

**WANTED**



**MENSA VOLUNTEERS**

**REWARD - PRICELESS**



## Mensa Participants

Mensa Calgary's AG Organizing Committee has been hard at work for almost a year planning the Canadian Annual Gathering (AG) to be held at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel on the May long weekend – May 20-23, 2011. What is missing is enthusiasm and support from local Mensa Calgary members, former members and aspiring members. Friends are also welcome.

### **What is an AG?**

AG stands for Annual Gathering and is the annual convention of Mensa Canada. An AG is organized by a local Mensa Chapter with the support and involvement of the national executive, and includes the national group's Annual General Meeting. In Canada, the AG is normally held around the Canada Day weekend but this year's AG will be held in May so we can get excellent group rates at the Banff Springs Hotel which would not be available in the summer. The last AG hosted by Mensa Calgary was held in 1991 at the Palliser Hotel.

Because an AG is the major event in the Mensa Canada calendar it tends to attract participants from the US and overseas, particularly when it is held in a 'tourist' location such as Banff or Quebec City. The location of upcoming AGs is normally decided and publicized a year or two in advance, giving all members ample time to make plans to attend.





### **What happens at an AG?**

Mensans are an eclectic group of people with a wide range of interests and hobbies. A general **misconception** is that a Mensan event is high brow and focussed solely on intellectual pursuits and attended by intellectual snobs. That is simply not the case at all. Mensans are fun loving people with open, thirsty minds willing to soak up new concepts, strange concepts and they will even research concepts they don't believe in. Mensans also like to party, play games and complete challenging puzzles, drink alcohol and even flirt with each other. The Banff AG will include all of the above activities and will give you the opportunity to meet all those Mensans you read about in MC2. If you never attend any other Mensa Calgary event this is the one not to miss.

Have you checked out our registration website yet? Or viewed our promotional video? See:

<http://www.mensa2011ag.ca/>

### **How can I contribute towards the Banff AG?**

The number 1 way you can support our AG is by attending the AG and enjoying yourself.

If you would also like to support our event as a volunteer - here are the organizing and volunteer roles we have vacant that may appeal to you:





# Mensa Volunteers

## **Marketing**

Are you fluent in a foreign language? Can you translate an invitation to our AG into a foreign language for foreign Mensa groups? Or are you a marketing guru? Contact Vicki – [banffrg@shaw.ca](mailto:banffrg@shaw.ca)

Also contact Vicki if you are very knowledgeable about Banff/Banff National Park/mountain shuttles and can help write a “Mommy Letter” we can send to registrants to help them navigate their way to the AG.

## **Registration**

Marie Wildenborg is heading the registration desk function at the AG. Marie requires a team of volunteers to work shifts at the registration desk and help design the registration packages and to welcome registrants from around the world. We plan to provide a crown to all registrants and perhaps even knight them upon registration. Contact Marie – [marie.wildenborg@shaw.ca](mailto:marie.wildenborg@shaw.ca)

## **Hospitality**

The AG will have a large Hospitality and meet up room which will be stocked with snack items and beverages. Civilized and fun by day, Hospitality Suites have known to get quite rowdy at night until the wee hours of the morning. Some Mensans have been known to spend the entire weekend in Hospitality.





Want to support the civilized, genteel Hospitality host? Contact Ginny – [Gvassal@kmss.ca](mailto:Gvassal@kmss.ca)

Feel you can contribute more to the partying? Contact Leslie – [august\\_83@hotmail.com](mailto:august_83@hotmail.com)

### **Speakers Program**

Mensa Calgary has already lined up a dazzling array of speakers who will address a range of heavy hitting topics such as the Rwandan genocide, lessons from the Air India bombing inquiry, and artificial intelligence and nanotechnology and alternative topics such as making contact with those no longer living and reviewing bad movies (by a blogger with a large fan base).

We need people who will introduce and thank our speakers and present them with a card and gift on behalf of Mensa Calgary. If you are interested contact Jeff – [jjpugh@shaw.ca](mailto:jjpugh@shaw.ca)

If you would love to present a topic you are passionate about at the AG contact Vicki – [banffrg@shaw.ca](mailto:banffrg@shaw.ca)

### **Outdoor Program**

Our Outdoor Program is still in the design phase but will offer registrants the chance to attend the Slush Cup at Sunshine Village on May 23. Please submit any ideas you have for the Outdoor Program. At our Banff RG in 2009 we had hikes, geology field trips, a garden tour and sightseeing trips. If you would like to lead a hike or show a group of Mensans your favourite sites/sights in the mountains please contact – Jeff – [jjpugh@shaw.ca](mailto:jjpugh@shaw.ca)





## Entertainment

Mensa Calgary is running this event on a shoe-string budget so will conduct low cost entertainment activities and we need your help.

- Challenges and Puzzles are being developed by Chris McKay and David Johnson and will form The A-Mensan Race 2. If you want to participate in designing the challenges or want to help mark or judge the challenges contact Chris – [cmckay55@shaw.ca](mailto:cmckay55@shaw.ca) or David – [david.mj@shaw.ca](mailto:david.mj@shaw.ca)
- Mr Mensa Canada Pageant will be a tongue in cheek Canadian romp. We need contestants willing to answer Canadian themed questions in the Plaid Shirt Segment, willing to model Winter Woollies (what to wear in -40 degree weather) and compete in a snow shovelling contest. Interested contestants please contact Vicki – [banffrg@shaw.ca](mailto:banffrg@shaw.ca)
- Dinner Night On Sunday evening we need some dinner hosts to take groups of Mensans to local Banff restaurants. Grizzly House was a big hit in 2009. We want a selection of restaurants in different price ranges and a host for each. The host will ensure registrants know how to get to the restaurant, be well fed, and get back to the hotel. Contact Leslie – [august\\_83@hotmail.com](mailto:august_83@hotmail.com)
- Art/Photography Exhibit If you have local home grown talents we would love to display your masterpieces at our Reception Desk or in our Hospitality Suite please contact Vicki – [banffrg@shaw.ca](mailto:banffrg@shaw.ca)





- Musicians - Please come and entertain our captive audience. We may also have a big band and wind quintet performing at the AG. Contact Vicki – [banffrg@shaw.ca](mailto:banffrg@shaw.ca)
- Ghost Tour Leslie Forward is designing a midnight ghost tour through the Banff Springs Hotel. Any budding thespians, ghouls or ghosts can contact Leslie - [august\\_83@hotmail.com](mailto:august_83@hotmail.com)

### **Facilities**

Chris McKay is in charge of facilities. If you want to help out with room layout, computers, props, AV set up, special effects, room clean up, snow shovels (see Mr Mensa Canada Pageant above) or help Chris marshal hotel and AV staff contact Chris - [cmckay55@shaw.ca](mailto:cmckay55@shaw.ca)

**Also – SMART board wanted. Can anyone donate one for the weekend?**

### **Passenger Van**

We need someone to coordinate a rental van and ensure it is at the lobby for hikes and field trips. Chauffeurs are also required for these events. Contact - [cmckay55@shaw.ca](mailto:cmckay55@shaw.ca)-

### **Games Room**

Games rooms are always popular at Mensa events particularly with American Mensans. We need to borrow or accept donations of board games, jigsaw puzzles or other puzzles to stock our Games Room. If you want to volunteer to work shifts in the Games Room or lend or donate games please contact Marie – [marie.wildenborg@shaw.ca](mailto:marie.wildenborg@shaw.ca)





### Sponsors

Puzzle Master and Harmony Ball have generously agreed to sponsor the AG. We would like more sponsors. If you can sponsor the event or have sponsorship leads please contact Vicki – [banffrg@shaw.ca](mailto:banffrg@shaw.ca)



<http://www.puzzlemaster.ca/index.php>

HARMONY  BALL CO.

<http://harmonyball.com/>

REGISTER NOW ON LINE <http://www.mensa2011ag.ca/registration.html>

