

# Sudbury Chapter Newsletter



Certified General Accountants  
Association of Ontario

November 1998

## Message from the Chair

On behalf of Sudbury Chapter's 1998/99 board of directors (as the first session winds down) I would like to extend a sincere welcome to all CGAs and students. I also wish to acknowledge the efforts of last year's chair, John Hamilton, CGA, as well as the entire 1997/98 board, for a job well done.

The 1998/99 year is in full swing, with several events already having been held. Sudbury Chapter's first function was its annual Student/Member Night, held on September 23, which was well attended by local college students. The board hopes that next year the event interests even more Sudbury Chapter students and CGAs as it provides an opportunity—first and foremost—for chapter members to get together and mingle. Next, our annual Work and Play Weekend (held October 1–3) was a great success, with members from all over Ontario attending. I'm pleased to report that the annual board meeting held in Timmins was also well attended this year.

I would like to recognize Sudbury Chapter's committee members for all of their hard work. Indeed, they've done an outstanding job to date; I know that with their collective high energy level and immense spirit and goodwill this trend will continue. In fact, year after year it is the determination and drive of local volunteers that maintains the dynamic and vibrant nature of our chapter.

Please feel free to contact any Sudbury Chapter board director with Association-related questions or concerns (a listing is found on page 4). Always remember that we are here for you, the chapter members. Having said that, I'd also like to emphasize that we need *your* help.

Sudbury Chapter continues to recruit committee members to help organize and run various events throughout the year. More importantly, we need *you* to attend chapter-sponsored events (such as the ones mentioned above); a good turnout of members helps ensure that similar functions will be held in future years.

Upcoming Sudbury Chapter events include annual tax preparation services for seniors in our community, as well as other organizations in Sudbury. This is a much valued and needed service; past participation by chapter members has proven to be very successful.

Additionally, we are planning another tax round table discussion in January 1999. We are open to suggestions on current and appropriate topics. Looking down the road, we are planning our Annual General Meeting for the late spring. Again, we are always looking for chapter members not only to participate, but also to offer comments and suggestions in advance.

In closing, I would like to extend best wishes to all students and members in Sudbury Chapter, and remind you that we welcome your ideas on how to make chapter activities more interesting and effective. Make your voice heard!

On behalf of the board of directors, best wishes for the coming holidays and new year.

**Jennifer Stanton Smith, CGA**  
Sudbury Chapter Chair



## ***Work and Play Weekend 1998***

This year's Work and Play Weekend, with its slogan of "Knowledge is Power," was a great success. In fact, people from all over Ontario came to Sudbury for the weekend, some from as distant south as Windsor, and others from as far north as Timmins. From responses received, everyone who attended had a great time. Sudbury Chapter members who were unable to register this year—you missed out on a great weekend. Plan to attend next year's event...we would love to welcome even more chapter members!

This year's seminar offerings were quite informative and enlightening. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the speakers for a job well done, beginning with John Wilkinson and Gordon Hall who taught us about negotiating, mediation and a bit about ourselves (some of us were a little surprised at what we found out). Bruce Clark had everyone intrigued with the issues surrounding the selling of a business. We welcomed John Cassio and Guy Desmarais, who detailed how to plan for our future, as well as the importance of a will and power of attorney. Bob Lemieux of the Ontario Provincial Police fascinated weekend participants with his discussion on fraud. (His seminar made us realize how easily our computers could be broken into, and that even the government is susceptible to this form of fraud.) Finally, Bruce Hutton offered an enlightening discussion on various issues concerning the Year 2000 computer bug, including some problems of which we hadn't even begun to consider.

Thanks again to all speakers and we hope to offer many of you a return engagement at a future Work and Play Weekend.

Maybe some of you out there were unaware that...accountants are lots of fun! In fact, as an accounting body we were in prime 'fun mode' at this particular W & P Weekend, particularly during the scheduled social functions and the additional excursions after the events. (Let's just say we demonstrated Sudbury hospitality to our out-of-town guests in a big way...and I think many of these people will return next year!)

In closing, I express my appreciation to everyone who attended this year's Work and Play Weekend; without chapter attendance and enthusiastic participation, holding an event of this magnitude would not be possible. Please plan to attend next year, too!

**Jennifer Stanton Smith, CGA**

## ***Coming Soon: Meet the Board Night 1999***

Sudbury Chapter will be holding its second annual Meet the Board Night in February 1999, at Trevi's Restaurant on Lasalle Boulevard.

This provides an excellent opportunity for students and CGAs to meet board members, discuss ways to improve chapter functions and activities, as well as make suggestions on future events to hold. The evening features free appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages, courtesy of Sudbury Chapter. As stated previously, the input of chapter members is always welcome and appreciated. (Remember that silence signifies consent).

During the evening the board hopes to recruit people as committee volunteers or to help with upcoming events or exam sessions. Attend the Meet the Board Night, come forward and let us know you are interested!

For more information about this event, please contact Rachele Décosse at (B) (705) 897-6741 or (R) (705) 566-1709. Alternatively, send a request for information by e-mail to <rachele@tyenet.com>. We hope to see as many of you at this event as possible!

## ***Attention CGAs!***

Do you remember taking exams back when you were still a student? Do you remember the smug expression on the face of the CGA at the front of the class, watching everyone filing into the exam room? (As the students take last minute glances at notes and are generally in a state of mind bordering on sheer hysteria.) Do you remember wishing (with a vengeance) that you could be in the CGA's shoes (or during the winter, boots)? Well, now you can!

Sudbury Chapter's education committee is always recruiting volunteer exam invigilators among the able and willing CGAs in our midst. This year's Session 1 exam week is scheduled from November 30 to December 4. If you are willing to donate a few hours of time to invigilate an exam for one evening during this week (or during a future examination week), kindly contact Pierre Gionet, CGA, at 560-3754, ext. 236 (B) or 855-8884 (R). Come on; give invigilating a shot! (Deep down, you know you want to try out that smug expression....)

## *Attention New Students*

Welcome to the CGA program of professional studies. You have taken that important first step on the long and winding road leading to a first-rate professional designation in the field of accounting. Best of luck in your studies!

As well, Sudbury Chapter invites all new students to contact any board member (see phone numbers and e-mail addresses on page 4) with any questions or concerns you may have about the program or chapter initiatives.

In the past, the chapter has been able to offer lectures on certain courses. The board has also been able to arrange study groups and/or review sessions for other courses.

In order to offer a lecture, we require a minimum number of students (seven to nine) to enrol in the lecture. If you feel that lectures would be helpful by all means *select the lecture option when registering for your courses*. This increase the possibility of lectures being held. Also, doing so allows education representatives plenty of time to make the necessary arrangements for the lectures (including finding facilitators and arranging times and locations).

Students are advised in advance if the lecture option for a selected course is not held due to insufficient enrolment.

## *Public Practice Committee Update*

The public practice network continues to hold monthly networking dinner/meetings. The meetings are designed to allow CGAs and students working in the area of public practice to share ideas and discuss current practice issues.

This year (in addition to our regular meetings) the public practice committee is lining up a series of guest speakers to share their expertise at dinner/meetings. It is hoped that our roster of speakers will include a lawyer, a commercial loans officer, an auditor with Revenue Canada and a certified financial planner. The evening will begin with an informal presentation by the guest speaker, followed by questions and answers over dinner.

Interaction with other professionals and members of the business community should provide us with valuable information and guidance in these areas. It will also increase the exposure of the CGA designation.

Chapter members (and non-members) interested in taking part in the monthly networking meetings or the special guest speaker presentations are asked to contact Robert Miller, CGA, at 560-3970 (R) or 521-0595 (B).

**Robert Miller, CGA**  
**Chair, Public Practice Committee**

## *Visit Us on the Internet*

Sudbury Chapter's Web pages can be accessed on the Internet at <http://icewall.vianet.on.ca/pages/hutton/sudcga.html>.

At this site, find out about upcoming chapter events, examination review sessions, board of directors meetings, as well as other information of use to local CGAs and students. You are highly encouraged to make use of this site. Also, feel free to offer input and suggestions on how it can be improved.

## *Report on Student/Member Night*

This year the annual Student/Member Night was held on September 23 at Trevi's Restaurant on Lasalle. The evening was very well attended. Thanks to everyone who came out and helped make it such a success.

The interest and concern generated by the Association's new university degree requirement prompted heavy attendance by students from Cambrian College and Collège Boréal. The Student/Member Night offered an excellent opportunity to explain and extol the merits of the new University of Calgary bachelor of accounting science (BAccS) degree program.

Sudbury Chapter's directors hope the evening's discussions helped to alleviate the concerns of students in attendance; namely that their consideration of pursuing a CGA designation was not diminished by any degree.

Once again thank you to everyone who showed up. We hope to see even more individuals at next year's Student/Member Night.

## ***Board of Directors 1998/99***

<b>Position/Name</b>	<b>Bus.</b>	<b>Res.</b>	<b>Fax</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
<i>Chair</i> Jennifer Stanton Smith, CGA	356-3730	356-3732	356-7604	jencga@onlink.net
<i>Vice Chair/Secretary</i> Rachelle Décosse	897-6741	566-1709	897-5453	rachelle@tyenet.com
<i>Treasurer/Professional Development/Political Liaison</i> David Venn, CGA	673-2355	693-0502	673-2135	venn@vianet.on.ca
<i>Education</i> Pierre Gionet, CGA	560-3754, ext. 236	855-8884	560-8921	gionecga@isys.ca
<i>Education/Student Affairs</i> Julie Coffin	560-4002	524-1959		juliec@isys.ca
<i>Public Relations</i> Kyla Bell	671-2424	682-0989	673-6870	bell@cyberbeach.net
<i>Public Practice</i> Robert Miller, CGA	521-0595	560-3970	521-0969	rmiller@isys.ca
<i>Newsletter</i> Josh Autio	675-2200	560-8898	675-2515	
<i>Program</i> Marie Dalcourt, CGA		692-1922		mdalcourt@tyenet.com
<i>Past Chair</i> John Hamilton, CGA	693-2761	969-7478	699-3225	hamilton@tyenet.com
<i>Timmins Liaison</i> Astrid Schmidt	264-1005	268-2114	264-1005	astrid@ntl.sympatico.ca

***Once again CGA Ontario offers exciting tax products on CD-ROM for 1998/99:***

### ***Taxation 1 1998/99 – A Comprehensive Review***

(Aimed at Taxation 1 students.)

**Price:** \$70

### ***Taxation 1998 – Review for Practitioners***

(Contains additional content relevant to public practitioners. Qualifies for 25 continuing education credits.)

**Price:** CGAs \$110 Non Members \$125

Both CD-ROMs contain interactive modules and case studies reflecting Canadian tax rules. Links to applicable *Income Tax Act* sections are included for quick reference.

Written by Glen Schmidt, BA, FCGA and Shirley Lamarre, CEB, CGA, two of CGA Ontario's most popular lecturers and authors, these products provide updated information for the 1998 taxation season.

**Requirements:** Hardware: 386SX/25 or faster. Supports Windows 3.1, Windows 95 and Windows NT 3.5 and 4.0.

**Special offer! Order by February 8, 1999, and save \$10 off the above prices.**

Prices include all taxes and shipping charges.

Contact CGA Ontario's student services department for more information or to place an order.

**Tel:** 1-800-668-1454, ext. 222 **Fax:** (416) 322-7451 **E-mail:** tax1cd@cga-ontario.org