

OPSOA Member News:

Recent & Upcoming OPSOA

Retirements:

Rosemary Fyfe, Upper Grand
Carol Gernyn, DSB Niagara
Lynn Hiebert, Peel
Don Higgins, Toronto
Ann Kerr, Toronto
Debra Krutila, Peel
Louise Moreau, York Region

New OPSOA Members:

Shelley Bortolotto, Peel
Roslyn Bowness, Near North
Patrika Daws, Peel
Camille Taylor, Durham
Joe Weinberg, DSB Niagara

Please mark your calendars!

OPSOA Annual Conference

**Thursday, April 26th &
Friday, April 27th, 2012**

Sutton Place Hotel

**President's Banquet:
Thursday, April 26th**

**OPSOA/OPC Symposium
Featuring
Dr. Andrew Hargreaves
And
Dr. Ben Levin**

Wednesday, April 25th, 2012

**"Inspire, Improve, Innovate
and Integrate ... Ontario –
The Next Generation"**

Technology Tips

**Public DSB's are involved in
Technology Initiatives this
year. Please forward brief
reports of "effective use of
new technology in your
system" to Kathy Sanford –
Kathy@opsoa.org. We will
share this information with
our OPSOA membership.**

A Message from Ken Bain, President

Dear OPSOA Members,

As we turn the calendar to 2012, I want to pause and reflect on the first half of my term and what will lie ahead. First of all... a big "thank you" to our hardworking Board of Directors who diligently represent the interests of members of OPSOA. The success of our organization depends on the collective efforts of the Board. In addition, of course, many thanks to Frank Kelly, Kathy Sanford along with Janet Godber and Janette Jenson who make sure the office runs smoothly and that OPSOA maintains its great reputation as a truly professional organization.

I have certainly enjoyed meeting many members of OPSOA as I have made my way around the province. From the East to the West to the North, I am impressed with the commitment of our members to public education and to the success of the students we serve.

I also had the opportunity to join the almost two hundred professional assistants at their conference in November. What a wonderful salute to our hard working assistants on whom we rely and who contribute so much to the success of our boards. Thanks to Kathy Sanford and retired OPSOA member, Patti Haskell, for their hours of work to ensure our assistants received a top quality professional experience. My thanks as well to Jennifer Adams, Director and to all of the superintendents from the host board - Ottawa-Carleton - for their support over the three days.

As I look ahead, the Board of Directors continues to implement the 2011-2013 Strategic Action Plan and I am confident that we will make good progress toward fulfilling our goals by the end of the year. In addition, we continue to benefit from excellent relationships with our educational partners. Of special note is the respected partnership with CODE and OPC.

Executive Director Frank Kelly, President-Elect Laura Elliott and I will be meeting with representatives of Justice Patrick J. LeSage's review team to provide our OPSOA response to the Ontario College of Teachers' Review of the disciplinary and dispute resolution procedures. Thanks to those boards who made the time to provide input to OPSOA. Our advocacy on your collective behalf is an important role that OPSOA plays.

Planning for our annual conference has begun and I am impressed with the slate of speakers that we hope to have. Planning a professional conference of the caliber that OPSOA members have come to expect takes a huge amount of time and commitment. My thanks to Tricia Dyson, from Halton, for her leadership as Chair of the Conference Planning Committee. The theme this year is Leadership Innovation and Creativity.

Save the dates – Wednesday April 25 – OPSOA/OPC Symposium and Thursday, April 26 and Friday, April 27 – OPSOA Annual Conference and AGM. This year's symposium and conference will be held at the Sutton Place Hotel in Toronto.

Best wishes for continued success in 2012 and I look forward to seeing all of you at the conference in April.

Ken Bain, OPSOA President, 2011-2012

Update from Frank Kelly, Executive Director

Welcome to the New Year and some exciting education times. The schools of the public district school boards operated smoothly in the fall of 2011 and despite the usual challenges, there were only a few critical issues. Test results were positive and Ontario students continued to achieve at a high level. There were indicators of a need to focus on mathematics and numeracy and several calls for increased physical exercise on a regular basis.

A number of themes emerged as priorities this year. Initiatives for improving children's mental health have become prominent. Anti-bullying programs have been developed in many boards and real work is under way for implementation. Most boards have established technology pilots and these will be monitored and assessed through this next term.

The OPSOA board of directors has met regularly and continues to participate with CODE, the Ministry and IEL. Our members take an active role in numerous provincial committees and express a strong voice for public education.

The OPSOA mentoring programs have large enrolment with over forty new members participating. In November, the SO What's It All About program hosted almost forty administrators considering the SO role. The program team of Yaw Obeng, Pat Rocco and Trish Fitzgibbons provided a very inclusive program and we know we will see many of these individuals as OPSOA members in the future.

Tight economic times and difficult provincial contract negotiations will be the reality of the spring of 2012. Despite these restrictions, OPSOA members will continue to provide quality education in all of our schools.

Frank Kelly, OPSOA Executive Director

Annual Conference, April 26 & 27, 2012

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



Annual conference planning is well underway. Tricia Dyson of Halton DSB leads the committee with representatives from all regions. The focus is on Creativity and Ingenuity in Education. A number of significant speakers have been confirmed and the conference program will be finalized shortly. This year we are at the Sutton Place Hotel on Bay Street. Registration details will be sent within the next several weeks. We hope to see all of you in Toronto, April 26-27.

OPSOA/OPC Symposium, April 25, 2012

“Inspire, Improve, Innovate and Integrate ... Ontario – the Next Generation” is the theme of this year’s OPSOA/OPC Symposium scheduled for Wednesday, April 25th, 2012 at the Sutton Place Hotel, Toronto. Join leadership teams from across the province for an exciting, stimulating and thought-provoking day with two world-renowned educational change leaders. Boards are invited to send up to 16 members – 8 OPSOA members and 8 OPC members. Registration details will be sent within the next several weeks. We hope to see a team from every board this year.

OPSOA Distinguished Leadership Award 2012

March 1, 2012 is the deadline for submissions for this award. Please nominate members who have shown excellence in their work as leaders. Nomination packages were emailed to all members in January.

CASA EXL Award 2012

Each year OPSOA nominates a supervisory officer for consideration as Superintendent of the Year. The award is given through CASA, sponsored by Xerox. Contact your OPSOA regional director for details.

Working for OPSOA

Alumni member Johanne Messner, former President of OPSOA, has been appointed Provincial Coordinator, OPC/OPSOA Supervisory Officers’ Qualifications Program (SOQP). Johanne, who taught the SOQP Program for several years, brings a strong voice to the leadership of this important program.

News From the OPSOA Board

- Laura Elliott, Ken Bain and Frank Kelly made a presentation on behalf of supervisory officials to Justice LeSage who is reviewing the Investigation and Disciplinary Procedures and Outcomes for the College of Teachers. Thank you to the sixteen boards who sent in comprehensive responses to the survey questions circulated.
- Congratulations to Mary Lou Mackie, Waterloo Region DSB, who was the successful candidate to represent supervisory officers on the Governing Council of the Ontario College of Teachers. Mary Lou will be our representative for the next two years.
- Past-President Tony Pontes has convened the annual OPSOA Nominating Committee and they have selected Norah Marsh, Superintendent in Limestone DSB, as President-Elect of the association. Norah’s nomination will go forward to the annual meeting in April.
- Odette Bartnicki reports that the OPSOA Equity and Inclusivity Committee is reviewing the proportionate selection of male and female candidates for senior administrative positions in district school boards. They are preparing to gather some recent data from boards.

New Publications

- A teen version as sequel to the Parent Engagement document distributed from CODE last year will be available soon. OPSOA members have done much of the work on these two documents.
- The recent edition of CASA’s Leaders and Learners features an article on Thames Valley’s “Take the Pledge to End Bullying”. This program has been very successful in bringing a community focus to dealing with a social issue.
- In the same edition of Leaders and Learners, there is a very informative article, also from Thames Valley, outlining London Museum School, which is an experiential program for elementary students allowing them to spend a week at a museum. The article provides detail on how the program is structured and on how schools can access it.
- Also in Leaders and Learners, Thames Valley reports on the success of their Student Re-Engagement procedure. Bringing back 169 students to graduate is a remarkable achievement and an integral part of the student success initiative.

CODE Advisories

11 more CODE Advisories are available on the CODE Website (www.ontariodirectors.ca). Please review and download as needed.

Special Reports – We Need your Help!

We continue to look for special things that our members are doing so that we can share good news. All of you are working diligently and your time is filled. But we know there are unusual things taking place: a new program; a different method; a learning initiative; a community involvement. A number of you have participated in the Rotman leadership course. Please drop a note to tell us the highlights of what you learned. At the recent CEO Conference, we heard excellent speakers – Rob Prichard and Stacey Allerton-Firth. Have you had other speakers that should be brought to our membership? The OPSOA Board is considering provision of a session for members on “how to use technology effectively”. Please send in your ideas for such a program.

OPSOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012

President	Ken Bain Hamilton-Wentworth
President-Elect	Laura Elliott Thames Valley
Past-President	Tony Pontes Peel
Treasurer	Marilyn Marklevitz Waterloo Region
Central Region	Sharon List York Region
Eastern Region	Norah Marsh Limestone
Metro Region	Rauda Dickinson Toronto
Northern Region	Michelle Leigh DSB ONE
Southwestern Region	Sue Greer Niagara
Western Region	Joy Badder Lambton Kent
CASA Representative	Odette Bartnicki Halton
CODE Representative	Martyn Beckett Durham
Executive Director	Frank Kelly

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 29-30, 2012 – Public CODE Annual Retreat, Queen’s Landing, Niagara-on-the-Lake

April 25, 2012 – OPSOA/OPC Symposium with Andy Hargreaves and Ben Levin, Sutton Place Hotel, Toronto

April 25, 2012 – New Supervisory Official Program, Phase 2, Sutton Place Hotel, Toronto

April 26-27, 2012 – OPSOA Annual Conference, Sutton Place Hotel, Toronto

July 5-7, 2012 – CASA Annual Conference, Whistler, B.C.

August 16-17, 2012 – CODE Summer Meeting, InterContinental Toronto Yorkville

August 19-21, 2012 – OPSOA Strategic Planning Session, Location tbd