



President's Report

Mark Giavedoni

I am writing this article on the first hot sunny day following what seems to be a three-week period of rain and grey skies. The sun, and very likely summertime itself, has finally made its arrival. The break in rain also offered an opportunity to get back outside and enjoy the outdoors. So much of our day-to-day is indoors: at our desks, on the phone, on email, in the boardroom, in the courtroom... but on this day, I was exceedingly pleased to have ventured outdoors and seen several people

that I had not seen in what seems like an eternity.

Needless to say, we spent a great time updating each other on life and the events of things since we had last spoken. It was wonderful and got me thinking how fortunate we are to be in such a community where we can run into people over and over again but still socialize in a very meaningful and renewed way. We see the people with whom we practice frequently; we call up our colleagues and we have questions that need answers. But what about those who we only see on occasion, such as at the annual Hamilton Lawyers' Club picnic (which was held this year on June 20th at Dyments Farm and was another great success, mainly because there was very little talk of the law but more personal and social interaction). Those exchanges are very important to our wellbeing. Being with others and making personal connections keep us going. Sure, you may get a referral or complementary accolade, but these connections are what helps us feel fulfilled and supported. It's

the foundation of a thriving community and a pillar of what forms our great Association.

This year, The Hamilton Law Association celebrates its 140th anniversary. We held a luncheon with the History Committee on June 14, 2019 where John Ayre discussed the first forty years of our Association. It is interesting, and not entirely surprising, that the themes and issues encountered then are still familiar now: thoughtful response to legislative and social reform; forming a collective of like-minded professionals; maintaining a network and resource for lawyers. It was those themes and passion for the law and our community that saw the Association form 140 years ago; what makes us united 140 years later is that same passion that drive to be involved, supported and heard.

There is a constant interconnection between the HLA, the Judiciary, government, our members and our clients where we sit at the center of a local, provincial and national movement to enhance the way that we practice law and to elevate our voices, collectively in many cases, support the practice of law that is uniquely Hamilton. We must never lose sight of that and foster it wherever we can.

In This Issue

| | |
|---|----|
| President's Report..... | 1 |
| Executive Director's Report..... | 4 |
| Librarian's Report..... | 6 |
| Swearing In Speech..... | 8 |
| EstatesandTrustsUpdate..... | 12 |
| Trademark Law Update..... | 13 |
| Corporate & Commercial Law Update | 14 |
| RealEstateLawUpdate..... | 18 |
| Family Law Update..... | 22 |
| NewLawyers'Update..... | 24 |
| History Update..... | 26 |
| Bankruptcy Law Update..... | 28 |
| Criminal Law News..... | 32 |
| Classifieds | 36 |
| Calendar of Events | 37 |

continued on page 3



HLA Journal

The Hamilton Law Association exists to enable its members to become successful, respected and fulfilled in their profession.

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One way to enhance our sense of community is to go out and meet those members, just as I did this summer's day. I challenge each of you to dedicate one lunch each month to calling up a lawyer you may not otherwise would meet in a regular professional setting. It may be that you litigate family matters and do not routinely interact with real estate lawyers. Pick one. Call one. Have a lunch. You would be very surprised by the nature of the conversation, the people you may mutually know and how you can be a resource to each other in ways you never thought possible. Hamilton has been hailed as a City big enough to do top-tier business but small enough to know everyone in it. There is truth to the compliment. If each of us does this over the course of the next three months, I'm sure we will have a very interesting and dynamic winter.

We strive to keep on top of the various issues that impact our Association and its members both substantively, regarding updates in the law, and matters affecting practice. Last year we instituted the new role of Professional Issues Chair whose inaugural champion was Andrew Keesmaat of Agro Zaffiro LLP. Andrew did a stellar job in this role and I thank him for his efforts. This term, Laura Dickson has assumed the role of Professional Issues Chair and has instantly taken to it with key issues such as a Call for Comment on rule changes, implications on cuts to legal aid funding and keeping abreast of legislative changes that impact how we practice law. The Association continues to be in good hands.

We do need to focus on how we communicate with each other. It is no longer uncommon for us to have received an email, followed by a voicemail, followed by a fax, all on the same topic (occasionally all with the same message). People have always had a lot to say but now there are more ways for them to say it, creating more white noise to the point that it has become problematic to communicate effectively. I welcome you to

reach out to the Association's Executive Team on issues or questions that you have. Substantive questions can be referred to the Chair or Vice Chair of the respective subcommittees of the Association. Use them as a resource. We can look to build communication efficiencies through group lists, where appropriate. We are investigating these so that your comments can be heard, your questions answered and your thoughts shared more frequently on issues of importance across a broader or narrower sector of the membership.

The HLA Journal has always been a way to help the membership communicate with each other. We are inviting your comments through a survey on the functionality of the HLA Journal so that we can ensure that it remains a helpful tool to help you communicate and to receive communication from the Association.

Remember, this is your Association and it has to work for you. The way we communicate helps us to advocate and, in turn, builds our community. We need to make the next 140 years even better. To start, I'm about to place a call to organize a lunch with someone I haven't seen in a long time. ■

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