



**In this Mailing ...**

- 2005-06 OPSOA Membership Cards
- Receipts for 2005-06 Membership Fees

**Congratulations to the following OPSOA members:**

**Retirements:**

- Dan Dunnigan, Grand Erie DSB
- Rod Peturson, Greater Essex DSB

**New S.O.'s:**

- Andrea Alimi, Toronto DSB;
- Odette Bartnicki, Halton DSB;
- Jacob Chan, Toronto DSB;
- Jim Costello, Lambton Kent DSB;
- Kathy Cowan, Toronto DSB;
- Ted Doherty, Avon Maitland DSB;
- Kime Dutkiewicz-Collver, Algoma DSB;
- Jaspal Gill, Peel DSB;
- Louise Moreau, York Region DSB;
- Heather Nielsen, York Region DSB;
- Sanjay Puri, Toronto DSB;
- Lucia Reece, Algoma DSB;
- Gale Sherin, Trillium Lakelands DSB;
- Kerry-Lynn Stadnyk, Toronto DSB;
- John Stainsby, DSB Niagara;
- James White, Mine Centre S.A.

**Recent Moves & Promotions:**

- Beth Davies – from York Region DSB to Director of Provincial and Demonstration Schools;
- Terry Ellwood – from Rainy River DSB to Director, Superior-Greenstone DSB;
- Wayne Joudrie – from Grand Erie DSB to Director, Halton DSB;
- Jim Wibberley – from Hamilton-Wentworth DSB to Director, Grand Erie DSB

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

It is my pleasure to bring greetings to all OPSOA members as we begin the 2005-2006 school year. To borrow a phrase, "we enter this school year with renewed optimism about education in our province." It is a privilege to be a supervisory official in Ontario at this time. As well, it is important to note the prominence of our work in public education.

Let us recall our primary focus. **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.**

This is what guides our work.

Your Board of Directors has representation from across the province along with a strong connection to the public contingent of the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) and the Canadian Association of School Administrators. The Board meets once a month and is dedicated to completing the OPSOA strategic plan. Communication among members is paramount. This year we will be "re-doubling" our efforts to use electronic means to increase communication. I encourage you to "bookmark" [www.opsoa.org](http://www.opsoa.org) and *OSOnet* on your computer desktop. In addition, we are making strides at introducing video-conferencing for OPSOA members across the province. This should improve our ability to consult with each other and provide support through various professional development initiatives.

Once again this year, OPSOA will be offering a wide range of professional development offerings. These are meant to support your day to day work along with providing opportunities for growth. Please consult the PD bulletin board on OSOnet and convey your suggestions for activities and programs to you regional director.

As supervisory officials we frequently acknowledge the importance of building relationships. We coach and counsel others in this regard. A great deal of our time is devoted to relationships with various groups who can help us lead school improvement and achieve student success. We have a significant role in Michael Fullan's three tier model. I am pleased to report that OPSOA is held in high regard by the Ministry of Education and our Minister of Education. Our relationship has improved such that we can achieve mutual goals. Similarly, OPSOA has developed positive relations with a number of other organizations and institutions including the Ontario Principals' Council; the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat; and, the Ontario Public School Boards Association. The relationship is maturing and is providing avenues to resolve issues and promote educational opportunities in our province.

I would encourage you to read and use position papers that will be produced by OPSOA. Currently, we have a position paper on superintendents and another on diversity. Hopefully they will help guide and support your work.

I am pleased to report that I am beginning my 17<sup>th</sup> year as a supervisory officer. The work is a challenge but the rewards are great. Belonging to OPSOA has been a highlight of my career. I hope that you will agree given your own circumstances. Also, I hope that you would acknowledge the strength offered in membership.

In closing I would like to share a poem found in the book *Teaching With Fire* edited by Sam Intrador and Megan Scribner. I found inspiration in these words. I hope that you will find the same as we lead, promote, and deliver program and service excellence in public education.

*Colin Vickers, President*

***Mother to Son***

*Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.  
 And splinters,  
 And places with no carpet on the floor –  
 But all the time  
 And reachin' landin's,  
 And sometimes goin in the dark  
 So boy, don't you turn back.  
 'Cause you finds it kinder hard.  
 For I'se still goin', honey,  
 And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.  
 Well, son, I'll tell you:  
 It's had tacks in it,  
 And boards torn up,  
 Bare.  
 I'se been a-climbin' on,  
 And turnin' corners,  
 Where there ain't been no light.  
 Don't you set down on the steps  
 Don't you fall now –  
 I'se still climbin';*

*Langston Hughes*

## OPSOA

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



### OPSOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### 2005-2006

|                     |                                     |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| President           | Colin Vickers,<br>Near North        |
| President-Elect     | Ken Thurston,<br>York Region        |
| Treasurer           | Wayne McNally,<br>Peel              |
| Central Region      | Kirsten Parker,<br>Simcoe County    |
| Eastern Region      | Larry Archibald,<br>Ottawa-Carleton |
| Metro Region        | Johanne Messner,<br>Toronto         |
| Northern Region     | Lise Haman,<br>Lakeland             |
| Southwestern Region | Barb McArthur,<br>Niagara           |
| Western Region      | Michelle Forge,<br>Bluewater        |
| Member-At-Large     | Don Fairweather,<br>Upper Canada    |
| CODE Representative | Bill Hogarth,<br>York Region        |
| Executive Director  | Frank Kelly                         |

#### UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

November 10-11, 2005 – Phase 1 New Supervisory Official Program, Holiday Inn Select, Oakville

November 13-14, 2005 – S.O. What’s It All About?, Pillar and Post Inn, NOTL

November 14-15, 2005 – Fourth Annual Professional Assistants’ Conference, Queen’s Landing, Niagara-on-the-Lake

January 25-27, 2006 – CEO/SBO Annual Conference, Hotel Inter-Continental Yorkville, Toronto

April 5, 2006 – Phase 2 New Supervisory Official Program, Hotel Inter-Continental Yorkville, Toronto

April 5, 2006 – Pre-Conference OPSOA/OPC featuring Michael Fullan, Hotel Inter-Continental Yorkville, Toronto

April 6-7, 2006 – OPSOA Annual Conference, Hotel Inter-Continental Yorkville, Toronto

## Celebration of Success



Congratulations to OPSOA Member and Board Treasurer, **Wayne McNally**. Wayne is this year's winner of the Canadian Association of School Administrators' EXL Award. This prestigious award, jointly sponsored by CASA and XEROX Canada Limited, is presented annually to a CASA member who has demonstrated outstanding ability and leadership. Wayne McNally, Associate Director - Operational Support Services, Peel District School Board, is the first business official to receive this award. Wayne was recognized for his demonstrated dedication to the advancement of educational administration and his commitment to bringing academic and business officials together with a common understanding of the needs of students. The EXL Award was presented to Wayne McNally on October 15, 2005 at the CASA Annual Conference held in Quebec City.

### Toronto/Nunavut Twinning Program ... Trevor Ludski, Superintendent of Education, Toronto DSB

In 2003, the Honourable James K. Bartleman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, initiated a book drive to promote and support literacy among Aboriginal communities across Ontario. Since then, he has initiated a number of literacy-based programs including summer literacy camps for children in fly-in Aboriginal communities and twinning programs between non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal schools across the province. The most recent initiative is a twinning program between Toronto schools (Public, Catholic and Independent schools) and schools across the territory of Nunavut. Over sixty TDSP schools, thirty Catholic schools and two Independent schools have signed on to the program. The twinning program may include pen-pal letters, video conferencing and student and staff exchanges. Toronto schools will be clustered so that all the schools that have expressed interest in the program will participate in the twinning program. Over 150 students from 23 elementary and secondary schools participated in a summer arts program based out of York University’s Centre for Fine Arts. Activities included playing the steel pans, developing an original script, dancing to the music of African drums, or creating imaginative sculptures. The theme “Journey to Nunavut” had a strong literacy focus, and included familial, cultural and historic stories from Inuit traditions. On September 22, 2005, an event was held and attended by Lieutenant Governor Bartleman. Contact Trevor Ludski at [trevor.ludski@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:trevor.ludski@tdsb.on.ca) for further details.

### September 12<sup>th</sup> Literacy Symposium

The Literacy Session for Supervisory Officers on September 12<sup>th</sup> in Toronto was the largest gathering of senior administration since district school boards were formed. It was also the first time that a Premier and a Minister of Education have addressed the provincial leaders of education districts.

There was a very positive feeling on September 12<sup>th</sup> as people heard a caring and inclusive message from the Premier which was enhanced by the words of the Minister, Deputy Minister, Michael Fullan and Dr. Avis Glaze. There was no doubt that this team has made the improvement of student achievement the provincial priority.

Paul Rosier, practicing superintendent in Washington State brought us a summary of the practice of his school district – a very organized plan for raising student achievement. His presentation was based on real data and experience.

In the afternoon, participants gathered materials from different Ontario projects and were able to meet in regional groups to strategize local implementation.

The challenge for directors and superintendents is very clear:

***Work with staff to design education delivery to improve student achievement.***

September 12<sup>th</sup> was the beginning. There will be on-going sessions throughout the year.

Frank Kelly, Executive Director

## ALUMNI UPDATE

Former Toronto District School Board Superintendents Ralph Cuthbertson and Jim Watt are now acting as consultants and instructors in the new one year elementary teacher training program at St. Petersburg College in Florida. This program is called *Especially for Canadians* and is designed to prepare candidates for elementary teaching whether they choose to teach in Florida or to return to Ontario. There are two upcoming entry points, one in January 2006 and the other in August 2006. Ralph and Jim will be instructors in a course called “Ontario Education: Issues and Directions” and will also supervise the students in their practice teaching. For more information, please contact them at [cuthbertson.ralph@spcollege.edu](mailto:cuthbertson.ralph@spcollege.edu) or [watt.jim@spcollege.edu](mailto:watt.jim@spcollege.edu); and /or check the St. Petersburg College website at [www.spcollege.edu](http://www.spcollege.edu) and click on the link on the homepage.

### OPSOA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ...

Providing active staff development continues to be a priority for OPSOA. In September, we were heavily involved in the planning and delivery of the Literacy program for supervisory officers. In October, OPSOA has been busy with development of the board special education projects. In November, we will provide the New Supervisory Official Program (Nov. 10/11), S.O. What’s It All About? (Nov. 13/14) and the Professional Assistants’ Annual Conference (Nov. 14/15).

#### Board Highlights .... October 11

- Approved 2005-06 OPSOA Strategic Plan
- Finalized Position Papers on Supervisory Officers and Diversity
- Received 2004-05 Financial Statement

**OPSOA Members: 281**