



President's Report

W Patric Mackesy

Thank you for my acclamation as the 76th President of The Hamilton Law Association for the year May 31, 2018 to May 30, 2019. I am writing this editorial/informal during and after the FOLA conference.

The FOLA conference in Toronto (a two-day event) highlighted:

1. Real Estate – the advances in the Teraview system, updates to OREA and closing documents and Teraview tricks (call me for the web addresses), Statement 9185 of the Land Transfer Tax Form; advocacy – Land Specula-

tion Act lawyer obligations and Electronic Funds Transfer

2. Family Law – advocacy relative to paralegals, unbundled legal service ideas, and Unified Family Court

3. Libraries - promotion throughout Ontario to maintain law libraries

4. Contingency fees – advocacy

5. Advertising – advocacy

6. Paralegals – submission re criminal matters, small claims court (up to \$50,000.00) and family court – 1,000/year being graduated

7. Legal Aid Ontario – advocating its advancement and funding (the immigration flood blew the increased budget allocated), on February 28, 2018, the federal government press release says a further 100 million dollars was allocated for refugee issues

8. Licencing issues – John Krawchenko is the local person to advise as to your views. I urge you to go to FOLA website (www.fola.ca) and then the subsections to see in depth changes and advances, and policy positions.

I am a big fan of FOLA despite the fact that my partner, Michael Winward, will be the chair.

The Ministry of the Attorney General Innovation Office presented advances in place and to come: virtual appearance situations are increasing, WiFi in court rooms in base courthouses, electronic scheduling, discovery in criminal cases through Scope, *Provincial Offences Act* Online Services (only Municipal offences at the moment), online dispute resolution, guided pathways for Family Law (58 paths), Integrated Case Management (on line - presently in Commercial Court), and Civil Claims online features (ONE-key).

We then heard from Ross Earnshaw from Kitchener-Waterloo, Jacqueline Horvat from Windsor and Malcolm Mercer from Toronto who are the candidates for the office of Treasurer of the Law Society of Ontario (now offered as of May 10, 2018 by legislation).

There was a wonderful presentation by Dan Pininnington of LawPro. The average number of claims within the profession is 11.3% or 113 per 1000 lawyers, and 80% of all claims are resolved without indemnification. An incident report does not necessarily trigger the deductible. The Ministry of Transportation has a website where you can validate driver's licences which are easily forged. LawPro has an outstanding website full of advice and experiential data on cyber fraud and best practice. It also has Excess

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CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

July 4, 2018

Insurance coverage available to the profession at reasonable prices. Take a look at their site. I also recommend you visit Advocate Daily.com as an easy way to keep up on current law and issues.

In April, The Hamilton Law Association conducted a food drive which raised 245 lbs of food and \$1,937.00 cash. Proceeds of both cash and food went to St. Matthews House.

On May 8, 2018, as chair of the New Lawyers' Subcommittee, I attended the Lawyers That Care event at which \$5,750.00 was donated to 3 charities – Neighbour to Neighbour Hamilton, Hamilton Feed the Hungry and the Hamilton Imagination Library (a Dolly Parton charity).

As Vice-President, I was rewarded with the chairmanship of the New Lawyers subcommittee, which is a very vibrant group with a lively agenda of activities. I would be remiss without thanking the committee members: Lacey Bazoian (vice-chair), Laura Dixon, Hussein Kudrati, Danielle Lacours, Erica Lamont, Paul Ingrassia, Gregory Mallia, Jordan Diacur, Caroline Mowat, Samuel Nash, Roksana Pawlowski, Zach Peachey, Whitney Smith and Kevin Fernandes. Also thanks to our staff organizer, Rebecca Lane.

On May 1st and 2nd the trustees of The Hamilton Law Association met at Long Point Eco Adventures for the usual 5 year strategic planning meeting. New objects were hammered out:

1. Attracting, growing and supporting a diverse, equitable and inclusive membership and volunteer base.
2. At the discretion of the Trustees, identify, analyze and disseminate professional matters to the profession.
3. At the discretion of the Trustees, to represent the HLA to other organizations related to professional matters.
4. Continue to provide relevant and

high quality professional and practice management resources for our members for each stage of their career.

5. Promote a positive image of HLA members in the Hamilton and broader communities.

While suggestions for carrying out each goal were discussed, we did not have time to commit to a detailed plan of action for each of these objectives. This will be dealt with at either a special trustee meeting or as an add-on to a scheduled meeting. These ideas were generated from the survey conducted in mid-February.

The Board of Trustees, Association staff and I have a good deal of work ahead of us regarding our new strategic goals for our members; I look forward to working with our many volunteers to help enable our members to benefit from the outcome of our combined efforts. I welcome the chance to meet and get to know many of you over the next 12 months so please introduce yourself at our many upcoming Hamilton Law Association functions if we have not yet had the pleasure of meeting.

Finally, just a friendly reminder from the Regional Senior Justice and Local Administrative Justice offices to all counsel: if you settle a case that is currently on the trial list, please notify the trial-coordinator immediately.

Many thanks to Rob Hooper for his many hours of non-billable time devoted to the HLA and its advancement. A job well done. ■

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