



Connections Newsletter

"keeping us all connected"

January/February 2012

Superintendent Lisa Carmichael Speaks on School Levy

The February 2nd meeting provided Ontario Local School Superintendent Lisa Carmichael the opportunity to present the need for the upcoming Renewal Levy to over 30 local business leaders in attendance. The levy is on the ballot for March 6, 2012 and is a renewal of the levy that was originally approved in 1992.

Carmichael joined the district last July, coming from Massillon City Schools. She shared that she has been frustrated by the lack of community involvement in the schools and cited a recent public meeting that resulted in zero attendance. "I had great things to report and nobody showed up to hear them", she stated.

At the OGA meeting, she distributed several handouts that included a basic information sheet, a volunteer form, and a worksheet showing the 2011/2012 forecast with expected revenue enhancements and expense reductions. Stressing that the renewal will not result in a

tax increase, she went over the main bullet points from the information sheet and highlighted what levy revenues currently fund.

Carmichael also referenced the forecast handout and discussed what has been done to cut expenditures. She pointed out that the district is only 4 teachers in excess of the state's *minimum* requirements and class sizes currently average 28 - 32 students. On the revenue side, she noted that the district is set to lose about \$4.1 million in state funding over the next 5 years. Other revenue streams needed to be explored, including the recent implementation of open enrollment. The move resulted in 115 new students and \$690,000 in revenue, but remains a controversial topic to some.

Anyone wanting more information, answers to questions or would like to volunteer to help the levy committee can contact the Treasurer or Superintendent at 419-747-4311.

Introducing the Ontario Growth Corporation

The Ontario Growth Association is proud to announce the creation of a new subsidiary namely the Ontario Growth Corporation to focus on local economic development. The newly formed Ontario Growth Corporation is a 501c-3 non-profit organization with the vision of creating a streamline, fast response, aggressive economic development team.

The new organization will consist of a five-person Board of Directors, Director, Deputy Director, Secretary/

Treasurer and an Advisory Board. The new organization will be funded through donations, grants and fundraising events. Since the Ontario Growth Corporation has a non-profit 501c-3 designation, donations are tax deductible.

Any company or person wishing to donate to this new economic development organization or wanting more information can contact Mark Weidemyre at 419-564-8214 or Fred Kohler at 419-632-4131.

2012 Worksite Wellness Conference

The Creating Healthy Communities project and several local employer representatives have been working throughout the fall to put together a Worksite Wellness Conference. The event is scheduled for March 15 at the Kehoe Center in Shelby.

This is a great opportunity for the local business community to come together with a focus on health and wellness, not only of their employees, but ultimately their businesses as well.

Karyl Price
Creating Healthy Communities
Project Coordinator
Mansfield Ontario Richland
County Health Department
419-774-4740

2012 OGA Officers

David Yaney, President
419-610-4286

Don Hipsher, Vice President
419-529-0177

Joe Sansalone Treasurer
419-747-2006
jsansalone@suttonbank.com

Melissa Carey, Secretary
419-747-7479

9th Annual OGA Banquet Held

The 9th Annual Ontario Growth Association Banquet was held on Tuesday, February 7th at the Ontario Event Center. There were nearly 55 people in attendance at the "Love is in the Air" themed event and they enjoyed a great evening of food and fellowship.

2011 OGA President Mark Weidemyre presented The President's Award to Jodi Scott of the Richland Mall and was then presented with a special award himself for his service and dedication to the organization.

Sutton Bank won the table decorating contest for the second year in a row with a Hot Air Balloon centerpiece that was inspired by the evening's theme. It included a hot-air balloon ride!

Mark Weidemyre won the 50/50 raffle and over eight items were won by various members during the Chinese Auction. Renee Steinmetz of Sutton Bank was the winner of the His and Hers Gift Basket valued at over \$150 provided by the Richland Mall.

Special Guest Speaker Frank Stumbo ended the night on an entertaining note, sharing stories from the early days of Ontario and explaining the incorporation process. Frank and his wife Betty just celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Tribune-Courier a few months ago and the OGA was honored that they could join us for the evening.

A special thank you to Don Hipsher and the Banquet Committee for putting together such a fun night!

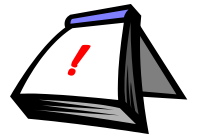


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Membership Reminder

Membership renewal forms were sent out to all existing members at the end of January. Thank you to everyone that has returned the renewal and paid the annual dues to date.



If you haven't received yours or need an invoice to process payment, call Jodi at 419-529-5312 or via email at jodi.scott@richlandmallshopping.com

Also, please take the time to make sure your contact information, including email address, is up-to-date to ensure you receive all mailings and announcements from the OGA.

Membership Drive

March is membership drive month and you can help! If we each do our part, we can almost double our membership simply by inviting one person to attend a meeting and consider joining us. Let us know if you need a membership packet or packets.

Mark The Date:

Thursday, February 23rd	OGA Board Meeting - 12 p.m.
Saturday, February 25th	American Red Cross Blood Drive - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Richland Mall 5 of 8 blood types are currently below sufficient levels. One donor can help save up to
Thursday, March 1st	OGA Regular Meeting - 8 a.m.
Saturday, March 3rd	Consumer Resource Fair presented by Catholic Charities - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Richland Mall Many FREE resources to help you protect your privacy, manage money &
Sunday, March 11	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Thursday, March 15th	Mansfield Area Chamber Business Expo - 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Richland County Fairgrounds Call 419-522-3211 for booth information.
Thursday, March 15th	Richland County 2012 Worksite Wellness Conference - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the James W. Kehoe Center in Shelby For more information, please contact Karyl Price, Creating Healthy Communities Project Coordinator for the Richland County Health Department at
Friday, March 23rd	Richland Newhope "Bringing the Elements Together" - 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. at The Richland Mall
Friday, March 30th	OGA Board Meeting - 12 p.m.
Thursday, April 5th	OGA Regular Meeting - 8 a.m.
Sunday, April 8th	Easter

Member News

✧ Recent ribbon-cutting ceremonies were held for new Ontario businesses **Shambaugh's, Ross Medical** and **Texas Roadhouse**. Welcome and congratulations to all!

✧ Condolences to **Jeff Kent** of **Swan Cleaners**. Jeff's mother Carol passed away on Feb 1st.

✧ Condolences to the family and friends of **Julius Broerman**. Julius, owner of **Oak Tree Golf Course**, unexpectedly passed away early this year.

✧ Continued thoughts and prayers go out to **Julie Kabbaz** and **Linda Fulmer** as they both are battling through the difficult journey of illness and recovery.

✧ **Doc Stumbo** and **Graham Automall** once again joined **The United Way** for the Dash to Goal on January 13th. The event raised \$103,620! The United Way just announced last week that they surpassed their goal of \$1.56 million!

Have news you want to share? Make sure Jodi receives it prior to the announced deadline. . .



"One of the secrets of life is to make stepping stones out of stumbling blocks."

Jack Penn ~ Surgeon, Sculptor & Author