

# FALL 2003 REPORT



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### Congratulations to:

- **Denese Belchetz**, York Region DSB, who received the 2003 SAWW Education Award. SAWW is the organization “South African Women for Women”. This award, presented at a ceremony in August by Dr. Avis Glaze, is in recognition of Denese's lifelong commitment to public education, the well-being of children and to the teaching profession.

- **Paul Collins**, DSB Niagara, who will be recognized by CASA in Hull, QC in October with an EXL award as Ontario Superintendent of the Year. Paul was selected for his many years of contribution in the job and his constant enthusiastic promotion of the role of supervisory officer.

### NEW DIRECTORS

*Congratulations to the following newly appointed directors:*

*Bill Gerth, Waterloo; Jean Hanson, Rainbow; Wayne Joudrie, Grand Erie; Lorne Rachlis, Ottawa-Carleton (formerly Avon Maitland); Mario Turco, Algoma; Janet Wilkinson, Keewatin-Patricia; Geoff Williams, Avon Maitland*

### NEW SUPERINTENDENTS

*Welcome to new Superintendents:*

*Bob Cassidy, Waterloo  
Roger Clarke, Renfrew County  
Bonnie Evans, Upper Grand  
Rosemary Fyfe, Upper Grand  
Mark Harper, Waterloo  
Jane Mason, Peel  
Ruth Milne, Peel  
Berisford Richardson, Peel  
Norman Stormes, Simcoe County  
Steve Snider, Greater Essex  
Dave Spence, Waterloo  
Barry Wagner, Avon Maitland*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—LARRY LANGDON

It is indeed a pleasure, as President of OPSOA, to welcome you to what should be not only an exciting but also a challenging year both for our organization and for you as a supervisory official in this province. Please be assured that OPSOA will continue to position itself as a positive force in this province, committed to support the design and the provision of quality educational experiences for the significant majority of students in Ontario; those that attend schools within the jurisdiction of the thirty-one English Public District School Boards.

Working towards that end, the OPSOA Board of Directors met in July and again in mid-September to review the issues currently before us which impact upon supervisory officials and to anticipate those which would require the attention of our Association during the current year. The resulting strategic plan for September, 2003 through September, 2004 attempts to reflect what OPSOA needs to do and what it needs to say to continue to maintain and, wherever possible, enhance an effective focus on excellence in public education for the learner, for the Association and for OPSOA members.

In this plan, a copy of which accompanies this newsletter, I would draw to your attention the following specific activities that are being undertaken to make OPSOA the educational association of choice in this province:

OPSOA, during 2003-04, will:

- < Continue to strongly advocate with government in support of public education;
- < Emphasize the diverse and inclusive nature of OPSOA and the advantage of having its members embrace all segments of society;
- < Develop position papers on important issues

emphasizing the role of the Association as a voice for public education;

- < Insist upon and, then, maintain a high level of debate, informed through research and involvement of experts, on key issues in education;
- < Begin development of a mentorship network, by utilizing OPSOA alumni, with new supervisory officers;
- < Expand the membership through the invitation to join the Association as associate members;
- < Continue the strong presence of OPSOA within the Council of Directors of Education (CODE);
- < Circulate the OPSOA professional development calendar widely to ensure that all educators are aware of the opportunities that exist through the Association;
- < Ensure both a secure and comprehensive communications link through providing the OSOnet icon on every desktop of OPSOA members.

Your assistance is vital to the success of our organization whether it is as advocates for public education, involvement in committee work as representatives of OPSOA on Ministry work groups, attendance at regional meetings and by providing on-going feedback to Regional Directors. Your participation will greatly assist the OPSOA Board in achieving the goals as set out in the strategic plan. Please plan to be an active and contributing member of OPSOA throughout the coming year.

On behalf of the 2003-04 Board of Directors, I wish each of you success as the new school year begins. The work that you do in your local Boards and within our Association makes a difference today and tomorrow.

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2003-04

The OPSOA Executive met in July for three days to review the activities of the past year and to plan for 2003-04. The Association continues its focus on what it can do for the learner, what it can do as an Association to provide broad service and to work with other education partners and what it can provide directly to the members.

OPSOA members will work provincially on curriculum, assessment, special education and school operation committees and task forces in order to improve and enhance program for all students. As an Association, OPSOA will offer a broad program of staff development for its members and will liaise closely with OPC, OCT and OPSBA, as well as the Ministry of Education, in order to keep members current and provide them with leadership opportunities. For its members, OPSOA will provide a constant private educational means of communication through OSOnet, regional meetings and the annual conference. Regular communication will be provided through the network and through newsletters and special mailings. Programs will be continued to encourage and build strong leaders for the public schools of Ontario.

## ALUMNI REPORT

The spring survey of OPSOA alumni indicated strong support for the formalization of a professional group of retired supervisory officers. Interest in being an alumni member appeared to be of equal interest across the province, regardless of the date of retirement. Over 50% of survey respondents said they were willing to assist OPSOA in a voluntary capacity at the regional and/or provincial level. Approximately 65% considered the \$75 fee to be reasonable. Nearly 75% of respondents indicated a desire to be involved in contract work with OPSOA.

In order to develop parameters for project work, and to initiate the work of an alumni group, OPSOA is in the process of formulating a representative committee for the 2003-04 year, chaired by Trudy Lum. This committee will develop a detailed plan for presentation to the OPSOA Board. The work of the committee will be communicated in a future newsletter.

A separate OPSOA mailing regarding the \$75 fee will be sent to alumni later this fall. All alumni will continue to receive OPSOA mailings for the 2003-04 year regardless of the payment of the fee. Retired alumni will be working with OPSOA to once again have sessions of specific interest to retired supervisory officers at the annual conference.

Don't forget to renew your OPSOA membership for 2003-04!

**REVIEW OF LEADERSHIP ARTICLES**

*(Each issue will have an article reviewed by a member of the OPSOA Board of Directors)*

It is often easy to fall into a passive state of introspection—the proverbial “navel-gazing” syndrome. We, as Ontario Supervisory Officials of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, must fight that urge and look beyond our sometimes narrow local borders, be those our local Boards or even our broader provincial issues.

It is within this context that I put forth the challenge to constantly strive to look outward at global, societal issues and trends, with the understanding that “all” forces in our society, to some degree, affect our “educational world”.

To meet this challenge, I recommend to you a fascinating book by Juan Enriquez, entitled *As the FUTURE catches YOU*.\*

Juan Enriquez is the director of the Life Sciences Project at Harvard Business School, where he is building an interdisciplinary centre focusing on how business will change as a result of the life sciences revolution. This focus on business should not be viewed as irrelevant to our educational environment as Enriquez, in essence, points out changing trends in all aspects of our current and future society.

The main premise of Mr. Enriquez’s work is that “genetics” will be the dominant language of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. He speaks about the “genome” as being the world’s most powerful and compact information system. He describes how “computers, genomics and other new technologies are shaping our present and future”. He offers such poignant statements and insights as, “A company with 32,000 employees is worth more than ten times the value of the exports of a country with a population of 170,000,000”. What does this translate into when you consider the size and workforce of the Toronto District School Board or other large school boards in North America? Or take a statement such as, “Maintaining current leadership in technology depends on increasing immigration, not cutting back”. What lesson is there to be learned from this in terms of student accommodations in our schools and modification of curricula to prepare those students for new world orders? OPSOA’s document “A Framework for Leadership in Education” articulates the repertoire of skills and qualities that the Ontario Public Supervisory Officer must possess in this new century. These qualities and skills include the notions of adaptability to change and the ability to interpret data, trends and predict outcomes.

Enriquez’s book is not your typical “educational read”. It stretches our boundaries into the world of economics, science, finance, politics and futurism. The format of the text is both intriguing and unorthodox. He claims, “The book is written so that any curious person can read it. You do not have to be a doctor, scientist, or college grad. What matters are the trends going on throughout the world, not the specific knowledge available today...that will change by the end of the week.” As one flips the pages, one is struck by the fact that an individual page may contain but a dozen words or pictures, or graphs or just space, where Mr. Enriquez invites the reader to make notes and to come back for reflection.

In the final page, Juan Enriquez puts forth his final challenge to us as readers, regardless of our current professions.

“You can stand on the sidelines and assume fate will guide things...  
(God willing...Si Dios Quiere...Insha’Allah...Shikatta ga nai...)  
Or you can help yourself, your family, your company and country navigate...  
This wondrous and scary adventure.

\*Enriquez, Juan. *As the FUTURE catches You*. New York: Random House, 2000.  
ISBN: 0-609-6090-3

**Tony Tumminieri**  
*OPSOA, President Elect*

**PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PROGRAM COURSES (PLP’S)**

Twenty superintendents registered for the first on-line course offered by OPSOA for credit. The participants worked through a program aimed at professional planning for a successful school year. This is the first of several initiatives for on-line delivery.

Included in this mailing is a complete listing of the OPSOA courses developed and approved for credit. Eight additional courses will be applied for this coming year. As well nine courses are available to directors and to superintendents currently with another six under development in the coming year.

Information will be available shortly on provision of these courses in regional meetings and at conference sessions. The intent is to provide practical experiences for supervisory officers to complete their certificate requirements.

**Professional Assistants’ Conference**

**November 3 & 4, 2003—Toronto DSB**

Last year, OPSOA offered the first conference for professional assistants who work with supervisory officers in our boards. It was very well received and attended by more than 100 from across the province. The 2003 conference is scheduled for November 3-4 at the Hotel Inter-Continental in Toronto. The program has been set and a registration brochure is enclosed with this mailing. Please encourage your assistant to take advantage of this opportunity for networking and learning.

**At Risk Coordinators**

OPSOA and CODE have been involved in the development of program for the new At-Risk coordinators. In the spring, CODE collected and collated the information on provincial programs aimed at improving literacy and programs for program alteration for at-risk students. Presently, through OSONet, a communication link is under development for the 72 coordinators. It will be monitored and information will be shared with directors and supervisory officers on a regular basis.

**PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CALENDAR**

2003-04

- ✓ **October 18—21** 2003 CASA Annual Conference, Hilton Lac Leamy, Hull, Quebec
- ✓ **November 3 & 4** Professional Assistants’ Conference, Hotel Inter-Continental, Toronto
- ✓ **November 9 & 10** S.O.—What’s It All About? Pillar & Post Inn, Niagara-on-the-Lake
- ✓ **November 20 & 21** New Supervisory Official Program (Phase 1), Prince of Wales Hotel, Niagara-on-the-Lake
- ✓ **January 21-23, 2004** CEO/SBO Conference Hotel Inter-Continental, Toronto
- ✓ **March 31, 2004** New Supervisory Official Program (Phase 2), Hotel Inter-Continental, Toronto
- ✓ **April 1 & 2, 2004** OPSOA Annual Conference Hotel Inter-Continental, Toronto

Please contact the OPSOA Office for further information



**Changes on the Board of Directors:** The Board of Directors said farewell to Joan Mantle, Fran McKenna and Michelle Forge. These supervisory officers have worked diligently to serve their members and we will miss them on the executive. Colin Vickers of Near North DSB joins as Northern representative, Marjatta Longston joins as the Western representative and Miriam Pearlman is the Metro representative.



**OPSOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2003-2004**

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**OPSOA — A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION**  
**“WORKING FOR ONTARIO’S PUBLIC SUPERVISORY OFFICIALS”**

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