

GREATER TORONTO AREA CHAPTER



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As our calendar year draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to reach out to all our Chapter Members, and to all the Certified Fraud Examiners in the Greater Toronto Area. This has been an unprecedented year. While many of us can easily point to some of the more recognizable changes that we have endured, like the disruption of travel, the reduction of in-person gatherings, and working from home, I believe many of us have also taken this opportunity to redefine how we celebrate occasions and better care for one another.

Despite the challenges and issues this pandemic has brought, there have been several bright spots in 2020. The Chapter Board of Directors has worked tirelessly in this new environment to ensure we continue to provide affordable, Canadian-based training to all CFEs in the GTA. While out of an abundance of caution, we canceled the annual FIT Forum in early April, our virtual [September Workshop with Nejjolla Korris](#) was extremely well attended. Thanks to **Penny Hill** for being the lead director on this event. The format of four morning sessions was well received, and the workshop scored high reviews from the participants. In late November, **Elodie Goncalves** and **Jordan McManus**, two of our newer board members, hosted a webinar for our Student Affiliates entitled "[Preparing for Your Next Career Opportunity](#)." For those who attended, this was a very informative session.

In late September, the Chapter welcomed back **Astra Williamson** to the Board of Directors and as the Senior Vice-President & Chief Learning Officer, Astra has been instrumental in setting forth the training plan for the coming year. The introduction of the Chapter's [e-Learning Catalog](#) in March 2020, the brainchild of **Penny Hill** our Director, Chapter Liaison, was well timed. Now, CFEs across Canada can earn their CPE credits at their leisure and at very affordable prices. New courses are being added every month, so I would encourage you to check out the link above. In October, **Bill Vasiliou** retired from his position as Immediate Past President, capping over twenty-five years of distinguished service to the Chapter. We wish Bill all the best in the years ahead.

As we are ready to usher in 2021, **the Chapter has scheduled four CPE events for the new year**. On *January 27*, Vincent Denault, Ph.D. will host a one-hour webinar titled "[Non-verbal Communication, Biases, and Video Interviewing](#)". On *March 9*, we are hosting a virtual three-hour mini-workshop titled "[Blowing the Whistle on Fraud](#)" with Scott Porter, CPA, CA, IFA, CFF from the CPA Association, along with an update from the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre. On *April 22*, we will co-host virtually, along with our friends from the Council of Professional Investigators of Ontario, the annual [Fraud Investigation Techniques \(FIT\) Forum](#). Lastly, hold the date for our [September Workshop](#) (virtual again this year on Sep 20, 21, 22 and 23 from Noon to 4 pm each day) with Tiffany Couch, CPA/CFF, CFE, the founder of Acuity Forensics and author of "*The Thief in Your Company*." More information and registration details on all these CPE events are available on our [website](#).

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Board of Directors for their strong contributions over the past year. However, our efforts are only successful when we have an engaged and committed community of CFEs – and I am grateful for your continued commitment to the Chapter and dedication to our profession. I offer special thanks to our Chapter EVP, **Mark McManus**, who has worked tirelessly updating our processes and keeping us modernized, so we are well-positioned for the future. I wish everyone a memorable and safe Holiday Season and look forward to seeing everyone online in 2021!

Warm wishes,