



## Chair Message

I cannot believe that we are already half way into our year! Three events have already been completed – the Southwest Chapters Golf Tournament, Student Night and SWAP. Additional activities are listed in the calendar of events at the end of this issue.

I am impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of our board. Our board includes four students in the CGA program of professional studies: Erin Liberty, Amy McLellan, Ryan Willmore and Rafi Veetttil. We are lucky to have their input and are impressed that they can be involved while balancing work, studies and family. In addition to Rafi, Jan Buck, CGA has also joined the board as a new volunteer this year. It is great to have new ideas and perspectives. As a team, we are committed to serving local members and promoting the CGA designation.



As we prepare to celebrate the chapter's 30th anniversary, it makes me reflect on the chapter's activities to date, and wonder what the next 30 years will bring. As a local chapter we have been able to provide a local exam centre for students and have worked together to offer professional development and networking opportunities for local CGAs and students in the CGA program. We have also promoted the CGA designation within the community through activities such as sponsoring Business After Hours and supporting tax preparation services.

I am looking forward to celebrating our first 30 years as a chapter. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend and honour the efforts of those who had the commitment to establishing our local chapter.

Hope to see you on the 18th.

Debbie Reed, CGA  
Chair, Chatham-Kent Chapter

## Member Profiles

There are two new faces on our board this year. Jan Buck, CGA and Rafi Veetttil began their term as board members in May 2009.

### Jan Buck, CGA

Jan assumed the position of education representative for the board this year. She has worked for RM Auto Restoration Inc.

for approximately 11 years and is currently the controller there. Jan achieved her designation in 2005, and has completed a bachelor of accounting science from the University of Calgary, as well as a diploma in business accounting from Fanshawe College.

On a personal level, she is a married mother of three – two kids in university and one at home. As she admits, she and her husband have a “design bug”. They love to fix, remodel, design and landscape but can't seem to stay in one house long enough to enjoy it. She also volunteers with Loads of Love and teaches Sunday School. Recently she has taken up learning the saxophone.

The CGA program appealed to Jan because it offered a broad, practical knowledge base that was applicable to all aspects of business and is convinced that the CGA designation “has opened many doors”. Eleven years ago when she applied to RM, the controller at the time would only consider someone enrolled in the CGA or CMA program. Since then she has been impressed with the rapport among colleagues and the respect from outside auditors and other professionals. The knowledge gained through her studies and the self-discipline and determination required to complete the program has been, in her own words, “... a great example to my children”.

Jan reflects that prior to working at RM she thought she hated old cars. Not anymore! She loves what RM can do with what some consider to be scrap metal

### Rafi Veetttil

Rafi assumed the duties of treasurer for the board this year. He is currently a student in the CGA program of professional studies (level 4). Rafi works as a cost accountant at Daymond Aluminum in Chatham. Prior to that, he worked mainly for a private medical practice in Chatham as administrative officer.

Accounting is Rafi's second career; he has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and worked in the engineering field for almost 20 years prior to making the switch. He and his family moved to Chatham in 2005. Prior to that, they lived in Winnipeg and Hamilton after immigrating to Canada in 1998.

Rafi chose the CGA program because he felt it offered flexibility. He also liked the idea of working full time while completing his studies. He has attended several board events over the past few years.

## We Need Your Help!

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Hosting exams is one of the most valuable services we offer as a chapter. We are trying to create a roster of invigilators so no one has to help more than once a year. Please consider helping out – it is just three or four hours of your time, but it can make a big difference to those students who can avoid driving out of town.

Jan Buck, CGA is coordinating exams this year. If you can help, please contact her at [jbuck@rmauctions.com](mailto:jbuck@rmauctions.com). The next series of exams will be held in Chatham from November 30 to December 5. Please consider volunteering.

## Thank-you!

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A special thank-you to those who invigilated during the September exam session:

Julie Atkinson, CGA  
Barb Chapple, CGA  
Alana Pollard, CGA

## Chapter Events

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### Student Night

Our annual student night was held at Jerseys on October 7, 2009. Students in the accounting program at St. Clair College were invited to a social beer and pizza night. There was a chance to pick up some literature and learn about the CGA program.

Approximately 24 students from first, second and third year attended, along with students in the CGA program and five CGAs.

This is the second year that we have targeted college students, with excellent results. Thanks to Barb Chapple, CGA, for promoting this event to the college students and to Ryan Willmore and Erin Liberty for organizing the event.

### SWAP 2009

SWAP 2009 was held October 23rd and 24th in London. This is the 10th year that SWAP has been held. The four chapters in southwestern Ontario, (London, Sarnia-Lambton, Chatham-Kent and Windsor), organize the professional development event.

A record number of delegates attended this year, with the topics covered including: IFRS, GAAP, computer tips and personal branding.

Collaborating to offer local professional development has been very successful. The speakers are excellent, and the program is within an hour of most of our chapter members. It offers a good way to earn professional development points and to meet and network with other accounting professionals.

Thank-you to Julie Atkinson, CGA and to Chris Young, CGA who represented Chatham-Kent Chapter on the planning committee.

## Upcoming events

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### 30 Years...

Where were you in 1979? Some of you were busy establishing CGA Ontario's Chatham-Kent Chapter.

To celebrate our 30th anniversary we are planning a special evening. You should have received your invitation by now. We hope to see you at the event.

**Date:** Wednesday, November 18, 2009  
**Place:** Rossini's Restaurant

We would like to have some mementoes of our 30 years as a chapter. If you have some photographs or other memorabilia please contact Julie Atkinson, CGA. The items will be returned.

We will also recognize our 25-year members at this event. Three members will achieve this milestone:

Terry Micks, CGA  
Dianne Morden, CGA  
Paul Turner, FCGA

### Snowball Raffle returns for 2nd year

To encourage members to participate in chapter events we are organizing another snowball raffle. Each time you attend a chapter event you will receive a ballot for the Snowball Raffle. At the Annual General Meeting in May a winner will be chosen. This year the grand prize is an entertainment package valued at approximately \$200.

## 2009-10 Calendar of Events

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### November 18, 2009

30th Anniversary Evening  
Rossini's Restaurant

### December

CGA Exams

### January/February

Professional Development event

### February

Host Business After Hours Chatham

### March

Tax Preparation Services for Seniors  
Presented by St. Clair College students

### March

CGA Exams

### May

Annual General Meeting

## Board of Directors 2009-10

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### Chair

Debbie Reed, CGA  
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### Vice-Chair

Erin Liberty  
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### Secretary

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### Education Rep

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### Professional Development Rep

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**Taking Inven-  
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