▲ President's Message



MARY HOWE

Welcome to a new school year! Like the past few years, this year promises many changes and new challenges. The elementary curriculum is in its fourth year of implementation. Secondary School Reform has begun its grade ten phase. The grade 11 and 12 curriculum documents have been delivered to all schools. NCTM has published its new Standards document. Balanced assessment, evaluation, and teaching strategies are central to all the changes that are taking place.

Can OAME help mathematics teachers make sense of all these "rapid fire" changes? Can we help ensure that Ontario's mathematics classrooms are exciting, interesting, and challenging places to learn mathematics? Will OAME continue its tradition of support for teachers as they work through the changes? The answers...

Yes, yes, yes!!!

Over the next year, OAME plans to continue its active role of leadership for the mathematics education community. Several committees are in place and have planned new projects or continuation of on-going projects to help teachers deal with the new curriculum. All elected and appointed OAME Board members sit on committees and volunteer their time, energy, and expertise (weekends too!) to a variety of projects that will benefit teachers and students from kindergarten through OAC. The list of projects we have planned is lengthy:

The **JK - 5 Committee** has recommendations for the Ministry for a Primary Project. They also plan to find links for the OAME website, and to make the site an Internet teacher resource.

The **Grades 6 - 8 Committee** will be generating classroom activities and articles to be published in the *Abacus* and the *Gazette.* The focus will be on linking grades 7-8 teachers to grade 9 teachers by encouraging a shared commitment to the EQAO test.

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The **Grades 9 - 10 Committee** will be helping teachers revisit the Profiles that have been prepared for these grades. Effective assessment and evaluation techniques will be the focus. A guide will be developed to help in preparation for the first EQAO Provincial Grade 9 Mathematics Test and the EQAO Literacy Test. The Ministry-funded, OAME-written, C.A.R.E. Package (**C**oncerning **A**ssessment and **R**eflective **E**valuation) will be widely dispersed so that teachers will have easy access to the materials.

The **Grades 11 - 12 Committee** will examine the new courses and pathways in mathematics. The focus will be on the similarities and differences between the 11U and 11UC courses as well as balanced assessment, evaluation, and reporting. A **C.A.R.E. Package** for grade

11-12 is being prepared with field-tested materials. The package will be ready for June 2001.

The **Futures and Promotions Committee** publicizes OAME activities and finds sites for future OAME Conferences. Dates to remember for this school year are: **OAME Conference** May 9 - 12, 2001 in Scarborough; **Leadership Conference** February 22 - 24, 2001 in Toronto; and **Ontario Mathematics Olympics** in Thunder Bay in June, 2001.

The **Publications Committee**, working with the ***Gazette*** and ***Abacus*** editors, plans to feature activities for the primary and junior grades, activities from the new Middle School Assessment Document, and articles to help secondary teachers implement the new curriculum. The website will be enhanced to provide more use for teachers.

In February 2001, OAME will publish the document **Linking Assessment and Instruction in the Middle Grades**. The writing team is currently field testing the collection of activities, and will provide exemplars in the document which will be unveiled at the Leadership Conference in February. The resource promises to be an excellent sequel to the Primary and Junior Years documents with the same title.

OAME continues to take an active role in the development of **Course Profiles for Grade 11** Mathematics courses. The Ministry has funded partial profiles to be written for each of the four grade 11 math courses. The Overview of each course will be written cooperatively by both the Public and Catholic writing teams, and each team will then separately write one full unit of study based on the overview. OAME has appointed writers to each writing team.

Two Ministry-funded projects, the **Mathematics Exemplars** and the **Grade 4 - 6 Integrated Mathematics Units on the Curriculum Planner** will be very helpful to teachers and are scheduled to be published and inserviced in the fall. OAME will continue to be supportive of the Ministry in its development and inservice of materials that help teachers and students better understand mathematics.

As you can see from the variety of projects that have been planned, the focus of OAME during 2000 - 2001 will be on supporting teachers through professional development, and resources that will help them successfully deliver the mathematics curriculum at all grades.

All the best as you embark on another year of teaching! ▲