

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow!! We are half way through another school year, where does the time go?

In the weeks to come we have a number of events to keep in your calendars starting with AGM 2018. The delegates representing Simcoe Muskoka Secondary at AGM 2018 are:

- Michele MacDonald - President
- Allyn Janicki - 1st Vice President
- Terry Beaumont - 2nd Vice President
- Steven Zawacki - OT representative
- J.B. Souillierre - Staff Rep
- Lindsay Zawacki - Staff Rep
- Rose Lafrance - Member at large
- Serena Macfie - Member at large

These individuals will be taking the first part of March Break (10-12) to represent the interests of Simcoe Muskoka in making changes to OECTA Handbook.

AGM 2018 - Resolutions has been posted to the OECTA website in the member's only section. Hard copies will be mailed to the schools and distributed by the OECTA Staff Rep.

Make a point of attending the March 5, 2018, General Meeting where we look at resolutions to AGM.

Following AGM we have scheduled the Retirement workshop - April 7, 2018. In order to register for this event this year you will have to have a login to our members' only section of our website.

On line registration through the website is the only way to register for the workshop this year. Get your login now so you can register when registration opens later in February.

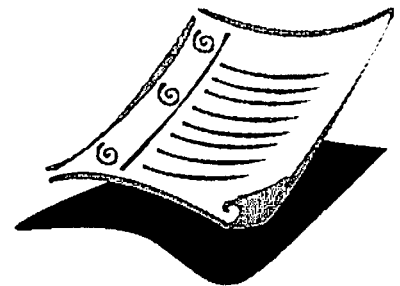
This is also a Provincial Election year. The election will take place on June 7, 2018. The rules around election donations for third parties has changed and we will no longer be able to release individuals to assist on local campaigns. We will have many opportunities to provide information to our members through email and our website about the candidates so that you will make an informed decision on June 7th.

You may see information about nomination meetings for areas within Simcoe Muskoka that we become aware of, but if you know of events taking place please provide that information to our Political Action Chairperson - Dino Zorzi. Nomination meetings are a great way to get to know the candidates in your riding. Remember in order to vote at a nomination meeting you have to be a dues paying member of the particular political party in that riding. Democracy is about getting involved and voting.

Mark your calendars to save the following dates:

- OECTA Pension Workshop - Saturday, April 7, 2018, Barrie Golf and Country Club, Barrie from 9-3 p.m.
- OTIP Walk into Retirement with a Plan Workshop - Tuesday, April 24, 2018, Liberty North, Barrie from 4:30-7:30 p.m.
- President's Dinner - an evening to honour those teachers with 25 years of service and our retiring colleagues - May, 17, 2018.

I wish everyone a successful start to semester two. If you are travelling in the next months for work or pleasure please take care and be safe.



RETIREMENT WORKSHOP

This year's Retirement Workshop will take place on Saturday, April 7, 2018, and will be held at the Barrie Golf & Country Club.

Registration this year is taking place online. **You will have to have a member login for our website in order to register for the workshop.** If you have not created a login please contact Shannon McGlynn at smcglynn@smcddb.on.ca and he will provide you with the necessary login.

Registration for the workshop is not open yet, but will be shortly. A notice will go out through the OECTA Staff Representative at your work site when registration is open.

On the day of the workshop check in will begin at 8:30 and the workshop will run from 9-3 p.m. Lunch is provided and a light snack at break in the morning will be available.

Save the date and get your login created in order to not miss this workshop that fills up quickly.



PENSION CORNER

OTPP Pension Enhancements January 1, 2018

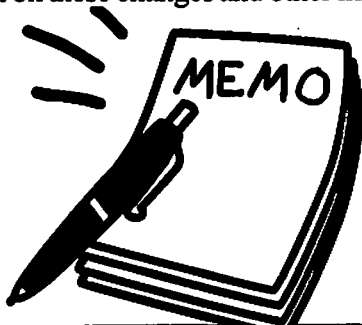
The contribution rate for the Plan's active members will be reduced by 1.1%

Full inflation protection will be restored for those who retired after 2009.

Also, the reduction factor has been lowered for members who cease employment in education in 2018 or later and who elect a reduced pension on a deferred basis.

For more information on these changes and other information go to:

www.otpp.com



Retiring in the next five years?

Have questions about retirement benefits and finances?

OTIP and the Simcoe Muskoka Units of OECTA invite you to attend the Walk into Retirement with a Plan Workshop.

During this workshop, you'll learn about:

- Retirement benefits for life - discover why OTIP is now the leading choice for plan flexibility regarding retirement health, dental and travel benefits
- Your Pension - OTTP and/or OMERS
- Other sources of retirement revenue, including CPP and OAS

This complimentary workshop is open only to members and spouses. A light dinner will be served. Please note any dietary requirements at time of registration.

DATE: Tuesday, April 24, 2018

TIME: 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Liberty North Banquet Hall
100 Caplan Avenue, Barrie

Register online at: www.otip.com/events

This workshop is not the same as the OECTA workshop, but just as valuable as it concentrates on retirement benefits. This will be an opportunity to have your questions about retiree benefits answered.



OTIP Teaching Awards

The Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP) and the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) are proud sponsors of the OTIP Teaching Awards.

For many years, these awards have recognized the excellence of our teachers in publicly funded education.

There are three categories of awards:

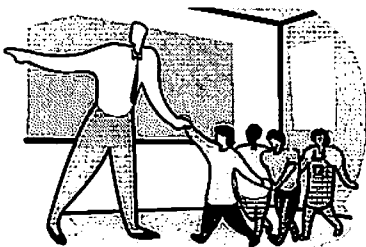
- Elementary School Teacher
- Secondary School Teacher
- Beginning Teacher - in the first five years of teaching

A teacher may be nominated by anyone - professional colleagues, students, parents, or the general public.

Nominations are now open for the 2018 awards. **The deadline for receipt of nominations is March 31, 2018.**

Further information is available at www.teachingawards.ca. If you have any questions, please contact Jason Healey at OTF: jason.healey@otffeo.on.ca

OTF and OTIP are proud of the excellence of teachers throughout the province. These awards allow OTF & OTIP to recognize and celebrate outstanding contributions that our members make to their students' education, to their schools, and within their communities.



OTF Connects Webinars

Developed by teachers for teachers, OTF's FREE webinars provide OTF members easy-to-access PD at home or on a mobile device. The 90 minute webinars focus on areas of mathematics, technology, curriculum, Kindergarten, and financial literacy.

www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/otf-connects/calendar/

The OTF Connects archived webinars focus on a wide variety of topics such as curriculum, environmental education, exploring inquiry, media and digital literacy and violence prevention. All are available at:

www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/otf-connects/resources/

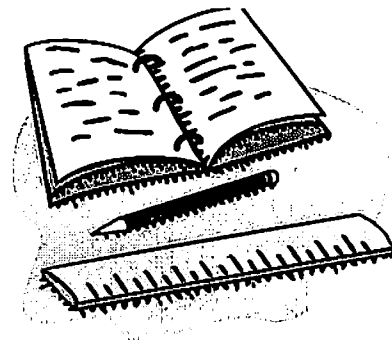
A Free Online Teacher Resource

Open the door to human rights for your students as they discover the lived experiences and accomplishments of the renowned Canadian defenders through teacher-approved lesson plans and activities.

Each Canadian defender profile has multimedia materials, biographies, interviews, learning targets, lessons and activities, real-world information, general background documents and much more. Although the profiles are not grade-specific, resources are labeled for grade appropriateness, where applicable.

The site was developed by the Canadian Teachers' Federation in partnership with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and in collaboration with the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights.

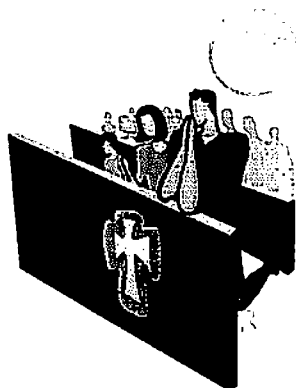
sttpcanada.ctf-fce.ca



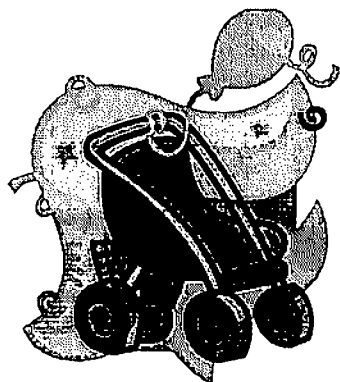
IN SYMPATHY WITH

Martin Foster, Teacher at St. Joe's, on the passing of his mother, Rita.

Jeff Brodeur, Teacher at Patrick Fogarty, on the passing of his father, Douglas.



CONGRATULATIONS TO!



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 25 - January 31 - Semester One Final Exams

February 1 - Semester One Professional Activity Day

February 2 - Semester Two Professional Activity Day

February 5 - Semester Two begins for students

February 14 - Happy Valentine's Day



February 14 - Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
Monsignor Clair Library, Barrie

February 19 - Family Day! ENJOY!!!!

March 1 - OECTA Staff Representatives Meeting
Unit Office, Barrie @ 12:30 p.m.

March 5 - General Meeting and AGM delegates Meeting
Unit Office, Barrie @ 4:30 p.m.

March 7 - Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
Monsignor Clair Library, Barrie

March 20 - Executive Meeting @ 4:30 p.m.
Unit Office, Barrie

March 30 - Good Friday



April 2 - Easter Monday

April 4 - Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
Monsignor Clair Library, Barrie

April 7 - OECTA Retirement Workshop
Barrie Golf & Country Club, Barrie
8:30 - 3:00 p.m.
MUST BE REGISTERED IN ADVANCE

April 10 - Executive Meeting @ 4:30 p.m.
Unit Office, Barrie

April 24 - OTIP Walk into Retirement with a Plan
Liberty North, Barrie @ 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

April 26 - OECTA Staff Representatives Meeting
Unit Office, Barrie @ 4:30 p.m.