

Message from the Chair

My fellow colleagues, it is my sincere wish that the year 2010 will be rewarding for you in your professional endeavours. As is customary at the start of a new year, many of us will be making resolutions. Very often we conceive these resolutions with brilliant ideas but of course we get caught up in the whirlwind of life and our ideas get blown in the wind. Here is a practical one - let us make this year's resolution to continue to be outstanding accountants. My challenge for us is to look at our lives and examine our strengths and weaknesses and attend courses that will be fulfilling so that one day while we reminisce, we can pat ourselves on the back and say well done.



So what does the future hold for certified general accountants? I am very optimistic and equally excited about the future as an accountant. While the economy is in its corrective mode, this is going to be the time for us to look forward to new ways of doing things. This is going to be the year that CGAs will pull on our ingenuity to anticipate new reporting requirements and then put our analytical skills into play. We will be assuming exciting leadership roles and we will be depended on to plan the course for our employers.

Of course we are CGAs and we will be ready to deliver top performance in whatever capacity we are engaged. To do so, we must maintain a healthy state of mind. Let us stay in a state of readiness and therefore examine some of daily activities and see how they impact the quality of our lives.

Sleep: Sleep is restorative for the brain and it is the time for us to rebuild and re energize for another day. Lack of adequate sleep over long periods of time will cause us to be drowsy, we become irritable and it lowers our productivity. This is a big no for us accountants.

Exercise: Let's face the facts that most of us are in work environments that forces physical inactivity. We will be sitting for approximately eight hours of the day and probably driving for another hour. Therefore, we must push ourselves for an exercise treat. Experts can list a number of diseases and health conditions that we can fight or reduce their impacts on our bodies, and some of us can debate these. One thing I know for sure is it gives a feeling of well being. Let's get moving and let the other health benefits follow.

Diets: Can a day ever go by without us hearing this word in the media? Here is what we will do for ourselves; we will strive for balance. Incorporate meals that offer all the essential nutrients for healthy bodies.

It is critical that we look into our well-being and protect our state of mind. The accounting world is very challenging and is not going to get any less demanding. We must stay alert and anticipate changes and be ready to stand the test of times. CGAs are leaders and agents of change. Cheers to 2010!

Venecia Francis, CGA
Chair, Hamilton Chapter

Exam Invigilation

The Hamilton Chapter would like to extend our gratitude to the following CGAs who volunteered to invigilate examinations for the December session:

Natalie Aikens
Erik Andersen
Paul Ardell
Bozena Glinska
Cathy Main
Jamie McNulty
Scott Needham
Kimberly Overbaugh
Selin Philip
Lorrie Shannon
Corina Thomas
Tanya Thompson
Annette Visser
Phil Watkins

The next examination period is from Monday, March 8, 2010, to Saturday, March 13, 2010. If you are interested in invigilating, please email Corina Thomas, CGA, at corina.e.thomas@gmail.com.

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The Latest Word

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Visit us online at www.cga-ontario.org or
by email at hamilton@cga-ontario.org.

Upcoming Events

Here are upcoming activities for the first quarter of 2010:

Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl or Kids Sake

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada (BBBSC) is the charity of choice for CGA Ontario, and our chapter has been actively raising funds to provide financial support to this agency. The agency's big fundraising event that we have been participating in is the Tim Hortons Bowl for Kids Sake. Here are some dates to keep in mind:

- March 6 and 31, 2010, at Prime Time Bowling in Burlington.
- March 13 and 27, 2010, at Skyway Lanes in Hamilton.

No prior bowling experience is required. Please email hamilton@cga-ontario.org to let us know if you would like to participate in this fundraising event. We are counting on you to join our team.

The theme for this year is "Salute our Olympians." Be patriotic, dress as your favourite country, your favourite sport (winter or summer), be creative! There will be a prize for "best dressed team" at every event.

Here is an invitation from BBBSC:

"Bowl for Kids Sake isn't about being a good bowler, it's about having fun while helping kids. Last year's event was a tremendous success! Thanks to people like you, the lives of over 1,000 children in our community were brightened through the continuing work of Big Brothers Big Sisters. Our fundraising goal this year is \$175,000, and participating has never been easier. Register now to bowl or sponsor a bowler. Raise a minimum of \$100 to receive a limited edition Bowl for Kids Sake t-shirt. Join in the fun and pledge your support today!"

What is BBBSC about:

"Over 150 BBBSC agencies across the country provide direct service to children by matching them to adult volunteers in quality mentoring relationships. These programs are proven effective at keeping kids out of trouble, off of drugs and in school. Big brothers and big sisters are people like you who volunteer to share a little time with a young person. There are 250 children in Hamilton, Burlington and surrounding areas waiting for a mentor. Volunteer today!"

Community Tax Preparation Services (TPS)

Last year Scott Needham, CGA, coordinated the community TPS. Our chapter prepared more than 200 tax returns for low income earners and seniors. The returns were prepared in conjunction with the offices of Wayne Marston, MP Hamilton East-Stoney Creek and Paul Miller, MPP Hamilton East-Stoney Creek. This year you can be a part of this very worthwhile effort. The time commitment is not extensive and it can be as little as four hours each week. We will be engaged in the months of March and early April. We look forward to having you join us.

Hamilton Chapter Annual Student Night

Are you a student in the CGA program of professional studies who resides in the Hamilton Chapter? You are cordially invited to come out with other students and join the board of Hamilton Chapter and representatives from CGA Ontario's Students Services. This is a social event, so come out and network while you get answers to questions that concern student matters. Mark your calendar with the following:

Date: Thursday, March 18, 2010
Speaker: CGA Ontario Student Services Representative
Location: Mandarin Restaurant
1235 Fairview Street, Burlington (banquet room)
Phone (905) 632-6000
Time: 6 p.m. – registration and networking
Cost: Free
Dress code: Business attire

Registration and cancellation deadline: March 16, 2010

If you want to attend this event, please contact Bozina Glinska, via email at boglinska@gmail.com.

Coming Soon!

Social Event:

Trivia Contest – coming soon

This is an evening to socialize and to raise funds for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hamilton and Burlington. Watch out for more details!!!

Reaching the top of the Mountain

By Dorota Nizinski, CGA

Anything that's worth building on or that's worth pursuing takes time, and so was my journey to achieve my CGA designation. After completing the business accounting program at Mohawk College, I knew that I wanted to continue my studies. I met with CGA Ontario's representatives at the career fair and I was guided into the CGA program of professional studies.

It was a five-year journey and while en route, my priorities changed from spending time with family and friends to hours of weekly studying and exam preparation. Managing family life, work and studying would not be possible without the support of my family, friends and employers. They have all encouraged me to keep going and not to give up. As I knew that I had their support, it gave me the confidence and strength I needed to complete the program.

Finishing the CGA program and meeting the requirements for practical experience is like mountain climbing with the exhilaration of reaching the mountain top akin to receiving the CGA designation. The long hours of studying were well worth it and all the sacrifices have paid off.

I would like to encourage all students in the CGA program to keep on climbing that mountain, keep moving forward one course at a time until you finally can see the top. Lean on your family and friends and ask for help when you need it. It will be all worth the feeling you will have the day you attend the admission to membership ceremony and cross the stage to receive your certificate.

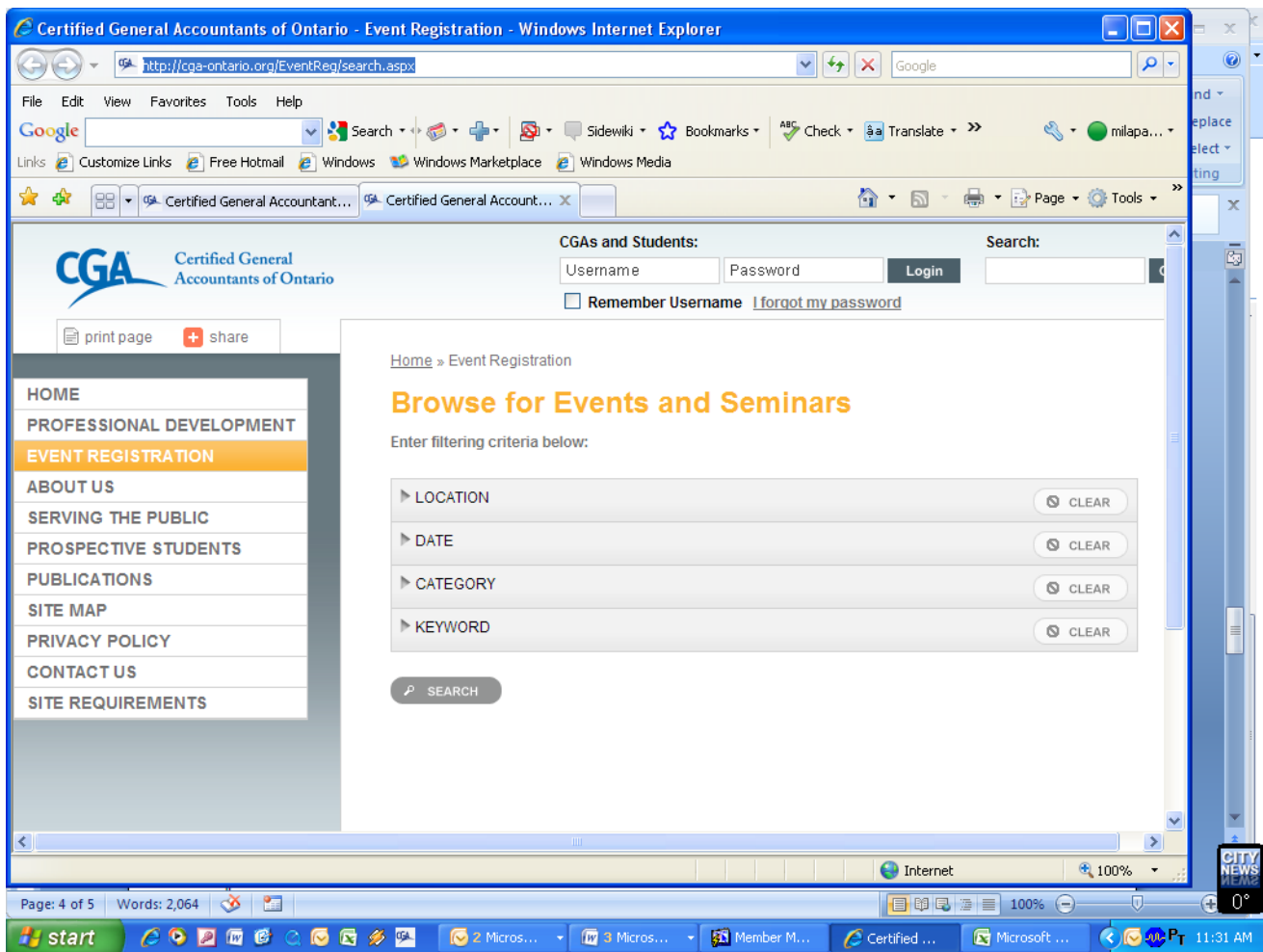
Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have encouraged and helped me stay focused over the years.



Keeping in the Know:

So you are not sure what's going on in the Hamilton Chapter. In addition to receiving the monthly e-bulletins, here is how a web search can "keep you in the know."

Go to www.cga-ontario.org/EventReg/search.aspx where you will see the following page:



Set the search criteria

- Location** ALL
- Date** Leave this field blank (so that all events can be shown)
- Category** Chapter Events
- Keyword** Hamilton or enter event name, description, ID or speaker name. Any occurrence of one or more of the words entered will result in a match.

Congratulations! You have successfully completed a search of all the upcoming Hamilton Chapter events. Now that you are enticed to participate in chapter events, take the next step and register. Here are helpful instructions to guide you through the process.

How to register for seminars and events:

- Go to www.cga-ontario.org
- Sign on to the site.
- Click on the Event Registration link in the left-hand navigation menu.
- There are four (4) search criteria options: location, date, category or keyword.
- Select your search option, and then choose the search parameters.

- Click the Set button
- Click the Search button
- A list of available events within your search criteria will be posted (If an event is full, cancelled or closed a note appears next to the event).
- To register click on the chosen seminar; a pop-up will appear that asks if the registration is for you (ie. me) or a guest.
- Choose the appropriate option and save.
- Upon completion of selecting your seminars, go to the shopping cart at the top of the page.
- Click on 'View Shopping Cart'.
- Verify that your selection is correct and then click on 'Continue'. You will be taken to the 'Purchase Confirmation' page.
- At this point you may choose to continue shopping, cancel or checkout.
- If you select checkout you will be asked for your credit card information. Enter the information and click on purchase.
- You are now registered for the seminar.
- An email confirmation will be sent to you.

Thank you for your registration! We look forward to meeting you at the upcoming event

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking to get involved in your community? Well, Hamilton Chapter frequently receives requests from community-based organizations that require volunteer treasurers and bookkeepers. Visit Hamilton Chapter's web page and view the Bulletin Board to see if there is a volunteer position that suits your abilities and interests. (www.cga-ontario.org/contentfiles/chapters/hamilton/volunteers_feedback.aspx)

New CPD Policy of Self-Declaration

CGA Ontario is pleased to announce the implementation of a new continuing professional development (CPD) policy of self-declaration. This policy, which was approved by the board of governors in November 2009, will replace the current reporting policy as of January 1, 2010. The new policy does not change current CPD requirements. It changes the method by which CGAs report CPD to the Association.

CGAs have until March 31, 2010, to declare the fulfilment of mandatory CPD requirements for the 2009 calendar year, ending December 31, 2009. CGAs will be responsible for the tracking of CPD, including the recording of verifiable and non-verifiable hours, and the maintenance of supporting documentation. These records shall not be submitted to CGA Ontario. A random audit process of the membership will ensure compliance with mandatory requirements.

Members may declare their CPD fulfilment online as of February 1, 2010. CGA Ontario has provided a helpful tracking form to assist in the recording of CPD activities, which may be downloaded from the professional development page of CGA Ontario's website. CGA Ontario will also send declaration reminders to members prior to the deadline of March 31, 2010.

This policy, which is administratively efficient and in keeping with the best practices of professional associations, recognizes the commitment of certified general accountants to the practice of lifelong learning. If you have any questions or require more information regarding self-declaration, contact Laurel Shaw, program assistant, mandatory professional development, at lshaw@cga-ontario.org, or by telephone at 416-322-6520 or 1-800-668-1454, ext. 8259.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids Sake

Volunteer Pledge Accountants are needed!

Saturday March 6, 2010
1-5 p.m.
PrimeTime Bowling Burlington

Saturday March 13, 2010
1-5 p.m.
Skyway Lanes Hamilton

Friday March 26, 2010
5-7 p.m.
Roseland Bowling, Burlington

Saturday March 27, 2010
1-6 p.m.
Skyway Lanes Hamilton

Wednesday March 31, 2010
6-8 p.m.
PrimeTime Bowling Burlington

Contact: hamilton@cga-ontario.org

We are looking for volunteers to assist with pledge accounting on dates listed above. Come out and showcase CGA passion for giving to the community. Members and students are welcome.

Committees are required to return this form by fax or email for event posting on the "online registration for chapters" as soon as the event is organized. Contact Merle Khadoo-Bootan, program administrator, chapter services by telephone at 1-800-668-1454 ext 8241, by fax at 416-322-6481 or via email at mbootan@cga-ontario.org for updates on chapter events and seminars.