

## CANADIAN SOCIETY HOLDS FIRST MEETING

By Wendy Tilley, President

The Canadian Society of Hand Therapists (CSHT) held its first hand therapy conference in Edmonton, Alberta September 12-13, 2008. Approximately 95 therapists from across Canada attended. The speakers were primarily from Western Canada area where the executive of the CSHT has resided over the last few years. This conference represented a “send off” of the executive from its recent home in Edmonton, Alberta to its new home in Winnipeg, Manitoba and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Future presiding executive of the CSHT will hopefully keep up the trend of hosting an annual meeting in their own region to showcase the local talents of therapists and surgeons. Canada’s great geographic vast-



CSHT Out-going executive (L to R): Lorelle Zorrilla (Vice President); Carol McCarthy (Secretary & Conference Chair); Wendy Tilley (President); Judy Bradwell & Andrea Palahniuk (Newsletter Editor & Assistant Editor); Missing is Gail Hamilton, Treasurer

ness is home to many enthusiastic and talented hand therapists.

The conference was highlighted by the news that the CSHT had been granted “not for profit” status by the Canadian federal government, an important initiative of the CSHT executive. CSHT began only 19 years ago as a hand interest group. Each presiding executive has added significant contributions to the development of our society and rumblings of future initiatives are exciting.

Plans are well underway to host the next CSHT conference in Toronto, Ontario April 24 and 25, 2009. Visit the CSHT website at [www.csht.org](http://www.csht.org) for more details and to meet the new executive!

## SOUTH AFRICA HAND THERAPY MARKETING VENTURE

by Corrienne van Velze, Past-President of SASHT & IFSHT

Members of the South African Society of Hand Therapists (SASHT) were on site at the South African Quilters Guild National Quilt Festival September 7-14, 2008 to advise the quilters how to safely use their hands.

The opportunity provided on-site service to the quilters while marketing directly to a large group of persons. Most attendees were ladies over 40 years with a high incidence of hand problems who have never heard of a hand therapist.

A brief hand evaluation determined whether an exercise programme, wax treatment, thumb splints and/or therapy for strengthening were provided. Additionally, many quilters received an address list of ther-



Isabel Mischke providing advice to a quilter

apists in their area. Emphasis was placed on prevention of hand deformities for those who did not complain of symptoms.

Over 140 persons are now more aware of the services offered by a hand therapist and will distribute this message among their friends and colleagues.

Craft Festivals offer unique marketing opportunities for hand therapists all over the world. SASHT feels this venture could become a marketing exercise for members of the IFSHT. SASHT will be happy to share their experience with any society who wants to undertake this interesting marketing approach.

## IMPORTANT DATES for IFSHT 2010 TRIENNIAL CONGRESS

To receive information about the IFSHT Triennial Congress in 2010 in Orlando, Florida, please sign up at: [www.hands2010.com](http://www.hands2010.com).

### REMINDER:

Call for Abstracts: opens on July 1, 2009  
Abstract Submission Deadline: October 1, 2009.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Note: Listing of upcoming courses sponsored by member countries does not indicate IFSHT endorsement.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
June 20-21, 2009	IAHT Summer Conference	Dublin, Ireland	<a href="http://www.handtherapyireland.com">www.handtherapyireland.com</a>
Sept 3-5, 2009	ASHT Annual Meeting	San Francisco, California	<a href="http://www.asht.org">www.asht.org</a>
Sept 4, 2009	SASHT Annual Meeting	Drackensberg, South Africa	<a href="mailto:admin@sasht.org.za">admin@sasht.org.za</a>
Sept 30-Oct 2, 2009	Argentina Annual Meeting	Mar del Plata, Argentina	<a href="mailto:aacm@fibertel.com.ar">aacm@fibertel.com.ar</a>
Oct 8-10, 2009	DAHTH Annual Meeting	Tübingen, Germany	<a href="mailto:antjegerber@gmx.de">antjegerber@gmx.de</a>
Oct 10, 2009	AIRM Annual Meeting	Rome, Italy	<a href="mailto:roseluciano@hotmail.com">roseluciano@hotmail.com</a>
Oct 16-18, 2009	AHTA Annual Meeting	Brisbane, Australia	<a href="http://www.ahta2009.com">www.ahta2009.com</a>
Nov 12-13, 2009	SGHR Annual Meeting	Biel, Switzerland	<a href="http://www.congress-info.ch/sghr2009">www.congress-info.ch/sghr2009</a>
Nov 12-13, 2009	NFH Annual Meeting	Oslo, Norway	<a href="http://www.handterapi.no">www.handterapi.no</a>
Nov 13-15, 2009	APFSHT Meeting (Asia Pacific Federation of Societies for Hand Therapists)	Kaohsiung, Taiwan	<a href="http://www.2009apfsht.ot.org.tw">www.2009apfsht.ot.org.tw</a>