



THE PHOENIX SOCIETY'S WORLD BURN CONGRESS

Visits Vancouver in October

More than 600 members of the burn community are expected to gather in Vancouver, Canada, in October for The Phoenix Society's 19th World Burn Congress. The annual event brings together burn survivors and their families, as well as members of the health care community and fire service.

Events will begin on Wednesday, October 3, with an afternoon of pre-Congress workshops. That evening will feature the Congress kick-off event. The remainder of the program, October 4-6, will include informational and motivational sessions, support groups, and social events. Attendees also will be able to view exhibits and speak to representatives of vendors and organizations that serve the burn community.

COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT THEM

The British Columbia Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund, the British Columbia Professional Fire Fighters' Burn & Plastic Surgery Unit at Vancouver General Hospital, and the British Columbia Children's Hospital Burn Unit are serving as this year's local hosts, working with the Society on program planning, logistics, and volunteer staffing.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

From the Westin Bayshore hotel, Congress attendees will have views of British Columbia's scenic coastline and mountains. Just a short walk down the picturesque seawall is the city's historic 1,000-acre Stanley Park, home of Canada's largest aquarium. Throughout the city, a wide variety of dining and shopping options, as well as museums and art galleries, reflect Vancouver's cultural diversity. Based on the city's ambience, friendliness, culture and sites, restaurants, lodging, and shopping, readers of *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine have voted Vancouver the "Best City in the Americas" for the last 3 years.



The Coast Mountains provide a dramatic backdrop to Vancouver's skyline.



A horsedrawn tour is the perfect way to see Vancouver's 1,000-acre Stanley Park.

continued on back page

Photos courtesy of Tourism Vancouver



By Amy Acton, RN, BSN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Do You Remember When You Turned 30?

REMEMBERING MY 30TH

My first thought on my 30th birthday was a vivid memory of my own parents turning 30. I remember as a kid thinking, “Wow! They are really getting *old*.” For some reason, turning 30 had always seemed like a big scary deal to me, although when I actually turned 30, it was not like that at all. I did look back on what I had learned in those 30 years and spent some time reflecting on experiences and how they had shaped my life. I remember being excited about the new opportunities in my career, a feeling of confidence in the direction my life was going, and a clear shift from being an independent young adult to a member of a new family and a larger community. I had goals and dreams of what could be. Most of all, there was anticipation, excitement, and passion for what lay ahead. Oh—and there was a new look too!

TAKING STOCK

As we celebrate our 30th year at The Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors, I have similar thoughts about where we are as an organization and as a burn community. It is important to take stock in the work we have been able to accomplish over our 30-year history. It would be impossible to review that history in one page, but I ask those of you who have been involved since the beginning to take a moment and remember all you have seen and accomplished in the efforts to bring inspiration and information to burn survivors. We are indebted to all of you who have not only shaped this organization, but also the burn community as a whole, one that we could not have imagined 30 years ago. We have tried to capture the Society’s efforts in the brochure that accompanies this abbreviated issue of *Burn Support News*.

EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

Tremendous opportunities lie ahead in the next 30 years as we strive to expand access to peer support and resources for burn recovery and psychosocial rehabilitation. The feedback we receive regarding our programs gives us confidence that we are on the right path. We must continue to work with the burn community to evaluate and prove the benefits of our programs, such as World Burn Congress, SOAR (Survivors Offering Assistance in Recovery), BEST (Behavioral & Enhancement Skills Training), The Journey Back school re-entry program, and our on-line peer support—just to name a few. Without evidence of their effectiveness we will fall short of the ultimate goal, which is to make these programs and others a standard of burn care.

However, so many people are still isolated and struggling needlessly during their burn recovery. The job of reaching them is too big for any one organization or group. We must build partnerships with individual burn survivors and their families, burn care professionals, firefighters, and other burn-related organizations, as well as those who financially support the burn community. For the next 30 years we can work together with excitement and passion toward our common goals and dreams.

A NEW LOOK

The Phoenix Society takes its name from the legendary bird that lives 500 years and is consumed



RECOVER. RENEW. RETURN.

by flame, but rises again, reborn from its ashes, more brilliant than before. We decided to develop a new logo for our 30th birthday to better illustrate the Phoenix imagery and its

relevance to our mission. We hope this will help to communicate that our organization is not based in Phoenix, Arizona, as is sometimes mistakenly assumed, but rather that the word “Phoenix” refers to the healing and growth of the phoenix bird!

Several years ago, the Society added the words “for Burn Survivors” to our official name to reflect that our core mission is focused on those affected by a burn injury. Our mission remains to empower anyone affected by a burn injury through peer support, education, and advocacy. The word “anyone” in our mission is important as it explains that we serve the injured person, their loved ones, health care providers, and fire fighters.

As we have grown and have a better understanding of the impact of burn trauma on the community as a whole, this has been an increasingly important word within our mission.

We have also adopted a tag line, Recover. Renew. Return, as a way to describe the journey of the burn survivor and those who care deeply for them. The Society is committed to advancing recovery resources, providing environments to renew the spirit, and supporting a positive return to life.

For more information, visit our website at www.phoenix-society.org. This spring you’ll notice a new look for that site and new features as well. ■

PEG Scholarship Applications Due July 2

Burn survivors interested in applying for this year’s Phoenix Educational Grant (PEG) scholarships must submit a completed application and all supporting documentation no later than July 2, 2007. The 2007 PEG application is available on the Society website, www.phoenix-society.org.

To be considered for a grant, an applicant must be a burn survivor who is currently a high school senior or has earned a GED, or is currently enrolled in a college university, or trade school. He or she must also have demonstrated academic achievement as shown by grades and standardized test scores or demonstrated ability in a trade or craft, and must have been accepted to an accredited college, university, or trade school. In addition, PEG recipients are expected to model exemplary behavior and be willing to help another burn survivor in the future to further his/her education.

Since 2002, The Phoenix Society, through its PEG endowment, has awarded 32 grants to burn survivors pursuing a post-secondary education. To learn how you can support this effort, contact The Phoenix Society office at 800-888-2876. ■



Nominations Sought for Breslau Award

The Phoenix Society presents the Alan and Delwyn Breslau Award annually to a member who has, through a collaborative spirit, significantly enhanced the ability of the Society to fulfill its mission of peer support, education, and advocacy. By virtue of his or her character, integrity, and service provided to those affected by a burn injury, this person has enhanced the burn community.

Since its establishment in 2002, the Breslau Award has been awarded to the following individuals:

- 2002 Alan and Delwyn Breslau
- 2003 Gabriela Brett
- 2004 James Bosch
- 2005 George Pessotti
- 2006 Barbara Kammerer Quayle

To nominate an individual for the 2007 award, submit your name and address, as well as your nominee’s, a letter detailing why your nominee should be considered, a copy of his or her curriculum vitae or resume (if appropriate and available), and any other relevant information no later than June 11, 2007, to The Phoenix Society office. You may also include letters of support from other people who are familiar with your nominee and his or her accomplishments. Note: Employees or voting members of the Society’s board of trustees are not eligible for the award.

The 2007 Alan and Delwyn Breslau Award will be presented at the World Burn Congress in Vancouver in October. ■

VANCOUVER IS NOT ONLY THE HOME OF WBC 2007

It's also...

- Canada's third largest city
- The site of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games
- Home to the third largest Chinatown in North America
- The third busiest filming center in North America, after Los Angeles and New York, with dozens of television series and movies in production each year



photo courtesy of Tourism Vancouver

For more information on Vancouver, visit www.tourismvancouver.com.

PLAN AHEAD

Attendees traveling to WBC 2007 by air from the United States will need a valid passport. U.S. citizens planning to attend the Congress who don't have a current passport should visit the U.S. Department of State website, www.state.gov, or call the

National Passport Information Center toll-free at 1-877-487-2778 for information on how to obtain a passport or renew one.

"Because the State Department estimates a turnaround time of 6 weeks for routine processing of passport applications and as long as 8 weeks during busier times, such as the summer travel season," says Society associate director Pam Peterson, "we are urging those planning to attend to begin the passport application process now." While those entering Canada by land or sea from the United States won't need a passport, they will need to carry a photo ID and proof of U.S. citizenship, such as an official copy of a birth certificate, naturalization certificate, or expired U.S. passport.

In addition individuals with a criminal record (including a DWI charge) may be denied entry to Canada or may be asked to leave the country. Details on these regulations can be found on the Citizen and Immigration Canada website at www.cic.gc.ca or by calling the Embassy of Canada at 202-682-1740.

Room reservations at the Westin Bayshore hotel can be made now through the link on the World Burn Congress 2007 page of The Phoenix Society website or by calling Westin central reservations toll-free at 800-937-8461 or the hotel directly at 604-682-3377. The special reduced hotel rate for attendees, good through September 7, 2007, is CAN \$179 per night, plus tax. (To receive the discounted group rate, identify yourself as a World Burn Congress attendee.)

The registration brochure for the 2007 World Burn Congress will be posted on The Phoenix Society website early this summer and will be published in the summer issue of *Burn Support News*. ■

- I need help or information. I would like The Phoenix Society to call me at _____
- I would like to join The Phoenix Society as a:
- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burn Survivor Member* (Burn Survivors) | Suggested dues \$ 25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member (Families, Friends, and Firefighters) | Suggested dues \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Member (Medical and Legal Professionals) | Suggested dues \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional Member (Burn Centers, Burn Foundations, and Fire Dept.) | Suggested dues \$150 |

**Dues payment is voluntary for burn survivors who do not have the financial means to pay.*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home phone no. (optional) _____ E-mail (optional) _____



Phoenix Society
for burn survivors

1835 RW Berends Dr. SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49519-4955

616.458.2773/1.800.888.2876
fax: 616.458.2831
www.phoenix-society.org
info@phoenix-society.org

My check is enclosed. (Make your check payable to The Phoenix Society.)

I'd prefer to charge my membership dues to my: Visa MasterCard

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ Amount \$ _____

*The Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization.
Contributions, gifts, and dues are tax deductible.*