

President's Message

I have been privileged to be the president of OUPMA during a period when purchasing has taken on a more strategic role in many of our institutions. Reports by the Auditor General of Ontario have focussed attention on the role that Purchasing Professionals play in the financial responsibilities of the organizations. Funding agencies, tax and customs agencies are all auditing the purchasing processes of our organizations further focussing attention on our the important role we perform to ensure the accountability and transparency of those processes.

Strategic initiatives such as OECM could not have happened a few years ago. Visionaries in the ranks of our association have been instrumental in putting together a tool that will propel us to the forefront of the procurement field. I have been enjoyed working with university sector representatives Renata Faverin, Steve Whittaker, Bob Moore, Yves Joban and Loraine Hayes in the early days and more recently Jacques Boyer, Eddie Jin, Ray Williamson and Sheila Brown. I'm glad to have the opportunity to thank them for the tremendous amount of time and work they have put into this project on behalf of the 117 educational institutions in the province that will have the opportunity to be part of the Ontario Education Cooperative Marketplace. OUPMA is poised to take on a greater strategic role itself as key advisors to OECM

Recently Richard Van Loon's Phase 2 Organizational Study of Standing Committees and Affiliates report produced for Council of Senior Administrative Officers (CSAO) has recommended a greater connection to its affiliate organizations. If these recommendations are followed, OUPMA should build on the strategic connection with CSAO and its members.

While president of an organization such as OUPMA I came to further value the input of many volunteers. I want to thank the other executive members Dan St. Georges, David Hepplewhite and Chuck McLean and Committee chairs Barb Christianson, Stephen Cook, Loraine Hayes for all the work they have done over this year on the behalf of OUPMA. If it wasn't for members who are willing to make time in their already very busy days the organization would cease to function.

Conference Report

As the president of OUPMA and concurrently the host University for the OUPMA Spring Conference I had the "pleasure" of organizing both conferences in one year as well as assisting with the NPC portion of the CAUBO conference. Needless to say it was a busy year. Both OUPMA conferences were well attended and examples of topics ranged from personal Health "Train Your Brain", Sustainability –Forest Stewardship Council, Customs – AMPS at the fall conference to Fairness Commissioners, Socially Responsible Procurement and Imaging at the spring conference. OUPMA's conferences offer a real benefit to those that attend as they offer an excellent mix of professional development, institutional collaboration from commodities, RFP's, contract terms and also allows for Networking with colleagues from across the province. A testament to the benefit

OUPMA conferences are to the s membership the conferences generally are attended by representatives from **all** the universities and some colleges.

Committee Work:

OUPMA has several ongoing working committees that meet and present their work at each conference. New committees this year were FIPPA and Ethics, ongoing committees are OUPMA Website, Professional Advancement Day, Group Buying, Key Performance Indicators and Socially Responsible Procurement.

Socially Responsible Procurement has been at on the radar at OUPMA for many years and has gained more importance in recent years as more universities have started to tackle the complex issues. The Executive and members of OUPMA have taken this to heart and recommended that the 2007 Annual report be the first that is distributed solely in electronic format and hosted for future reference on the OUPMA website.

Looking forward, I can see continued recognition of Purchasing as a integral part of the strategic planning of each of our organizations and OUPMA assisting it's members with relevant professional development and extremely important support with networking and sharing opportunities.

My year as president was very rewarding and I look forward to a continuation of the relationship with this progressive organization.

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