

Leaders & Learners



CASSA-ACGCS
Promoting Quality Education for Our Students

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 59
SEPTEMBER 2014

IN THIS ISSUE:

PAGE 2
PRECONFERENCE FUN
Banff and Columbia Icefields.

PAGE 3
OPENING RECEPTION
True western hospitality.

PAGE 5
2014 EXL AWARDS
Brent Kaulback named Canadian Superintendent of the Year.

PAGE 7
STAMPEDE PARADE
William Shatner and more!

PAGE 8
BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Inspiring speakers and topics.

PAGE 11
PARTNERS' DINNER
Strengthening the relationships.

PAGE 15
SPONSORS' BOOTHS
Engaging and interacting.

PAGE 18
BARN TOURS AND WAGON RACES
Meeting world-champion chuckwagon drivers and horses.

AND MORE!

The 2014 CASSA Annual Conference: Meaningful Engagement in Calgary

BEST NUMBERS EVER: That's one of the takeaways from this year's CASSA conference in Calgary, Alberta. Just over 200 regular delegates took part, as well as 43 principals from Alberta (sponsored by that province's Minister of Education) and six members of the Minister's Student Advisory Council (four students and two Alberta Education supervisors).

In recent years, there has been a concerted effort to bring more sponsoring partners to the conference, and 2014 saw an impressive 52 sponsor staff in attendance.

This effort hasn't been just to put a warm body in front of a display booth. CASSA executive have worked hard to fully engage sponsor staff throughout the conference weekend. This year, those efforts included the sponsors' passport program, the popular Partners' Dinner and invitations for a behind-the-scenes tour of the barns at the Calgary Stampede before that evening's chuckwagon races.

The sincere testimonials given by sponsors at the Partners' Dinner is a sign of the strength of CASSA's relationships with them.

See you next year in Montreal!



On top of the world: Cindy Finn, Della Graham, Gail Somerville and Michael Chechile on a preconference trip to the Columbia Icefields.

OUR PURPOSE

CASSA is the Canadian organization of school system leaders that promotes and supports quality education for the success of all students.

OUR MISSION

CASSA strengthens the capacity of school system leaders and influences the directions that impact education and student learning.

Preconference Activities: Sunshine and Snow in Alberta's Rocky Mountains



A highlight of this year's preconference tours was a one-day excursion to the Columbia Icefields and Banff. With amazing weather and breathtaking lookouts all along the route, this was indeed a memory-making trip.

Clockwise from top left:

1. (Back row) David and Teri Pennington, Taf Lounsbury, Cindy Finn, Dennis Jenkins.
(Front row) Mary Donaghy, Sandy Clee, Gail Somerville, Jodie Barrett.
2. Joy Badder and Della Graham.
3. Sandy Clee, Taf Lounsbury and Joy Badder.
4. Michael Chechile and Della Graham take a selfie in front of a huge glacier.

Experiencing True Western Hospitality in Calgary: Thursday Night Opening Reception



Clockwise from top left:

1. Theresa Harris (OCSOA executive director) and Nick Milanetti (Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board).
2. Outgoing president Roger Nippard laughs with Theresa Harris.
3. The conference saw CASSA's best registration numbers ever, as can be seen from this shot of a full ballroom at the opening night reception at the Coast Plaza Hotel in Calgary, Alberta.
4. Craig Foley (Calgary Catholic School District) and Norm Yanitski (Black Gold Regional Schools).
5. Roger Nippard, fresh off an overseas flight, offers a few words to introduce Alberta's Minister of Education Jeff Johnson.
6. Minister Johnson delivers the evening's keynote address.



Experiencing True Western Hospitality in Calgary: Thursday Night Opening Reception, continued



Clockwise from top left:

1. Lining up for the amazing reception buffet.
2. First-class service all the way.
3. Roy Ripkens (Northern Lights School Division) and Erin Danforth (Mother Earth's Children's Charter School) chat during the reception dinner.
4. Billy Melville shares a few country tunes.
5. Dr. Doug Willms, the night's second keynote speaker.
6. Time to kick up your heels and rosin up the bow.



Recognizing Excellence in Education Leadership: The 2014 CASSA EXL Awards



Left to right: The 2014 EXL Award nominees Joanne Bénard (OCSOA nominee), Craig Foley (CASS nominee), Michael Chechile (AAESQ nominee) and Brent Kaulback (NWTSA nominee) with Randy Brydges of Xerox. Not shown is OPSOA nominee Cathi Siemienuik.

IT IS WITH great pleasure that *Leaders & Learners* announces the 2014 Canadian Superintendent of the Year is **Brent Kaulback**. Brent is the winner of this year's Xerox Excellence in Educational Leadership Award, also known as the EXL Award.

Five superintendents were nominated for the award:

- **Brent Kaulback**, assistant superintendent of Student Achievement for the South Slave Divisional Education Council
- **Joanne Bénard**, director of education for the Sudbury Catholic District School Board and former superintendent of education for the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board
- **Craig Foley**, superintendent of human resources for Calgary Catholic School District
- **Michael Chechile**, director of educational services for the Lester B. Pearson School Board
- **Cathi Siemienuik**, recently retired director of education for Lakehead District School Board

Randy Brydges, director of Xerox–Western Canada Operations, was on hand to present the awards at a ceremony on July 3. The ceremony took place at the Coast Plaza Hotel in Calgary, Alberta. CASSA is extremely grateful to Randy and the entire Xerox team for their longtime support of the award.

The EXL Award, sponsored by Xerox Canada, is awarded to the CASSA member who has exhibited exemplary leadership ability and who has enhanced the profession of school administration throughout their career. The award has been presented since 2002. Winners also receive honorary life memberships to CASSA.

The Canadian Superintendent of the Year is also recognized at the annual American Association of School Administrators (AASA) conference, where the American Superintendent of the Year is selected. The 2015 AASA conference will take place in San Diego next February.

Consideration for this award is given to administrators nominated by their provincial associations who

- are seen to have brought honour to themselves, to their colleagues and to their profession
- have given exemplary service to their provincial or national professional association
- have made significant contributions to the field of education through their service, writings or other activities
- serve as a role model and teacher to others

Brent Kaulback has spent the last 30 years working in education, including the last 20 in administration. He has increased student achievement through the Leading for Literacy Initiative. Brent has published over 200 Aboriginal language books, including three Aboriginal dictionaries,

Recognizing Excellence in Education Leadership: The 2014 CASSA EXL Awards, continued

numerous children's books, graphic novels, and stories and legends as told by Elders.

Brent was a keynote speaker at two conferences, including a symposium for social change in South Africa. He has also been invited to speak at five other national and international conferences.

He is the recipient of the Indspire Guiding the Journey Award—Indigenous Education Partner, the Institute of Public Administrators of Canada/Deloitte Public Sector Leadership Award and the Canadian Aboriginal Music Award for Best Rap/Hip Hop Music Video.

Brent is also an inductee into the Northwest Territories Education Hall of Fame. He has been awarded the South Slave Lake Excellence in Teaching Award and the Good Neighbour Award from the premier of Ontario.

He is the accomplished author of 10 publications and is very active in a number of associations in the Northwest Territories. As noted in his nomination papers, Brent is seen as a consensus builder and as someone who seeks to embrace differing opinions to arrive at solutions accepted by all.

Brent was educated at Wilfred Laurier University (BA), Brock University (B.Ed) and Harvard University (M.Ed). He first started teaching in the north in 1976, in Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories.

This is not the first time in recent years that the nominee from the NWTSA has been



CASSA's 2014 EXL Award winner Brent Kaulback, the nominee from the NWTSA.

named the national winner (**Curtis Brown** was a co-winner in 2011). It is, however, the first time that an assistant superintendent has received the EXL Award. Brent has served as assistant superintendent for the South Slave Divisional Education Council since 2008.

Two longtime CASSA members (and familiar faces to many conference delegates) were also presented with honorary life memberships at the ceremony: **Kath Rhyason** and **Ed Wittchen**. This award is meant to honour individuals who have contributed significantly to CASSA.

Congratulations to Brent, Kath and Ed, and to all of the nominees for the EXL Award—you've set the bar high for your colleagues across the country.



CASSA's 2014 Honorary Life Membership Award co-winners (and longtime friends and colleagues) Ed Wittchen and Kath Rhyason.

Raise Your Hat and Say “Yahoo!”: Friday Morning at the Calgary Stampede Parade



Above: Lisa Mills, Michael Chechille, Della Graham and Teri Pennington, ready for the Calgary Stampede parade.

Below: One of the many First Nation women riding horses and displaying beautiful, colourful regalia in the parade.



Top: World Professional Chuckwagon Association (WPCA) driver Jason Johnstone waves as he drives the wagon normally driven by his dad, Reg Johnstone, also a WPCA driver.

Centre: The 2014 Parade Marshal, actor William Shatner.

Bottom: Calgary's beloved mayor Naheed Nenshi.

Engaging Students—Making a Difference: Breakout Sessions on Friday and Saturday



Taking notes with tablets, smartphones and paper notepads during one of the breakout sessions.



Session by Dr. Glenn Feltham (CEO of Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and chair for the Task Force for Teaching Excellence).



Marcie Brennan (Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board) leads a morning session.



David Woloshyn (executive director of the Program Delivery Sector of Alberta Education) takes notes.



Former CASSA president Jim Gibbons (centre) isn't just dressing up for Stampede—he actually knows how to rope and ride.



Spencer Pinnock (left), learning coach, and John Wiedrick, principal of Glenmary School (Holy Family Catholic Regional Division).

Engaging Students—Making a Difference: Breakout Sessions on Friday and Saturday, continued



Clockwise from top left:

1. Tablets proved more popular than paper notepads at this year's conference in Calgary.
2. Lucie Roy (Riverside School Board, based in Montreal).
3. CASSA executive director Ken Bain welcomes incoming 2014–2016 president Cindy Finn.
4. Western wear was quite popular at the conference.
5. Ed Wittchen, Kath Rhyason, Lourene Cork and Marion Holmes hard at work.
6. The hotel's western display.



Engaging Students—Making a Difference: Breakout Sessions on Friday and Saturday, continued



Clockwise from top left:

1. Sheila Klublek (Maximus).
2. Chris Smeaton (Holy Spirit Catholic School Division).
3. Carol Speers (Peel District School Board).
4. Mike Black (Calgary Board of Education).
5. Peter Joshua and Nancy Radojevic (Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board).
6. John Wiedrick (Holy Family Catholic Regional Division).



Friday Night Partners' Dinner with CASSA Sponsors: A Time to Reflect On and Build Relationships



Clockwise from top left:

1. Yahoo! It's a three-hat salute.
2. Kath Rhyason addresses the room.
3. Andrew Min and Nicole McCarthy, two of the students from the Alberta Minister of Education's Student Advisory Council.
4. Ken Bain.
5. Cindy Finn.
6. Malcolm McCance (ImagineLearning).



Friday Night Partners' Dinner with CASSA Sponsors: A Time to Reflect On and Build Relationships, continued



Above: Brenda Langburt (Blackboard), Marcel Gagne (Wintergreen) and Pierre-Alexandre Germain (SMART).
Right: Brent Kaulback and Metro Huculak (Yellowknife Education District).



From left: Former CASSA president Bob Mills, Teri Pennington, Lisa Mills and current AASA president David Pennington.



Anne O'Brien (Durham Catholic District School Board) and Jeff Clarke (Morneau Shepell).



Malcolm McCance (ImagineLearning) and Barry Litun (CASS).



Dave MacLeod (Thoughtexchange) and Bob Mills (Lester B. Pearson School Board).

Friday Night Partners' Dinner with CASSA Sponsors: A Time to Reflect On and Build Relationships, continued

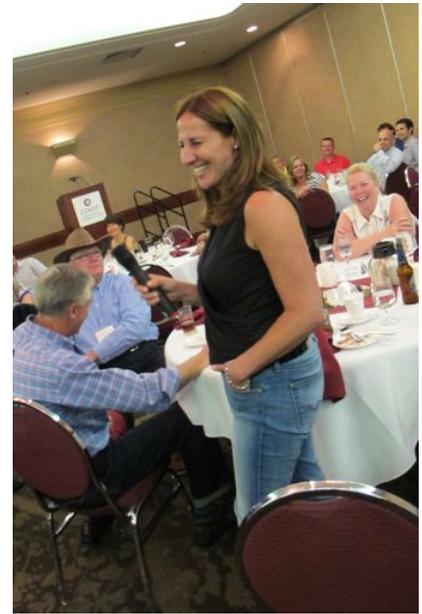


Clockwise from top left:

1. David MacLeod (Thoughtexchange).
2. Kevin Skelcher (Thoughtexchange).
3. Mark Fester (School Appointments).
4. Randy Brydges and Roger Nippard.
5. Brent Kaulback.
6. Doreen Lupaschuk (Alberta Education).
7. Geneviève Chasse (Elections Canada).



Friday Night Partners' Dinner with CASSA Sponsors: A Time to Reflect On and Build Relationships, continued



Clockwise from top left:

1. The entire room gives a standing ovation to Marion Holmes of PD Pros in recognition of all the hard work she has put into helping to produce successful conferences. The 2014 conference in Calgary was the last one Marion will work on for CASSA.
2. Brenda Langburt (Blackboard) takes a turn at the mic to talk about the relationships shared by CASSA and its conference sponsors.
3. Kath Rhyason and Cindy Finn record a video message for former CASSA president Carol Gray.
4. Philip Geiger (MAXIMUS).
5. Bob Mills brings the house down with his typical wit and humour, and extends an invitation to attend next year's conference in his hometown of Montreal.



CASSA Delegates and Sponsors Interacting and Engaging at the Conference Sponsors Display Booths



Michael Hayward at the Wintergreen booth.



Malcolm McCance at the ImagineLearning booth.



Philip Geiger at the MAXIMUS booth.



Mark Fester at the School Appointments booth.



Kevin Andrea (Northern Gateway School Division) visits Dave MacLeod at the Thoughtexchange booth (left) and Geneviève Chasse at the Elections Canada booth (right).

CASSA Delegates and Sponsors Interacting and Engaging at the Conference Sponsors Display Booths, continued



Above: Michael Hayward and Erin Danforth.
Right: Former CASSA president Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells talks with Geneviève Chasse (Elections Canada).



Carol Ann MacDonald (Grande Prairie Public School District) and Brenda Langburt (Blackboard).



Kim Bell (Lightspeed Technologies Inc.) and Cynthia Elston (Riverside School Board).



Jeremy Baisch (Barager Systems) talks to a crowd during one of the scheduled breaks.



Wintergreen president Michael Hayward with wife Natalie and their adorable daughter Willow.

CASSA Delegates and Sponsors Interacting and Engaging at the Conference Sponsors Display Booths, continued



Clockwise from top left:

1. Philip Geiger, senior vice president of MAXIMUS K-12 Education, at the MAXIMUS display booth with Nicole McCarthy, one of the students from the Alberta Minister of Education's Student Advisory Council.
2. Neil Schuler (Thoughtexchange).
3. Malcolm McCance (ImagineLearning) and Cindy Finn.
4. Theresa Harris (OCSSOA) and Loretta Notten (Toronto Catholic District School Board) with Mark Fester (School Appointments).
5. Metro Huculak visits the staff at the MAXIMUS display booth.
6. Lea Scherck (Thoughtexchange) listens in at a breakout session.



Barn Tours and Wagon Races: Saturday Night at the Calgary Stampede



Clockwise from top left:

1. Twelve-time world champion chuckwagon driver Kelly Sutherland, known for giving race fans the thumbs-up sign, poses in his Calgary Stampede barn with CASSA delegates on a private behind-the-scenes tour before the races begin.
2. Kelly Sutherland's wagon. Notice the distinctive red feather and hat painted at the back. Kelly is also known for wearing a cowboy hat with a long feather during a race.
3. Sue Fraser, wife of 2013 World Professional Chuckwagon Association world champion chuckwagon driver Rick Fraser, talks to CASSA delegates.
4. Visiting the barns.
5. Third-generation driver Rae Croteau, Jr.'s rainbow wagon.
6. Ed Wittchen visiting one of the equine stars of the sport.



Barn Tours and Wagon Races: Saturday Night at the Calgary Stampede, continued



Above: WPCA driver Doug Irvine, the 2008 Ponoka Stampede champion driver, answers questions about chuckwagon racing. CASSA delegates who took part in the barn tours were able to meet a number of drivers.



Above: Jimmi Lou Irvine, an educator, former trick rider, mother of three and wife to driver Doug Irvine, talks horses with new wagon fans. Jimmi Lou is also the recipient of the 2014 Ty Tournier Memorial Award, which recognizes women who are involved and dedicated to the sport of chuckwagon racing and display nurturing and caring of people and horses.



Clockwise from middle left:

1. WPCA driver Gary Gorst hands out autographed trading cards to CASSA delegates on a private barn tour. Gary started driving in 1970 and was the 2010 Canadian Professional Chuckwagon Association champion. He also took 13 CPCA show titles in a five-year stretch before moving up to the WPCA in 2012. He's known as one of the friendliest drivers on the tour, and he graciously took time to explain the technical side of racing chuckwagons and caring for horses.
2. Gary poses with Neil Wrubleski and Kim Bell.
3. Gary poses with Betty and Norm Yanitski beside his black and silver chuckwagon. It's safe to say Gary probably made a few new wagon fans and friends that day.



Barn Tours and Wagon Races: Saturday Night at the Calgary Stampede, continued



Clockwise from top left:

1. Kim Bell and Neil Wrubleski dance to Old Crow Medicine Show's "Wagon Wheel" following the Saturday night chuckwagon races.
2. A view of the Calgary Stampede Grandstand where some of the CASSA delegates watched the chuckwagon races.
3. "And they're off!!" That's the famous call when the chuckwagons start their race by burning around a set of two barrels before they thunder down the track. On the left forefront racing his distinctive black and silver wagon is Gary Gorst.
4. Doug Irvine drives his outfit onto the track to greet the crowd before his heat.
5. Dave MacLeod and Norm Yanitski take a selfie with Spierman, one of 2013 world champion Rick Fraser's best horses. Spierman was named the champion right leader horse for the WPCA Equine Outfit of Excellence in 2013.



CONTACT CASSA

1123 Glenashton Drive
Oakville, ON
L6H 5M1
Canada

T: (905) 845-2345
F: (905) 845-2044

ken_bain@cassa-acgcs.ca

www.cassa-acgcs.ca

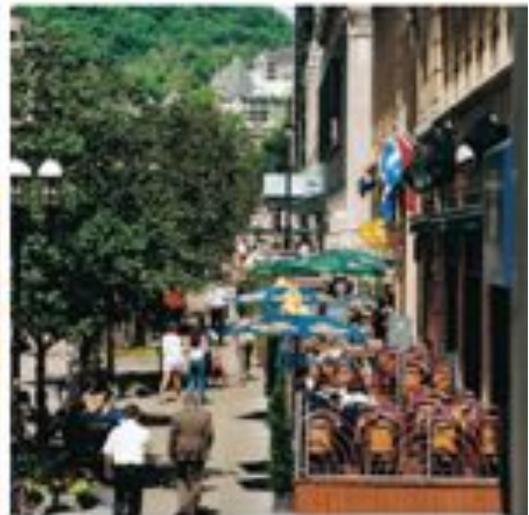
**NEWSLETTER
EDITOR**
Tara Lee Wittchen

© 2014 CASSA

Photos by Tara Lee Wittchen, Ed Wittchen, Cindy Finn, Vera Wittchen and Michael Chechile.

SAVE THE DATE

CASSA 2015 – July 2 to 4 in
beautiful and historic Montreal!



Theme will be S.T.E.A.M.
(Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math)

Le Westin Montreal

Conference registration and hotel
information will follow. Keep checking
the CASSA website, cassa-acgcs.ca.