

Leaders & Learners



CASSA-ACGCS
Promoting Quality Education for Our Students

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AND MORE!

The 2015 CASSA Annual Conference: A STEAM-y Summer in Montreal

THE CITY OF Montreal proved to be a fantastic setting for the 2015 CASSA Conference.

Close to 200 superintendents, directors of education and other senior system administrators from across Canada attended the three-day gathering at Le Westin. They were joined by about 35 sponsors and exhibitors.

After taking in inspiring and informative sessions and keynote addresses focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Math, delegates were free to explore the food, music, culture and history of this world-class city within a few blocks of the host hotel.

We hope to see you all next year in Winnipeg!



Classic Montreal: The impressive and imposing Notre Dame Basilica stands behind a line of horse-drawn carriages, known locally as calèches.

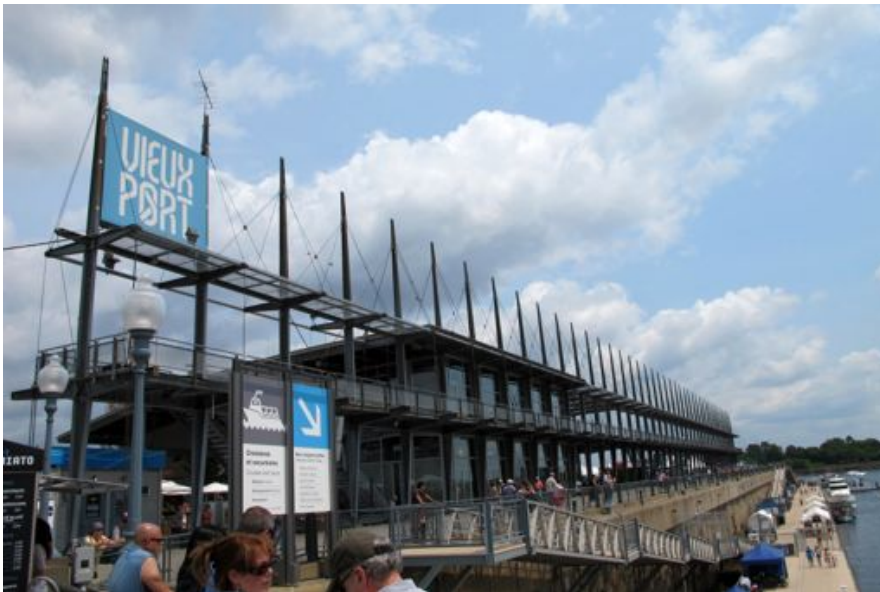
OUR PURPOSE

CASSA is the Canadian organization of school system leaders that promotes and supports quality education for the success of all students.

OUR MISSION

CASSA strengthens the capacity of school system leaders and influences the directions that impact education and student learning.

Scenes from Montreal: Daytime Adventures



One only had to walk a few blocks from the conference to experience the very best of Montreal.

Clockwise from top left:

1. The Old Port of Montreal.
2. The ornate gates to Chinatown.
3. Calèche rides, a charming mode of transportation available for visitors to Old Montreal.
4. A monument to Maisonneuve, the founder of Montreal, at Place d'Armes.

Opening Ceremonies: Welcome to Three Days of STEAM

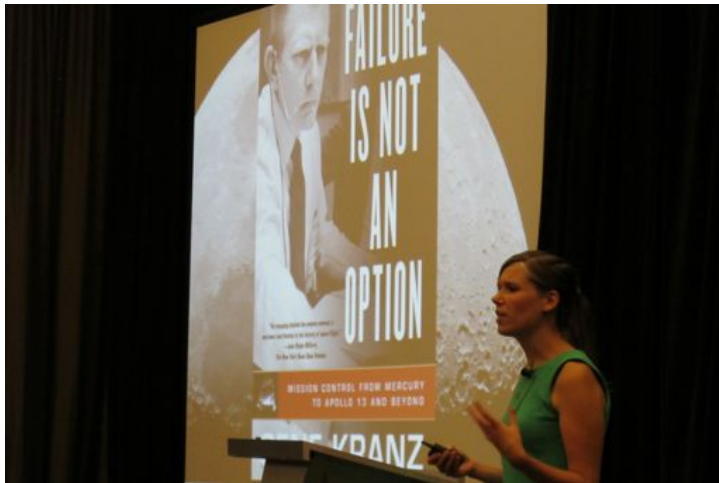


Clockwise from above:

1. Delegates gathered for opening remarks on July 2.
2. CASSA President Cindy Finn welcomed everyone.
3. Dr. David Schuler, President of AASA, the American Association of School Administrators.
4. Barry Litun, CASS representative.
5. Jim Jordan, President of AAESQ, the Association of Administrators of English Schools of Quebec.
6. Ron Canuel, President and CEO of CEA, the Canadian Education Association.



Natalie Panek: Rocket Scientist, Explorer and Advocate for Women in Tech



CASSA was honoured to welcome Natalie Panek, cited in 2014 as one of the top 100 most powerful women in Canada, to deliver the conference's opening address.

Clockwise from top left:

1. Natalie took time to speak one on one with delegates interested in the many topics covered in her address, including women in science, STEM education, solar-powered vehicles and, of course, rocket science.
2. Barry Wowk, CASSA's AASA Western Rep, thanked Natalie for her enlightening and inspiring address.
3. Natalie and CASSA President Cindy Finn.
4. Natalie's keynote address included audience participation.
5. Natalie shared details of her favourite book, *Failure is Not an Option*, which details NASA flight director Gene Kranz's experiences during the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo eras of space travel.



2015 EXL Awards: Exceptional Leadership in Canadian Education



Randy Brydges of Xerox stands with three of the four 2015 EXL Award nominees, Terry Jaffray (Dehcho Divisional Education Council), John Crocco (Niagara Catholic District School Board) and Pieter Langstraat (Red Deer Public School District). Not pictured is nominee Steve Balleine (Lester B. Pearson School Board.)

IT IS WITH great pleasure that *Leaders & Learners* announces the 2015 Canadian Superintendent of the Year is **John Crocco**. John is the winner of this year's Xerox Excellence in Educational Leadership Award, also known as the EXL Award.

Four superintendents were nominated for the award:

- **John Crocco**, Director of Education with Niagara Catholic District School Board
- **Terry Jaffray**, Superintendent with Dehcho Divisional Education Council
- **Pieter Langstraat**, Superintendent with Red Deer Public School District
- **Steve Balleine**, Assistant Director General with Lester B. Pearson School Board

Randy Brydges, director of Xerox–Western Canada Operations, was on hand to present the awards at a ceremony on July 2. The ceremony took place at Le Westin in Montreal, Quebec. CASSA is extremely grateful to Randy and the entire Xerox team for their longtime support of the award.

The EXL Award, sponsored by Xerox Canada, is awarded to the CASSA member who has exhibited

exemplary leadership ability and who has enhanced the profession of school administration throughout their career.

The EXL award has been presented since 2002. Winners also receive honorary life memberships to CASSA.

The Canadian Superintendent of the Year is also recognized at the annual American Association of School Administrators (AASA) conference, where the American Superintendent of the Year is selected. The 2016 AASA conference will take place in Phoenix, Arizona, next February.

Consideration for this award is given to administrators nominated by their provincial associations who

2015 EXL Awards: Exceptional Leadership in Canadian Education, continued



John Crocco, the 2015 EXL award winner, celebrates his EXL award with his colleagues from OCSOA (above) and from Niagara Catholic District School Board (below).

- are seen to have brought honour to themselves, to their colleagues and to their profession
- have given exemplary service to their provincial or national professional association
- have made significant contributions to the field of education through their service, writings or other activities
- serve as a role model and teacher to others

John Crocco was selected for this prestigious national award for the many ways he strives to promote Catholic education and for the many innovative programs he has championed and supported throughout his years as a teacher, administrator, superintendent of education and as a director.



In a statement made soon after the conference through the Ontario Catholic School District Association, John acknowledged the senior administrative team that nominated him for the Ontario EXL Award earlier this year.

2015 EXL Awards: Exceptional Leadership in Canadian Education, continued

“Really, this is a team award for Niagara Catholic; for all of my colleagues in Catholic education and our Board in recognition of our service to students,” he said.

“It may have been my name that was announced for this national award but this honour recognizes the outstanding efforts of Niagara Catholic’s exceptional senior administrative team, who work tirelessly to support the school administrators and staff each and every day.”

A special highlight of the evening was the moment longtime CASSA member **Robert T. Mills**, known to many as Bob, received an honorary life membership. This award is meant to honour individuals who have contributed significantly to CASSA through the years.

It was especially poignant that Bob would receive the award at a conference hosted in his hometown of Montreal, with his wife Lisa at his side.

Bob retired at the end of the 2014-15 school year, following a 42-year career in public education. He last served as Director General for the Lester B. Pearson School Board, a position he held for nine years. Bob is also a former



Bob Mills was treated to his colleagues’ applause when it was announced he was this year’s winner of the honorary life membership to CASSA.

Canadian Superintendent of the Year; he received the EXL Award in 2012.

Congratulations to John and Bob, and to all of the nominees for the 2015 EXL Award, for your support of public education in Canada.

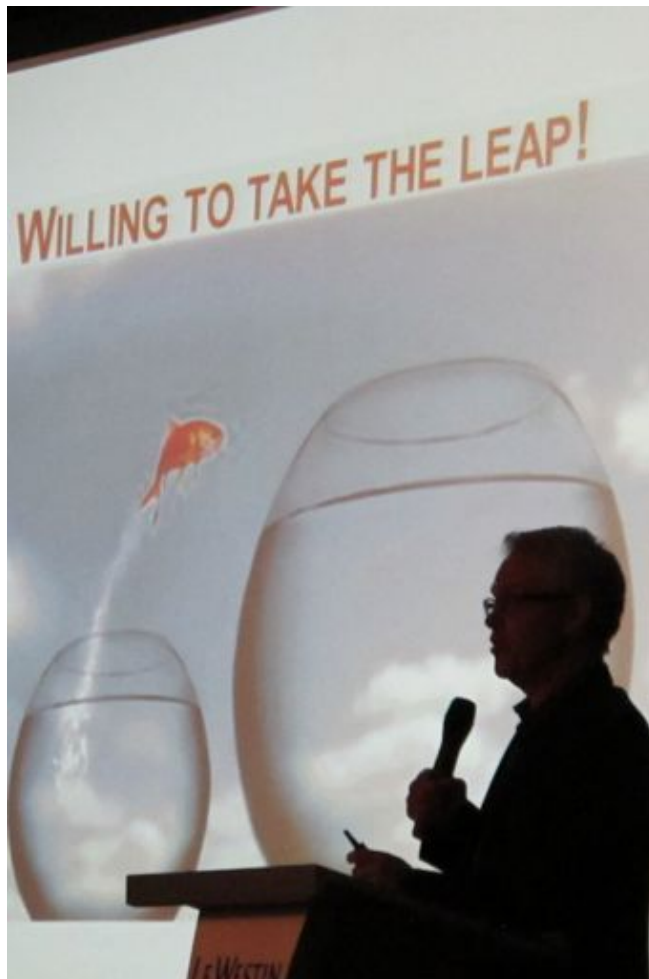


Bob Mills (right) received his honorary life membership award from Steven Colpitts, AAESQ President-Elect.

Dr. John Malloy: Friday's Keynote Address on Fostering Innovation



Dr. John Malloy, Ontario's Assistant Deputy Minister of Education, delivered the conference's second keynote address on July 3.



Flavours and Aromas Walking Tour: Exploring Montreal's Culinary Past and Present



The Friday morning Flavours and Aromas tour began at Europea Espace on rue Notre Dame in Old Montreal.



The first delicacy to sample were these colourful macarons, a French sweet meringue-based confection.



Beautiful Old Montreal architecture reflected in the window of Boucherie Charcuterie, another of the tour stops.



The tour not only included stops at a variety of food establishments but also at historical sites like Notre Dame.



There were so many delightful baked goods on display at this pâtisserie. Sadly, there wasn't enough time to sample them all.



A favourite sweet available to sample on the tour were these *pastéis de nata*, or Portuguese custard tarts.

Flavours and Aromas Walking Tour: Exploring Montreal's Culinary Past and Present, continued



Although it was a walking tour, there were lots of opportunities to sit and enjoy the samples.



It was a carnivore's dream when these portions of duck paté and creton (a type of fatty pork spread) arrived.



It wouldn't be a proper Montreal food tour if the classic smoked meat on rye sandwich wasn't included.



Our guide explained the history of the Montreal smoked meat sandwich before everyone dug in.



Montreal is a food-lovers paradise. Fans of charcuterie had much to enjoy from this tantalizing display.



The tour included Montreal history from the points of view of women, First Nations and recent immigrant communities.

Sponsors and Exhibitors: Excellent Conference Partners



Above: Kim Bell and Neil Wrubleski at the RedCat booth.
Below, right: Karim Kuperhause, Regional Sales Manager for TeacherMatch, sharing information with a delegate.
Below, left: Chatting in the exhibitors' hall during a coffee break.



Above three photos: The unique CASSA conference passport program offers opportunities for true engagement between sponsors and delegates. Here the folks from Maximus Canada, including conference regular Phil Geiger, show how they make sure to have meaningful contact with delegates: offer a friendly handshake, put out a bowl of tasty treats and show off those winning smiles.



Sponsors and Exhibitors: Excellent Conference Partners, continued



Clockwise from top left:

1. (Right) SMART Technologies' Pierre-Alexandre Germain, Directeur en Solutions Educatives.
2. Andrew Lowes, the Canadian Sales Manager for VS America, Inc.
3. Jeremy Baisch of Baragar Systems (left) and former CASSA President Roger Nippard.
4. Learning Bird sales associates Eve Lackman and Museb Nabil.
5. Wintergreen President Michael Hayward with Anthony Edwards, Superintendent of Education for the Peel District School Board.
6. Leigh MacKenzie of OrthoCanada with OCSOA's Theresa Harris.



Sponsors and Exhibitors: Excellent Conference Partners, continued



Clockwise from top left:

1. Thoughtexchange's CEO Dave MacLeod (left) and Vice President of Sales Kevin Skelcher.
2. A group gathered around the Mimio booth.
3. Learning about Scholastic.
4. David Mann and Jacquie Covell of EF Tours.
5. Ian Eatock and Martha Price of My Class Needs.
6. Aramark's Director of Business Development and Higher Education Bob Hurlbut (right) chatting with a conference delegate.



Breakout Sessions: STEAM-powered Presentations



Clockwise from top left:

1. Craig Bullett presented "Nexus Tablets in Grades 5-6 to Facilitate ELA, Math and More."
2. Katherine Davey, an educational consultant with the Lester B. Pearson School Board, co-presented (with Sophie Lussier) a session called "Inquiry: The Missing Link."
3. Keynote speaker Hall Davidson (centre) attended and contributed to breakout sessions as well as delivering his address at the end of the conference on Saturday.
4. Barb Boerchers, a consultant for River East Transcona School Division in Winnipeg, led a Saturday morning session.
5. Barb's presentation was on "Sustainability: Integrating Visual Arts with Technology Using GIS."
6. Ashima Rastogi of Pearson presented a session on "Executive Functions: Skills for Learning."



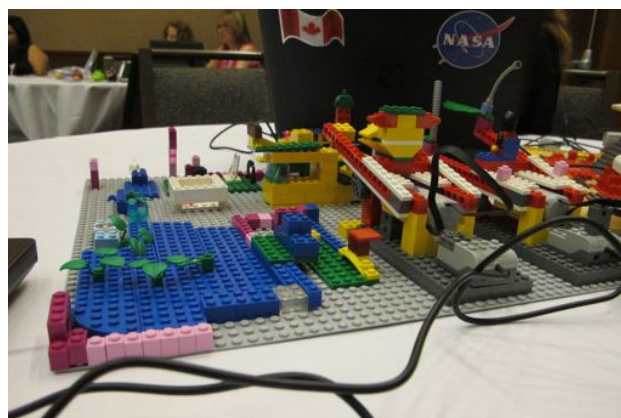
Breakout Sessions: STEAM-powered Presentations, continued



Clockwise from top left:

1. Geri Lorway, a consultant and instructor from Alberta, covered the letter that turns STEM into STEAM with her presentation “What’s the A?”
2. Sophie Lussier, an educational consultant with the Lester B. Pearson School Board, presented “Robotics in Space: The NASA Experience.”
3. Part of Sophie’s fun robotics display.
4. Time for a little LEGO therapy!
5. Ruth Schwarzc and Cheryl McDonald had fun presenting a session on LEGO therapy.
6. Sara Iatauro

presented several sessions during the conference, including “Rethinking the Science Classroom for the iGeneration” and (with colleagues) “Science Literacy Under the Microscope.”



Closing Ceremonies: Hall Davidson's Address, A Grand Prize and More



Clockwise from top left:

1. Hall Davidson delivered his 2015 closing keynote address on STEM, STEAM and today's educational challenges on July 4.
2. CASSA President Cindy Finn with Hall Davidson.
3. CASSA Executive Director Ken Bain congratulates this year's passport grand prize winner, Don Rempel, Director of Education for North East School Division in Saskatchewan. Don won two round-trip airline tickets anywhere in Canada or the USA, courtesy of EF Educational Tours.
4. Bob Mills and Ken Bain, longtime CASSA colleagues.
5. Hall Davidson.
6. Hall convinced Bob Mills to be his guinea pig during a particularly hilarious demonstration that incorporated his iPad and Bob's ear.



Partners Dinner: Building Relationships While Breaking Bread



Above and right: At each conference, CASSA executive gather with sponsoring partners over a meal to continue to build relationships. This year's event took place on July 4 at Grazielle's Restaurant.



From left: Theresa Harris, Jacquie Covell of EF Educational Tours, Anne O'Brien and Simone Oliver.



Bob Mills always makes for an engaging dinner companion, no matter where you are.



CASSA Executive Director Ken Bain and Ontario's Assistant Deputy Minister of Education John Malloy.



CASSA President Cindy Finn, Mark Fester of School Appointments and CASS representative Barry Litun.

Nighttime Montreal: A Vibrant City After Sundown



Clockwise from above:

1. The streets of Montreal come to life at night all summer long. In this city, even the sidewalks are bustling with chic cafés and people walking from one fantastic cultural event to the next, all with spectacularly beautiful architecture as a background.
2. A distant view of the cross on Mount Royal at sunset.
3. Live theatre, café culture and late-night shopping are just some of the options available on a summer evening on St. Denis Street.
4. Another nearby event was this free outdoor art festival, which looked even more beautiful at night.
5. The conference dates coincided with the Montreal Jazz Festival. Delegates were able to take in any number of performances in the nearby area.

CONTACT CASSA

1123 Glenashton Drive
Oakville, ON
L6H 5M1
Canada

T: (905) 845-2345
F: (905) 845-2044

ken_bain@cassa-acgcs.ca

www.cassa-acgcs.ca

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Tara Lee Wittchen
tarawittchen@eastlink.ca

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Photos by Tara Lee Wittchen, except
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