

OPSOA Member News:

Retirements since last newsletter

- Bill Hogarth, York Region
- Diane Jeudy-Hugo, Ottawa-Carleton
- Mike Kraus, Greater Essex County
- Judith Nyman, Peel DSB

The following members have announced their retirement since the last newsletter:

- Jean Hanson, Rainbow
- Wayne Joudrie, Halton
- Jan Montgomery, Hastings Prince Edward
- Gayle Stucke, Lambton Kent
- Jim Wibberley, Grand Erie

New OPSOA Members since last newsletter:

- Kim Black, Avon Maitland
- Beth Butcher, Toronto
- John Chasty, Toronto
- Anthony Edwards, Peel
- Pearl Fong-West, DSB ONE
- Ian MacRae, Lakehead
- Paul Sloan, Simcoe County
- Martin Twiss, Kawartha Pine Ridge

New Appointments:

- Larry Hope moves from Director at Keewatin Patricia DSB to Director at Trillium Lakelands DSB
- Jack McMaster moves from Director at Rainy River to Director at Keewatin-Patricia DSB
- Tony Pontes, new Director at Peel DSB
- Ken Thurston, new Director at York Region DSB

Other News:

- Jim Grieve appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Learning Program Division, Ministry of Education

Message from the Executive Director

On-Line Registration is now available on the OPSOA website (www.opsoa.org) for the Annual OPSOA Conference – Thursday, April 22nd and Friday, April 23rd at the Hilton Toronto Hotel, Downtown Toronto.

The conference planning committee, led by Alana Murray of Bluewater DSB, has held several meetings. Keynote speakers are in place and breakout sessions underway.

The theme of the conference is “Grey Matter Matters: The Continuum of Learning” and discussions will focus on understanding and providing for modern learners at every stage of their development.

Our opening keynote speaker is Dr. Sonia Lupien, McGill University and the closing keynote is Rick Powers, Rotman School of Management. The Honourable Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Education and Jim Grieve, Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Learning Division, are also featured on our program.

Registration this year is on-line through the OPSOA Website. Please go to www.opsoa.org where you will find all pertinent information, including information on overnight accommodations at the Hilton Toronto

April 21st OPSOA/OPC Symposium

OPSOA/OPC Symposium – Wed., April 21, 2010 – Hilton Toronto
“What’s Worth Fighting for in Your Schools – the 21st Century Edition”
Featuring Dr. Andrew Hargreaves and Dr. Michael Fullan

Boards are requested to register teams comprised of an equal number of Supervisory Officers and Principals (5 each to a maximum of ten). Members of the OPSOA Board of Directors and OPC Executive will also be in attendance.

Please have one person register your team and submit on-line, as follows:

- Go to www.opsoa.org & follow the OPSOA-OPC Pre-Conference link where you will find information and links to on-line conference registration & hotel room booking.

OPSOA Alumni News

As you may be aware, an Alumni Revitalization Project Team was established last fall to investigate ways to keep our retired members involved in OPSOA in an active, meaningful and enjoyable manner. The Project Team is now ready to unveil plans to do so and invites all retirees (whether current Alumni members or not) to our Alumni Kick-Off Event – a luncheon for all OPSOA Alumni. The luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 22 at 11:45 AM during the Annual OPSOA Conference at the Downtown Hilton Hotel in Toronto. It has been scheduled so that Alumni members who have registered for the Conference may participate during the lunch period. All retirees for whom OPSOA has mailing addresses will receive an invitation to our Alumni Luncheon through Canada Post. If you become aware of any former member of OPSOA who has not received an invitation, please ask that former member to contact one of the Project Team below for information. There is no cost for this Alumni Luncheon. We encourage you to join us and become a part of the revitalized Alumni. If you require additional information, please contact Ralph Cuthbertson (ralphc@rogers.com), Michelle Forge (michelleforge@yahoo.ca) or Miriam Pearlman (miriampearlman@mac.com).

Included in this Mailing:

Your OPSOA 2010 Annual General Meeting. The AGM will take place on Friday, April 23rd at the Hilton Toronto. Proxy Votes must be registered one hour prior to the AGM. Please bring this package with you to the AGM.

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



**OPSOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2009-2010**

President	Linda Fabi, Waterloo
President-Elect	Tony Pontes, Peel
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Western Region	Laura Elliott, Thames Valley
CASA Representative	Ken Bain, Hamilton-Wentworth
CODE Representative	Kathy Soule, Hastings Pr. Edward
Executive Director	Frank Kelly

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 24-25, 2010 – Public CODE Retreat, Niagara on the Lake
April 21, 2010– OPSOA/OPC Symposium with Michael Fullan and Andy Hargreaves, Hilton Toronto
April 21, 2010–New Supervisory Official, Phase 2, Hilton Toronto
April 22-23, 2010 – OPSOA Annual Conference, Hilton Toronto
May 4, 2010 – SCWI Symposium Humber College
July 8-11, 2010 – CASA Annual Conference, Loew’s Hotel, Quebec City (register at www.casa-acas.ca)
August 15-17, 2010– OPSOA Board of Directors’ /Public CODE Strategic Planning Session
August 20, 2010 – CODE Summer Meeting, Toronto

CASA News

It is my pleasure to serve as the OPSOA representative on the Canadian Association of School Administrators (CASA) Board of Directors. This experience provides a national profile for OPSOA and allows our organization to have a voice in CASA as it strives to promote and enhance effective administration and leadership in the provision of quality in education in Canada.

At this point, our focus is preparing for the CASA Annual Conference in Quebec City. The theme this year is Children’s Mental Health. Regrettably, it is likely safe to say that, in every board across this province, education leaders struggle to address children’s mental health. CASA is fortunate to have a world renowned scholar/researcher, Dr. Paula Barrett as a keynote speaker. CASA also plans to offer a range of workshops from leading mental health researchers, practitioners and educators from across the country. Please consider joining your colleagues from across Canada in Quebec City this summer. The conference begins on July 8th and concludes on July 11th. The timing could not be better as the conference coincides with the Quebec Summer Festival!!

- Submitted by Ken Bain, Southwest Regional Director & OPSOA Rep on the CASA Board of Directors

What’s New in Thames Valley?

The Thames Valley DSB is committed to improving educational opportunities for First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) students. Through combined Board and Ministry FNMI funding, the Board is implementing programs for students and staff alike – some of which include the following:

- *Peer Mentoring Programs* – Programs for both elementary and secondary students have been underway for the past few years.

- *FNMI Student Advisory Council* – New this year, the council is made up of 12 FNMI students in grades 10-12, affording them the opportunity to find their voice and translate their ideas into actions.

- *FNMI Curriculum Writing Task Force* – This Task Force is a multi-board/community group that is comprised of teachers and First Nations community members. Their goal this year is to develop a series of elementary curriculum resources which connects FNMI histories, perspectives and cultures to Science and Technology, Math, Art, Language, and Physical Education curriculum areas for grades 4-8.

- *FNMI Speaker Series* – On January 20, 2010, we partnered with UWO and welcomed Dr. Marie Battiste (Mik’maq) scholar and educator in an open invitation to the community. Dr. Battiste’s presentation focused on ‘*Bringing Aboriginal Education into the Mainstream: Nurturing a Learning Spirit.*’ On February 3, 2010, Eli Baxter (Oji-Cree) made a presentation on ‘*Native Language and Culture.*’ In addition, Thames Valley will be hosting 3 separate 1 hour presentations featuring First Nation films and documentaries presented by *ImagineNative Film Festival.*

- *Visiting Elders Program* – On January 23, 2010, the Board hosted an *Elders Gathering* which was the beginning of a number of future consultations with local First Nations Elders. Guidelines for schools, including protocols for working with Elders are being developed to facilitate involving Elders in Thames Valley schools and classrooms.

- *FNMI Student Success Action Planning Committee* - Using the Ministry’s FNMI Framework, this newly established committee is developing a comprehensive action plan to ensure success for FNMI students. This work is aligned to the work of the ‘*Our Shared Vision*’ Working Group whose purpose is to develop a vision, mission, mandate and set of principles/values for a shared vision for FNMI education within the Thames Valley.

For more information about these exciting new initiatives, please contact Laura Elliott, Executive Superintendent, Program Services or Candace Brunette, Aboriginal Education Advisor at 519-452-2000.

The LNS “Field Team Leaders”

Field Team Leaders (FTL) are Student Achievement Officers (SAO) who represent 8 regions in the province. Each region is composed of a team: FTL and SAOs that serve boards within that region. FTLs generally come from the ranks of superintendents and directors of boards of education: Public, Catholic and French.

Current FTLs include: Brendan Barnett, Bev Moore, Suzanne Moncion (French Language Boards), Suzanne Roche, Karen Rowe, Catherine Sexton, Bruce Shaw and myself.

One of our mandates is to act as liaison between LNS and Boards: we share new research and learnings with Board teams and we take reflections from the field directly back to the Student Achievement Division. This relationship is one of co-learning as we fulfill our respective roles to maximize learning opportunities for all educators.

We are “critical friends” to boards and our role is to help boards develop plans and strategies to improve literacy and numeracy achievement for all students in Ontario. We provide support and assistance to boards in developing board improvement plans, in building capacity among teachers and leaders, and in aligning board and Ministry plans and funding to ensure that all of us are working in tandem to meet our provincial goals: high levels of student achievement, reducing the gap and increasing public confidence.

- Submitted by Lise Haman