



Chair's Message

Thomas Edison said "If you did all the things in life that you were truly capable of, you would literally astound yourself". I say you would also astound everyone around you.



As 2009 draws close to completion, many of us may be thinking about the things we plan to accomplish next year or maybe even the things we thought we could accomplish in 2009 and didn't!

I hope that fitting in some time to volunteer is on your list. There are so many ways to help out at our local chapter level, meet other members and have fun that it sometimes astounds me that more people don't get involved. Let me offer the top 10 suggestions:

1. Get a team together and take part in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada (BBBSC) Bowl for Kids Sake in your community – it's a great way to have some fun, get a little exercise, share some time with friends and help out a great cause. This year, if your team can raise at least \$400, I will make sure you have team shirts to wear during the event.
2. Not the bowling type? Volunteer to help your local BBBSC agency during the Bowl for Kids Sake event – each agency always seems to look for some help during this event.
3. Ask your employer, your hair dresser, your local grocery store, your bank, your candy store, your mechanic, your cleaning lady, your neighbour, your dentist, your favourite restaurant – in other words ask anyone you can think of for a donation for the silent auction table at our annual Trivia Night in support of BBBS Niagara Falls. I challenge every member to bring at least one silent auction item or door prize. For more information, and to get a letter to use for this purpose, contact Ronalyn Meier or Stacey Dean, CGA, and they will be thrilled to help you out. If you are shy and don't want to ask, then we accept donations directly from members.
4. Put a team of eight fun, intelligent, or just any people together and enter the team in the annual Trivia Challenge Night. Better yet, challenge someone else to bring a team and see who can come up with the most answers. This year, the committee is putting together an astounding line up of fun, prizes and food; you really don't want to miss this event.
5. Put your name on the list of invigilators. Contact Tara Carll, CGA, if you can spare an evening during exams – it feels a lot better to be sitting on this side of the desk than out there writing an exam.
6. Are you an expert in a specific field? Think about being a speaker at one of our breakfast meetings or to provide

a professional development seminar for other members. Contact Debbie Davis, CGA, or Lina Doyle, CGA, to discuss options.

7. For those of you who like to be involved in the governance of our chapter, perhaps becoming a member of the local chapter board is for you. Contact Lina Doyle, CGA, to have your name added to the list of directors for next year.
8. Attend the Student BBQ in September. This is a great time to do a little bragging – students in the CGA program of professional studies and potential students are invited to the event to learn about the CGA program and to hear about what real CGAs are doing and the types of jobs that we are involved in. Contact Tara Carll, CGA, if you would like to be involved.
9. Do you know a CGA who did something astounding? Let Ronalyn Meier know so that the accomplishment can be shared in the newsletter.
10. Become a High School Ambassador. Students are making career decisions earlier than ever and CGA Ontario has prepared a presentation to take to high schools in our area. This volunteer position also comes with some training for presenters.

There are really many more ways to be involved. The people I have mentioned above are only some of the people who are making an astounding contribution by volunteering their time. I hope you will see more than numbers and join in the opportunity to make some new friends and show us what you are capable of achieving.

Events at a Glance

Thursday, January 21, 2010 – Breakfast Meeting

Friday, February 5, 2010 – 2010 Tax Update with Glen Schmidt, FCGA

Thursday, February 18, 2010 – Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, February 20, 2010 – BBBS Tim Horton's Bowl for Kids Sake

Thursday, March 18, 2010 – Breakfast Meeting

Thursday, April 22, 2010 – Breakfast Meeting

Thursday, May 20, 2010 – Breakfast Meeting

Thursday, June 17, 2010 – Breakfast Meeting

Additions, cancellations and seminar updates will be communicated through the monthly e-bulletin.

Please visit www.cga-ontario.org or contact Ronalyn Meier at ronalyn@cogeco.ca for further information and registration

Breakfast Meetings

Breakfast meetings are held the second (2nd) last Thursday of the month, up to and including June 2010. There will be no breakfast meeting for the month of December 2009. The meetings are held at:

Falls Manor Motel & Restaurant
7104 Lundy's Lane
Niagara Falls, ON L2G 1W2

Meetings run from 7:30 to 9 a.m., and each event provides 2 CPD hours.

Lunch and Learn Event

These events are still being planned and anyone who would like to host, help organize or has a topic of interest, please contact Ronalyn Meier at ronalyn@cogeco.ca

2010 Tax Update with Glen Schmidt, FCGA

This day-long seminar provides an update of corporate and individual federal income tax issues. There are significant issues of which practitioners and those involved in the tax area should be aware of.

Topics include:

- Directional Issues of CRA
- 2009 Federal Budget
- Home renovation tax credit
- CRA eases up on employment benefits/policy issues
- Income splitting and prescribed rate
- Tax preparer penalty update
- Policy issues
- Interesting cases

Date: Friday, February 5, 2010

Seminar ID#: 2010-0205n

Cost: \$285 – CGAs
\$143 - Students
\$350 - Non-CGAs

Time: 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Location: Royal Niagara Golf Course
1 Niagara-on-the-Green Boulevard, NOTL

Please contact Ronalyn Meier at ronalyn@cogeco.ca for further details or registration forms.

Upcoming Events

CGA Ontario Niagara Chapter 6th Annual Trivia Night – February 26, 2010

Once again it is that time of year to rally the troops for another round of trivia. Get your team together and get ready to play. We are always looking for donations of gifts, prizes or swag and, as always, looking for help on the trivia night committee, anyone interested or wishes to enter a team, please contact Ronalyn Meier at ronalyn@cogeco.ca

CGA Ontario Niagara Chapter Presents

Our Sixth Annual Trivia Challenge

Challenge Your Colleagues, Friends, Family and Business Associates

Do you play along with Jeopardy and Millionaire?
Do you love to compete with friends?
Do you know the answers?
Come on out and PROVE it!

Prizes, silent auction, pizza and more!

Date: Friday, February 26, 2010
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Delphi Banquet Hall
4414 Portage Road, Niagara Falls

Entry fee: \$160 per team - includes registration fee and snacks

Cash bar available
Teams are comprised of a maximum of eight members
(Assemble your own team)
Each question is answered by the team as a whole
30 team maximum, so register early!

Registration deadline Friday, February 15, 2010

All proceeds go to



**Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Niagara**

It only takes a LITTLE time to make a BIG difference

For more information or to register your team, please contact:
Ronalyn Meier at ronalyn@cogeco.ca

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**Niagara
Grapevine**



Editor: Ronalyn Meier
Copy Editor: Christopher Stephenson
Graphic Designer: Megan Sanderson

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

Mission Statement

The mission of Niagara Chapter is to promote the certified general accountants (CGA) designation in the Niagara Region, by encouraging and supporting our members' involvement in local community activities and organizations; and by providing support and education services to our CGAs and students by acting as a liaison with CGA Ontario.

2010 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada Annual Tim Hortons Bowl For Kids Sake

Don't forget to gather the forces to compete in the Annual Tim Horton's Bowl for Kids Sake 2010. Last year, Niagara Chapter gave out 24 blue CGA t-shirts, branding those teams as CGAs at the local bowling events.

Raise \$400 per team, contact Marian Heil, CGA, at marian.heil@sympatico.ca and get your t-shirts.

Niagara Falls BBBS

Location: Cataract Bowl, Lundy's Lane, Niagara Falls
Date: Saturday, February 20, 2010
Time: 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.
Contact: Noelle Sinclair, Fundraising Manager,
BBBS Niagara Falls
Noelle@niagarafallsmentors.org

Fort Erie BBBS

Location: Carrolls Bowling Lanes, 7 Klauck Street, Fort Erie
Dates: Saturday, February 20, 2010
Sunday, February 21, 2010
Thursday, February 25, 2010
Saturday, February 27, 2010
Contact: Sandra Barrett – 905-871-8836 more information
or go to <http://forterie.kintera.org/faf>

South Niagara BBBS

Location: Bowlarama, Niagara Street, Welland
Date: Saturday, February 13, 2010
Time: 2 p.m.

Location: East Side Lanes, Division Street, Welland
Date: Wednesday February 17, 2010
Time: Noon

Location: Bowlarama, Niagara Street, Welland
Date: Saturday, February 20, 2010
Time: 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.
Contact: Call 905-735-0570 or register online
www.bbsinniagara.ca

St Catharines BBBS

Location: Parkway Lanes Sports & Entertainment Centre
Date: Saturday, February 20, 2010
Time: 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.
and 7:30 p.m.

Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 –
Industry Challenge Night
Time: 9:30 p.m.

Date: Saturday, February 27, 2010
Time: 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
Contact: Kelly Provost, Special Events Coordinator,
BBBS St Catharines-Thorold & District
905-646-9890 ext. 31 or by email
Kelly@bbbsmentors.ca

Grimsby BBBS

Location: Stryx Bowling Centre, Ontario Street, Grimsby
Date: Saturday, February 20, 2010 and
Sunday, February 21, 2010
Contact: Mary Champ – 905-945-9353, email
champ@bbbs@aol.com, for more information
or register online www.bowlforkidsake.ca

Volunteers Needed

Invigilators Wanted

For each exam session, the board recruits CGAs to serve as invigilators; it only takes a few hours of your time and earns you continuing professional development hours. Please contact Tara Carll, CGA, via email at tc@taracarll.com for anyone who would like to invigilate during the upcoming exam session.

Share Your Skills and Talents

There are many ways to get involved in chapter activities that fit a variety of schedules. Niagara Chapter is constantly looking for both member and student volunteers and we are always seeking fresh ideas for new initiatives and special projects. If you do not have the time to attend the monthly board meetings, how about signing on to one of our special event committees? Any amount of time you are willing to devote is greatly appreciated. Interested individuals are asked to contact Marian Heil, CGA, at marian.heil@sympatico.ca, or any other board member.

CGA Ontario's Commitment to BBBS

CGA Ontario and BBBS have established a partnership as part of CGA Ontario's commitment to Ontario's promise.

As part of this partnership, Ontario BBBS affiliated agencies and CGA Ontario chapters work together to develop ongoing local sponsorship and volunteer programs.

We encourage Niagara Chapter's members (CGAs and students) to volunteer for any BBBS board or committee positions.

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.