

RVHEA Conference 2018 – Seminar Synopses and Speaker Biographies

Opening Session: Sanctuary

8:45-9:00: HSLDA Legal Update

Peter Stock

Biography: Peter Stock is the President of the Home School Legal Defence Association of Canada. For nearly a quarter century, Peter has been a successful pro-family leader and strategist in government, media, and public relations. His experience with public policy, from conception to implementation, naturally progressed into protecting and promoting home education. For over 10 years, Peter and his wife, Tarah, have homeschooled their four children. Peter shares the teaching responsibilities with his wife and ultimately understands the needs of HSLDA members.

9:00 - 10:00: Keynote – What Makes You Think You Can Teach Your Own?

Dr. Brian Ray

Dr. Ray will first ask "Should you teach your own children?" then proceed to help his audience answer the question which is the title of this message. Brian will use Christian thought, his experience as a long-time home education father of eight children, ideas from the education profession, and research to stimulate, challenge, and encourage both veteran and novice home educators.

Biography: Dr. Brian Ray is a leading international expert in research on homeschooling and president of the National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI). He has published numerous articles and books, is interviewed by major media, serves as an expert witness in court cases, and testifies to legislatures regarding education. He is a former university professor and classroom teacher. He holds a Ph.D. in science education from Oregon State University. He is a church leader. Brian and Betsy have been married 39 years, have eight children who were home educated, run a small farm, and have eight grandchildren. See research at www.nheri.org.

10:00-10:30

Room 1: Fun and Fellowship: Youth Welcoming Activities (All Youth)

Cory McAree

Session 1: 10:30 – 11:30

Sanctuary: If Homeschooling Is So Good, Why Don't Educators Promote It?

Dr. Brian Ray

Many professional educators continue to oppose parent-led home-based education in spite of consistent positive research findings about it. Many wonder, why? First, Dr. Ray gives an updated summary of research on homeschooling that addresses learner outcomes and homeschooling's effect on communities and societies. He then critically synthesizes and presents four classes of negativity by academics toward home-based education. Dr. Ray moves on to evaluating the negativity toward homeschooling. Finally, he will give homeschool leaders scriptural and practical ways to personally and publicly counter the explicit and implicit attacks by the education profession against this millennia-old form of education that is both powerful and successful.

Biography: see 9:00-10:00, Sanctuary

Room 1: Handling Conflict (Youth)

Cory McAree

This seminar will discuss how to handle interpersonal conflict in a God-honouring way. Seminar points will address peer and inter-generational conflict, conflict with an authority figure, and what you can do when you are let down by someone you look up to.

Biography: Cory is husband to Ellen and a homeschooling father of four, two girls and two boys. He worked for the Roberts/Smart Center as a Youth Counsellor for several years before joining the Ottawa Police Service in 2006. He specialized as a School Resource Officer and was the liaison for the High Priority School in the Vanier/Overbrook area. He now works as a detective in the Ottawa Police Youth Section, focusing on Gangs and Group Homes.

Room 2: Homeschooling Through High School

Helen Hoffmann

Each stage of homeschooling is unique and the way we teach our children changes between elementary and high school but there is still great flexibility. You too can tailor your child's high school years to their strengths and passions while preparing them for a successful adult life, as well as a post-secondary education. The pressures to put your children into school increase as the years pass but the rewards of homeschooling can outweigh the pressures tenfold. You can do it with joy and success!

Biography: An Ottawa native, Helen and her husband David homeschooled their 3 children from JK through Grade 12. She counts it a privilege to have had those years to invest in her family and enjoy their company. Her son is completing his Master's degree at U Waterloo this spring, while her younger daughters are still living in the Ottawa area. Helen wants to be an encouragement to other parents who are called to this wonderful, peculiar, challenging, frustrating, delightfully rich life of homeschooling teenagers.

Room 3: On Your Toes: Homeschooling with Toddlers Underfoot

Betsy Ray

Watch your step! Those wee ones are learning from everything you do. Betsy will offer encouragement and ideas for mothers of toddlers, especially those balancing their older and younger children's education.

Biography: Betsy is a warm, compassionate, and fun-hearted teacher. She and Brian have been married 33 years and have 8 children and four grandchildren. All were/are homeschooled through their secondary years. Betsy home educates her children, helps manage a six-acre farm, grows and preserves large amounts of food, is a part of local and state-wide homeschool leadership, and is active in her community exercising her gifts of hospitality, teaching, and counselling other women. Betsy earned her B.S. in elementary education. Betsy is also a key support to her husband, Dr. Brian Ray, in his international work as president of the National Home Education Research Institute.

Room 4: Faith and Politics

Sandra Freedman

Politics and political action may not come naturally in our everyday lives, and yet decisions made at every level of government affect us all. How do you align your values, time commitments and energy towards making a difference? And what do you bring to the table as a homeschooling family and as a Christian? Turns out, homeschoolers are in a unique position to have a huge role to play in current and future elections! Explore how your faith and values can make difference in the Canadian political system.

Biography: Sandra grew up in Carp and split her time between school, sports and working at the family's local greenhouse business. She holds a BA in Public Affairs and Policy Management, a Master's Degree in Political Management and a Master's Degree in International Affairs from Carleton University. She worked as a Legislative Assistant and Policy Advisor for over three years on Parliament Hill and has been in church leadership roles since 2010. Sandra now works at MNP, a Canadian consulting firm in Kanata and is currently running for the federal Conservative nomination in Kanata-Carleton.

Room 5: Finding Direction in Your Homeschool Through Well-defined Goals

Diana Rolston

Do you feel like your homeschooling journey has no real direction? No overall purpose or objective? This practical discussion will help you look beyond annual curriculum and daily routines. You'll start experiencing the benefits of well-defined social, physical, spiritual and academic goals, leading you and your family on a purposeful, meaningful and rewarding home education journey.

Biography: Diana has been homeschooling her three teens for over eleven years. She describes her homeschool environment as relaxed though purposeful, while exploring her children's passions and delving deeply in these areas. Diana is a Teacher's College graduate who loves to learn. Her greatest desire is to awaken her children to the unique gifts God has given each of them and help develop these for His glory.

Room 7: Teaching Electives at Home and in a Co-op Setting

Leanne Seel

Electives add sparkle to your homeschool and ignite passions in your children. Learn how to choose elective subjects that your kids will connect with and how to teach them in an engaging way. Also learn how to find a homeschool co-op and evaluate whether it's a good fit for your family.

Biography: Leanne has been home educating her 2 tweens for about 9 years. She describes her homeschool as eclectically structured in a relaxed kind of way. She has been the coordinator of REACH co-op (aka her kids' favourite place!) for about 6 years.

Session 2: 1:00-2:00

Sanctuary: Swimming Upstream: Why You Should (Continue to) Homeschool

Dr. Brian Ray

Many parents finally fall prey to their own insecurities and critics' darts when their children reach age 14 (or sooner). They consider abandoning home-based and parent-guided education. The cacophonous voices of professionals, generations of institutional

schooling, “public” school giveaways and enticements, personal misperceptions of reality and the world’s opinion about what is important muddy the waters. Getting closer to the source — the headwaters — brings refreshment and clarity to vision and action. Dr. Ray focuses on key educational goals and philosophy (biblical), research findings, the importance of separating the state from education, and personal experience to inform, encourage, and rally parents’ spirits and harden their resolve to continue homeschooling for the long term in order to reap the harvest of its excellent fruits.

Biography: see 9:00-10:00, Sanctuary

Room 1: The Young Electorate (Youth)

Sandra Freedman

Political parties are increasingly turning to youth and young people in Canada and around the world to support their work, build their platforms and vote their way. Social media and the issues of “youth politics” have now become central to winning elections, and so are young people who are willing to get involved at every political level to make a difference. Find out how you can have an impact now as the young electorate.

Biography: see Session 1 Room 4

Room 2: Christian Children and Science

Thomas Bailey

Everywhere around us, evolution is presented as fact, and it undermines the authority of Scripture. Why believe what the Bible says about Jesus if what it says about creation isn’t true? Eventually, your children will encounter a world that is hostile to the Christian worldview. This talk will show why we must prepare our children to persevere in their faith and defend it. Learn answers to questions like ‘Where did the races come from?’ or ‘What about dinosaurs?’ Learn some of the scientific evidence for Biblical history and some of the weaknesses of evolution. There will be a brief Q&A.

Biography: *Thomas has been a communicator most of his life; acting, preaching and writing. He has become acutely aware of how important a literal historical view of Genesis is to the gospel and other core biblical doctrines. He is also concerned about the negative implications of the evolutionary worldview on present and future generations, especially regarding the systematic indoctrination of children into a worldview that leaves God out of the equation. Thomas and his wife Gail live in Exeter, ON. Thomas has BA in Drama, a BEd and a Diploma in Ministry.*

Room 3: Parents: Igniting the Fires of Your Mind

Betsy Ray

We want our children to be excited about learning. This can be caught from parents who are challenging themselves in new areas. Betsy will relate her experiences and ideas that could make teaching more than just getting through textbooks. She will encourage you to stimulate your thinking and give practical tips on how to relate topics in which you never thought you would be interested to ones that you have always loved and to the light of God’s truth. You can lead your children in making these relationships, forming a biblical worldview, and renewing their minds to impact their world.

Biography: see Session 1, Room 3

Room 4: Life Learning

Robin Gilman

A great deal of our children's education happens outside of textbooks. While Robin Gilman, (mother of ten) loves books and uses curriculum, she will share about how much of our children's learning takes place informally in our daily lives and how parents can be more aware and intentional in shaping this learning for the best. Parents should come away encouraged about how much learning is happening effortlessly.

Biography: *Robin has been married to Bible teacher Alan Gilman for 38 years. They have ten children who have all been home educated. Eight are now adults who love God and others, and are contributing to society in a variety of ways: missionary, director of anti-porn ministry, pastor, full-time pro-life work and many other interesting jobs/ministries. Robin still enjoys teaching their two youngest children. Seeing the fruit of home educating her children, Robin loves encouraging moms to “not grow weary in well doing,” testifying that this calling is extremely worth it! To that end she published her first book (“Stress Free Homeschooling – Getting it all Done and Enjoying it”) last year.*

Room 5: Finding Joy in Homeschooling Students Who Struggle

Diana Rolston

We all experience struggles in our home education journey. But when we homeschool a child with learning difficulties it seems even more of a challenge for homeschool parents, the child and the whole family. During this encouraging and engaging discussion, Diana will remind us to trust that God has put us in this role as parent. You will leave with confidence that no one knows your child better

than you do. God doesn't make any mistakes!

Biography: see Session 1, Room 5

Room 7: Homeschool 101

Peter Stock

Parenting in the 21st Century may seem challenging but, homeschooling doesn't have to be an overwhelming decision. If you are unfamiliar with homeschooling and have questions about how it all works, this session is for you! Learn more about home education and how your family can benefit from the freedom and flexibility of homeschooling. Discover the importance of a customized learning environment for your children. Regardless of age or ability, homeschooling is possible and well worth it.

Biography: see Opening Session, HSLDA Update

Session 3: 2:30-3:30

Sanctuary: Loving and Leading

Dr. Brian Ray

Husbands and fathers, it is time to love and lead – now. Like Christ loves the church. Wives and mothers, it is time to love your husband as God has declared. Nurture and admonish your children but do not provoke them. Is all of this possible? Yes. But what can you do? Brian will give you pointed challenges, down-to-earth examples, laughter, and practical ideas to see your marriage grow from glory to glory in God's good and exciting will. He will help and encourage you with scripture, experiences, and what they as a couple have learned during 34 years of marriage and the upbringing of eight children.

Biography: see 9:00-10:00, Sanctuary

Room 1: Science and the Bible (Youth)

Thomas Bailey

Can Christians be scientists? What do we really know about origins? See how much of the evidence for evolution is merely interpretation and that some of the evidence is just wrong. See how well the facts line up with the only eyewitness record there is of how the earth began: the Bible. This talk will encourage you in your faith and equip you to answer questions like 'How did Noah get all of the animals on the ark?' or 'What about distant starlight?' Also, learn why it matters what you believe about origins. This talk will include a brief Q&A.

Biography: see Session 2, Room 2

Room 2: The Write Questions: Inspiring Kids to Write Through the Art of Storytelling

Samantha Cameron

Story is an essential tool in getting kids to love writing. Fortunately, anyone can learn to create a compelling story—even kids who hate to write! Discover the five elements of a good story. Learn how to teach the basics of storytelling to your students by asking "The Write Questions." As we discuss the fundamental basics of every gripping story, we'll also look at what makes fiction an effective teaching tool, how to balance mechanics with imagination, and how to choose quality reading material. Story starters will help you jump-start your class. Your students will learn to be better storytellers, and in the process gain a remarkable skill: the ability to see the world through someone else's eyes.

Biography: Samantha is a life-long educator and facilitator for learning methods that meet the multi-faceted learning styles of children from two to seventy! Samantha taught in the public system for 7 years and then was blessed to home school her 2 daughters who are now in post-secondary. She is passionate about home education and supporting those who have chosen that journey. She is a firm believer that the ability to open the doors of learning to one's own children does not rely on a degree, but a love and desire for supporting and encouraging the strengths and gifts which God has placed in each child.

Room 3: Sexuality, Predators and Safety

Betsy Ray

How can we teach our children God's beautiful design and purpose for sexuality, protect their purity, AND prepare them to discern the evil around them without becoming hardened? Betsy will explain and give examples of a purposeful lifestyle framework that guides our conversations, decisions, priorities, and attitudes.

Biography: see Session 1, Room 3

Room 4: Why Character Teaching Matters Most: All Your Preschool Questions Answered

Sarah Proud

Do you have young ones? Are you wondering how to go about this homeschooling business? With so many options to navigate through, it's easy to get overwhelmed. Homeschooling young children is exhausting, but also so rewarding. Join me, a mom of 8, as I share how to use these years to shape and mold your young child, preparing them for future success in your homeschool and in life. We'll cover character training, life learning, curriculum, managing the home, and more, with time for your questions too. I aim to equip, encourage, and set you up for joy-filled learning.

Biography: *Sarah has been married to Jason for almost 19 years. They have had 9 beautiful children together and have homeschooled every one of them from the start. Sarah has learned so much as the years have gone by and she is passionate about helping families thrive and helping parents grow their children into godly, responsible adults. Sarah's oldest is almost 18 and the baby is 2, so she hasn't forgotten the mischief filled days and sleepless nights.*

Room 5: Teaching and Parenting the Middle School Years

Lisa Moore Ede

Training in instructing our children - what does that look like during the years where they are going through so many changes? How do we as parents handle the different changes while keeping our calm?

Biography: *Lisa is married to her wonderful husband Andrew and together they have ten children; five daughters and five sons. They have been homeschooling for the past 7 years. The eldest child is 20 and the youngest is three. They had seven children in the public system before they took them out to home school. Lisa is currently home schooling six of the children; three are working raising funds for post-secondary and the youngest goes around being distractedly cute!*

Room 7: Successfully Homeschooling Through the Challenges

Peter Stock

Let's face it, homeschooling can be challenging. Finances, illness, fatigue and even anxiety about the future have caused some families to throw in the towel. But, *you* don't have to give up! Learn how to successfully overcome life's challenges within your homeschool. Discover the importance of proactively avoiding burn-out; developing healthy community partnerships; and, intentionally investing in personal time.

Biography: *see Opening Session, HSLDA Update*