



Canadian Centenary Committee



Dr. Maria Montessori opened the first Casa del Bambini in the San Lorenzo Quarter in Rome on January 6, 1907. The following is an excerpt of her speech:

“I started my work like a peasant who had put aside good seeds of wheat, and to whom a fertile piece of land had been offered so he could sow it according to his wish. But it was not to be. As soon as I moved the sod of that earth, I found gold, rather than wheat. The sods were hiding a precious treasure.”

One hundred years ago there was only one Montessori, yet its voice was heard around the world. It is time for us to open our Montessori doors to the world now more than ever before.

In a spirit of coming together as one voice, to share the enthusiasm of the Centenary throughout Canada, a group of Montessorians representing different organizations have created the CCC, the Canadian Centenary Committee. The following people have accepted to co-chair the work of CCC:

Felix Bednarski
(representing AMI)

Katherine Poyntz
(representing CCMA)

Beth Mackay
(representing MSC)

Isabel Sauvé
(representing CAMT).

We have come together to coordinate Centenary projects

of national importance that will have an impact on Montessori in Canada long after the Centenary has passed.

We are all deeply inspired by Dr. Montessori's exploration of the true nature of childhood through extensive scientific observation. A century of great Montessori work will be celebrated **worldwide** during the 100th anniversary year of the first Casa dei Bambini. The Centenary celebrated throughout the entire year 2007 provides us with a unique opportunity to reinvigorate the Montessori Movement and create a flow of energy. Together we can put Montessori where it should be – in the hearts and minds of every individual who cares about the child.

We invite you to celebrate with us the past and to work with us for the future. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings and everyone is invited to play a role.

What we hope to accomplish with your help

DOCUMENT THE HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN MONTESSORI MOVEMENT

The goal is to compile the History of the Canadian Montessori Movement in a book or DVD format. This project will trace the history of Montessori in Canada from its inception to the present times. We need information, archival photographs, and the names of outstanding Canadians who went to Montessori schools and anything that will help us to create this project which is due for completion during our Centenary, and which can be used as a tool for information and public relations by all schools.

BUILD THE CENSUS

We want to build a demographic picture of Montessori in Canada. Knowing how many schools, teachers and definitely how many children are attending or have attended our schools, will make us stronger in the eyes of the government and general public. The Census will also be used to distribute information about Centenary events. The Census forms will be distributed to schools in the spring of 2006. We expect to have a Canadian Centenary website up soon so that schools can register on line. We will notify you once our website is functioning.

CREATE A CENTENARY DECLARATION

A Montessori Centenary Declaration is a document which affirms the key principles and the commitment that we share. We will be inviting everyone to sign a hard copy of the Declaration as it circulates across Canada, province by province, in preparation of presenting it to the Ministers of Education. Once presented to the Ministers as a petition with all the signatures, we intend to ask them to read the Centenary Declaration in the Provincial Parliaments. The Declaration will be distributed to all Montessori schools across Canada early in the new school year in September 2006. A copy of the Declaration can be posted on the walls as written representation of our collective responsibilities.

ESTABLISH ALL CANADA MONTESSORI OPEN HOUSE DAY

We are planning to coordinate a National Open House of Montessori schools across Canada on Friday, January 12, 2007. We are planning to

publish a directory of all schools in the Globe and Mail in the form of an insert which will serve as a guide for parents across Canada visiting Montessori schools. All parents will be free to visit any school throughout the day, all across the country.

These are our plans to celebrate the Centenary on a national level. Obviously any organization or school is free to organize any event to celebrate the Centenary of the Montessori Movement in their own fashion, but for Montessori to have an impact on our nation, we must act in unity. We will be speaking with a common voice so that our voice will be heard as loudly as Maria Montessori's was heard from her first schoolroom in Rome.

Contact Us

Please stay in touch and please get involved. We need contact people in each Province except Ontario where we already have good representation. Until our Canadian Centenary website is up, for more information please call Felix at (416)762-8888 or write to

felix@humbersidemontessori.ca

Ensure that the voice of

Montessori is heard as we

CHAMPION THE CAUSE OF ALL CHILDREN!

On behalf of the Canadian Centenary Committee, we look forward to hearing from you.

Beth, Isabel, Kathryn,

and Felix