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- 2004-05 OPSOA Membership Cards
- Call for Nominations for President-Elect 2004-05

RETIREMENTS

Congratulations to Larry Langdon, Director of Education, Hastings & Prince Edward DSB. Larry has recently announced his retirement. We will miss Larry's contributions in education. Larry is currently Past-President of OPSOA.

NEW S.O.s

Congratulations to the following new S.O.s:
Gloria Baxter, Toronto; Jeff Blackwell, Halton; Mike Carson, Ottawa-Carleton; Gen Ling Chang, Toronto; Karen Falconer, Toronto; Kathy Firth, York Region; John Forbeck, Hamilton-Wentworth; Veronica Ford, Hastings & Prince Edward; Peter Gamwell, Ottawa-Carleton; Heidi Gollert, Toronto; Sue Greer, Niagara; Karen Grose, Toronto; Jeremy Hobbs, Upper Canada; Brenda Hunter, Limestone; Erin Kelly, Upper Grand; Trevor Ludski, Toronto; Janice McCoy, Ottawa-Carleton; Kathleen Meighan, Toronto; Isabel Millington, Ottawa-Carleton; Uton Robinson, Toronto; Tom Saint-Ivany, Simcoe County; Nadine Segal, Toronto; Al Wolch, Toronto



Congratulations to Dr. Avis Glaze who has been appointed the first Chief Student Achievement Officer for Ontario and CEO of the new Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat at the Ministry of Education

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to all for the 2004-05 academic school year.

It is a privilege to serve as President of OPSOA this year and I am confident that collectively, we will approach this new year with enthusiasm and our continued commitment to strive for excellence in our Ontario educational community.

Our desired outcome is success for students in this province. As members of OPSOA and in our roles as Public Supervisory Officials, it is important that we position OPSOA as a significant organization in this province, one which advocates for our young people and the education they receive.

Let us each remember our primary focus—that OPSOA promotes public education as a fundamental right of all students in this province and that as an organization, we represent Supervisory Officials in 31 English language public district school boards in Ontario, educating 67% of the students in publicly funded school boards.

Clearly, this mandate steers our direction as an organization. OPSOA members and our OPSOA Board of Directors have done and will continue to do much concentrated work in providing quality educational experiences for our students.

Within this context, the OPSOA Board of Directors met in July for its annual Strategic Planning Session. Educational issues from last year's plan were reviewed with a focus on the development of the new 2004-05 OPSOA Strategic Plan. This Plan addresses continuing issues of importance for OPSOA, while incorporating new and critical issues that our membership deems significant to address over the next year.

In our new Plan, included in your OPSOA Membership Binder, our members can see specific priorities and action plans that are being undertaken by the Board of Directors. I am excited by these plans and the Board of Directors invites our members to get involved in assisting in the implementation process.

Through our Strategic Plan, during 2004-05, OPSOA will:

- Continue to advocate with government in support of public education
- Work collaboratively and co-operatively with our educational partners and local communities to work in the best interests of our students
- Promote equity and diversity in OPSOA and the value of these concepts in our society
- Develop position papers on emerging, critical issues so that OPSOA is a prominent voice in promoting public education
- Maintain a high level of dialogue and debate on key educational issues in the province
- Continue and enhance the involvement of our OPSOA alumni
- Promote mentorship opportunities for new members
- Invite and embrace associate members to OPSOA
- Continue the strong presence of OPSOA within the Council of Directors of Education (CODE)
- Promote and communicate to our members professional development opportunities via the OPSOA P.D. Calendar
- Continue and enhance the use of OSONET for our members

In my remarks at our Annual Conference in April, I mentioned that as Supervisory Officials in the Province of Ontario, we possessed "vigor", "emotional resilience" and demonstrated "courageous leadership". Beyond the daily commitment and professionalism that we devote to our roles, these additional three qualities, I believe enhance our effectiveness.

I look forward to and seek your assistance as members in continuing to make OPSOA the strong body and voice that it is for public education in Ontario.

On behalf of the 2004-05 Board of Directors, please accept my warmest wishes to you for much success in this coming year. The work we do collectively is important and it is only through working together, can we truly make a difference.

Tony Tumminieri, President, OPSOA

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*OPSOA – A Professional Organization
“Working for Ontario’s Public
Supervisory Officials”*



OPSOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2004-2005

President	Tony Tumminieri, Toronto
Past-President	Larry Langdon, Hastings Pr. Edward
President-Elect	Colin Vickers, Near North
Treasurer	Wayne McNally, Peel
Central Region	Ken Thurston, York Region
Eastern Region	Don Fairweather, Upper Canada
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Southwestern Region	Barb McArthur, Niagara
Western Region	Michelle Forge, Bluewater
CASA Representative	Ruth Mattingley, Lambton-Kent
CODE Representative	Dusty Papke, Halton
Executive Director	Frank Kelly



OPSOA “FIRESIDE CHAT” WITH MICHAEL FULLAN

On Thursday, September 30, 2004, the OPSOA Board of Directors had the pleasure of discussing present education issues and future aspirations of the Ontario Public Education System with the famous and prolific Canadian author Dr. Michael Fullan. He continues to be an international leader on educational change and he shared with us his involvement in training, consulting and evaluation of change projects in school systems around the world. Fullan clearly articulated that the most important role of OPSOA and its members is to have a strong relationship with the Minister of Education, the Secretariat and the Deputy Minister. He emphasized building capacity in order to increase and sustain higher levels of student achievement involves more than building capacity at the school and community level. The school district must also align its efforts to support focused capacity building and the Ministry of Education must create policies and provide resources that support and align with school and board efforts. More successful implementation of government initiatives and priorities requires the full support, engagement and influence of Supervisory Officers.

Fullan stated that Education is a top priority for the government. Premier McGuinty chairs a “Results Committee” comprised of the Minister of Education Gerard Kennedy, Education Researcher/Advisor Michael Fullan, Literacy Secretariat Director Dr. Avis Glaze and the Secretary of the Cabinet. This group is committed to a vision of ensuring that there is a real improvement in student achievement with emphasis on math and literacy and resources are being provided to support this vision. Another example of this commitment is the recently created Literacy Secretariat team. It is being assembled with the best educators from the field in order to support the vision of improving achievement across the province.

Fullan shared his respect for our teachers and emphasized the role of supervisory officers as curriculum leaders. He encouraged us to support and give our Principals the confidence to build positive relationships with our parents and communities. Fullan reassured us that there is a growing optimism that Supervisory Officers can positively influence and work together with the government to make a difference for our students!

*Submitted by: Johanne Messner, Metro Regional Director
OPSOA Board of Directors*

OPSOA Highlights:

- Mentoring Program – As announced at the AGM last year, OPSOA has initiated a mentoring program for new supervisory officers. Five boards joined the program and mentors were partnered with new members. Warren Rosborough has acted as coordinator and a training session was held in Oakville in August. The program which operates throughout the school year is funded jointly by OPSOA and by participating district school boards.
- Annual Conference – The committee to develop the annual OPSOA Conference, April 14 & 15, 2005, has come together under the chairmanship of Don McLean of the Durham DSB. Planning is underway and your input is asked for a 2005 conference theme. Please submit suggestions for the theme and speakers to the OPSOA Office.
- Professional Assistants’ Conference – OPSOA held its third annual Professional Assistants’ Conference October 25-26 in Toronto. Almost 150 attended representing almost all public boards in Ontario. The conference featured a program that combined wellness and skill building. Alumni members acted as facilitators for job-alike sessions. Tony Tumminieri welcomed the group on behalf of OPSOA and Ruth Mattingley acted as conference chair. Kathy Sanford coordinates the planning of this event.

ALUMNI CORNER



This fall almost 70 retired supervisory officials have joined the alumni ranks of OPSOA! Many have indicated an interest in everything from keeping in touch with the organization through this newsletter and OSONet, to volunteering to assist with projects, to working on small contracts that become available from time to time. An Alumni Committee has begun to meet again this fall and will be reporting on other initiatives for interested alumni. A small pilot mentoring project, where retired supervisory officials are paired with newly appointed supervisory officials, began this fall and will continue over the school year. A formal report on the project will be prepared in the spring and there are already early indications, from both the mentors and the mentees, that the project is quite a success and should expand! Plans are also underway for alumni participation in OPSOA’s annual conference, April 13-15, 2005 in Toronto, and special sessions of interest to alumni (and future alumni) are being planned, thanks to positive feedback from those who attended last year’s conference. Stay tuned for more news from the Alumni Committee over this year. We welcome your comments and suggestions as we attempt to contribute in concrete ways to OPSOA and to make alumni a vital part of the organization.

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

January 26-28, 2005 – CEO/SBO Annual Conference, Hotel Inter-Continental Yorkville, Toronto

April 13, 2005 – Phase 2 of the New Supervisory Official Program, Hotel Inter-Continental Yorkville, Toronto

April 13, 2005 – Pre-Conference OPSOA/OPC featuring Michael Fullan, Hotel Inter-Continental Yorkville, Toronto

April 13-15, 2005 – OPSOA Annual Conference, Hotel Inter-Continental Yorkville, Toronto