



MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to the following members who have recently announced retirement or have recently retired:

David Armstrong, Bluewater DSB
 Sharon Bate, Simcoe County DSB
 Larry Langdon, Hastings Prince Edward DSB
 Bill McLean, DSB Niagara
 Tony Tumminieri, Toronto DSB
 Jim Watt, Toronto DSB

Retiring members are encouraged to remain involved with OPSOA as an Alumni Member.

Welcome to the following new Directors:

Kathy Soule, Hastings-Prince Edward DSB
 Sylvia Terpstra, Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB

Welcome to our new members:

Susan Edwards, Upper Canada DSB
 Penny Gingell, Peel DSB
 Scott Hughes, Thames Valley DSB
 Saryl Jacobson, Toronto DSB
 Ted Kennedy, Upper Canada DSB
 Chris McAdam, Peel DSB
 Mike Neill, Ottawa-Carleton DSB
 Elizabeth Sinclair-Artwell, Peel DSB
 Pamela Tomasevic, Peel DSB
 Pat Warren-Chaplin, Limestone DSB

Congratulations to ...

Joan Fullerton, Ruth Mattingley and Bonnie McEachern who have joined Avis Glaze at the Literacy Secretariat;
 Bernice Blackman who has been appointed Vice-President, HR Department at Seneca College;
 Sue Rowan who has accepted an executive position at The Learning Partnership;
 Don McLean who has moved from the Durham DSB to Toronto DSB.

Included in this Mailing:

2004 OPSOA Membership Receipts

Early Bird Registration Form for 2005 OPSOA Annual Conference

OPSOA CONFERENCE 2005 APRIL 14-15

OPSOA members will gather in Toronto at the Hotel Inter-Continental on Bloor Street on April 14 and 15 for "**Resilient Leadership – The Key to Sustaining Public Education**". The planning committee, chaired by Don McLean, has put together an exciting and informative program which will challenge and involve you as an educator. Highlights of the conference include Keynote Presentations by Brian Thwaites (brainspeaker.com), Dick O'Brien plus a panel presentation involving key players in education. Minister Kennedy has also been invited. Alumni members will be joining in regular sessions and have been planning their own sessions as well.

Make sure you register early for this chance to network and develop your own ideas for policy implementation. A more detailed registration brochure will follow next month.

An "Early Bird" Registration Form is included in this mailing. Register soon – you may be the lucky winner of the Early Bird Prize! Deadline for the Early Bird Prize is February 28th.

JOINT OPSOA/OPC PRE-CONFERENCE APRIL 13

April 13 – Hotel Inter-Continental, Bloor Street, Toronto

The joint OPSOA/OPC Pre-Conference on Wednesday, April 13 with Michael Fullan will provide the opportunity for an in-depth discussion on many of the concepts that are an intricate part of the current government philosophy for education and leadership. Boards are encouraged to register two OPSOA members and two OPC members to this popular event. Directors have received the registration package for each board. Registration has been limited to 4 per board. Phase 2 participants of the 2004-05 New SO Program will also attend.

Message from the Executive Director

As we continue in this new year, we have made resolutions to get organized, fit or involved. This is the time of year for new initiatives and commitments. The new year is a time for supervisory officers to update their resolve to lead public education in Ontario.

Our school systems offer endless leadership opportunities, chances for superintendents and directors to use their skills and experience with staff, trustees, parents and students. Each of us should resolve to take on at least one new project – one involvement that is new and will benefit colleagues and learning in the system.

In our busy lives we concentrate on working with the routines and assignments that are part of our defined portfolio or comfortable to our workload. We all have more than enough to do on a regular basis.

However, senior leaders need challenges and excitement to make their jobs fulfilling. Make sure you consider extending your leadership skills in 2005 with something a little different.

Frank Kelly

OPSOA Distinguished Leadership Award 2005

Each year, OPSOA members are asked to nominate someone outstanding in their field worthy of receiving the OPSOA Distinguished Leadership Award. The process for this year has just been completed.

This award is presented annually to a Member(s) who has demonstrated outstanding ability and leadership in public education at both the provincial and local school levels. Last year's recipients were Don Fairweather, Marilyn Gouthro, Ruth Mattingley and Frances McKenna.

The recipient(s) of this year's award will be announced at the OPSOA Annual Conference.

Conference Sponsors

The Planning Committee for this year's OPSOA Conference is hoping that you can assist with the provision of doorprizes and donations. Each board is asked to kindly donate a doorprize to share at our Annual Conference. Also, if you know of a supplier who can assist or would like to contribute, please let the OPSOA Office know. Thanks!

OPSOA

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



OPSOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2004-2005

President	Tony Turminieri, Toronto
Past-President	Ruth Mattingley, Lambton-Kent
President-Elect	Colin Vickers, Near North
Treasurer	Wayne McNally, Peel
Central Region	Ken Thurston, York Region
Eastern Region	Don Fairweather, Upper Canada
Metro Region	Johanne Messner, Toronto
Northern Region	Heather Wilson-Boast, Superior-Greenstone
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

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

March 3-4, 2005 – Public Directors’
Retreat, Niagara-on-the-Lake

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 14-15, 2005 – OPSOA Annual
Conference, Hotel Inter-Continental
Yorkville, Toronto

July 14 – 15, 2005 – CASA Summer
Leadership Program, St. John’s,
Newfoundland

October 15 – 17, 2005 – CASA Annual
Conference – Quebec City

OPSOA CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS

OPSOA recognizes the following members who have written educational books over the past year:

Grant Bowers
Don McLean
Chris Spence
Sharon Turnbull-Schmitt

Well done!

OTTAWA-CARLETON SUPERINTENDENTS HAVE A VISIT EXCHANGE WITH TORONTO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Opportunities for supervisory officers to connect, communicate and share best practices are rare and valuable. A job which calls for high levels of professional and personal growth is ironically also one which too often affords little time for either to occur. Last December, a wonderful opportunity arose when the Directors of Education for the Toronto DSB (David Reid) and Ottawa-Carleton DSB (Lorne Rachlis) enabled an exchange between S.O.’s from these two Boards. Eleven Supervisory Officers from Ottawa joined their counterparts in Toronto for a two-day visit. Working through their own local associations, the two groups were linked by portfolio, interest and experience. They followed a program that included a variety of both formal and informal opportunities to meet, talk and share the dimensions and challenges of the job. Events included the chance to observe a Board meeting, meet with department personnel, visit schools and programs of interest, and exchange best practices on a wide variety of topics.

Our mutual learnings from this experience were rich and varied. Individuals and groups exchanged ideas, efficiencies, routines, practices and processes which save time, increase communication and improve opportunities for children and staff at all levels. From technology to time management, all who participated came away with a richer understanding of the work we do every day for public education. What surprised many of us was not how different our roles are in our respective Boards, but how similar. While programs and organizational details vary, all of us share common challenges of dealing with complex human problems, financial constraint and the ongoing challenge of constant change in a highly politicized environment.

In summary, this was an outstanding opportunity for all, and one we would highly recommend to other Boards who can make similar arrangements. The Toronto participants are now eagerly looking forward to a return visit to Ottawa in the spring. We are grateful to the directors who recognized the potential benefits to all of this exchange, and we commend the practice highly.

The exchange demonstrated once again that some of our best opportunities for personal and professional growth lie within our own ranks among colleagues and friends whose wisdom and experiences encompass the best of problem-solving, creativity and commitment to public education.

*Michael Smith, Superintendent of Education
Toronto District School Board*

Highlights of January OPSOA Board Meeting:

- Reviewed the proposed 2005 Budget
- Approved transfer of funds to accommodation reserve
- Discussed support for members in conflict with parents
- Received reports on videoconferencing
- Reviewed the OPSOA Diversity Paper

Supervisory Officers and Literacy

The new government initiatives to improve student achievement includes strong leadership and guidance from Supervisory Officers. Our members will be involved heavily. They will need training in order to lead effectively. OPSOA, in conjunction with OCSOA, has asked the Secretariat for funding to provide a session for supervisory officers in the spring of 2005. We will keep you posted on the outcomes.

Alumni Update

The Alumni Committee continues to work on ways that alumni can stay connected and current while finding ways of giving back to the profession. Its major focus this year has been working closely with the OPSOA Mentorship pilot program that began in September. Alumni are mentoring eight new supervisory officers this school year. In May, a program evaluation will be conducted and a report prepared for the OPSOA Board of Directors. This is a unique venture illustrating OPSOA’s commitment to provide a broad range of professional development opportunities for its members.

Alumni members also receive a special reduced rate when attending the OPSOA Annual Conference (April 14-15, 2005) and income tax receipts are provided for the \$75.00 membership fee.

See you at the conference!