "get-to-the-root of a problem" through team building.

Chris will have you laughing and learning with his energetic style and humorous presentations. This is a learning experience you won't soon forget.

**Volunteers are needed to help out at the convention.  
Please contact Kathy at the MDAA office at  
586-7383 to email her at [mdaa@mdaa.ca](mailto:mdaa@mdaa.ca)  
if you are interested in helping out!**

# A GUATEMALIAN THANK YOU

**Last spring, we were approached by two dental assistant students from the RRC-Winkler campus asking for support as they were raising money to go to Guatemala on a dental/medical mission trip. The MDAA supported both students. Following is their thank you and a couple of pictures of their adventure.**

I would like to thank the MDAA for their sponsorship this year towards the Guatemala Dental/ Medical Mission trip that Natasha McCowan and I, Mandy Kuwonu, were privileged to be a part of this year! We were able to provide fluoride varnish to over 700 children in remote areas of Guatemala that normally never have the opportunity to receive health care. Our trip was hard work but very rewarding! We would travel by minivan every morning to different villages, taking our supplies with us, usually stacked on top of the van. Once we reached our location we would set up our equipment and begin seeing the patients that were lining up, waiting to see us. We would break for a quick lunch and continue on until dinner time, then we would pack up and travel back to our home base, only to repeat the day again in the morning! Our team included doctors, nurses, pharmacist, dental assistants, and volunteers. The conditions in which we worked were primitive, but the people were so grateful and seeing their smiles of appreciation made it so worthwhile. The experience we gained was also valuable.

The trip could not have been possible without the help and support that we received, so again we would like to express our deepest thanks to the MDAA and all other sponsors that supported us both!

Sincerely,  
Mandy Kuwonu



## **\*\*\*IMPORTANT NEWS\*\*\***

**The CDAA will be conducting a wage survey this spring. We encourage you to take part in this survey so we can get a true sense of what salaries and benefits are in Manitoba.**

# GOING GREEN IN YOUR DENTAL OFFICE

By Amanda Shewfelt

We all try and do our part to reduce, reuse and recycle, at least when we are at our homes, but are we putting in a serious effort at our offices? After a recent purchase of bio degradable gauze by my employing dentist, I took up the task of looking into what other affordable options there are for dental offices in Winnipeg to get started in being a bit more green as to remind our members as to what responsibility we have to the environment to dispose of certain offices chemicals and items in the appropriately way.

First of all, I do hope that offices that are putting in the effort to go green put the patients' well-being first. Reusing tip-a-dilly straws or needles should never be reusable items. Most items are well identified as non-reusable items, and, if you are not sure, check the packaging or with your sales representative. Checking with your office building to see if they have a recycling program is the simplest start to your office's path to going green. Investing in a \$15 recycling box is the next step. You will be amazed how fast it fills up and how empty the garbage can will be by the end of the day. Did you know that the paper back of sterilizing pouches CAN BE recycled? How many a day does your office go through? Realizing how much paper ends up in your office garbage cans amaze most people. Other green options include: using fluorescent lighting; using biodegradable cleaning/sterilizing solutions; using digital radiology instead of film based x-rays; using energy star sterilizers, washers and dryers. Green dental practices use high-quality, biodegradable disinfectants and steam sterilization methods that don't require ventilation for chemical vapors or a hazardous waste permit for disposal of toxic chemicals into a water supply. They also have energy-star washers and dryers on site to facilitate the use of cloth bibs, gowns, head rest covers and other supplies that are washable and can be reused. This eliminates the use of disposable paper products. If your office goes as far as changing its lighting system, remember Manitoba Hydro is a great resource to contact in assisting in this change. Visit [www.hydro.mb.ca](http://www.hydro.mb.ca) for more information. Other suggestions include installing low flow toilets, and faucets.

Now here are a few items that can make a simple start to your office going green, without breaking the boss' bank!

1. Gauze
2. Paper towels
3. Washable bibs, towels, and head rest covers
4. Recycled printer/memo paper
5. Shutting off lights when absent from the room

The following items require a little extra attention in your offices and the proper disposal:

1. X-ray lead
2. Used Chemiclave solution
3. X-ray developer and fixer
4. All SHARPS items
5. Blood-soaked gauze
6. Biohazard items

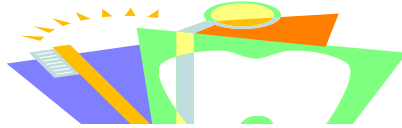
The challenge that I would like dental offices to take in the new year is to at least adopt a recycling program into their daily routine. Let the MDAA know what small changes your office has made to make a big impact on the future of our planet to encourage the trend!

**DID YOU KNOW THAT BY SUBMITTING AN ARTICLE OF 750 WORDS OR MORE AND HAVING IT PUBLISHED YOU CAN EARN UP TO 3 CREDIT HOURS. LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 9 CREDIT HOURS PER THREE-YEAR CYCLE.**

PUT YOUR STORY HERE!

Do you have a story you want to share with our members? Is your dental office doing something neat for their patients or raising money for a charity?

Send us an email at [mdaa@mdaa.ca](mailto:mdaa@mdaa.ca) and let us know what is happening in your neck of the woods! Pictures too! We would love to hear from you and we'll do our best to include your story in our next issue!



For information on advertising please contact Kathy at the MDAA office for more at 583-7883 or email at [mdaa@mdaa.ca](mailto:mdaa@mdaa.ca)

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**Pacific Dental Conference**  
March 10–12, 2011



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Online registration begins Oct. 15th, 2010.  
Keep informed by visiting our website and sign-up for the attendee e-newsletter at...  
[www.pdconf.com](http://www.pdconf.com)



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU & YOURS**

**FROM THE MDAA**

# CONTINUING EDUCATION REGISTRATION

## “HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE”

Presented by Mediation Services

Saturday, January 8, 2011

Viscount Gort Hotel

1670 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Mediation Services will be hosting a three hour continuing education session on How to Deal with Diffcult People at the Viscount Gort Hotel from 10 am to 1 pm. The registration fee is \$25 and will provide you with 3 credit points towards the current cycle.

This course will deal with conflict and workplace stress which can have a negative effect. Conflict, however, can act as a helpful springboard toward positive change in your organization. This training will provide you with the tools to manage conflict at work and beyond. This introductory workshop examines basic approaches to dealing with conflict and provides the opportunity to learn concepts and skills which are crucial to handling conflict in healthy ways.

Please fill out the registration form below and mail in to the MDAA no later than **Thursday, December 23, 2010.**

Cut Here

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Continuing Education Registration  
How to Deal with Difficult People  
Saturday, January 8, 2011, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Viscount Gort Hotel, 1760 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ID No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Enclosed    Cash \_\_\_\_\_    Cheque No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward this completed form and the \$25 registration fee to the MDAA, 17-595 Clifton Street, Winnipeg, MB, R3G 2X5.

**Registrations will be received until Thursday, December 23, 2010. No late registrations will be accepted. We will not be contacting you to confirm your registration.**