

For Immediate Release:

New Training Program for Aquatic Facility Professionals

(March 4, 2009 – Toronto) The Ontario Recreation Facilities Association (ORFA) and the Canadian Red Cross – Ontario Zone have partnered on the development and delivery of a brand new training program leading to a new professional designation, *Certified Aquatic Professional* (C.A.P.).

The *Certified Aquatic Professional* training program consists of three courses representing 48 hours of classroom-based instruction and hands-on training. The courses are *Essentials of Swimming Pool Operations*; *Aquatic Facility Operations-Beyond the Basics*; and *Aquatic Program Administration*. The program covers subject matter including: pool construction and design; pool circulation and filtration; water treatment, disinfection and testing; microbiology and infection control; staff and public safety; legislation and risk management; and aquatic program planning, staffing, scheduling, marketing and customer service. Each course requires participants to successfully complete written examinations.

Rob Lilbourne, president of the ORFA, says that “this training program is truly unique in that it combines facility operations skills learning and aquatic programming knowledge.”

In addition to successfully completing the three courses, participants seeking to be awarded the C.A.P designation must have a minimum Grade 12 education, maintain current WHMIS and Standard First Aid/CPR - C training and have a minimum of 24 months related aquatic facility work experience.

“The program will be a great training opportunity for aquatic managers as well as the supervisors on duty,” says Gail Botten, Program Advisor of swimming, water safety and leadership with the Red Cross.

The official launch of the *Certified Aquatic Professional* training program will take place at the ORFA’s 54th Annual Professional Development Program to be held at the University of Guelph, April 26 to May 1, 2009. For more information on the C.A.P. program, visit <http://www.orfa.com/orfa/designations/cap/>

The [Ontario Recreation Facilities Association Inc.](http://www.orfa.com) (ORFA) was incorporated in 1947 as a provincially-recognized, not-for-profit, volunteer driven recreation organization to be the leader in the recreation facility profession. The mission of ORFA is to provide leadership in the development and delivery of innovative training and education programs, value-added services, and quality products for the benefit of the recreation facility profession. The ORFA serves as the National Head Office of the Canadian Recreation Facilities Council.

For more information, contact: John Milton, Chief Administrative Officer, Ontario Recreation Facilities Association, tel: (416) 426-7062 email: info@orfa.com

The Canadian Red Cross Society is a non-profit, humanitarian organization dedicated to improving the situation of the most vulnerable in Canada and throughout the world. The Canadian Red Cross is a national society and member of the [International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement](http://www.icrc.org)—this includes the [International Committee of the Red Cross](http://www.icrc.org) (ICRC), the [International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies](http://www.ifrc.org) (Federation) and the 185 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

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