

**President's Message**  
by Ann Babin



As I write this it is March Break Week and the warmer weather and rain are making making short work of the snow. Who knows if another snowstorm is on its way or if Spring really will appear as predicted for March 20? Isn't it curious that in the normal cycle of seasons Spring is the time for planting and Fall the time for harvest while for teachers the opposite is true. I came across that comment in a 1990's vintage ORMTA newsletter – not yet known as ORBit – written by then-president Frances Balodis. And how true it is, we start off in September with plans that for most students will come to fruition in April's Kiwanis and May/June's theory and practical exams/ recitals/ competitions. The music harvest season is upon us now, beginning with the March 26 Adult Student Master Class and Workshop to be followed by its April 16 Recital. Check Upcoming Events for more. See page 14.

Back to the 1990's, in 1995 the Young Artist winner for piano was Frederick Lacroix and the Young Artist for vocal was Julie Nesrallah. Isn't it wonderful to know that these extraordinary talents have ORMTA in their background? We celebrate the successes of piano performer Carson Becke and follow now the progress of Anita Pari. Does anyone remember that the newsletter editor in the early 1990's was Joan Klenavic, our Special Teacher for 2011? Congratulations Joan. Read about Joan's work with ORMTA, Gloucester Music Teachers and Gloucester Music Club over the years on page 5.

Going back through the archives reinforces the fact that ORMTA has a very rich tradition. We are now in our seventh decade (65 years old this year), with much to look back upon, and I believe more ahead. Times change, while we remain true to our mission of excellence in music education we must adapt our methods of promoting ourselves to an increasingly competitive market. To that end, a review of our public relations and marketing strategies is currently underway. Feedback on this was requested in last ORBit, I appreciate the thoughtful responses offered.

Year-end is almost upon us, our AGM and luncheon will be held May 20. We have a new President (Sandy Menard) and First VP (Tania Granata) waiting in the wings and there will be a position or two vacant on council. Please consider whether or not you can volunteer some time helping us with the business of ORMTA Ottawa. It can be busy at times but is deeply satisfying work and a great way to meet new colleagues.

Finally, ORMTA membership renewal notices will be mailed shortly. Our brochure committee spends hours getting the document ready and would really appreciate your prompt response. For 2010-2011 I had planned to set the example and be the first to get mine in but someone beat me to it. Will that be you this year?

**Annual General Meeting and Luncheon**

**Friday, May 20, 2011**

at the

**Cedarhill  
Golf and Country Club**

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