

OPSOA Member News:

Congratulations to

The following members have recently retired or have announced their retirements.

- Margaret Fleury, Lakehead DSB
- David Fox, Hastings & Prince Edward DSB
- Joan Fullerton, Simcoe County DSB
- Catharine Murphy, Thames Valley DSB
- Leo Hutchinson, Thames Valley DSB
- Barb McArthur, DSB Niagara
- George Thomas, DSB Niagara
- John Thorpe, Thames Valley DSB

On the Move:

- Laura Elliott – Executive Superintendent, Thames Valley DSB
- Linda Fabi – Director of Education, Waterloo Region DSB
- Lise Haman – Director of Education, Superior-Greenstone DSB (replacing Patti Pella who is on Maternity Leave)

New Superintendents:

- Gregg Bereznick, Waterloo Region DSB
- Patrick Bocking, Near North DSB
- Lisa Millar, Durham DSB
- Yaw Obeng, Halton DSB
- Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Lakehead DSB
- Steven Pladzyk, DSB Ontario Northeast
- Kathy Schaffer, Halton DSB

Hats Off to:

- Jim Grieve, Director of Education, Peel DSB, newly elected as President-Elect of CASA .
- Janet Wilkinson, Director of Education, Keewatin Patricia DSB, who has led the provincial initiative for the enhancement of Aboriginal education. Ministry funding is now available for local projects to raise achievement of native students.

Working Together for Student Success

In our evermore demanding educational world, the role of educational leadership in boards and schools is critical to the goals of public education and success for all our students. Principals, superintendents and directors work as colleagues to shape the learning environments of our students and staff. As members of OPSOA and as superintendents in our boards we value the pivotal role played by our principals and by OPC as a professional organization.

Unfortunately, from time to time, the best of relationships can be strained. Supervision was recently raised by OPC as a significant issue across the province. There is no doubt that this is a concern for many principals in terms of both safety and workload. OPSOA feels that it is unfortunate that this matter was raised publicly without due regard for the potential implications on established relationships and ongoing bridging efforts of school boards and the government with all educational partners. Further, OPSOA is concerned about the potential of this matter being politicized at the school, school council, board or provincial levels.

The Ministry, boards and teacher unions entered into collective agreements in good faith. The Ministry put the Provincial Stability Commission (PSC) in place to oversee, among other things, the supervision provisions of the agreements. Recently, the Minister established a committee to review the work of the PSC – including supervision provisions. As president of OPSOA, I am a member of this review committee. OPSOA believes that these bodies are the appropriate venues for further dialogue and resolution of this important matter.

Recently, memoranda were issued by both OPSOA and Public CODE on this topic. As always with complex matters, some of you wish that our position was firmer – and some feel we should take a stand more in support of our principals. I welcome that input and can assure you that it will be considered at our next OPSOA board meeting. Public CODE has also committed to further discussion at their upcoming meeting.

Finally and most importantly, let's remember that we are all in the important business of delivering on our commitments to public education and the success of all our students. Speaking of which, that's the theme of our annual conference and general meeting on April 19 and 20. See you there!

Sincerely,
Ken Thurston, President

Rae G. Stoness, Former Executive Director of OPSOA

It is with sincere regret that we notify OPSOA members of the passing of Rae G. Stoness, the first Executive Director of OPSOA. Rae passed away on January 25, 2007 in Kingston, Ontario.

Rae was one of the charter members of OPSOA and served as Executive Director for over ten years. He was responsible for the structure of OPSOA and for establishing many of the committees and activities which have flourished in the past years.

OPSOA is indebted to Rae Stoness for his contributions. Our sympathies are extended to his wife, Jeanne and daughters, Erin and Heather.

OPSOA

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

OPSOA CONFERENCE 2007 – APRIL 19TH & 20TH

April 19th & 20th, 2007 – Hilton Toronto Hotel, 145 Richmond Street West, Toronto

This year’s OPSOA Annual Conference will be held at the Hilton Toronto on Thursday, April 19 and Friday, April 20. The theme is “***Celebrating Success of All Learners***”. Our Opening Keynote Speaker is Mike Holmes of HGTV’s Holmes on Homes and the Closing Keynote Speaker is Lesley Andrew.

OPSOA Members are reminded that Principals and Vice-Principals are invited to join us for the morning of Thursday, April 19th to hear the presentation by Mike Holmes and the Panel Presentation on a Career in the Trades (presented by the Holmes Foundation). Registration Form is included in this mailing.

Please note that this year’s President’s Reception and Banquet will be held on Thursday evening, April 19th. This meal is included in your conference registration fee. Entertainment will be provided by Terri Crawford & the Retro Rockets.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference. An updated Registration Form with more program details is included in this mailing.

The early bird registration winner is Dennis Connor, Superintendent at the York Region District School Board. Congratulations, Dennis!

OPSOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2006-2007

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|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| President | Ken Thurston, York Region |
| Past-President | Colin Vickers, Near North |
| President-Elect | Johanne Messner, Toronto |
| Treasurer | Wayne McNally, Peel |
| Central Region | Paul Doiron, Trillium Lakelands |
| Eastern Region | Larry Archibald, Ottawa-Carleton |
| Metro Region | Jill Worthy Toronto |
| Northern Region | Lise Haman, Superior-Greenstone |
| Southwestern Region | Linda Fabi, Waterloo Region |
| Western Region | Warren Kennedy, Lambton Kent |
| CODE Representative | Bill Hogarth, York Region |
| Executive Director | Frank Kelly |

OPSOA Pre-Conference

April 18th – Hilton Toronto, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Registration is limited to a team of 8 per board (4 OPSOA/4 OPC members) for the OPSOA/OPC Symposium with Michael Fullan. If your board has not yet registered, please do so as soon as possible. Forms were sent to each DSB through the Office of the Director.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PACKAGE

Your Package for the OPSOA Annual General Meeting is included in this mailing. The AGM will take place on Friday, April 20th from 10:15 – 11:15 a.m., following the Minister of Education. Proxy Votes must be registered one hour prior to the AGM. **Please bring this package with you to the AGM.**

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

March 29-30, 2007 – Public Directors’
Retreat, Niagara-on-the-Lake

April 18, 2007 – Phase 2 of the New
Supervisory Official Program, Hilton
Toronto

April 18, 2007 – Pre-Conference (OPSOA
& OPC) featuring Michael Fullan, Hilton
Toronto

April 19-20, 2007 – OPSOA Annual
Conference, Hilton Toronto

July 12-15, 2007 – CASA Annual
Conference, Whitehorse, Yukon

The CASA Annual Conference will be held in Whitehorse in the Yukon. See details on the CASA website at www.casa-acas.ca. Register early as space is limited and interest is high.

The leadership books distributed to all OPSOA members in December have been well used in a number of boards. Dane Tutton of Halton has involved all superintendents with the books and has done comparative presentations at meetings.