



ONTARIO PARKS ASSOCIATION  
*Protecting Tomorrow Today®*



ONTARIO RECREATION  
FACILITIES ASSOCIATION INC.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CONTACT:

Mr. Eric Trogdon, Executive Director  
Ontario Parks Association  
Tel: (905) 864-6182 or 1-866-560-7783  
[opa@opassoc.on.ca](mailto:opa@opassoc.on.ca)

Mr. John Milton, Executive Director  
Ontario Recreation Facilities Association  
Tel: (416) 426-7062 or (800) 661-6732  
or [info@orfa.com](mailto:info@orfa.com)

September 26, 2006

## Ontario Parks Association and Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Form a New Joint Parks and Public Spaces Training and Development Authority

During the past several months the Boards of Directors of the Ontario Parks Association (OPA) and the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association (O.R.F.A.) have given the direction for both Associations to jointly provide needed services to professionals in the Recreation Facilities and Parks profession. It gives us great pride to announce the start of a joint venture between the O.R.F.A. and the O.P.A.. These two Associations have developed a collaboration to better serve the needs of both memberships.

On September 5, 2006, selected representatives from both Associations met and developed strategies for meeting these needs. The committee will be known as the "Parks and Public Spaces Training and Development Authority" and have confirmed that the following areas of concentration will form the focus of immediate committee activities:

- Issues / Awareness
- Certifications and Recognitions
- Professional Alerts
- Other Opportunities / Partnerships
- Resources
- Needs & Assessments
- Course Training

The "Parks and Public Spaces Training and Development Authority" presently consists of six professionals. Three members are from the membership of the OPA and three from the membership of the O.R.F.A. The committee members will represent the Authority, and have been given the responsibility to develop strategies to follow through on this project. The Authority is bipartisan and its main objective is to serve both memberships in professional development.

The "Parks and Public Spaces Training and Development Authority" Members are:

- Tom Mathews, City of Toronto
- Mark Reinert, Town of Petawawa
- Stuart Young, City of Mississauga
- Terry Piche, O.R.F.A.
- Jeff Stewart, Town of Ajax
- Harold Zorn, City of Toronto
- Eric Trogdon, O.P.A.
- Bruce Hay, City of Brampton

We are excited about each Authority member's commitment and trust that all members will support and assist them in this new adventure.

---

The Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Inc. (O.R.F.A.) is a not-for-profit provincial recreation organization with over 4,000 card bearing members. Membership within the O.R.F.A. includes representatives from municipalities, educational institutions, government agencies, First Nations, community recreation boards, private recreation facilities and business and industry.

The Association provides a variety of services to its members including professional development activities, networking, regional information workshops, access to a recreation a facilities library, formal recognition through professional designation and registration programs, trade shows and exhibits, a job search service, publications and resource information.

Ontario Parks Association (OPA) is committed to civic beautification, the advancement, protection and conservation of parks, open space and the environment as we practice "*Protecting Tomorrow Today*" in the province of Ontario.

OPA, a non-profit, charitable organization founded in 1936, offers services emphasizing quality and accessible education and professional development, networking, information, communication and advocacy for persons participating in the parks services.