



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year's AGM saw a number of new delegates take part in the weekend long meeting.

Highlights from the event include a number of guest speakers from the Minister of Education, Mitzie Hunter to environmentalist Naomi Klein who spoke about climate change and specifically about the damage that is occurring in the Great Barrier Reef.

The debate on the fee took up most of the debate on Saturday. An increase to the base fee from \$1,000 to \$1,100 was passed with any future increases to the fee being tied to any salary increases, and all other pieces staying the same. This increase will allow OECTA the opportunity to meet their budgetary obligations and still allow us to build on our reserve fund for the future.

The election of our 2017-2018 executive took place, congratulations to those elected:

Liz Stuart - President

Warren Grafton - 1st Vice President

Barb Dobrowolski - 2nd Vice President

Andrew Donihee - 3rd Vice President

Michel Derikx - Treasurer

Rene Jansen in de Wal - Councillor

Anthony Rocchio - Councillor

Chris Cowley - OTF Table Officer

Ann Hawkins - Past President

This was also an election year for the OTF Governors, congratulations to those elected:

Rick Belisle

Tracey Pecarski

Sean Roberts

Chris Cowley

Andrew Robertson

We are beginning our staffing process for the 2017-2018 school year. In the January/February Voice the time lines were outlined. If you know that you are retiring and or wishing to request a leave of absence the sooner that information can be provided to the Board the better it is for our process. This is a difficult time for those being declared surplus (no position for a teacher at their present work location) and for those who may be declared redundant (no position within the Board). Please be sensitive that there may be colleagues in the staff room who have been declared surplus and/or redundant and they may be going through anxiety or nervousness about their present situation. Please don't spread rumours about staffing, if you have questions please call the Unit office or send me an email so that you have the facts.

The extension to the collective agreement has been passed, which means that we will have four (4) additional jobs. These jobs are new jobs over and above the current staffing numbers and are not based on enrollment. They are only in place until 2019, but it is always hoped that these positions will become part of the Grant for Student Needs (GSN) and will be permanent positions.

The staffing process will begin on April 13, 2017, with the declaration of surplus and/or redundancy. The Labour Management Committee will be meeting with the Board on April 5 to discuss enrollment numbers, and phase one staffing will be finalized for April 13.

Staffing is a fluid process and changes happen throughout the months of April through to August. It is important for people to be patient and as soon as we can make changes we will notify those affected.

We have now transitioned to the OECTA Benefits provided through OTIP/Manulife. Members have until May 2 to enrol, if you haven't done so already please make sure you log-in and register yourself and your dependents. Don't forget to print the beneficiary form and mail it back to OTIP in the self addressed envelope provided in your Welcome Kit.

Also remember to provide your new plan number and ID to any provider who does direct payment. For example, your pharmacy, and your dentist. You can now submit claims on-line, but I remind you to keep a copy of what you file with all receipts. You can be audited at any time for your on-line claims, so keep a file. I don't know how long you need to keep copies of receipts, but I would suggest you keep them for at least seven years.

The phone number and website information for our new benefits can be found on the magnet that was provided a few months ago. Keep that information in an accessible place.

Have a great Easter break! Be safe if you are travelling. Enjoy the time spent with Family and Friends!



## GOLF TOURNAMENT

Shine up your clubs the Annual OECTA Simcoe Muskoka Golf Tournament is being held on Saturday, May 27, 2017. The Tournament is being held again this year at Innisbrook Golf Course. It will be a shot-gun start or rolling start based on enrolment.

Each team will play a round of golf (18 holes) with a cart and have an excellent dinner and awards for the small cost of \$75/member.

Get your team together and practice or just come out for a great day of golf and comradery.

Registration forms will be sent out to schools shortly.

## PENSION CORNER

Thinking about retiring? Have you informed your employer? 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. The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan cannot backdate a pension application.

Have you uploaded all required documents to the document centre? Required documents are:

- √ Your birth certificate;
- √ Your marriage certificate (if you're married) or a Statutory Declaration of Common-law Relationship;
- √ Your married or common-law spouse's birth certificate;
- √ Your separation agreement or divorce papers (if applicable);
- √ Your CPP notice of Entitlement or Statement of Denial (if you are receiving or have applied for a disability pension from CPP).

The resignation date on your pension application must be the same date you include in your resignation letter. A resignation is considered valid only if:

- your employer confirms acceptance of your resignation without condition;
- no arrangement has been made to return to work in education; and
- you have either received or arrangements have been made to pay any applicable gratuity.

## FRANK MOORE MEMORIAL AWARD

### FRANK MOORE MEMORIAL AWARD

The Frank Moore Memorial Award honours a Simcoe Muskoka Secondary Unit member who has served the profession in an exemplary manner. The award is presented at the President's Dinner on Thursday, May 18, 2017.

If you wish to nominate an OECTA colleague, please complete the nomination form and return it to the Unit office no later than Thursday, April 20th.

The past recipients of the award are tasked with the responsibility of choosing the 2017 recipient using the following criteria:

- The recipient is an OECTA member
- The person nominated should have as many qualifications as possible:
  - contribute to our system and education
  - service in OECTA
  - contribute to community by taking part in community organizations (service, cultural, church, etc)
  - experience in classroom or other educational capacity
  - professional capacity

In 1986, OECTA Unit Simcoe instituted an award to annually recognize the contribution to education, community and Association, made by one of our members. Following the tragic death of Frank Moore, Teacher at St. Joseph's High School, in an automobile accident the award was named in his honour.

Frank was a well-respected Teacher and leader at his school, and a tenacious advocate for this Unit Simcoe colleagues, especially noted for his expertise in the field of negotiations.

We have many deserving colleagues and it would be great to recognize them all! Please nominate a deserving Teacher from your school or work location.

## BENEFITS

We have now transitioned to OTIP/Maulife benefits. Any claims you have outstanding from our previous carrier Sun Life must be submitted on later than April 30, 2017. Sun Life should have those claims on this date or they may not pay the claim.

**SUBMIT ANY OUTSTANDING CLAIMS TO SUN LIFE IMMEDIATELY.**

For members who will be direct-billed for additional coverage, you will see the bank deduction on April 10. For current members who opted for additional coverage we have not been provided with the start date for payroll deductions. Once we have that information it will be shared with the membership. OTIP is allowing time for Wave 4 members to enrol before beginning these deductions.

The Board has adjusted their firewall to allow for the OTIP link to enrol in benefits to work. So, if you have delayed enrolling because you couldn't access the link at work you should now be able to access.

If you have not received your enrolment information please contact OTIP at 1-866-783-6847 or [OECTAenrolment@otip.com](mailto:OECTAenrolment@otip.com)

If you have not received your benefit card you can print one from the OTIP secure site once you have enrolled. Please remember to provide the new plan # and ID # to your pharmacy and dentist and anywhere else that you had set up for direct payment.

Due to some delays in obtaining pre-approved drug exceptions and claims history from Wave 4 carriers, there was a slight delay in loading the updates of eligible member and dependent records into the claims system. This means that any members added after the original file load, as well as any members who increased their coverage from no coverage to single or family will not see those changes reflected at the dental office or pharmacy until April 2. Claims submitted for reimbursement will not be impacted.

## HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

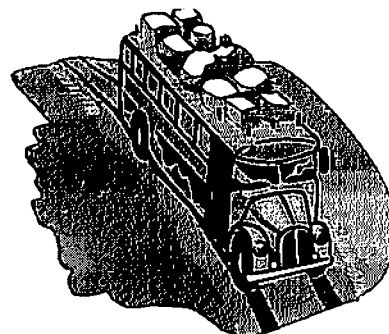
The Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity is celebrating its Day of Pink on April 12th. All in support on creating safer and more inclusive schools, communities and workplaces. Celebrate our diversity by wearing PINK on April 12th.

The Human Rights Committee would like to bring to each school's attention an excellent learning opportunity. It is called The Tour For Humanity Bus.

The Tour For Humanity (T4H) program is a bus that comes to your school to deliver a choice of curriculum-relevant social justice material with topics such as bullying, the Holocaust, or Residential Schools. The cost is only \$500 for 1 day of programs for Grades 3-12. Each visit will accommodate/include six 45-minute sessions of 30 students/session.

In a joint venture between the Board and OECTA Human Rights Committees we will equally sponsor six (6) schools, and fully fund the bus visit. Here is the website where you will find all the information you will need about the programs offered, as well as booking details: [www.tourforhumanity.com](http://www.tourforhumanity.com)

- Schools are encouraged to book tour dates now for next school year as the dates fill up quickly.
- Schools will have to complete an application and submit to the Unit office to either [mmmacdonald@smcgsb.on.ca](mailto:mmmacdonald@smcgsb.on.ca) or [smcglynn@smcgsb.on.ca](mailto:smcglynn@smcgsb.on.ca). Forms will be available shortly.
- Schools will be responsible for booking and paying for the T4H bus and submit the receipt to the Unit for reimbursement.
- You could arrange to share the visit with an elementary school if you don't have enough interest in your school.



## IN SYMPATHY WITH

Denny DeOliveira, Teacher at Holy Trinity, on the passing of his Uncle, Jorge Da Costa.

Paige Forsyth, Teacher at St. Dominic, on the passing of her sister, Shelagh Forsyth.

Walter Schug, Teacher at Patrick Fogarty, on the passing of his sister-in-law, Mirella Schug.

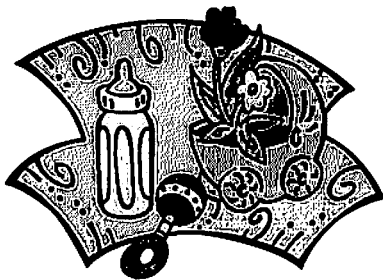
Michael Bruni, Teacher at St. Peter's, on the passing of his Nona, Maria Martone.

Erik Scott, Teacher at St. Theresa's, on the passing of his father, Randy Scott.

Robin Stonier, Teacher at St. Theresa's, on the passing of her Uncle, Richard B. Wright.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

April 27 - Barrie & District Labour Council Health and  
Safety Dinner  
Georgian College, Barrie

April 28 - Day of Mourning for Killed and Injured Workers

April 29 - OECTA Retirement Workshop  
Barrie Country Club, Barrie  
8:30 am - 3:00 pm  
WORKSHOP IS FULL

May 3 - Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.  
Board Office, Barrie

May 4 - Staff Representatives Meeting  
Unit Office, Barrie  
4:30 p.m.

May 15 - Unit Annual General Meeting  
Unit Office, Barrie, 4:30 p.m.

May 18 - President's Dinner  
Barrie Country Club, 5:00 p.m.

May 24 - Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.  
Board Office, Barrie

May 27 - Simcoe Muskoka OECTA  
Golf Tournament  
Innisbrook, 1:00 p.m.

