

## Executive Summary

Dear Colleagues,

The lazy days of summer are over and we're into the hustle and bustle of fall. The campus returns to full service mode and you can feel the energy in the air. Regardless of the number of years you are a member of the York community, the fall is a time of renewal, patience and satisfaction.

While the pace may be hectic, the Executive, the Committee Chairs and Committee members are contributing their time, efforts and talents to creating and implementing new initiatives. We have a number of successful accomplishments to date and we will continue to provide you with new information and activities. Here are sample appetizers from the committees:

- Fast Track Information sessions and new social event (Program)
- a new CPMEA information brochure (Handbook)
- enhanced newsletter articles and improved CPMEA Web site (Communication)
- directional and informational tips for new hires (Membership)
- valuable guidelines and updates on Health and Safety (Health and Safety)
- review of standard operating procedures that relate to employment standards (Employment Policy Equity)
- reports from Pan university representatives (Pension, Retirement, York University Development)

We are pleased to be part of such a dynamic group of CPMEA members and the CPMEA community. We appreciate all your positive comments in support of our efforts and thank you for being caring, contributing, and supportive members.

We will be in touch very soon. In the meantime, smile and be proud for we offer our very best professional support to this incredible institution of higher learning and research.

Jane Crescenzi, Steve Dewar, Lillian Nasello, Rose Orlando, Sean Squires

## SeePMEA

### Profile of Your CPM Executive



Steve Dewar has been with York University in the Office of the Comptroller for the past seven years. Prior to going York, Steve held various financial positions at several companies, including Imperial Oil, Altamira Investment Services and his own consulting service for Not for Profit organizations. Steve is a chartered accountant and holds an Honours degree in Business from Queens University in Kingston, Ontario. Steve was born in Toronto. His first job was delivering the Toronto Star.

We asked Steve, "What are some of your accomplishments at York?" Steve quickly replied that he firmly believed many of his accomplishments could be attributed to his great staff, who work well supporting the York Community, new chart of accounts, a reliable and distributed reporting system – eReports.

Steve's dream if he won the Lotto would be to travel, with an endless supply of good food and a golf course around every corner. As Steve sees it, "Good luck comes from an investment in a lot of hard work" and "Every day above ground is a good day". He attributes many of his successes to the support he receives from his wife.

# The Accolade Project

By Susan Miller

It has been six months since the University celebrated the opening of The Accolade Project. From the boldly red CIBC Lobby to their many functional aspects, the Accolade buildings are certainly worthy of our attention.

The Accolade Project is a huge accomplishment for York. According to its website, the premise originated 35 years ago with the concept of a Faculty of Fine Arts, the first in Canada, bringing all the fine arts disciplines together.

Accolade East combines rehearsal, performance and exhibition facilities with academic space, while Accolade West is predominantly classroom and lab areas. Within their 33,000 square meters, these two buildings boast a recital hall with integrated recording studio, a 500 seat cinema, and house both a new student art gallery and the nationally renowned Art Gallery of York University. In addition, Accolade East is home to York's first proscenium theatre, complete with orchestra pit.



Accolade East Building exterior

In addition to providing much-needed space on campus, it is clear that great efforts were taken to ensure that every student who chooses to is able to fully participate. With the exception of the catwalk in the proscenium theatre, all areas of the buildings are entirely accessible to people with disabilities.



York student dancers in "Draw a Bicycle" (2006) - Holly Small, choreographer. Photo: Brendan Turner

Not only will these new facilities encourage our students to excel, they provide a venue for the York community to support our students while enjoying a film, play, dance performance or concert. Upcoming productions and events can be found on York's event website at [www.yorku.ca/yuevents](http://www.yorku.ca/yuevents).

According to Brigitte Kleer, Manager, Public Relations & Special Projects with the Faculty of Fine Arts, Accolade is making an enormous difference to Fine Arts and is bound to become a cultural destination within the city.

## Restaurant Review – Villaggio Ristorante

By Melanie Sparkes

The restaurant is housed in a Victorian style unit with old world charm however once you walk through the front doors you are welcomed into a classic décor with dark woods mixed with modern touches of stainless steel and elegant punches of colour displayed in accessories throughout.

When planning a night out at Villaggio an appetite and good company are requirements. The menu boasts a wide variety of generously sized antipasto, pasta and meat and fish dishes. If you crave traditional Italian fare, or if you crave unique and fresh combinations, you will not be disappointed. The craftsmanship and the fresh ingredients that go into each dish are obvious from the time the dish is presented to the time the final bite is taken. To provide a recommendation of certain dishes over others would be not only difficult but unfair to the menu. Some personal favourites are the calamari, lightly battered and fried, the rigatoni with Portobello mushrooms in a mushroom sauce and any of the veal dishes. If you want everything on the menu but just can't decide, a suggestion is to order the appetizer portion of the pasta as a side to the main meat or fish dish. This will allow for full enjoyment of all the courses without missing anything. For those with larger appetites, the pastas can be ordered in dinner portions alongside the main dish. To accompany the meal, Villaggio offers a large wine selection. From the novice to the expert, there is something to please all palates.

Specialty and dessert coffees are available, from regular coffee to cappuccinos, and are a perfect ending to the meal. For the more adventurous, try the chocolate or fruit flavoured grappa, available year round.

Those that have a sweet tooth have come to the right place; Villaggio makes most of its own desserts in house and the quality is evident. The tiramisu and the cheesecake are personal favourites, but like the dinner menu, a bad choice cannot be made from any of the selections.

Villaggio Ristorante is located at 110 Nashville Road, at Hwy. 27. Reservations are highly suggested, especially on weekends, as the restaurant often sells out. For reservations or more information call 905-893-4888.

## Reflecting on Congress

By Wendy Drahovzal



Last summer I did not know much about the Congress; it was a term I heard mentioned in a few meetings, an event to be held at York the next spring. That all started to change after I first met with Cindy Bettcher (Director, Division of Continuing Education, Atkinson) and Deborah Hahn (Senior Manager, Hospitality York) in late August 2005.

At our first meeting Cindy and Deborah explained their role in organizing the Congress at York (Cindy being the project manager, Deborah the logistics convenor). They communicated the requirement to fulfill York's part of the Federation mandate to have all Congress forms online for 2006. The Congress is an annual event for the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. While some forms were to be developed by the Federation's own resources, York became responsible for room allocation, audio-visual and catering requests online, and for providing a secure, password protected place for the forms to reside and to be accessed on the Congress website. This setup required close collaboration between the Federation, Computing & Network Services (CNS) and Information Technology Services (ITS) Web team, all coordinated by Cindy and Deborah. All our contacts, the many meetings, phone calls and emails, were conducted in a great atmosphere of cooperation, camaraderie and humor, yet no details were spared and no issues overlooked.

As time went by, I realized the magnitude of the event: after 37 years, the 75<sup>th</sup> Congress came back to York, creating an opportunity to showcase a variety of academic and non-academic aspects and achievements of the institution. As the Congress drew closer, I became in a sense an ambassador of



the event to our department, giving regular updates on the Congress preparations and progress, making sure that everyone got their "Welcome to York" button. I felt elated that I was able to participate in and contribute to this event, and I heard the same feeling resonating in the feedback of my logistic team colleagues.

I came to understand that working out the online forms was just a minor detail in the whole scheme of things. Cindy and Deborah had to confront and resolve a variety of issues that included communications, accommodation, campus banners and signage, connectivity and equipment, catering, transportation, sponsorship, book fair in York Lanes, research gallery in Scott Library, hiring students, organizing volunteers, arranging the beer tent, securing a contract for conference tote bags from Toronto's Somali organization...to name just a few. They did have the assistance and support of the logistic team with representatives from all York stakeholders, but they did it all while continuing their day job. As I watched Deborah and Cindy over the months, I began to wonder, how did they do it?, how did they handle it all still with grace and humor? And how did they cope with the unexpected, i.e. the TTC wildcat strike? And finally, how after all the months of planning and coordinating came to fruition, did they go back to life without Congress?

At the time when Cindy and Deborah completed their report on the Congress 2006 to the Federation, I approached them with my questions. Cindy and Deborah, together with Joseph Sanguedolce (Manager, Custodial Services, Facilities) who – they expressed – was instrumental in the Congress organizational success, provided their collective answers.

How did you do it, how did you manage to handle it all?

"The success of the Congress was based largely on the incredible York team! We had the privilege of working with a logistics team that included pan-university representation of key departments on campus. The team recognized the importance of the Congress to York, and the implications of the success of the event on York's reputation within the academic community in Canada. Each member of the logistics team contributed her/his expertise and the requisite departmental/university resources. There was an unprecedented level of York community based support for this initiative.

The Congress was seen as an opportunity to showcase the physical campus, the strength of the university's academic and research program, and the contribution of staff pan-university. The Academic Convenor's message that Congress was York's "coming of age" and an opportunity for York "to shine" resonated with the York community. The message was delivered to every staff and faculty member on campus, from the Board of Governors to the custodial staff. The message proved to be both meaningful and motivational.

The teams approach was also guided by a customer-focused service delivery model. A "we can do it" attitude permeated every aspect of the Congress."

How did you cope with the unexpected?

"During the unexpected events (including a tornado warning and rain/wind storm causing tent shut down and black out in residences; 40 degree humidex on three days leading to air conditioning failure; transit strike, etc.) the "we can do it" attitude switched to "just do it". Again, the York team rose to the challenges that were presented. For example, during the TTC strike, transportation deployed shuttle buses to provide transportation to the off campus hotels and airport; York staff were picking up delegates across town (because they recognized the Congress bag) and driving them to campus; we worked with various on campus stakeholders to relay information, etc. The York community mobilized resources to respond to these challenges.

Another factor that contributed to our ability to respond to the unexpected was to have clearly defined areas of responsibilities and to have the involvement of representatives on the Logistics Team that had decision-making authority. Team members were empowered by their departments and the Congress Office to resolve problems and issues as they arose. This made a very considerable contribution to the overall success of the event."

Life After Congress....

"Although the event was over on June 4th, the work related to the Congress continues. The Final Report to the Federation is in the final stages and will go to print over the coming week. The financial reports to each society have been sent, and the work to confirm/verify invoices is underway. As well, we continue to respond to inquiries from next year's Congress host, and prospective hosts. However, this work is made easier knowing that we did an excellent job on the Congress 2006! And have raised the bar for other universities and subsequent Congresses. Finally, the legacy of Congress at York is that we rose to the challenge and created a very strong sense of community. "

*CPMEA Communications Committee*

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