

CAVEWAS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

While my first year of serving as the CAVEWAS President is coming to a close, there has been no winding down from your CAVEWAS Board. It's been a hectic year. The Board reinforced the commitment initiated under Pina Zervas' watch to bring more continuing education opportunities to the CAVEWAS membership. We have continued to pool our efforts with the University of Calgary in offering credit programs aligned with their Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies program. Online courses are now being offered as well, with one scheduled to commence this mid-May. These courses can serve as educational pre-requisites for CVE qualification.

As you'll soon be aware, this May CAVEWAS will launch its own website. The web address is www.cavewas.com. Many thanks to Diana Froc and Pina Zervas from our Board in wrestling this project to the ground! It was a major task and we commend them for their commitment to seeing this project through to the finish line! Many thanks also to our web developer, Mr. Paul Froc. Please access your website regularly. We not only want to use this as a vehicle to update/educate our membership, but also our referral sources and the public at large. Our intention is to keep the site current and dynamic. If you have articles of interest, updates on happenings, etc, please use the CONTACT US section and let us know. We are also planning to develop a CAVEWAS Members Registry so our members can promote their services to a broader audience. Keep an eye out for that.

The RVP Committee started the year in a slow trot and ended up running in a marathon race! Several hurdles had to be overcome in getting the RVP off the ground. When one starts a certification process from the ground up there are unexpected mountains to climb and rivers to ford. As a result the RVP Guide and Forms have gone through some revisions in an attempt to better communicate information as accurately as possible. By the end of the grandfathering period we had a backlog of over 60 applications which simply swamped our small group. The RVP Committee has diligently soldiered on and we are now seeing "the light at the end of the tunnel"!

The implementation of the RVP has had a great impact upon our membership. From the low seventies several years ago CAVEWAS now boasts membership in the 150 plus range and growing. We're relevant, we're active and we're progressive, and it's paying off.

Included with this annual report you will find two years of Financial Statements for CAVEWAS. Unfortunately this was one area of our operation that got overlooked for a number of years and I've spent considerable time getting both our financial and administrative systems up to speed. The Accounting Review Statements were produced by a Chartered Accountant following his detailed review of our books. They show that CAVEWAS remains in a good financial status. Review of these

statements is included in the AGM Agenda and are presented to the CAVEWAS membership for their approval.

In reacting to requirements at Industry Canada as concerns our corporate status, the CAVEWAS Board was required to undertake some legal updates to our charter. Thus, a by-law titled “By-law #3” which has been approved by the CAVEWAS Board is now presented to the CAVEWAS Membership for their approval and is on the AGM Agenda.

We have three retiring Board Members this year. Pina Zervas completes her four year commitment to the CAVEWAS Board, having served in roles as President-Elect, President, Past-President, Chair-Public Relations and Professional Development Committees, as well as CAVEWAS Rep. on the CARP National Board. Thank you so much Pina for your time and energy. When Pina entered the field of Vocational Evaluation I had the opportunity of being involved in her training. Subsequently we reversed roles, as I have learned much from her. Michele Meir is also leaving the Board after a four year tenure, having served energetically on the Professional Development Committee. Michele recently became a new “MOM” and says she’s tied up with her Board of “One”- a new baby (and greatly enjoying it). Good luck Michele. Finally, our thanks to Diana Froc who leaves us after a two year tenure. Diana was instrumental in imagining and then developing the website. Also, she was a valued member of the RVP Committee.

I am pleased to announce that Kim MacIsaac has graciously agreed to continue to serve in her role of the CAVEWAS Rep. to CCWAVES (Commission on Certification of Work Adjustment and Vocational Evaluation Specialists). This is a five year commitment which involves regular travel on Kim’s part to Chicago from her home in Edmonton, this to perform Committee work and to review/approve CVE (Certified Vocational Evaluator) applications. Kim is not only an active participant on the CAVEWAS Board, but she also actively serves on both the CARP National Board and CARP National Executive Committee. On behalf of the CAVEWAS Board, thank you Kim for your tireless efforts.

And while I’m giving out accolades, much thanks to Mike Easton, Peggy Townsend and Phil Boswell, all who came on the Board last year and who have collectively jumped right into the thick of things! It’s a pleasure working with all of you. Finally, to Helga Guthrie, our “Tower of Power”! I think Helga has lost track of her CAVEWAS service record (actually she’s the Secretary so she hasn’t really). Her sense of humour, at ease manner of communication and unfailing capacity to pitch-in wherever she’s needed are invaluable characteristics that have helped make my job so much easier (and enjoyable I might add). Thanks for hanging out with us again Helga! You’re much appreciated.

It should now be evident to the CAVEWAS membership that they have a great Board! I’ve been on many in my time (given my over 25 years in this profession), and I say unabashedly that this is the most positive and hard-working Board I’ve

ever had the pleasure of being a part of. After all, it's PEOPLE THAT MAKE THE DIFFERECNE! Obviously we NOW have a need to recruit new Board members. I would ask you to consider joining the CAVEWAS Board and becoming part of something bigger than yourself. Together we can continue to make positive things happen. No special skills required, just the willingness to pitch in!! I ask you get in contact with me before the AGM to discuss how you can make that difference! Get involved, and lets keep growing CAVEWAS!!

Yours in service,

**Graham Pett, BA,CVE,CCRC,RRP,CVO
President CAVEWAS**