

Chair's Message

Spring has sprung and early at that. I hope everyone enjoyed this mild winter.

This year has gone by very fast and soon my tenure as chair will be over. I will pass the reigns onto Jane Pickell, CGA current vice-chair. This will be another go-around for Jane as chair, therefore, I know she will do a great job. I could not have been chair this year without Jane and the support of the rest of the board. This has been a very busy year for me due to taking on a new position at work, I thank the board for all their help.



Once again this year, we had a successful tax update session presented by the always entertaining, Glen Schmidt, FCGA, who always makes learning about tax fun.

On March 4, 2010, we offered a seminar, *Dealing with the Different Generations*, at the Homewood Suites by Hilton in Cambridge. The seminar gave insights into why people differ from generation to generation.

Congratulations to the two teams that raised \$1,400 (prior to any matching by CGA Ontario) for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kitchener-Waterloo! Many thanks to all those who contributed and participated in the Bowl for Kids Sake on March 7.

Also in March, we offered two tax preparation services at the usual locations, Kitchener Public Library and Rockaway Centre. Margaret Clappison, CGA, and volunteers helped 152 seniors from both locations. I would like to thank all the board members who supported our organizer, Margaret Clappison, CGA, as well as all the other volunteers who give their time and experience to assist at these events.

I wanted to give you an excerpt from CGA Ontario's Leader Letter, an electronic communication sent to chapter officials, to keep you informed as to the change in structure at CGA Ontario.

[Excerpt]

We have been considering the relationship among the board, the administration, the volunteers, and CGAs and students over the past many months...

As a result [CGA Ontario's] board has decided that the responsibility for the valuable work done by our volunteer network will report in to CGA Ontario's administration. This will ensure alignment with the strategic plan and better execution of initiatives to maximize the efforts of our volunteers. We will also transition in our new fiscal year to a less formal structure to ease administrative burdens for chapters that exist today; for example, by-laws, annual

general meetings, audited financial statements, annual reports and separate bank accounts will no longer be required. These new measures are meant to allow chapters to focus on what they do best at the local level.

As we move into our next fiscal year the current structure will function more as local committees without a "formal" framework. All of the work that is currently being done through the chapter network will continue with some changes to our delivery of professional development, and those discussions have already begun. Chapters will continue to offer events to engage CGAs and students. There will be tax preparation services and participation in fund-raisers. CGAs will be needed as high school ambassadors, as participants at university and college events, as exam invigilators, as event planners, as government relations representatives and as hosts of professional development events, etc. The goal is to encourage and hold even more events and promote more member participation. What will be different is that this will be planned and coordinated through CGA Ontario's administration. The only real change for next fiscal year will be a transition from a governance model to a less formal committee-based structure.

As we work together on our transformation from 18 chapters, loosely connected to each other, with differing levels of connection to administration and the provincial board, to one strong unit, supporting a strategic plan with initiatives directed by management, let's keep in mind CGA Ontario's recently adopted vision: 'CGAs will be integral to every organization and community in Ontario...'.

We as accountants seem to be involved in many changes; I work for a public company which has already started implementing IFRS to ensure that we can produce comparative statements in 2011. Today, I went to an HST seminar to get ready for this change effective July 1, 2010, found out there are some transitional rules involved that will not make it as easy as switching from five per cent to 13 per cent.

I would like to thank all members from past boards for their hard work during their terms which still shows today in the fellowship, support and member participation in the local events, such as the tax preparation services. I hope all our members will support CGA Ontario in their endeavours to make changes because volunteers will still play a big part in the function of CGA Ontario.

"Any change, even a change for the better, is always accompanied by drawbacks and discomforts." – Arnold Bennett quotes (British novelist, playwright, critic, and essayist, 1867-1931)

Thursday, May 27, 2010, please join us at St. George Banquet Hall for the Annual General Meeting. I hope to see you there.

Respectfully yours,
Glenda Wood, CGA, Chair

Recap of Past Events

CGA/CMA/CIM Joint Dinner

The joint dinner for CGAs, CMAs and CIMs was held on November 18, 2009 at Bingeman. Genevieve Twomey from the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony gave a talk on "Redefining the Role of the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony in our Community and Beyond". She explained the challenges that are implicit in running a non-profit organization to be profitable which shows they have many similarities to private enterprise. One unique aspect of the non-profit organization is how media press coverage can dramatically change box office results over night depending if the reviews or articles are favourable or unfavourable. A total of 96 people attended of which 20 were CGAs.

Margaret Clappison, CGA
Chair, Tax Preparation Services Committee

Tax Update

On January 23, 2010, we held the annual tax update seminar at Conestoga College. As usual Glen Schmidt, FCGA, provided us with a day full of all the current and upcoming changes to the tax laws. This year, it was held in the amphitheatre which allowed unrestricted viewing by everyone. We had 81 people attend the seminar. Next year, the seminar is already booked for January 22, 2011, and the cost will be the \$385 standard pricing for a full-day seminar.

Margaret Clappison, CGA
Chair, Tax Preparation Services Committee

Dealing With the Different Generations

On March 4, 2010, several CGAs enjoyed a seminar by Laurie Flasko entitled *Dealing with the Different Generations*. The event was held at the Homewood Suites by Hilton in Cambridge. Laurie did a great job making the session interactive and interesting. The seminar provided some new perspectives to consider so that the strengths of generations other than our own can be appreciated along with explanations as to why people from different generations are the way they are.

Juli Peers, CGA
Chair, Professional Development Committee

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kitchener-Waterloo & Area – Bowl for Kids Sake 2010

Sunday, March 7, 2010, was the Accountant Challenge at Towne Bowl in Kitchener. We enjoyed pizza, fellowship, and five-pin bowling; with only two teams participating this year, we raised \$1,400 (prior to any matching by CGA Ontario) for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Many thanks to all that contributed and participated in the Bowl for Kids Sake.

Bev Brown, CGA
Chair, Public Relations Committee

Kitchener-Waterloo Chapter's 22nd Annual Tax Preparation Services

This year Kitchener-Waterloo Chapter hosted two successful rounds of Tax Preparation Services for seniors and lower-income earners. These events took place on Saturday, March 13, 2010, at Rockway Centre in Kitchener and on Saturday, March 20, 2010, at the Kitchener Public Library, Main Branch.

Our volunteers served the tax reporting needs of 152 seniors and lower-income earners in the two-day period.

Rockway's coordinator, Jean Durnin, Adult 50+ Services Assistant and her staff, as well as the Kitchener Public Library's marketing and communications coordinator, Dale Dyce, and his staff did an exceptional job in providing facility set-up and scheduling.

This year we also thank CanTax for providing us with software and thank Dean Froome and Rich Peers, CGA, from the M&T Printing Group for providing the use of a photocopier for these two events. As a chapter, we can be proud to contribute to this community service partnership with the Rockway Centre, Kitchener Public Library, M&T Printing Group and local media.

On behalf of the board, special thanks are extended to our dedicated volunteers for their help.

Abida Andleeb	Juli Peers, CGA
Manie Bindra, CGA	Jane Pickell, CGA
Bev Brown, CGA	Leon Richardson, CGA
Jie Chen, CGA	Stephan Richmond, CGA
Margaret Clappison, BIS, CGA	Stella Rogobete, CGA
Deb Daub, CGA	Gurpreet Saini
Sue Dubosq, CGA	Kumari Selvakumar, CGA
Ladislav Eret	Maureen Siscoe, CGA
Michael Fewkes, CGA	Cecilia So, CGA
Alex Glofcheskie	Neelam Sharma, CGA
Steve Kraemer, CGA	Ami Tran
Linda Lengies	Shannon Thompson, CGA
Robert Li	(Jenny) Gong Rui Wang
Xing Liao, CGA	Janet Whitwam, CGA
Peter Lubka, CMA, CGA	Polin Younano, CGA
Mathew Melody	Qingjin(Ginger) Ai
Camelia Oniga, CGA	Peter Zhang
Kaivalya Patel	Pingping Zhong

Margaret Clappison, CGA
Chair, Tax Preparation Services Committee

HST Seminar

On April 15, 2010, we held a HST Seminar at the St. George Banquet Hall in Waterloo. We had 46 attendees come out to hear presentations from Melanie Joseph, CGA, of the Tax Advisory Services Branch of the Province of Ontario, and from Rino Bellavia from the BDO Dunwoody office in Burlington.

Melanie talked about the total tax relief package for jobs and growth, how the HST will work, tax relief for business and tax relief for individuals. She also discussed the taxable status of goods and services for the consumer under HST; and stated that for 83 per cent of the goods and services there should be no change in the taxable/exempt status for consumers. Examples were provided of the expenses that will not see an increase in their tax status and of increases that are currently not subject to PST but will be under the new system.

Rino's presentation covered:

- transitional rules and provided several examples
- who are required to self-assess the Ontario component of HST
- Planning and Compliance: points to consider, potential risk areas, opportunities and strategy.

Bev Brown, CGA
Chair, Public Relations Committee

Upcoming Events

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of Kitchener-Waterloo Chapter will be held at the St. George Banquet Hall on May 27, 2010.

Date: Thursday, May 27, 2010
Event ID#: 2010-0527k
Time: 6 p.m. - Registration
6:30 p.m. - Business meeting
7 p.m. - Dinner, awards and entertainment
Location: St. George Banquet Hall
665 King St. N., Waterloo
On King St., north of Northfield - look for a big 665 sign on fence
Cost: Free Meeting
\$45 - Dinner per person (includes GST)
\$80 - Dinner per couple (includes GST)
Contact: Jane Pickell, CGA by email at jpickell@cline.ca or phone at 519-829-3680 ext. 236

Registration deadline: May 15, 2010

Entertainment: Frank Mensink, FCGA, vice-chair, CGA Ontario, will be on hand to update us on current events in CGA Ontario. Then throughout the evening "It's a Mystery to Me" will perform "Who Wants to Murder a Millionaire".

The annual general meeting commences at 6:30 p.m. and the following business will be transacted:

1. Approve the minutes of the Kitchener-Waterloo Chapter's 2009 annual general meeting.
2. To consider the report to the board of directors and the financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2010.
3. To recite our oath with the new members that missed their Admission to Membership.
4. To transact such other business as may be presented before the meeting.

If they wish, members may attend only the business portion of the meeting. There is no admission fee for attending the meeting only.

Refund policy: Refunds will only be honoured if notice is given at least ten days in advance. Substitutions will be welcomed.

Registration online for this event in the member or student section of CGA Ontario's website.

Glenda Wood, CGA, chair and Jane Pickell, CGA, vice chair

Kitchener-Waterloo Best Ball Golf Tournament

Date: Saturday, June 12, 2010
Event ID#: 2010-0612k
Time: 12:30 p.m. - Registration
1 p.m. - Shot Gun Start, dinner to follow
Location: Conestoga Golf Club
400 Golf Course Road, Conestogo
www.golfnorth.ca/conestoga.html
Cost: \$115 - Golf, power cart and steak dinner
\$35 - Dinner only

Cancellation deadline: June 1, 2010

Tournament is open to members, students and their guests.

For more information, please contact Bev Brown at brbrown@sympatico.ca. Visit the event registration page on CGA Ontario's website for more details regarding this and other events.

Mark your Calendar!

Work & Learn 2010

Date: Friday, September 17 and
Saturday, September 18, 2010
Location: Holiday Inn on Fairway Road in Kitchener

More information will be forthcoming in future email blasts/newsletters.

New Member's Profile

Matt Hodgson, CGA

Matt is a manager in the assurance and advisory services practice at Ernst & Young LLP in Southwestern Ontario, as part of the Strategic Growth Markets team. Matt has been with Ernst & Young for five years as he joined the firm in 2005 shortly after receiving an accounting diploma from Conestoga College and a bachelor's degree from SAIT. He was admitted into membership in 2007.



Thanks to the structure of the CGA program of professional studies and Ernst & Young's commitment to training and development, Matt was able to obtain his CGA designation while working full-time at the firm. Matt resides in the Stratford area with his wife and is currently involved in business development programs in the Waterloo region such as the Canadian Youth Business Foundation.

Matt is currently the secretary of Kitchener-Waterloo Chapter's board of directors and is moving into the co-chair of professional development role for 2010. He chose to become involved with the chapter board given the recent changes and advances in accounting, assurance and overall public licensing in Ontario and to give back to the professional community as well.

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

Results of the Golf Survey

There were 148 completed responses to the Golf Survey. The survey request was only for the Kitchener-Waterloo Chapter and was completed between January 20 and February 11, 2010. There were 10 names drawn from the list of participants, who included their names with the survey. The draw took place at the *Dealing with the Different Generations* seminar. Each of the 10 people will receive a gift card for \$50, for use at any Golf North location.

The survey responses were:

- 1) Are you interested in participating in the Kitchener/Waterloo chapter-sponsored golf tournament?
 - a. Yes 91
 - b. No 56
- 2) If yes, how far are you willing to travel for the golf tournament?
 - a. 20 minutes 18
 - b. 40 minutes 44
 - c. 60 minutes 27
 - d. More than 60 minutes 7
- 3) What is the best day of the week for you to play in a golf tournament?
 - a. Monday 7
 - b. Tuesday 7
 - c. Wednesday 9
 - d. Thursday 12
 - e. Friday 21
 - f. Saturday 31
 - g. Sunday 10
- 4) Which months are you available to play in a tournament?
 - a. May 5
 - b. June 26
 - c. July 27
 - d. August 23
 - e. September 17
- 5) Would you like to have a meal at the end of the golf tournament for an additional cost?
 - a. Yes 76
 - b. No 23

The ten winners of the \$50 Golf North Gift Cards are:

Chelta Cuillierier, CGA	Steven Kraemer, CGA
Daniel Flanagan, CGA	Alun Masterton, CGA
Allan Gee, CGA	Jennifer Moser-Wilcox, CGA
Deanna Guitard, CGA	Louise Nobbs, CGA
Michael Humble, CGA	Yves Sans-Cartier, CGA

The gift cards will be mailed to the current addresses listed on the online member roster.

The golf committee will review the results and make recommendations to the board. The committee would like to thank you for your participation in this survey.

Bev Brown, CGA
Chair, Public Relations Committee

Volunteer Opportunities

High School Students Want to Meet You

CGA Ontario's business development team needs CGAs to promote the CGA designation at high schools in our area. If you are ready to inspire, educate, and more importantly, motivate high school students to become certified general accountants, then we want your participation! To obtain further information, please contact Elly Barandeh at ebarandeh@cgaontario.org, high school co-coordinator. The time commitment is minimal and CGA Ontario provides the necessary presentation material.

Examination Invigilators

Examinations for the CGA program of professional studies take place across the province in March, June, September and December. If you are a CGA and would like to be a volunteer invigilator, please contact Steven Kraemer, CGA, via email at skraemer@golden.net. Examinations are held at Conestoga College in Kitchener.