



Ted Knott, OCEA President, 1980-1982 found his relaxation with a fishing rod in later years.

Ted Knott Past President of OCEA 1980-1982

Reprinted from the OCEA News February 2001 by Marie Gabriel.

The interview with Ted Knott involved the high tech equipment of a computer and the Internet. Ted and I were unable to meet due to a snowstorm.

Ted explains his involvement with "the early experimental evaluation of Cooperative Education and the formation of OCEA as good luck".

Ted entered the Ontario College of Education at the age of 27 years as a skilled Senior Tool and Die Designer. The tradition of giving credit for experiential learning was part of Technical and Business teacher training for many years. In 1963 Ted was hired by Hamilton Board of Education to teach Mechanical Drafting. In 1968, Ted was invited by a superintendent to work as an assistant. His job involved planning school facilities, planning and working with subject groups and community advisory committees. The advisory committees provided the first work experiences and Cooperative Education programs in the Hamilton area.

Most of the work experiences were two weeks long and provided placements in construction programmes. A few years later, the work experience expanded to include other tech subjects, business, vocational, and dental assistant students. The programs provided no high school credits only valuable experience for the graduating student.

During the 1970's Ted was working on his Master of Education and decided to do an independent study about providing credits for "experiential education". During this time, Ted met Jack Ulan, Work Experience Coordinator for the North York Board of Education.

Through this connection, Ted found about 15-20 others who were also interested in this program or had a responsibility for work experience at the schools. Jack Ulan was keen to get the people together to share ideas. Jack hosted the first meeting and invited George Isford, Ministry of Education. All of the interested people had many meetings with their local communities to determine the commitment and interest of the local business.

Included in the first meetings were: Tom Douglas from Kitchener, Ernie Nielsen from Peel, Jack Ulan, Wally Tiechrobe, Business Department Head, and Ted.

Jack Ulan found ways to get things done and to move ahead with the ideas that were supported during the meetings. Initially they thought about organizing as a "subject group", meeting periodically to share ideas and promote the concepts. It was not named as a Cooperative Education Association at first. Jack attended a meeting with the College Association for Cooperative Education to present the idea for secondary school association, but no action was taken.

Ted attended a College conference at Mohawk College and heard Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Employment and Immigration announced funding for Cooperative Education at the colleges and universities. Ted managed to talk with Lloyd and asked if the funding could include secondary schools. Meetings were scheduled in Ottawa and soon after, George Isford asked the "fledgling organization" if they were ready to organize a major conference on Cooperative Education that would be funded by the Federal government and hosted by North York Board of Education.

In March, 1976 about 250 people attended the conference at the Inn-on - the-Park Hotel. Coincidentally, with the conference, the Ministry of Education issued an addendum to HS1 which

outlined guidelines for offering Cooperative Education in a secondary school. On that weekend, the association went from 40 members to over 200 members across Ontario. They had a bank account of \$5000.00 and a mandate to promote Cooperative Education and to increase awareness with secondary school teachers across Ontario.

Over the next few years, Cooperative Education grew fast across Ontario. HS 1 was revised. Additional Qualification courses for Cooperative Education were developed by Dr. Glen Estabrook at Queen's University.

This small group of OCEA Executives had input to a draft of the ROSE Report (Renewal of Secondary Education). It first recommended that non-teachers be the monitors for coop. The response was swift and vigorously opposed to the idea.

During 1981, Ted prepared a brief to the OSSTF Provincial Salary Committee to recommend a staffing formula for coop -10 students (20 credits) per teacher.

Ted Knott, Eva Nichols and Hank Froese were seconded by the Ministry to write a resource book, that was never published. Shortly after, George King was seconded to the Ministry and he worked tirelessly to produce the first Cooperative Education document: *Co-operative Education - Policies and Procedures for Ontario Secondary Schools, 1989*. This provided the policy that was needed for Cooperative Education.

In the early days, all of the OCEA believed that Cooperative Education was for all students, rather than only business and technical students. This made for creative thinking in terms of subject related placements.

Ted had interaction with all subject consultants and received a lot of support for the academic related cooperative education. He was eager to make sure that Cooperative Education would become a normal part for the school organization and would not be discarded after the early leaders moved on.

KNOTT, Edwin John (Ted) ~ September 4, 1935 - April 4, 2005

We are sad to announce the passing of one of OCEA's esteemed members as Past President, serving from 1980 to 1982, Edwin John (Ted) Knott.

We are saddened by his passing, but have been left enriched by his selfless contributions to his peers and this noble profession.

A Memorial Service for all of Ted's friends was held on Saturday, April 16th at 2:00 p.m. at St. John's Anglican Church, located at 272 Wilson Street East, Ancaster, Ontario.