

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Second Semester!!!

A lot has taken place since the last edition of The Voice. We have a tentative extension to our collective agreement, we will be transitioning to new benefits on April 1, and AGM 2017 is on the horizon.

It is good news to see the tentative extension to the Central Terms of the Collective Agreement. I have sent out some information to everyone's personal email address and there is a column in this edition. To see the complete agreement you must login to the members' only section of the OECTA Provincial website at [www.catholicteachers.ca](http://www.catholicteachers.ca)

If you have never created an account you will have to do that first. The ratification vote takes place from noon on March 1 until noon on March 2, 2017. Everyone will receive an email that will provide them with the process for voting and how to access their unique 20 digit PIN. People should print or write the PIN down in a safe place until the vote. If you lose your PIN or have trouble accessing the vote the email that you receive will have the pertinent information for you to be able to access. Most importantly you will need to have your OECTA membership number handy as this will be what is needed to identify you as a member. New OECTA membership cards were mailed out over the Christmas break, if you did not receive yours

please contact OECTA provincial office 1-800-268-7230 and they will direct you to the right department. You can also call the Unit Office and we can provide to you your OECTA number, also check with your OECTA staff representative as they will be receiving updated list in the next few days.

Beginning on April 1, 2017, Simcoe Muskoka Teachers will be transitioned to the new benefits provided by OTIP. Beginning on March 1, 2017, teachers should start receiving the enrollment packages. These packages will be mailed to the address you have on file with the Board, please make sure that it is accurate to avoid any delays.

Once you receive the enrollment package you will see the details of the new benefit plan. If you have particular questions prior to the transition you are to contact [oectabenefits@catholicteachers.ca](mailto:oectabenefits@catholicteachers.ca) Once the transition is complete people are reminded that they have a deadline for submitting claims after termination. For most plans it is 90 days and I am seeking some clarification on this point from the Board.

Watch for memos about the enrollment and if at any time you have questions please do not hesitate to contact the Unit office.

AGM 2017 will be held at the Westin Harbour Castle from March 11-13, 2017. This year we have a few new delegates attending representing the

Simcoe Muskoka Secondary Unit.

The delegates this year are:

Michele MacDonald

Allyn Janicki

Wade Tower

Anthony Buffone

Susan Hughes

Bruce Wakewich

Rose Lafrance

Steven Zawacki

Serena Macfie - alternate

Thank you to these individuals who will be giving up the first part of the March Break to vote on changes to the OECTA Handbook. The Handbook governs our Association between AGMs.

Recently the OECTA Staff Representative would have received a few copies of the resolutions being presented to AGM 2017 - it would be good if all members could read these resolutions. On Monday, March 6, 2017, we will be having a General Meeting to discuss these resolutions and to provide direction to the delegates on the position of the members of Simcoe Muskoka Secondary.

AGM 2017 also elects the Provincial representatives this year the following are seeking a position on the executive:

Liz Stuart - President

Warren Grafton - 1st Vice

Barb Dobrowolski - 2nd Vice

Andrew Donihee - 3rd Vice

Michel Derikx - Treasurer

Michael John Knoblauch & Anthony

Rocchio - Councillors

## PENSION WORKSHOPS

Walk into Retirement with a Plan - Presented by OTIP  
April 11, 2017, Lion's Gate Banquet Hall, Barrie.

OECTA Retirement Workshop - Presented by OECTA  
Joe Pece - April 29, 2017, Barrie Country Club

## PENSION CORNER

### Four Months Before Your Pension Starts

#### Review your personal pension information

- 1 Review your service record for completeness and opportunities to buy back or transfer service.
- 2 Update your profile to make sure everything is accurate.
- 3 Use the pension calculator to confirm your estimated pension.
- 4 Check you have uploaded all required documents through your Document Centre.

#### Tell your employer about your retirement

Be sure to submit your letter of resignation to your employer before your intended retirement date. You must terminate employment with your employer to receive your pension. Pension applications cannot be backdated.

#### Decide whether you want supplementary medical coverage

While some employers extend health benefits to their retired employees, three independent organizations provide this kind of coverage to pensioners:  
ARM Retiree Health Insurance Plan  
RTO/ERO

#### OTIP/RAEO

Contact them directly for information on available options.  
Apply online for your pension

If you are planning on retiring in June, you can apply for your pension as early as March of that year. It takes only six easy steps:

- 1 Tell OTIP when you want to start receiving your pension
- 2 Review your personal information and make any changes
- 3 Answer a few simple benefit-related questions
- 4 Tell OTIP where to deposit your pension - Be sure to have your bank account information ready or upload a void cheque to your Document Centre
- 5 Review your application before you submit it
- 6 Print a copy of your application for your records

## COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

### Tentative Central Terms Collective Agreement Extension

Ratification of the Central Terms Extension takes place from noon on March 1 until noon on March 2, 2017. All communication about the tentative deal can be found in the members' only section of the Provincial website - [www.catholicteachers.ca](http://www.catholicteachers.ca)

All information about the ratification is being sent to everyone's personal email address that they have registered with OECTA. If you recently changed your email address please make sure that you make the change with Provincial OECTA or with the Unit office so that you are ensured of receiving all the pertinent information.

For the full Extension Agreement please go to [www.catholicteachers.ca](http://www.catholicteachers.ca) and login to members' only section.

### Summary of Extension Agreement

Two year extension from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2019.

Salary Increases: 1.5% - September 1, 2017

1% - September 1, 2018

1% - February 1, 2019

0.5% - August 31, 2019

A 0.5% lump sum payment will be provided on November 1, 2017 - this is not on the grid and is for Professional Development.

Staffing Increases - Through the local Joint Staffing Committee we will determine where it is believed additional qualified teachers are required to provide student support. The positions cannot be consultant, coordinators or student success teachers. The positions cannot also be assigned to principals or vice-principals.

Benefits - Effective September 1, 2017 - 4% inflationary increase and a subsequent 4% September 1, 2018. These amounts allow the ELHT to maintain benefits on a go forward basis.

Local Bargaining - Any local term, letter of understanding/ agreement that had an expiry date, the expiry date will be extended by two years.

**Article XVI - Staffing Assignment Process**

A joint committee of the Board and the LBU will review timelines for the staffing process and identify specific dates.

March 1 - Deadline for teachers wishing to apply for a leave of absence, part-time assignment. Should be sent to Superintendent of Secondary Schools and the Human Resources Department. **Before making any decisions please consult with the Unit Office.**

Deadline for teachers on a part-time assignment who wish to return to full-time must submit a written request to Superintendent of Schools and Human Resources Department.

March 31 - Interim Surplus Teachers identified and notified. **Anyone hired after September 1 will automatically be declared surplus.**

No later than April 15 - Identification and notification of surplus and/or redundant teachers

Posting of teaching vacancies (round #1)

Posting of vacant and/or acting Chairperson assignments

April 21 - First round of transfers and Chairperson assignments closes

May 1 - Second posting of teaching vacancies (round #2)

May 8 - Second round of transfers closes

May 16 - Surplus teachers placed  
Chairperson Assignments announced

May 19 - Third posting of teaching vacancies (round #3)  
Cross Panel Transfers

May 29 - Third round closes

June 1 - August 31 - Open round for transfers

Remaining permanent vacancies or newly created vacancies will be filled as follows:

Transfer requests received for general transfer;

Any redundant teachers;

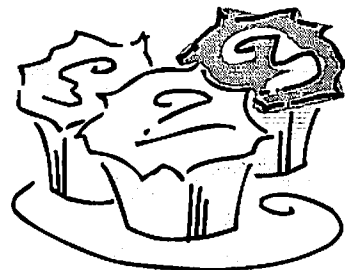
Any outstanding FTE increase requests not yet granted.

February 27 is National Cupcake Day, and the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) is inviting everyone to "bake" a difference. Now in its fifth year, National Cupcake Day invites bakers to host a Cupcake Day party or sale and invite co-workers, friends and family to make a donation in exchange for a cupcake, to support OSPCA branches and humane societies across the country.

To get involved, register your event at [nationalcupcakeday.ca](http://nationalcupcakeday.ca) to receive a free cupcake host kit, arriving in the mail or download online.

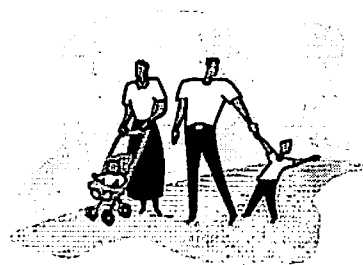
Customize your online fundraising centre and ask for support from friends, family and co-workers. Plan your National Cupcake Day party for home, work, school or anywhere, and host your event on February 27 or any day that works for you.

Bake, donate, eat and enjoy, to make a difference for animals in need. The campaign has raised \$1.85 million to date.



On Saturday, February 25, 2017, Youth Haven in Barrie is hosting their annual Coldest Night of the Year Walk/Fundraiser. To register go to <https://canada.cnoy.org/location/barrie>. Registration opens at 4 pm and the walk begins at 5:15. Route options are: 2K, 5K, 10K. Walkers who raise \$150 (adults) or \$75 (youth) do not have to pay the \$25 registration fee. A light meal will be served to all walkers and volunteers between 6 & 8 p.m. If you are interested in participating or becoming a volunteer please use the url above to access information.

Let's get out there and support our Youth!!!



## IN SYMPATHY WITH

Nick Nicoletta, Teacher at St. Joan of Arc, on the passing of his mother-in-law, Anna Marie Strom.

Joe Cano, Teacher at St. Joseph's, on the passing of his father, Bernard Cano.

Kelly Rawson and Ken Rawson, Teachers at St. Peter's, on the passing of their father, Bill Rawson.

Yvonne Bergsma, Teacher at Patrick Fogarty, on the passing of her father, Henricus (Harry) Terhaerd.

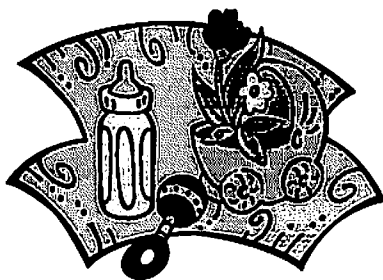
Laura Hevia, Teacher at St. Peter's, on the passing of her mother-in-law, Evangelina Batista Ramirez.

Serena Macfie, Teacher at St. Joan of Arc, on the passing of her father-in-law, Edward Cieszkowski

Shannon Muegge, Teacher at St. Joan of Arc, on the passing of her father, Edward McConvey.

Paula McConvey, Teacher at St. Peter's, on the passing of her father-in-law, Edward McConvey.

Stephanie Maher, Religious Education and Chaplaincy Coordinator, on the passing of her brother, Dr. Chris Bernier



## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 14 - Happy Valentine's Day

February 14 - Unit Executive meeting @ 12:30 p.m.  
Unit Office, Barrie

February 20 - Family Day!



March 1 - Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.  
Board Office, Barrie

March 2 - OECTA Staff Representatives meeting  
Unit Office, Barrie @ 12:30 p.m.

March 1-2 - Ratification Vote of Tentative Extension to  
Collective Agreement

March 6 - Unit General Meeting & Delegates meeting  
AGM Resolutions  
4:30 p.m. Unit office, Barrie

March 11-13 - Annual General Meeting OECTA  
Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto

March 13-17 - March Break!!!!

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day!



March 21 - Unit Executive meeting @ 12:30 p.m.  
Unit Office, Barrie

March 22 - Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.  
Board Office, Barrie

April 11 - Walk into Retirement with a Plan  
Presented by OTIP  
Lion's Gate Banquet Hall, Barrie

April 11 - Unit Executive meeting @ 4:30 p.m.  
Unit Office, Barrie

April 12 - Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.  
Board Office, Barrie

April 14 - Good Friday

April 17 - Easter Monday

## CONGRATULATIONS TO!