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Leaders & Learners

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WWW.CASA-ACAS.CA

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Coming Up

- Issue 53 will feature extensive coverage of the 2013 annual conference in St. John's. Watch for this annual double issue in September, just in time for the start of a new school year.
- Be sure to check out CASA's newly relaunched website—it's up now!

Message From The Professional Development/Communications Director

By Ed Wittchen

The 2013 CASA conference was a huge success. Over 250 delegates, 40 partners staff and some special guests took part. Participants came from every province and from the Northwest Territories.

We were joined by **Amy Sichel**, president of AASA, **Ron Canuel**, executive director of CEA, and **Jameel Aziz**, president of CAP.

Delegates were able to take part in pre-conference tours ranging from sea kayaking to whale watching, and a city tour including Signal Hill and Cape Spear, the most easterly spot in North America.

The Delta St. John's proved to be a great choice as host hotel, with superb service and proximity to George Street, the hub of St. John's busy nightlife.

An excellent example of that nightlife was when 125 delegates participated in the Friday Night Rally in the Alley, led by McCarthy's Party. Participants were grouped in teams and led by pipers to a traditional fish and chips dinner and a pub crawl featuring a Screech-in ceremony, complete with a live cod to kiss.

Participants enjoyed their choice of 40 different best practices sessions presented by colleagues from across Canada.

Session presenters ranged from practising teachers to school-level administrators, from system-level administrators to provincial- and territorial-level education staff. Many sessions were standing-room only.

On the business side, CASA unveiled the new website and introduced revised by-laws.

There was a successful response from our business partners this year. We were joined by longtime partners like **Xerox** (12 years) as well as repeat partners such as **Pearson Education**, **Blackboard K-12**, **Wintergreen**, **IBM**, **Maximus**, **School Appointments**, **Lightspeed Technologies** and **SMART**. New partners included **Nelson Education**, **ORION**, **Positive Action**, **EF First**, **Stoneware** and **PHE Canada**.

The opening reception was attended by over 350 people and featured the music of The Navigators, one of Newfoundland's premier Celtic bands. They had the crowd singing along and dancing all evening. It proved to be one of the best opening nights ever.

Planning is already underway for the 2014 CASA conference (which will fall under the organization's new name, CASSA—more on that inside this issue). It will take place at the Coast Plaza in Forest Lawn (Calgary), Alberta, next July.

Message From The Executive Director: Annual Conference Was A Record-Breaking Success

What an amazing CASA conference! With a record number of sponsors...a record number of delegates...and record-breaking weather, it was a fabulous time in St. John's.

We had several days of outstanding workshops featuring leaders from across the country: teachers, principals and superintendents all showcasing their board's experiences integrating technology with pedagogy.

From The Navigators to George Street, there was plenty of social time and a chance to unwind with family, friends and colleagues as well.

All in all, a huge success!

In addition, we had a very successful annual general meeting, at which time the board of directors adopted a new constitution and bylaws. Most significantly, we also adopted a new name for our organization, a name that better reflects our membership:

**Canadian Association of
School System Administrators**

**Association Canadienne des
Gestionnaires de Commissions Scolaires**

Message From The Editor: Reflection, Renewal, Adventure

By Tara Lee Wittchen

This June/July 2013 edition of the *Leaders & Learners* newsletter is being published in the middle of summer. Many of you will be away from your desks (and maybe even your phones) when it comes out. This can be a good thing.

Summer is an ideal time to get away from it all, to relax with family and friends, to travel to new places or return to a beloved camp or family cottage. It can be a time for reflection and renewal. It can also be a time for adventure, to step out of your comfort zone and try something new.

CASA has just gone through an extended period of reflection and renewal, through a series of meetings and teleconferences. This has led to changes to the organization's constitu-

The shortened form of our organization's name will be **CASSA-ACGCS**.

I will be sending out more information about our new executive structure along with the highlights from the AGM in subsequent newsletters.

Lastly, many thanks to **Marion Holmes** of PD Pro's and **Ed Wittchen**, our professional development and communications director, for organizing the conference.

Thank you as well to our wonderful sponsors, to the many delegates, friends and family who joined us in St. John's, to the members of the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Directors of Education (NLADE), and the wonderful people of Newfoundland and Labrador for their generous hospitality!

Enjoy your summer.



Ken Bain
CASA executive director

tion, bylaws and even to its name. A new website has also been launched at www.cassa-acgcs.ca. Some of these changes will be reflected in the look and feel of this newsletter in the coming months. The adventure part comes as we all work to integrate these changes.

One other note to add: CASA executive director **Ken Bain** has recently retired from his position as associate director with Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board. He will continue in his role as executive director for CASA. Congratulations on this milestone, Ken.



**If we're growing,
we're always going
to be out of our
comfort zone.
—John Maxwell**

CASA Conference Sponsoring Partner Profiles: Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION)

We continue our ongoing series of sponsoring partner profiles with this issue's feature on the Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION).

Joshua Tucker, content coordinator for ORION, responded to questions about ORION and its CEO, Darin Graham.

To learn more about ORION, visit www.orion.on.ca or follow them on Twitter (@ORIONNetwork).

Please tell our readers about your company.

The Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION) is one of the largest research, education and innovation (RE&I) networks in the world.

We connect all of Ontario's universities, most colleges, several teaching hospitals, public research facilities, and a growing number of Ontario's school boards to one another and to a global network of RE&I connections.

In addition to providing one of the world's fastest broadband connections, we are a research and innovation partner for our members. Through our technology and support, ORION constantly strives to keep Ontario on the leading edge of innovation.

Please tell our readers a little bit about Darin Graham, the company's current CEO and president.

Darin Graham has been ORION's president and CEO since August 2010. Since his appointment, Darin has been a champion of research, education and innovation, and helped to establish ORION as the "Backbone of Innovation" for Ontario.

His vision for the ORION Nebula—a cloud-based portal for the delivery of shared services to ORION users—enables Ontario's RE&I institutions connectivity to some of Canada's leading cloud service providers.

Under his leadership, the ORION network has grown to support nearly two million researchers, innovators and students, including an increasing number of school boards and teaching hospitals from all over the province.

Prior to joining ORION, Darin was the director of NZi3, New Zealand's ICT Innovation Institute at the University of Canterbury at Christchurch. He was invited to New Zealand to establish the institute as an innovation centre and global "hothouse" of strategic ICT research.

Among Darin's passions, he is an avid cyclist and a licensed



pilot, and he has recently completed his first triathlon. Darin believes that learning is a lifelong commitment.

Why is it important for you to develop a sponsorship relationship with CASA? What makes your company a good match with an organization like CASA?

It was important for our organization to form a relationship with CASA because, like ORION, CASA is ultimately committed to quality education for all Canadians.

Through sponsoring CASA's events, we are able to participate in important meetings and conversations regarding the current and future needs of senior educational leaders from across the country.

As a leader here in Ontario, it is important to keep a national perspective as well. We believe that being aware of issues and challenges in other provinces and territories will allow us to better support our users here in Ontario while sharing our insights to support our colleagues and peers across the country.

Were you able to attend the 2012 conference in Whistler?

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Recognizing Excellence: 2013 CASA EXL Awards



From left to right: Randy Brydges, Pam Reinholdt, Tom D'Amico, Kim Jenkins, Lyse Gendron-Brodeur, Claudia Parker and Steve Chevarie.

It is with great pleasure that *Leaders & Learners* announces the 2013 Canadian Superintendent of the Year is **Kim Jenkins**. Kim is the winner of this year's Xerox Excellence in Educational Leadership Award, also known as the EXL Award.

Five superintendents were nominated for the award:

- **Kim Jenkins**, superintendent of schools for Fort McMurray Catholic Schools
- **Claudia Parker**, superintendent for Yellowknife Catholic Schools
- **Lyse Gendron-Brodeur**, director of secondary schools for the Riverside School Board
- **Tom D'Amico**, superintendent of schools and human resources for the Ottawa Catholic School Board
- **Pam Reinholdt**, superintendent of student achievement for the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

Randy Brydges, director of Xerox–Western Canada Operations, and **Steve Chevarie**, an executive with Xerox–Service and Solutions, were on hand to present the awards at a ceremony on July 4. The ceremony took place at the Avalon Ballroom (Salon A) in the Delta St. John's.

The EXL Award, sponsored by Xerox Canada, is awarded to the CASA member who has exhibited exemplary leadership ability and who has enhanced the profession of school administration throughout their career. The award has been presented since 2002. Winners receive honorary lifetime memberships to CASA.

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 2014 AASA conference will

take place in Nashville, Tennessee, next February.

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

- 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

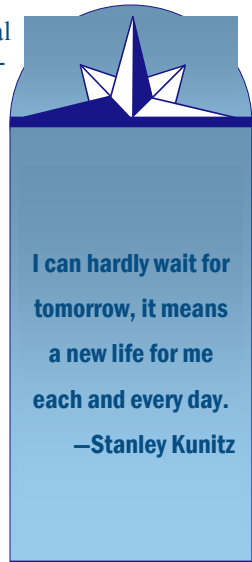
2013 EXL Award Nominees

Kim Jenkins (2013 winner)

Kim has many accomplishments that make him worthy of the EXL Award. He was named Administrator of the Year by the Special Education Council and was a provincial finalist for Administrator of the Year award presented by the Council on School Administration. Kim developed a science and technology centre and early entry program, and he partnered with the Paul Martin Foundation to develop the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative.

He has presented at many events, including the FNMI annual conference, the Edmonton Learning Consortium, Alberta's Apprenticeship Conference and the Conference

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Recognizing Excellence: 2013 CASA EXL Awards, cont'd

(Continued from page 4)

Board of Canada. Kim has held offices in the College of Alberta School Superintendents. Kim is noted for contributing to his community. He has served as chair for the Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation and logistics coordinator of the Arctic Winter Games. He's also been a member of Alberta's Oil Sands Secretariat Comprehensive Regional Infrastructure Sustainability Planning Group.

Kim's nomination papers for the award included the following statement: "Kim Jenkins is truly an agent of change...he is not hesitant to make an innovative decision with the goal of bettering the education of students...he brings in partners and collaborators. What is best for students and community is his only focus."

Claudia Parker

Claudia has been described as "clearly a leader who is in tune with the pulse of the district, who has the undying respect and admiration of our staff and who overwhelming represents everything a Catholic educator is supposed to be."

Claudia established and developed a leadership resiliency program in support of aboriginal students, and has been recognized for her contribution to the promotion of second language learning in the Northwest Territories. Claudia has served on a number of program and curriculum committees. She has been a workshop presenter on aboriginal student leadership and served as the NWT representative with the Canadian Association for Community Living.

Lyse Gendron-Brodeur

Lyse's accomplishments include successfully merging two high schools by creating a new vision for the school and bringing two staffs together. She has led implementation of curriculum reform. Riverside School Board has had the highest graduation rate for the province in three of the last five years—Lyse has been a big part of that increased graduation rate and student success. She's participated on a provincial committee to implement the new Quebec Education Program, presented to the International Baccalaureate Organization and serves on various provincial committees.

Tom D'Amico

Tom has helped boards across Canada move toward teaching in the 21st century and changing the traditional library to a learning commons. He has created online repositories of resources for educational technology. He's been cited as the top Canadian K-12 administrative blogger, one of the top 10 Canadian edtech newsmakers of the year and one of the top 50 global educational leaders to follow on Twitter.

Tom has delivered presentations from BC to Newfoundland on the steps needed to transform traditional boards to districts focused on 21st-century skills. He's been published in numerous publications, including those for CEA, CASA and CODE. Tom is the lead for Equity and Inclusion and Managing Information for Student Achievement for a network of boards on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Education.

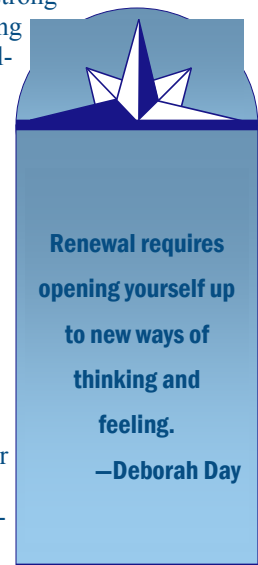
In his nomination papers, Tom is described as "not only...a major leader in the reculturing of the educational approach within the Ottawa Catholic School Board but he has shared his learning with organizations and school systems across Ontario, Canada, the United States and the international community."

Pam Reinholdt

Pam is the lead superintendent responsible for safe and caring schools, effectively leading all schools to be safe, welcoming and inclusive. She serves as a mentor and coach for many educators across the city of Hamilton. She has acted as an agent of change by implementing restorative justice practices in schools across Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board in partnership with the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, the John Howard Society and Hamilton Police Service. She has presented to OPSOA a new supervisory officer program and to a committee of youth officers from Hamilton Police Services. Pam contributes her time and expertise to a number of community policing initiatives on behalf of Hamilton Police Services.

Pam champions leadership efforts to create positive school climates built on the foundation of strong relationships and a sense of belonging and connectedness for all. She developed TipOff, a mobile app to encourage anonymous reporting of bullying and other safe school concerns. She was recently nominated for the YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Award.

Her nomination papers included the following statement: "Throughout her brilliant career, Ms. Reinholdt has dedicated herself to being an exemplary educator, an incredible role model, a mentor and a coach for many educators and students, and has inspired others through her leadership."



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Our Mission

CASA exists to promote and enhance effective administration and leadership in the provision of quality in education in Canada.



Our Beliefs

- School system administration is a noble profession.
- Effective leadership and administration of school systems are essential.
- Individually and collectively, school system administrators provide leadership for quality in education.
- Communication and cooperation with other stakeholder groups in education are vital.
- Individually and collectively, school system administrators can assist one another.

Our Goals

- To provide a national voice on education matters.
- To promote and provide opportunity for professional development of the membership.
- To promote communication and liaison with national and international organizations having an interest in education.
- To provide a variety of services to the membership.
- To recognize outstanding contributions to education in Canada.

CASA Conference Sponsoring Partner Profiles, continued: Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION)

(Continued from page 3)

Unfortunately, we were unable to attend the 2012 CASA conference in Whistler due to scheduling issues.

Any plans to attend the 2013 conference in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador?

Darin Graham will be attending the 2013 CASA conference in St. John's to represent our organization and to deliver a presentation. In addition to the important conversations around the future direction of education pedagogy and the role that technology plays in a 21st-century learning environment, Darin is most looking forward to networking with senior educational leaders from across the country to discuss the trends they are seeing in their institutions.

Thank you for ORION's ongoing support.



Darin Graham, president and CEO of the Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION).

ORION has 5,800km of fibre connecting nearly two million researchers in Ontario.