

Saturday, July 1, 2023

Dear OOMA Community,

Some of you may be wondering why the Board of Directors has called for this special meeting and a resolution to dissolve OOMA pursuant to section 126 of the Societies Act. During the most recent Annual General Meeting, attendees discussed dissolving OOMA as a separate society and members voted to pursue this action. We feel it is essential to provide you with the reasoning behind this decision, which stems from extensive conversations held over several years. By dissolving OOMA, we aim to allow QMS to take the lead in a more comprehensive and coordinated effort to engage and connect with alumni, while also alleviating the administrative burdens associated with maintaining a separate society.

Our school Founders, Miss Denny and Miss Geoghegan, envisioned OOMA as a way for alumni (former students, later expanded to include staff) to stay connected with the school and with each other. As members of the OOMA Board of Directors, and representatives of the more than 6300 members in our community, our primary objective is to uphold the vision of our Founders. However, times have changed since 1927 when OOMA was founded. Technology has advanced far beyond what many of us could have ever imagined. The growth and progress at QMS in recent years have been remarkable. If you haven't had the opportunity to visit the campus recently, we encourage you to do so and witness the amazing developments firsthand. The School has also made significant investments in supporting alumni through events held across Canada and around the world. Additionally, the launch of [QMSConnects](#)—an online platform—has enabled year-round and global connectivity. We have received invaluable feedback from numerous alumni highlighting the value of these events and opportunities to engage with the school. One of the reasons behind the proposal to dissolve OOMA is that QMS can provide these opportunities that OOMA, as a separate entity, simply lacks the resources to offer.

Operating as an official society comes with financial costs and administrative requirements. Initially, OOMA members paid dues to support the organization's activities. However, membership dues are no longer in effect, requiring OOMA to raise funds annually to cover necessary administrative expenses such as BC Societies fees, taxes, and other costs, including mailing physical copies of The Link to members who request it. Any remaining funds are directed towards supporting bursaries or other needs, such as the Archives. It has also been increasingly challenging to find members able to serve on the Board of Directors. By dissolving OOMA as a separate society, we can eliminate these administrative costs and dedicate our time to volunteering at events such as Alumni Day, the QMS Christmas Bazaar, at Alumni Reunions in your area or contributing through direct donations. There are numerous ways in which we, as alumni, can give back to our beloved school.

So, what does the dissolution plan entail? First and foremost, our roles as QMS alumni remain unchanged—we still strive to maintain connections with the school and each other. QMS will

take responsibility for communicating with alumni, which is already being done, and will continue to facilitate connections through hosting [QMSConnects](#) and alumni events as they have been doing. Our duty is to actively engage and contribute to our school community—attending events when we can, engaging through [QMSConnects](#), and sending updates on our activities to the school for inclusion in the school magazine, *Connections*. For those capable of doing so, please consider supporting the school through donations or volunteering. Currently, the school operates a secure portal where you can direct donations towards various causes, including the OOMA Legacy Centennial Fund, specific scholarships, and various other programs such as the arts, athletics and equestrian. The Link will continue as a part of the *Connections* magazine, while OOMA's records will be held by the school in accordance with the Societies Act, and become part of the QMS Archives.

We understand that change can be challenging—we all hold cherished memories and experiences associated with OOMA and what it signifies. We hope that this letter provides clarity as to why we believe that moving in this direction is the most favourable course of action. Our aim is to alleviate administrative burdens while still nurturing the essential "bond of fellowship" envisioned by our Founders.

Servite Fortier
OOMA Board of Directors, 2023-2024

