

# Stimulus

Volume 25 No. 6 July/August 1999

## Meet the new executive

*The 1999/2000 Chapter Council members were elected at the AGM on May 27, 1999. The Council has since appointed the other executive members. We are now pleased to introduce to you your 1999/2000 STC Eastern Ontario Chapter officers.*

### John Holgate, President

John has been in technical communications and a member of the STC for three years. He holds a college diploma in computer programming and systems analysis. He works at Cognos Incorporated as a technical writer for data-analysis software. Previously, John worked in field-testing and customer education groups at Cognos. He has extensive experience in adult education.

### Sarah Vallieres, Vice President

An active member of the STC, Sarah has served the chapter over the past two years as Volunteer Co-ordinator, Treasurer and Vice-President. She has accumulated many technical awards, the most recent being an award of merit for a computer documentation package in the 1998 STC International Technical Publications Competition. Sarah has an Honours B.A. in History from the University of Western Ontario and an Honours B.A. in Rhetoric and Professional Writing from the University of Waterloo.

### Rick Lorenz, Treasurer

Rick Lorenz holds a bachelor's degree in History and Politics from Trent University. A graduate of Algonquin College's Technical Writing program, he won the scholarship provided by the chapter for attaining the highest fourth semester average. Since 1993, Rick has served progressively on the chapter executive as Algonquin Student Representative, Secretary, and Webmaster. He is employed by MOSAID Technologies.

### Tahirah Shadforth, Editor

Tahirah holds a B.A. in English Literature and Classical Translation and a B.Soc.Sc. in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Ottawa. A technical writer for the past two years, she is currently working as a consultant on an online documentation project at Revenue Canada. This is her first year with the STC.

### Scott Wahl, Membership Manager

Scott began technical writing six years ago at Newbridge Networks. Last year he moved to Bridgewater Systems, a New-bridge affiliate, as the sole technical writer responsible for customer documentation, training courseware and product usability. He has an Honours B.A. in English from the University of Waterloo and is working part-time towards a Masters degree in Technical Communication from Utah State University.

### Tara Bourbeau, Print Competition

A Business Administration graduate, Tara has been in the technical communications field for six years. Currently, she works as a Senior Technical Writer with PCDOCS/Fulcrum. In the past, Tara has worked for Corel Corporation and Theratronics International Ltd. She was an award winner in last year's print competition.

### Marnie Connolly, Program Manager

Marnie has been an STC member for four years. She has worked as a technical writer for the past three years, most recently at Revenue Canada, developing online help and documentation. She has a B.A. in English from York University and a diploma from York University's Professional Technical Writing program.

## inside

From the President	
A time of great transition .....	2
Financial report	
End of year financial statement ---	2
Volunteering .....	3
Opportunities to work for Stimulus .....	4

*continued on page 3*

## From the President

# A time of great transition

by John Holgate

## End-of-year financial statement

*The following statement is the end-of-year information submitted to the society office by Sarah Vallieres, 1998/99 STC Eastern Ontario Chapter Treasurer.*


\* The Grants figure of \$250 is the scholarship donated by Meta-Business Advantage. The Scholarship award figure of \$275 is the STC Chapter Scholarship. The Meta-Business Advantage Scholarship, which was awarded to Algonquin student Jane Richardson, is included in the Administration figure.

"It was a time of great transition." A friend and I used to write that phrase at the beginning of every college history paper. It's no less true for our chapter of the STC. If you look in the Executive box on the back page of this special issue of *Stimulus*, you'll see some familiar and not-so-familiar names. Only one position is held by the same person who held it last year. That so many people are willing to step forward and try something new speaks positively about the health of the chapter.

The Executive has already had its first meeting and is excited about the 1999-2000

season. I think that a lot of you are excited too; about a hundred of you responded to our email survey about program opportunities for next year.

Welcome to Tahirah Shadforth, who starts as the new editor of *Stimulus* with this issue. Please see her special request for assistance with the newsletter on page 4.

Our next chapter event is going to be our annual Wine and Cheese party in September. Watch for more details coming your way. For updated chapter activities over the summer, check our website at <http://www.stceo.org> 

<b>A. Cash balance at beginning of fiscal year (July 1, 1998)</b>	\$ 10,336.43
<b>B. Income</b>	
Dues refund from Society	10,395.44
Meetings	1,215.93
Publications and art competitions	3,072.40
Grants	250.00*
Other (major items):	
Membership Directory	547.38
Wine & Cheese Social	708.79
<b>C. Total Income</b> (total of B)	\$ 16,189.94
<b>D. Expenses</b>	
Meetings	1,298.17
Newsletter	3,265.79
Publications and art competitions	3,398.49
Scholarship award	275.00*
Other (major items):	
Administration	1,660.58*
Membership Directory	2,131.31
Wine & Cheese Social	1,254.86
<b>E. Total Expenses</b> (total of D)	\$ 13,284.20
<b>F. Surplus</b> or (deficit) (Total income less total expenses: C - E)	\$ 2,905.74
<b>G. Cash Balance at end of fiscal year (June 30, 1999)</b> (A + F)	\$ 13,242.17

## Stimulus

*Stimulus* is the newsletter of the Eastern Ontario Chapter of the STC. It is distributed free to chapter members, libraries, other STC chapters and interested organizations in the region.

**Editor** Tahirah Shadforth

**Editorial assistance** vacant

**Design & Layout** Lynda Simons (hard copy and PDF)

### Re-print Policy

All material herein is copyright of STC Eastern Ontario Chapter. Other STC chapters are welcome to reprint articles from *Stimulus*. In return, we ask that you credit the author and *Stimulus* and send us a copy of the publication containing the article.

### Submissions

*Stimulus* welcomes submissions on topics relevant to technical communicators in the Eastern Ontario area. We reserve the right to edit articles for length, clarity, and suitability.

Please send electronic copy (Mac or PC, .RTF

or .TXT files). Mail diskettes or hand them to the editor at a meeting, or send files via email.

### Mailing address

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**New executive** (continued from page 1)

### **Doreen deMunnik, Program Manager**

An educational consultant for ten years, Doreen has extensive experience in cognitive therapy, curriculum development, and writing. She is currently a technical writing student at Algonquin College; and has a B.E. in Education and a B.A. in English Literature from Queen's University.

### **Visnja Beg, Education Manager**

Visnja has worked in technical communications for eleven years and been a member of the STC for two years. She holds an Honours B.A. in Journalism from Carleton University's School of Journalism. Currently, Visnja works at Newbridge Networks as a Senior Technical Writer in the Open Interfaces Documentation Group.

### **Robin Kelsey, Webmaster**

A student in Algonquin College's Technical Writing program, Robin holds an Honours B.A. in English Language and Literature from Queen's University. Although new to technical writing, he has published and won awards for creative writing, most notably the grand prize in last year's Toronto Star Short Story Contest.

### **Tim Scapillato, Director**

As past editor of *Stimulus* since 1997, Tim received an Award of Merit in the STC

newsletter competition in his first term. He has been a technical writer at Public Works and Government Services Canada for the past three years. His latest project is developing an online help system for a newly developed space measurement software application. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Alberta.

### **Bob Stanley, Director**

Bob Stanley has worked in newspapers, TV and magazines, as well as advertising, marketing, fundraising and public relations. A freelance writer since 1990, Bob has many clients including Nortel, Jetform, Fulcrum and the Atomic Energy Control Board. He has been an STC member since 1986, and for most of those years has been on the executive, most recently as manager of last year's technical publications competition. Bob has accumulated many awards in STC competitions over the years, including two at the international level.

### **Coming next month**

Check the next issue of *Stimulus* for these people's bios: Lynda Simons, Past President; Jeannie Bacon, Secretary; Theresa Peddle, Canadian Issues Committee Representative; Bonnie Stuart Anderson, PR Manager; Sharon Morgan, Director. 🐾

## **Volunteering**

If you have always wanted to get more involved in STC Eastern Ontario, now is the time.

We need volunteers to assist us with chapter meetings, *Stimulus*, workshops, and other events and services that make up a robust chapter.

By volunteering, you can help the chapter grow, while networking and developing your skills. Volunteering takes just a few hours a month, benefits everyone, and looks excellent on a résumé.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact STC Volunteer Co-ordinator, Scott Wahl. 🐾

### **The STC Eastern Ontario Chapter thanks its generous sponsors:**

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## executive

### **STC Eastern Ontario Chapter 1999-2000 Executive**

#### **President**

John Holgate  
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#### **Vice-President**

Sarah Vallieres  
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#### **Secretary**

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#### **Membership Manager, Volunteer Co-ordinator**

Scott Wahl  
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#### **Online Competition Manager**

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#### **Education Manager**

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#### **Newsletter Editor**

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#### **PR Manager**

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#### **Past President**

Lynda Simons  
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#### **Algonquin Student Rep**

TBA

#### **Directors**

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Bob Stanley  
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## Opportunities to work for *Stimulus*

*Stimulus* needs news editors, reporters, editorial assistants, and interested generalists who would like to develop their skills while contributing to the running of a successful newsletter.

#### **Advertising Manager**

Contacts existing and potential advertisers about the newsletter, receives copy and payments from advertisers and sends them to the layout artist and treasurer

#### **Member News Editor and Reporter**

Gathers and writes up news about members who have been promoted, changed jobs, moved, received awards, etc.

#### **Book Review Editor and Reporter**

Gathers and writes articles on noteworthy technical communication-related books


#### **Writing/Style Reporter**

Writes brief tips on good writing style

#### **Graphic Designer/Illustrator**

Provides design advice and original graphic art for the newsletter

#### **To apply**

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Tahirah Shadforth at [shadforth@webruler.com](mailto:shadforth@webruler.com) 

### **STC Eastern Ontario Chapter**

#### **Mission Statement (1998/99)**

Our chapter's mission is to work together in a spirit of community to promote and develop professional technical communication

- ◆ by advancing and facilitating the development of educational programs
- ◆ by setting professional standards
- ◆ by drawing on the strengths of our sustaining and individual members

#### **Address:**

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#### **Web site:**

[www.stceo.org](http://www.stceo.org)

#### **Algonquin Technical Writer Web site:**

[www.cst.algonquininc.on.ca](http://www.cst.algonquininc.on.ca)

#### **Telephone:**

(613) 860-0542