



# OBEA Newsletter

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1 SUMMER 2025

## *A Message from the President*

Dear Members,

Six years have passed since I have agreed to serve as OBEA President. In that time, we persevered through a world-wide Pandemic, teaching remotely using digital technology, and managed to maintain the same high standards of excellence that were in place prior to the Pandemic.

It is now time to look forward. After serving as the longest-serving President in OBEA's history, it is my pleasure to introduce our new President: Emily Marotta-Kulcsar.

Emily has a very long affiliation with OBEA, serving most recently as VP of Professional Development.

As I step aside this summer, I know that OBEA will continue to foster innovation, share expertise, and provide opportunities for Business Educators to learn and grow.

Reflecting on the past years, I can say with much enthusiasm that a change in our Business Studies curriculum for Grades 9 and 10 was long overdue. After many years of waiting, the wait is finally over with the implementation of Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset (BEM 10) and Launching and Leading a Business (BEP 20).

OBEA also provides a forum for members to attend Conferences and network with other Business teachers, Corporate Sponsors, Vendors, and Educational Partners. OBEA has a history of success because of such dedicated professionals.

As I sign off, let me conclude that it has been my pleasure to be President, and I wish you all continued success.

**Bill Velos,**  
**OBEA President**

## FUN FACTS...

### *Did you know that...*

- **OBEA was established in 1895.** We celebrated our 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Friday, May 9, 2025.
- **OBEA was originally known as The Ontario Business and Commerce Teachers' Association.** The name changed to Ontario Commercial Teachers' Association and then Ontario Business Educators' Association.
- **OBEA Conferences 50 years' ago had workshops pertaining to penmanship, typing, and shorthand.** Our archives include various Commercial Educational Yearbooks that highlight the importance of these courses.

## RECENT NEWS

Our OBEA Annual Spring Conference was held on Friday, May 9, 2025, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Toronto Airport West Hotel. Our teacher and Vendor Presenters provided a myriad of Workshops. Our primary focus was Artificial Intelligence in Business classrooms. However, we also offered such diverse topics ranging from our new Business Studies curriculum to retirement planning to book publishing, just to name a few. We offered 21 Workshops and had 120+ registrants.

Our Keynote Speaker this year was Cody Buchenauer, Assistant Professor from the University of Waterloo. His Keynote, *Bridging the Business Gap: High School to University Successes with AI*, was well received.

This event was also highlighted by the presentation of Educators' Recognition Awards. Congratulations to **Gary D. Peacock, Wade Nassar, Chandni Chaudhary, Reima Fanari, and Mary Chinniah.**

Throughout the event, our Vendor and Educational Partners provided resources to all Business teachers in attendance. It was a truly successful event!

Our thanks to all Presenters and the Professional Development Committee who meticulously planned and executed a Workshop roster that was comprehensive, current, and inclusive.

**Emily Marotta-Kulcsar, OBEA VP-Professional Development**



# WHAT'S ON NOW...

OBEA conducts provincial Contests for students taking Business subjects. These Contests are taking place now in the spring, and they are held simultaneously across the province.

These Contests are varied in scope and authentic in depth. For important details regarding eligibility requirements, entry requirements, deadlines, and rubrics, please visit our Website at [www.obea](http://www.obea).

CPA-Ontario, our Corporate Sponsor, aids in the sponsorship of both Accounting Contests.

In the fall, we annually recognize the student winners at a **Student Awards Luncheon** held in their honour. This is a prime highlight of our year. Our next Student Awards Luncheon will be held on **Saturday, October 18, 2025**.

## Here is our Contest Chairs List for 2025

Contest Coordinator	Audrey Hogarth
Accounting Contest	
Grade 12	Audrey Hogarth
Accounting Contest	
Grade 11	Audrey Hogarth
Entrepreneurship Contest	
Grade 9 Contest	Erich Specht
Grade 10 Contest	Roderick Barrie
Poster Contest	Malisa Mashud
Social Media	Zenobia Omarali
Marketing Contest	
Website Development	Martin Herbst
Junior	
Website Development	Nicola Robinson
Senior	Wade Nassar

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

## SUMMER THINK TANK

### Leveraging AI in Business Studies

*Registration is now open for our OBEA2025 Think Tank event!*

<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday, August 13, 2025
<b>TIME:</b>	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
<b>LOCATION:</b>	DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Toronto Airport West, 5444 Dixie Road, Mississauga
<b>COST:</b>	\$25
<b>CONTACT:</b>	<a href="mailto:communications.obea@gmail.com">communications.obea@gmail.com</a>

# REMINDERS

- Membership:** If you haven't done so, please ensure that your membership is current. The membership fee is \$65 plus HST. Please send any outstanding fees to [www.obeamembers@gmail.com](mailto:www.obeamembers@gmail.com)
- Contest Submission Date:** All Contests are ongoing. The submission date is **May 23, 2025**. The Accounting Contests will be held on **May 28, 2025**.



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VENDORS, AND EDUCATIONAL  
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**Corporate Sponsor**

Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario  
(CPA-Ontario)

**Vendor Partners**

AME Learning Educational Software  
April 1<sup>st</sup> – Floristry  
Bank of Canada Museum  
Canadian Foundation for Economic Education  
(CFEE)  
CIRANO  
Finch West Digital Inc.  
Fraser Institute  
Jays Care Foundation  
Learn-It E-Learning  
Ontario Co-Operative Association  
Douglas Price, Author  
Ripyl Limited  
RTOERO  
Stock Shock Inc.  
Thompson Educational Publishers (TEP)

**Educational Partners**

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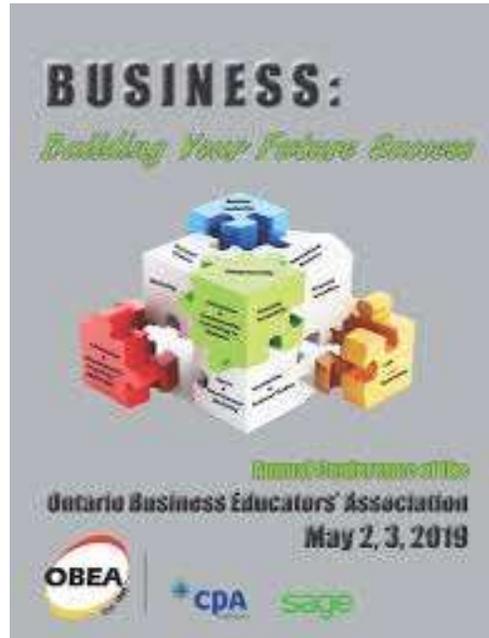
**Board-wide Memberships**

Toronto District School Board (TDSB)  
Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB)

WITH  
OUR  
THANKS  
TO...

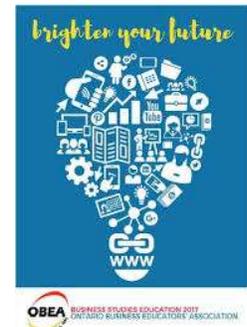
# BLAST FROM THE PAST...

Here are some student-award winning posters from the past. Which ones did you have posted in your Business classroom?



# AND A NOD TO THE FUTURE...

Reserve school, board, SHSM and/or union funds for our **OBEA 2026 Spring Conference: FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026** at the DoubleTree by Hilton Toronto Airport West Hotel



# LOOKING FORWARD...

We encourage you to join us! Hope to see you at our upcoming events!

If you have any suggestions to include in future publications, please send your thoughts/suggestions to [efmarottakulcsar@gmail.com](mailto:efmarottakulcsar@gmail.com)

Please visit our new website at [www.o-bea.ca](http://www.o-bea.ca)

On behalf of The OBEA Executive, we wish you a smooth end to the school year and a happy, safe, and well-deserved summer holiday!

Prepared by: Emily Marotta-Kulcsar, OBEA VP-Professional Development - May, 2025

