

# For The RECORD

Volume 2005 No. 1

Winter/Spring - 2005



## Court Reporters' Association of Ontario

### Code of Ethics

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>A</b> ttain and maintain a high standard of reporting. | <b>R</b> espect for all others   |
| <b>C</b> onformity of decorum and dress with dignity.     | <b>E</b> xercise courtesy & integrity  |
| <b>O</b> pen mindedness and professionalism.              | <b>P</b> unctuality, perfection and pride                                      |
| <b>U</b> tmest devotion to professionalism.               | <b>O</b> ffer only honesty of purpose  |
| <b>R</b> ecord verbatim and                               | <b>R</b> eputation and   |
| <b>T</b> ranscribe accurately.                            | <b>T</b> rust above all  |
|   | <b>E</b> xcellent quality of service   |
|   | <b>R</b> eflect merit upon our profession with the constant desire to improve. |

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... For The Record

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**ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER**

Well, here we are in another new year! This is our first newsletter of 2005. We hope you will find it interesting and informative.

We have been trying to enjoy the winter snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and then there is the snow shovelling and shivering.

We have enjoyed the winter and now are dreading sorting through the morass of papers we have collected all year in order to make some sense out of our income tax!!! Every year I tell myself there has to be a better way to do accounting than the 'shoe box', but that always seems to be the model.

Included in this newsletter are the Minutes of the Annual Meeting 2003 which were approved at the annual meeting October 14, 2004, as well as the Treasurer's Report as at October 14, 2004.

Also, it is DUES time again. Your executive has been busy advocating for the profession of court reporting

and we need your support. This is the only way you have to stand up and be counted in order to give your association representation it needs to negotiate for you. In order to be taken seriously as an association, we need your support and membership.

We are remodelling our web site. The new site will be much more professional and include many links useful to court reporters. When the work is done, you will notice a number of improvements.

Our convention this year will be in Durham Region, hosted by Chrystal Young and her committee from the POA reporters. They are busy planning an interesting and fun-filled programme. Plan to attend. This is the time to label a transcript "Convention" and set aside the money to attend.

*Fatima Conceicao*  
*Ruth McIver*

**SOME IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

This C.R.A.O. Newsletter is published quarterly by the Court Reporters' Association of Ontario. Please address all correspondence concerning the Newsletter to:

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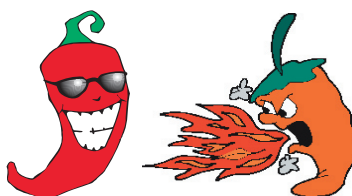
**SUBMISSIONS:** Anyone wishing to submit articles for publication are

encouraged to do so. Please submit articles in IBM compatible (Word or WP - preferably RTF, or ASCII not DOC) or typewritten prior to publication deadline dates found below.

Additional copies of the CRAO Newsletter can be obtained for \$2.00/issue to cover postage & handling costs.

**PUBLICATION DEADLINES**

<b>Submit by</b>	<b>Issue:</b>
June 1/05	Vol. 2005 No. 2
Sept 15/05	Vol. 2005 No. 3
Nov 15/05	Vol. 2005 No. 4

**WEBSITE & EMAIL**

[www.crao.ca](http://www.crao.ca)  
[courtreportersao@hotmail.com](mailto:courtreportersao@hotmail.com)

**HOT!! HOT!! HOT!!**

The CRAO website has a "FORUMS" section where you can address current issues.

If you have a HOT! topic happening in your area or you are looking for feedback from reporters in other areas of the province, go to "FORUMS" in the CRAO web-site, [www.crao.ca](http://www.crao.ca) and discuss your issues there. Network and give support to fellow reporters, create new friendships or just log in and browse. You are never alone!

The CRAO website is also currently undergoing a "facelift" to serve you better. We will have more information about our new website in our next newsletter. Thanks to Lisa Cumber and Linda Fudge for all their efforts in this regard!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Reporters,

The executive of the Court Reporters' Association of Ontario is working hard on your behalf to deal with the multitude of issues that have arisen in the past year. As the wheels of justice grind slowly, so do those of the ministry that we are dealing with. Also, everyone must remember that decisions are made and action taken with the consent of the entire executive and thus, takes time as well.

Our training and testing is being updated with the expertise of Gwen Grubb. We also have a new POA liaison, Trish Marinzel, and more recently an OPSEU liaison, Joanne Knapp.

We will answer all your questions that you forward to us, so please do not hesitate to contact us. Questions can be forwarded to any one of the executive, or through the CRAO e-mail or on the "Forum"

section of the website.

I know a lot of you are frustrated that there are no noticeable solutions or alleviation of the problems that we are facing. Frustration is at a high level everywhere and with this being a bargaining year with OPSEU, the threat of a strike also looms on the horizon.

On the brighter side of the coin, we are updating the website, so look for new and exciting changes. Lisa Cumber has volunteered to look after our website at this time. Our goal is to streamline the website, make it more user-friendly and hopefully you will be able to register online for membership/training/convention.

I encourage you to use the Association to the fullest as we are here to support all of you, new and seasoned reporters. With separation by jurisdiction, in order to ensure consistency across the Province

of Ontario, we need your input, but without input from you, we are sometimes "in the dark", so to speak. Without information regarding practices and how

directives are being implemented by different jurisdictions, it is difficult to deal with cases that seem isolated but, in fact, may not be. So, enlighten us so that we may become stronger and speak out for yourself and others in order that the workplace is fair for all of us.

This is a very difficult time for all of us and we need to stick together and support each other as never before.

*Linda Fudge, CVR  
President, CRAO*



## MESSAGE FROM VICE-PRESIDENT



Dear fellow reporters,

You may have received a survey in the mail and I would like to thank those of you who have taken a few minutes of your valuable time to return them to me. Feel free to jot down any concerns you may have - feedback is essential!!! I look forward to sharing with you the results of the survey so that we

may address and resolve any issues or concerns that you may have.

I have already deduced two things from the survey - court reporters in Ontario LOVE to TALK and LOVE to WRITE! What a wonderful trait for our job. But on a more serious note, be assured your words are as important to the CRAO as you are as important to the Canadian justice system and to all those who step through the doors of a courtroom or private hearing room. Keep those surveys coming in and speak out! We're listening.

*Lisa Cumber  
Vice-President*

## POA CHAIR

Tricia Marinzel is your POA Rep. CRAO members are encouraged to contact Tricia at [tmarinzel@sympatico.ca](mailto:tmarinzel@sympatico.ca) to deal with POA transcript issues.

## OPSEU Rep

The CRAO has created a new post for OPSEU representative to assist our executive. Joanne Knapp is our *pro tem* OPSEU representative for the present term. We welcome Joanne and wish her well in her new duties!

The OPSEU rep will keep us abreast of developments with respect to OPSEU matters such as pilot projects affecting court reporters.



# 2005 CRAO CONVENTION

**DATE:** October 14, 15, 2005  
**HOST:** Durham Regional POA Court  
 Clerk Monitors  
**CONTACT:** Chrystal Young  
 (905)668-3130 x.4041  
[chrystal.young@region.durham.on.ca](mailto:chrystal.young@region.durham.on.ca)

This year's convention is shaping up to be a fantastic affair. Your convenor and her team are working diligently to make your convention an enjoyable and rewarding experience for everyone.

There will once again be a certification seminar and testing held on the Friday in the Region's training room. Seminar and testing will take place at the new court facility. At this point, it is anticipated that equipment may be available for those who do not wish to bring their own.

**On Friday night**, Durham Region has planned the following at the new Regional Headquarters:

- buffet dinner sponsored by Novo Technologies Inc.
- tour of the new courtrooms
- demonstration of the Digital Audio Court Recording equipment
- then, enjoy the camaraderie of your peers at the Hospitality Room at the Holiday Inn (Whitby).
- The hospitality suite is also sponsored by Novo Technologies Inc.

Durham is one of the first courts in Ontario to implement a digital court recording system that is used in Quebec.

Convention venues will also be held within the new Regional Facility in one of the many beautiful new conference rooms.

**On Saturday**, you will be treated to an amazing accident reconstruction demonstration by the Ottawa Provincial Police.

Negotiations are ongoing with a sensational keynote speaker.

Make plans to attend as this will be a great convention.

Check our website later for further details and registration. [www.crao.ca](http://www.crao.ca)

## ACCOMMODATIONS

### HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS WHITBY

Reserve online at [www.hiexpresswhitby.com](http://www.hiexpresswhitby.com) or call 1-800-HOLIDAY (be sure to reference the C.R.A.O. conference in order to obtain the corporate rates)

**Includes:** Deluxe continental breakfast – 7 – 10 a.m.

**Rooms:** 1 King – includes small fridge and microwave, pull out couch  
 2 Queen beds – no couch, no fridge or microwave

**RATES** (for either room type):

Government rate: \$109.00 Corporate \$129.99

Regular \$139.99 plus taxes

**\*\*\*HOSPITALITY ROOM** – upon confirming a block of rooms for the event – hospitality room will be free of charge. (regularly \$189.00)

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Accommodations to be confirmed by July 15, 2005.

## PHOTOS FROM THE 2004 CRAO CONVENTION



*Put yourself in this picture  
 at the 2005 CRAO Convention!*



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

Membership in the Association runs from January to December each year. A number of our members have already sent in their renewals and we hope to be hearing from the rest of our members soon.

At present we are trying to computerize all info regarding our membership so we can appropriately recognize your accomplishments in this profession. If you or someone you know has reached the 20-year mark in reporting and has been an active member in the association for the past five years, please let us know.

Please be an advocate of the Association among your peers at work. Let them know what we are about and what we are striving to accomplish. Show them our newsletter, tell them about our website and e-mail address, tell them about our great conventions, and let them know we are working on transcript increase fees for them. Pass on copies of the membership application and encourage participation. Our strength is in our numbers.

*Janice Zufelt*

## WELCOME AND WELCOME BACK

*(It came to our attention that in this article of the last newsletter, there was an omission.)*

A special welcome back  
to Tracy Lanctin (in 2004).

*(This section is intended to welcome "brand new" members as well as reporters who were once a member and are now returning after allowing their membership to lapse. Look for the 2005 list in our next newsletter.)*

## SPECIAL THANKS TO ....

Special thanks to Tracy Lanctin  
for reviving the presence and faith  
of the CRAO in the Ottawa area.

— and —

Special thanks to Rose West  
for assisting to sign up several members  
in 2004 in the Haileybury area.

*(If you know of a reporter who has made a special effort to recruit new members or promote our association in their or your area, please let us know so that we may recognize them.)*

## TRANSCRIPT Q.'s & A.'s

**QUESTION:** I'm completing a transcript where the defendant uses 'cuz several times. I looked it up and one dictionary has it, but the hyperdictionary doesn't recognize it. Have you ever come across this? At one point the prosecutor also uses 'cause. Is it proper to interchange the two words? My thinking is that the prosecutor sounds more knowledgeable if I type 'cause. Any input would be appreciated!

**ANSWER:** Whether a witness uses slang abbreviations or not, we are to type the word. So, cuz is 'cause, which is short for because, as we know, and that is what is being said. Another example would be those witnesses that say: I was goin'. This is another slang abbreviation or mispronunciation where the last letter "g" is dropped and an apostrophe is used.

With regard to Crown, they must never look stupid (even though that can be debatable). That is just from instruction I took before Noah built the Ark.

Today in court the Crown read from a transcript which had the wrong date on it, and then in witness' evidence, in brackets (witness crying). We must remember that we are not editors. We transcribe words, hopefully verbatim.

*(Thanks to Janet Fulkerson for submitting this question and to Martha Russell for the response.)*

*If you are unsure on how to address your concerns in transcripts, let us know. We will share it in our next newsletter and post it on the CRAO website.*





## POSSESSIVE APOSTROPHES

The incorrect use of apostrophes has for a long time been considered a sign of illiteracy. Probably all of you know the rules that follow. I repeat them only because these rules have in recent years very often been violated in otherwise quite literate prose. Therefore, be vigilant.

*Woman's liberation* refers to the liberation of one woman; *women's* liberation refers to the liberation of more than one woman; *womens' liberation* doesn't mean anything. What has happened in this last case is that the 's indicating possession has been mixed up with the s which indicates a plural. But the plural of *woman* is *women*; if you want to make it possessive, you write *women's*. If you wish to make possessive a word which ends in s in the plural form, add only an apostrophe: "The *boys'* playground". ("The boy's playground" would refer to the playground of only one boy.) In the case of proper names or other singular nouns ending with s, you can choose whether to add just an apostrophe or an 's, "*Keats'* or *Keats's* poems" (but not "Keat's poems, since the man's name is not Keat). **Note carefully:** *its* is the possessive of it; *it's* means it is; and *its'* means nothing at all.

*(This is an excerpt from A GRAMMAR BOOKLET FOR LAWYERS or How Not to Dangle Your Participles in Public (and Other Good Advice) by Constance Rooke and published by The Law Society of Upper Canada) (Thanks to Ruth McIver for this submission.)*

## WEB ... LINKS

[www.canadianlawlist.com](http://www.canadianlawlist.com)

This is a good link if you are looking for an address of a lawyer or courthouse, etcetera. Try it. Enter a legal firm like Gervais, just even a portion of the name, and it will bring up all locations and also a listing of the individual lawyers in the firm with links to them as well.

We will be adding this link to our website. Look for other links when you log onto the CRAO website.

If you have a link not already on our website that you find useful, please share it with us and we'll post it on the CRAO website.

Lisa Cumber  
(Vice-President)

**If you have time, try these other links for fun.**

[www.jacquielawson.com](http://www.jacquielawson.com)

[www.icq.com/friendship/swf/0,,16961\\_rs,00.swf](http://www.icq.com/friendship/swf/0,,16961_rs,00.swf)

*(Thanks to Heather McMichael for these links)*

## INTERESTING FACTS ... True?

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

In the 1400s, a law was set forth that a man was not allowed to beat his wife with a stick thicker than his thumb. Hence we have "the rule of thumb."

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled "Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden." Thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts. In old England, when customers became unruly, the bartender would tell them to "Mind your pints and quarts and settle down." It's where we get the phrase "Mind your P's and Q's."

The first novel ever written on a typewriter was Tom Sawyer.

*(This was in my latest newsletter from the National Verbatim Reporters' Association. I think I will never use the words 'rule of thumb' from now on!!! And how about a game of golf!!)*

Lisa Cumber  
(Vice-President)

## ATTORNEY'S ADVICE -- NO CHARGE

*(Read this and make a copy for your files in case you need to refer to it someday. Maybe we should all take some of his advice.)*

A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company.

1. The next time you order cheques, have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your cheque book, they will not know if you sign your cheques with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your cheques.
2. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put "PHOTO ID REQUIRED".
3. When you are writing cheques to pay your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your cheque as it passes through all the cheque processing channels won't have access to it.
4. Put your work phone # on your cheques instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your SIN# printed on

## ATTORNEY'S ADVICE – NO CHARGE (Cont.)

(your cheques. (DUH!) You can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

5. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when traveling either here or abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, SIN, credit cards.

Unfortunately, I, an attorney, have firsthand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thief(s) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more. But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

1. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.
2. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc. were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one). But here's what is perhaps most important of all: (I never even thought to do this.)
3. Call the two national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Insurance number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away. (This weekend someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them dead in their tracks.

Now, here are the numbers you always need to contact, should your wallet, etc. be stolen:

- 1.) Equifax Canada: 1-877-249-2705
- 2.) TransUnion: 1-877-525-3823

If you are willing to pass this information along, it could really help someone that you care about.

*(Thanks to Linda Fudge for this submission)*

## COURTROOM HUMOUR ... ACTUALLY SAID IN COURT?

*(These are from a book called Disorder in the American Courts and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and now published by court reporters that had the torment of staying calm while these exchanges were actually taking place.)*

**Q: What is your date of birth?**

A: July 15.

**Q: What year?**

A: Every year.

**Q: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?**

A: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

**Q: How old is your son, the one living with you?**

A: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

**Q: How long has he lived with you?**

A: Forty-five years.

**Q: What's the 1st thing your husband said to you when he woke up that morning?**

A: He said, "Where am I, Cathy?"

**Q: And why did that upset you?**

A: My name is Susan.

**Q: Do you know if your daughter has ever been involved in voodoo or the occult?**

A: We both do.

**Q: Voodoo?**

A: We do.

**Q: You do?**

A: Yes, voodoo.

**Q: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?**

A: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

**Q: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?**

A: Yes.

**Q: And what were you doing at that time?**



## **COURTROOM HUMOUR ... ACTUALLY SAID IN COURT? (Cont.)**

**Q: She had three children, right?**

A: Yes

**Q: How many were boys?**

A: None.

**Q: Were there any girls?**

**Q: How was your first marriage terminated?**

A: By death.

**Q: And by whose death was it terminated?**

**Q: Can you describe the individual?**

A: He was about medium height and had a beard.

**Q: Was this a male or a female?**

**Q: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?**

A: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

**Q: Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?**

A: All my autopsies are performed on dead people.

**Q: ALL your responses MUST be oral, OK? What school did you go to?**

A: Oral.

**Q: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?**

A: The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m.

**Q: And Mr. Dennington was dead at the time?**

A: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy.

**Q: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?**

**Q: Are you sexually active?**

A: No, I just lie there.

**Q: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?**

A: Yes.

**Q: And in what ways does it affect your memory?**

A: I forget.

**Q: You forget? Give us an example of something that you've forgotten?**

**Q: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?**

A: No.

**Q: Did you check for blood pressure?**

A: No.

**Q: Did you check for breathing?**

A: No.

**Q: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?**

A: No.

**Q: How can you be so sure, Doctor?**

A: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

**Q: But could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?**

A: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law somewhere.

**Q: The youngest son, the twenty-year-old, how old is he?**

**Q: Were you present when your picture was taken?**

*(Thanks to Lisa Cumber for this submission.)*

## **NAME-CALLING ...**

Just in case these come up in court (ha, ha)!!

U.S. author Robert Lanham has been dubbed "the Margaret Mead of the North American weirdo," says The Washington Post. Some of his coinages.

Food court druids: Gothic-dressed gamers who play Magic: The Gathering and turn out for Harry Potter book releases.

Cherohonkees: White people who wear too much Native American-themed garb.

Kristen Kringles: Women obsessed year-round with Christmas.

Stretchibitionists: Those gym-goers who never seem to work out, but simply claim a high-traffic spot to do a stretch routine with no aim or reason.

Perpendiculoids: People who maintain an abnormally erect posture to look confident, healthy and fashionable.

Asphalt rangers: City dwellers who wear backpacking gear and hiking shoes every day.

*(Thanks to Lisa Cumber for this submission.)*

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*Articles Submitted Are Not Necessarily the View of this CRAO*