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# LEADERS & LEARNERS

THE VOICE OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF  
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS/L'ASSOCIATION  
CANADIENNE DES ADMINISTRATEURS ET DES  
ADMINISTRATRICES SCOLAIRES

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<b>Upcoming CASA Events</b>	
• The 2008 CASA Annual Conference is in Halifax this July.	
Details will soon be posted at <a href="http://www.casa-acas.ca">www.casa-acas.ca</a> .	

## Message From The President: Gaze Forward To New Opportunities in 2008

**I**t's 2008. Happy New Year! Another year—where did the time go? It seems like only yesterday we faced the beginning of a new millennium, wondering if time and technology would continue.



Jim Gibbons  
CASA president

Common across our nation are issues such as child health, literacy, child poverty, Aboriginal education, drop-out rates, post-secondary and career transitions. Also, increased immigration from diverse countries and cultures is changing the face of our education and its learners. We remain optimistic for the future of public education in Canada and its central role in serving the needs of all children and their families.

The start of a new year is somewhat like the annual “tipping point” where we look forward and back at the same time.

We look back at all that has been accomplished and how it informs our future, and ahead to the many things yet to be done.

We are fortunate to live and lead in this great country of Canada, knowing that international PISA measures show that our students perform in the top echelon.

We are fortunate also to have strong provincial education systems, each unique in its response to culture and history but similar in many of the challenges they face.

As senior leaders, we can be proud to know that we are key in facilitating the coordination of multiple services to allow our students to grow and become the best they can be.

As you view your world from this proverbial “tipping point,” I encourage you to look back to your accomplishments of 2007, and gaze forward to the opportunities and responsibilities that leadership in public education provides.

## A Note From The Editor

*Make 2008 the year your schools get healthier. Check out our features on two “Living Schools” in Ontario and learn more about this exciting initiative at [livingschools.ca](http://livingschools.ca).*



## Message From The Executive Director: Reflections On 2007, Looking Ahead To 2008

The year 2007 has come to an end—an eventful year for CASA members and Canadian education. Our newsletters have chronicled many highlights of the year. We've also featured some of the personalities that are active in public education in different parts of the country.

Once again this past year, we see similarities in our efforts right across Canada in providing for students. Prominent initiatives this year have been

- an emphasis on improving literacy achievement in elementary and secondary students
- increased awareness of the needs of Aboriginal students in our school systems
- programming for the diverse populations of our schools
- retaining senior students in schools and working to improve the graduation rate
- working to ensure that our schools are safe and that all students are treated fairly when they are disciplined
- taking steps to eliminate bullying and cyberbullying of students
- taking steps to enhance the health of our students through education about avoiding obesity, eating properly and exercising for health

This is a broad agenda for public education and public schools have worked hard at it in every province.

As well, our schools continue to deliver all of the regular and local curriculum. Schools are busy places. Teachers are as heavily involved as ever. Students benefit from the planning and the delivery of such a comprehensive program.

CASA, as a national organization, recognizes the positive work of senior administration and school staffs. We hope all had a happy holiday and time to enjoy relaxation with family and friends. There is no doubt that the new year will bring new challenges.

We always look forward to your suggestions for *Leaders & Learners*. If you have article ideas or a theme you'd like us to cover, please get in touch.



Frank Kelly  
CASA executive director

## The Living School Initiative: Bishop Gallagher School, cont'd

(Continued from page 7)

***of the partnerships that have developed between the school and the broader community?***

We have partnerships with the City of Thunder Bay, Parks and Recreation, Thunder Bay Health Unit, Diabetes Association, Thunder Bay Police, A&P (fresh fruit on Thankful Thursday—free for children, cost price for us), Thunder Bay Firefighters, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Northern Cancer Research, Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board and the list goes on.

***What kind of support have you received to implement the Living School initiatives, in terms of both financial and information/administration support?***

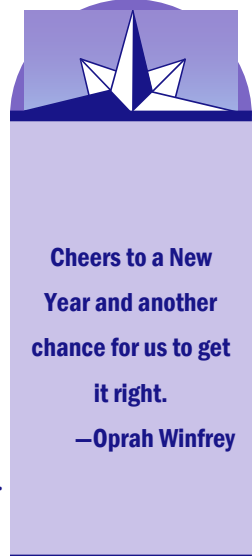
In 2004, we received \$8,000 from OPHEA and a match by TBCDSB. In 2005 to 2007, that amount was \$2,000, and in 2008 it was \$1,000. Needless to say, the money is simply not enough. We rely totally on donations of equipment and fundraising.

***Can you cite a specific example of how this program has made a positive difference in the lives of the children attending your school? Would you recommend this model to other school administrators?***

Bishop Gallagher Senior Elementary School has its trials and tribulations as any other school. However, the positive atmosphere and passion toward healthy living is the culture of the school. It has a life of its own. The entire staff is proud of our accomplishments and we continue to strive to make this a model for other schools and school boards.

It is time to share our story and our templates for success with others...and we would love to.

***Thank you, Alexa, for telling us about your school's experience.***



## The Living School Initiative: Helping Our Students To Be The Healthiest They Can Be

In this issue of *Leaders & Learners*, we're taking a close look at one of the many initiatives developed in recent years to help school children become active and make healthy lifestyle choices. The Living School initiative is based in Ontario; readers may also be interested in researching similar programs in other parts of Canada. The province of Alberta, for example, has introduced Daily Physical Activity policies for its schools, and Manitoba has announced that health and physical education will be part of the mandatory curricula in grades 11 and 12.

The inspiration for this issue's theme comes from the 2007 edition of *Canada's Report Card on Physical Activity for Children & Youth*. Unfortunately, for the third year in a row, Canada has received a failing grade of D. (To read the entire report, visit [www.activehealthykids.ca](http://www.activehealthykids.ca).) There are many opportunities for improvement. Programs such as Living School is just one example of how everyone, including education leaders, can play a role in helping our students to be the healthiest they can be.

**W**e've all heard the alarming statistics on the decreasing amount of time Canadian children and youth spend engaged in physical activity, the soaring obesity rates, the increase in television and computer screen time. It's not just a bad news story, it's a national health crisis.

Less than 10 per cent of Canadian children and youth are getting 90 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per day. That's the basic recommended amount in Canada's Physical Activity Guides for Children and Youth.

When the numbers are broken down by grade levels, they become even more dismal. While 96 per cent of boys and girls in grade 3 are active for 60 minutes or more, five or more days per week, that number drops to 45 per cent for boys and 25 per cent for girls in grade 7, and 10 per cent for boys and less than 1 per cent for girls in grade 11.

What can be done to help our kids become more active, and stay active? What role does the school community play?

Living School is a groundbreaking school health initiative that brings together the entire school community to support active, healthy living for all children and youth. The initiative started in 2004 and is currently supported in 35 schools in Ontario.

In the few years since its inception, Living School has proven to be an effective and comprehensive model for mobilizing active healthy school communities.

Research findings demonstrate the positive effect that Living School has on students' physical activity levels; healthy eating behaviours; alertness and attentiveness; attendance; and sense of belonging, attachment and safety in the school community. As well, schools taking part in the initiative



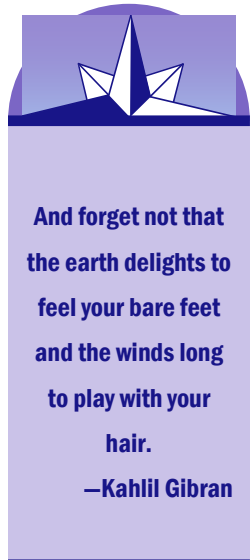
Photo courtesy of Gateway Public School

have been proven to have an advantage over other schools in carrying out daily physical activity.

How does it work? The program uses the school environment as the hub. Living School motivates, supports and helps school communities to address risk factors for chronic disease and obesity, such as physical inactivity, unhealthy eating, tobacco use, and drug and alcohol abuse.

Living School does not replace existing programs or services; rather it integrates them by providing a fertile environment in which other health promotion initiatives can flourish.

One of the keys to the success of this  
(Continued on page 4)



**And forget not that  
the earth delights to  
feel your bare feet  
and the winds long  
to play with your  
hair.**

**—Kahlil Gibran**

## The Living School Initiative, continued

*(Continued from page 3)*

initiative so far is that responsibility is shared. Living School maximizes the strengths and resources of the entire community so no one sector is overburdened. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, boards of education, public health, sport and recreation organizations, community coalitions, local businesses and municipal governments are working together to support and enhance active, healthy living for children and youth at these Ontario schools.

Living School was developed by the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association (OPHEA), which is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting school communities through advocacy, quality programs and services, and partnership building. OPHEA is led by

the vision that all kids will value, participate in and make a lifelong commitment to active, healthy living.

You can learn more about the initiative at the Living School website at [livingschool.ca](http://livingschool.ca). OPHEA is also online at [ophea.net](http://ophea.net).

For an on-the-ground look at how the Living School program is working, *Leaders & Learners* asked school principals **Erik Khilji** (Gateway Public School in Toronto) and **Alexa McKinnon** (Bishop Gallagher Senior Elementary School in Thunder Bay) to share their schools' experiences with it.

Special thanks go to **Margaret Good** and **Ruth Kates** of OPHEA and **Rachel Deans** of Active Healthy Kids Canada ([activehealthykids.ca](http://activehealthykids.ca)) for providing background and contact information for this feature.

## The Living School Initiative: Gateway Public School

Gateway Public School, part of the Toronto District School Board, was built in 1967. It is in the Toronto neighbourhood called Flemingdon Park, which is a planned community of Hydro-lined greenspace, apartment buildings and Toronto Community Housing Corporation townhouses. It's a densely populated community; 27,000 people live in one square mile. There are more than 90 different first languages and 130 ethnic groups. According to City of Toronto statistics, more than 60 per cent of Flemingdon households bring in an income of less than \$50,000 and more than 30 per cent bring in under \$30,000. Unemployment and underemployment are big social factors in this community.

The school is home to nearly 1,000 students from junior kindergarten to grade 5. The staff of 80 includes 56 teachers.

Here, principal **Erik Khilji** talks about how Living School is helping the students at his school.

***When did your school first introduce the Living School initiative? How was this initiative first brought to Gateway Public School?***

We began our Living School initiative in the fall of 2006. Previous to that, we were part of the Toronto Schools on the Move initiative. We were in the pilot project for the TSM initiative and went through all three phases of that program; this took three years. We applied for Gateway to become a Living School.

In September of 2006, Jane Blondie (our Physical Education chair) started up the Living Schools Committee, which consisted of 12 staff members, partnerships with the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation, and Public Health. Jane Blondie and the Living Schools Committee oversee all school-wide Phys. Ed. and Health events and programs at Gateway.

***As an administrator, can you explain why you feel it was important to introduce this model to your school***

***and community?***

As a person who has a passion for health and fitness, I understand the benefits of healthy living. I also understand that if our students have healthy bodies, they will develop healthy minds, which will lead to student achievement. If these children can learn to live healthy lives, they will continue this positive lifestyle into adulthood, which has a positive impact on society.

***What were some of the key health, physical activity and community involvement issues facing children at this school in this community prior to the introduction of Living School?***

Gateway Public School is an inner-city school with a very diverse population. The majority of its students live in high-

*(Continued on page 5)*



**Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body, it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity.**

**—John F. Kennedy**

## The Living School Initiative: Gateway Public School, cont'd

*(Continued from page 4)*

rises, with no open green areas in which to play. Most students do not participate in extracurricular activities involving sport or exercise.

Many students are quite sedentary while at home in the evenings. Families often face financial stresses and other challenges that make preparing healthy meals for their children difficult.

***How have these issues been addressed since the model was brought to Gateway Public School? Can you cite specific examples of how the students and the community have benefited from such a model?***

The Living School Committee is working hard to break down some of the barriers facing our students. A specific example would be the partnership with Parks and Rec. This partnership has allowed our students free use of the indoor playground (Playground Paradise) on a weekly basis.

We also have a partnership with the local police department, whereby police officers come on a weekly basis to play sports with the grades 4 and 5 classes. This has helped students to feel safe in the community by developing positive relationships with the police.

The Living School Committee has introduced several initiatives within the school as well: lunch-time intramurals, Playground Activity Leaders, recess equipment bins, the Golden Shoe Award, WinterActive Day, Canada Games Day, Terry Fox Run, iwalk to School Day, Live It Up Challenge, Jump Rope for Heart, Everyone Jump Concert and so on. All of these programs and single-day events have proven to increase physical activity levels, boost school spirit and help to decrease problems in the schoolyard.

***Can you tell our readers about some of the partnerships that have developed between the school and the broader community?***

Parks and Recreation is one partner that supports our WinterActive Day and Canada Games Day, and provides us with free use of Playground Paradise. Police Division #54 is involved with us by coming to do safety presentations to each class, as well as play sports on a weekly basis with grades 4 and 5 students. The public health nurse is consulted at different points throughout the year.



*Photo courtesy of Gateway Public School*

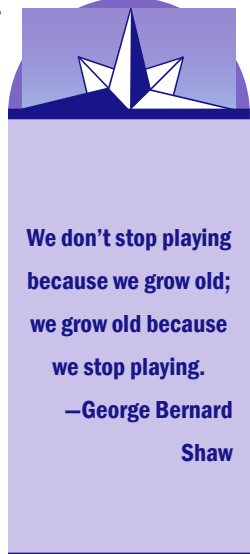
***What kind of support have you received to implement the Living School initiatives, in terms of both financial and information/administration support?***

Living Schools provides us with \$1,000 annually to help support our programming needs. They also often offer some financial assistance for school-wide events, such as Live It Up Challenge. Their website information is an ongoing support. Provincial consultant **Margaret Good** is in contact with us through telephone and email on a regular basis to offer support and ideas.

***Can you cite a specific example of how this program has made a positive difference in the lives of the children attending your school? Would you recommend this model to other school administrators?***

I would recommend this model to other school administrators. It has brought a lot of positive energy and “life” into the school.

It has made connections between the community and the school that have proven to benefit both students and staff. It has helped to create a “culture of change” within our students, whereby they understand the importance of health and physical activity, and are also challenged to live up to it.



**We don't stop playing  
because we grow old;  
we grow old because  
we stop playing.**

**—George Bernard  
Shaw**

## The Living School Initiative: Programs And Progress At Gateway Public School

Gateway Public School has introduced a number of programs to its students since implementing the Living School initiative, and has seen some tremendous progress in many aspects of school and community life. Here are details of three of the school's key achievements.

### Key Achievement #1: Health and Nutrition

Gateway encourages wellness and optimum nutrition through their snack program and One-on-One Mentoring sponsored by Toronto Public Health. Every day, students receive a healthy snack, which includes a fruit, grain and vegetable. The program has expanded this year to include a serving of milk once a month. This program is an excellent way to reinforce the concept of healthy and balanced eating.

In April 2007, Gateway participated in Oral Health Month. The school launched this initiative with the Brush-a-mania assembly. A dentist demonstrated how to properly care for teeth, and subsequently students were given the opportunity to practise this skill. Families were given booklets about the importance of brushing and were asked to monitor and record the number of times their child brushed each day.

### Key Achievement #2: Community Events & Partnership

Gateway participated in the Toonies for Terry charity run in September. Students from kindergarten to grade 5 walked, jogged and ran in support of cancer research. Students felt inspired to make a difference through their participation as they engaged in classroom discussion and activities prior to the run.

Gateway also participated in iwalk last October. Students were encouraged to walk from home to school in the morning instead of coming to school in a car or bus. A memorable part of the event was witnessing a great number of students converging from all directions to walk to school en masse being joined by **Kathleen Wynne**, Ontario Minister of Education. She demonstrated her support and served as a role model for all students involved, as she also participated in the Health Hustle at the end of the event. The school was also joined by community partners including trustee **Gerri Gershon** and supervisory officer **Gloria Baxter**.

This year, Gateway introduced a new initiative called Everyone Jump Program for the grade 5 students. This program enlightened students about diabetes through songs and games. Student **Kashfi Manji**, winner of the Everyone Jump Contest, made this event a special success by providing the school with a ball storage cage, a plaque for the school, engraved thermoses and pens for every student. As well, \$600 in Wintergreen (a learning materials company)

credit was given to buy equipment for lunchtime.

Gateway's community liaison with the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation has given its students the opportunity for free playtime at Playground Paradise. Classes sign up once a month for half hour sessions of playing on equipment such as slides, climbers and the ball pit.

The Toronto Police Service has also been involved in partnering through physical activity. Every Thursday, grade 5 students participate and play alongside local police officers in a game of their choice. This program has made a positive impact on the students, as they are privy to interact with the police in a fun, relaxed way. This has helped to establish a rapport and build links between the school and our local police force.

### Key Achievement #3: School Events

Gateway continuously seeks new ways to involve students in school-wide events and activities. This past February, the school welcomed its first annual WinterActive Play Day whereby students from kindergarten to grade 5 enjoyed an exciting, fun-filled day of outdoor play in the snow. The school has also maintained well-established favourites such as Summer Play Day and Jump Rope for Heart. The success of these events is directly attributed to the contributions of the school community, including volunteers, staff, students and teachers.

Gateway is also fortunate to be conveniently located within walking distance from a variety of amenities for school excursions. Students regularly participate in walking field trips through the year to places such as Playground Paradise, the Ontario Science Centre, libraries and bowling alleys. Students not only benefit from an academic standpoint, but are also afforded the opportunity to learn more about the community and take part in leisurely walks.

To learn more, email the school at [gateway@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:gateway@tdsb.on.ca).



**Success is never final  
and failure never  
fatal. It's courage  
that counts.  
—George F. Tilton**

## The Living School Initiative: Bishop Gallagher School

Bishop Gallagher Senior Elementary School serves 440 grades 7 and 8 students in the north side of Thunder Bay. Thunder Bay is the second-most populous community in northern Ontario, with about 110,000 residents. With the economic downturn in forestry and the pulp and paper industry, one of the key issues facing Thunder Bay is unemployment. Rates are higher than both national and provincial averages.

There are 25 teachers and about a dozen other staff members working at Bishop Gallagher, which is part of the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board. The school serves a diverse community with a high number of Aboriginal students. There is a Native Language program in place as well as a French Immersion program. The school, formerly St. Ignatius High School, is a two-storey brick building with a portable.

Here, principal **Alexa McKinnon** tells readers how the Living School initiative is making an impact at her school.

***When did your school first introduce the Living School initiative? How was this initiative first brought to Bishop Gallagher School?***

The Living School initiative started in September 2004. The initial proposal was sent in by Shelley Taylor and Frank Lacaria, physical education and health teachers who strongly believed in the Living School philosophy and making schools healthier.

I did not begin my administration until September 2004 and was not part of the process. However, when I arrived on the scene, my passion for this initiative exploded and the Living School Team was formed. Shelley, Frank and I have kept this initiative soaring to the heights that we did not even imagine.

***As an administrator, can you explain why you feel it was important to introduce this model to your school and community?***

It is a pandemic, the tsunami of sedentary lifestyles of our students. There's the rise of type 2 diabetes and childhood obesity. With the increase of technology, students are not playing as much or exercising.

Nutrition is so important and what was and is served in cafeterias is a shame. Students need to eat a healthy breakfast, lunch and dinner, and exercise in order to be able to handle the rigorous curriculum and stresses of today's society.

Since students are in school for almost six hours a day, we need to be role models and provide the education and expertise to make them life-long healthy citizens.

***What were some of the key health, physical activity and community involvement issues facing children at this***



Photo courtesy of Gateway Public School

***school in this community prior to the introduction of Living School?***

Sedentary lifestyles; high suspension rates; poor lunch program with chips, chocolate bars and pop sold; and low community involvement.

***How have these issues been addressed since the model was brought to Bishop Gallagher School? Can you cite specific examples of how the students and the community***

***have benefited from such a model?***

The staff and students are all on board. We have developed an athletic policy and a healthy guideline policy. We have a low suspension rate and an increase of physical activity level. We have a fitness room with all donated equipment—what a great story this is.

Our student surveys indicate high support of the program. The tuck shop makeover is well accepted. School attendance is up from 340 in 2004 to 440 in 2008; we've had increased enrollment every year since the Living School initiative.

We won an OPHEA Community Award in 2006 and were named one of the top 30 schools in Canada by *Today's Parent* in September 2006. We're an OPHEA Champion Living School. We have a high participation rate for initiatives now—the first year this was not so. We are also constantly presenting at conferences, workshops and universities.

***Can you tell our readers about some***  
(Continued on page 2)



**Take care of your  
body. It's the only  
place you have to  
live.**

**—Jim Rohn**

# The Living School Initiative: Programs And Progress At Bishop Gallagher School

What is a Living School? A Living School is a school that is open to children, to family, to the community and to new opportunities. A living school is alive, not only with academics but also with play, sport and activity. It's an environment that encourages emotional well-being, healthy lifestyles and optimum nutrition. Bishop Gallagher is a Living School.

School initiatives at Bishop Gallagher include:

## Physical Activity

- Improved physical education: 150 minutes per week, complete with teacher specialists
- Enhanced extracurricular sports: supplement long-standing sports with cheerleading, mountain biking, liturgical dancing, indoor track and field
- Intramurals: volleyball and basketball
- Summer and winter activities: canoeing, rowing, lacrosse, archery, cycling, skiing, snowboarding and curling

## Nutrition

- Breakfast program: multigrain bagels, homemade muffins, fruit trays, yogurt, juice and milk
- Healthy Tuck Shop: offering healthy alternatives, including homemade soups, pitas, salads, fruit and veggies

## Healthy Environment

- Anti-bullying presentations: student and teacher inservices
- Innovative fundraising: magazines, oranges and candles
- Live It Up Challenge: friendly competition among Living Schools in Ontario
- Active Playground: the Little Red Wagon full of sports equipment including footballs, skipping ropes, basketballs, hacky sacs, baseballs, bats, gloves, tennis balls and more, which is available to students playing outside during lunch

## Policy Development and Implementation

- Integrated Daily Vigorous Physical Activity through rotary timetable: school policy no. 138
- Athletic Policy: philosophy and rules of conduct for all extracurricular sports programs

According to a student status survey, 98 per cent of Bishop Gallagher students are happy that they are attending a Living School, 73 per cent have improved their snack and lunch eating habits, and 83 per cent have increased their physical activity level since attending a Living School.

Community initiatives at Bishop Gallagher include:

## Physical Activity

- Terry Fox Walk
- Community facility use: using unique programming
- After-school recreation program: partnering with the City of Thunder Bay
- Live Strong: Yellow Jersey Program: cancer awareness campaign in partnership with the Thunder Bay Fire Department

## Nutrition

- Fruit program: complimentary fruit provided for students and staff, partnering with local businesses and parent council

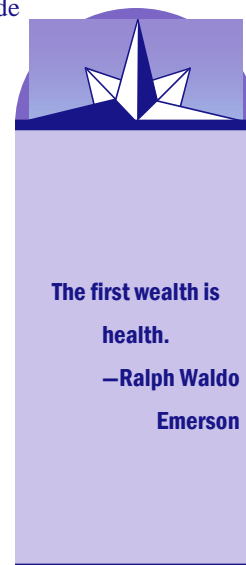
## Healthy Environment

- Tobacco prevention workshops: partnering with the District Health Unit
- Health fairs
- Promoting Living School concept throughout the region
- Ministry of Health Promotion: roundtable discussion with other health professionals, including Ontario Minister of Health Promotion Jim Watson

Bishop Gallagher Stakeholders include the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, the City of Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay District Health Unit, Bishop Gallagher School and the Bishop Gallagher School Council.

Partners committed to the Living School project include the Thunder Bay Fire Department, Thunder Bay Police Department, Diabetes Association, Lung Association, Red Cross, George's Market and A&P Grocery.

To learn more, email the school at [bishopgallagher@tbcdsb.on.ca](mailto:bishopgallagher@tbcdsb.on.ca).





## CASA PEOPLE: Faces In The Crowd



**Heather Cullen**  
Ontario

Heather is the superintendent of instruction and assessment for the Waterloo Catholic District School Board. She attended school in Waterloo and has psychology degrees from the universities of Waterloo, Western Ontario and Toronto (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education).

She taught secondary physical education, English, guidance and religious studies in BC and Ontario. In 1995 she became vice principal and then principal. Heather was appointed principal at Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton shortly before that town's E. coli water crisis. Relocating a school at this time taught her the meaning of crisis decision making and distributed leadership.

Heather is married with five step-children and seven grandchildren. She is an avid scuba diver, sea kayaker, golfer and cyclist.



**Leslea Wylie**  
Ontario

Leslea has enjoyed working as CASA's administrative assistant for the last eight months. For the previous 10 years, she worked in Human Resources as a staffing/service coordinator for the automotive industry. She also works with the Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association and the Council of Ontario Directors of Education in the OPSOA Oakville offices.

A graduate from Halton Business College with honours in Business Administration and Medical Administration, Leslea was also her class valedictorian. She has an Amateur Radio Licence and an Advanced Aesthetician Certificate.

Leslea is the proud mother of two beautiful girls, ages 4 and 15. She enjoys reading, crosswords, knitting, nature walks and updating her home. Leslea is also a longtime Leafs fan.



**Johanne Messner**  
Ontario

Johanne is the superintendent of education with the Toronto District School Board and is responsible for administrative services. Johanne was also elected president of the Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association this past April.

She has been an instructor with the University of Toronto, York University and the Principals' Qualification Program, as well as the coordinator of the Supervisory Officers' Qualification Program. Johanne has also held positions as a vice principal, principal, and assistant to the director, and consulted to the gifted programs at the elementary and secondary levels.

Johanne and husband Steve are the proud parents of daughter Michelle and son Paul. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, travel, music, skiing and fitness.

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## Our Mission:

CASA will advance quality public education and excellence in system level leadership through advocacy and national collaboration.



## Our Beliefs:

CASA believes that:

- Cultural diversity is a unique strength that enriches our nation.
- Communication and collaboration with parents and other partners is integral to successful student learning.
- Quality public education provides the best opportunity for a nation to enhance the lives of all its citizens.
- Effective system, provincial and national level leadership enables and supports excellence in teaching and learning.
- A comprehensive education, equitable and accessible to all, is the key to meeting the diverse needs and securing a successful future for our youth.

Specific strategies to advance the mission:

- Establish position papers on specific topics as they relate to the beliefs and interests of the association.
- Recruit new people.
- Establish a national representation.
- Establish a three-tier public relations and publications strategy.
- Establish a funding team to create an operating budget.

## Recognize An Outstanding Colleague: Nominate Them For The 2008 EXL Award

**C**ASA members who show exemplary leadership ability and who enhance school administration are eligible for the EXL Award. The award, jointly sponsored by Xerox Canada Limited and CASA, has been presented since 2002. It includes an honorary life membership in CASA.

If you work with an outstanding CASA member or know a leader in our field who deserves to be recognized, why not nominate them this year? You can share your suggestion with the executive director of your provincial association.

What kind of qualities should an EXL Award nominee have?

They will have brought honour to themselves, their colleagues and their profession. They have given exemplary service to their provincial or national professional association. They have made significant contributions to the field of education through their service, writings or other activities. These are individuals who are recognized as role models and teachers to those around them.



Each provincial association of CASA elects a nominee to represent their province. The national award recipient, selected from these provincial nominations, is announced during the opening ceremonies at the CASA Annual Conference.

Previous winners include **John Darroch** (2002), **Roy Seidler** (2003), **Ed Wittchen** (2004), **Edie Wilde** (2005),

**Ron Canuel** (2006) and **Carol Gray** (2007).

The submissions from the provincial associations for this year are due at the CASA office by the end of June. Nomination forms can be found on the CASA website. Completed forms should be sent to the CASA office care of Leslea Wylie, by email care of [leslea@opsoa.org](mailto:leslea@opsoa.org) or by fax at (905) 845-2044.