

## Area Leadership Conference and Chapter Planning

At The ALC July 2010



**Our ALC was illuminated with the presence of Niagara Fall's Mayor, Ted Salci, who joined us for lunch.  
(Back row, third from the right).**

On a beautiful summer's day in July a convivial group of PDK members from the Greater Toronto and London, Ontario area along with special PDK guests from Albany, New York and London, Ontario gathered at the Americana Conference Resort in Niagara Falls, Ontario for a day of organizational reflection, learning, and goal setting.

The theme of the day was "Win Goald" referring to the gold at the end of the rainbow as well as the goals of our organization. We examined aspects of leadership – transformative and distributive models - that better describe our current organizational structure and mark a significant departure from historical forms of PDK leadership. Of course, change is in the air in other areas of PDK as presented by PDK International Board member, JoAnn Masterton. Key changes include the realignment of regional areas, the process and eligibility for PDK project grants and Chapter recognition.

In addition to looking at our current tools and roles and how we can better make use of them, we pondered some specific questions: How to engage new members? How to keep the executive vital? How to ensure the ChalkWalk is a success? These brainstorming sessions led to new tools and ideas and sparked further discussion at subsequent working group meetings.

Finally, we shared highlights such as the continued success of the London Chapter's Young Author's Conference and the Toronto Chapter's membership survey results. A special moment for me was being honoured and identified, along with Pauline Quan, Kristin Hopper, and Reneta Racheva as an Emerging Leader. An essential ingredient of PDK's continued success is to nurture, mentor and support leadership and this is being done at both the International and local levels. My sincere congratulations and thanks to the organizers for a fruitful day's work and to Elizabeth Manker for arranging wonderful post-conference activities such as the afternoon tea in the garden, prayer ceremony, glass blowing demonstration and Falls illumination.

A truly GOALden day for all!

By Susanna Tang (Susanna is one of our chapter's Emerging Leaders. See picture on reverse side. Reneta Racheva, another Emerging Leader, was our ALC photographer)

Our ALC was also supported by Niagara Falls MPP, Kim Craitor, who attended dinner with us. For pictures click on:  
[www.kimcraitor.com/photogallery.aspx](http://www.kimcraitor.com/photogallery.aspx)