

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another school year is rapidly coming to a close as is my final year as President.

I have truly been honoured to represent the teachers of Simcoe Muskoka Secondary for the last 14 years.

In looking back over the last 14 years a lot has changed; we sold the office in Elmvale, where we had been for 26 years, and moved to Barrie; we saw wage increases small and large; Provincial Bargaining; redundancies; surplus; and enrollment growth. We have weathered all these changes and others by working together.

I have appreciated the work of the members of the different executives over the past 14 years and the staff representatives without their hard work and dedication this job would be overwhelming.

I know that each and every member of the Simcoe Muskoka Secondary Unit will be in good hands with the President elect - Allyn Janicki. I know that the learning curve for this job is steep and fast, and that you will be patient as Allyn finds her way. Remember back to 2004 when I became President and use that same patience you showed me with Allyn and everything will continue in a forward motion.

On May 7th the Unit AGM and elections took place and the following members represent the 2018-2019 Executive

President - Allyn Janicki
1st Vice - Terry Beaumont
2nd Vice - Dino Zorzi
Treasurer - Wade Tower

Recording Secretary - Steven Zawacki
Councillors - Anne O'Neill

Jason Janisse

Greg Quinn

Past President - Michele MacDonald

The Unit office will be closed from July 2nd until August 24th the office will reopen on the 27th of August. Phone messages will be checked periodically throughout the summer. If you have an emergency you can contact OECTA Provincial office 1-800-268-7230 for immediate assistance.

Allyn will be taking over the Unit cell phone 705-794-9565 as of July 1.

I wish each and everyone of you a safe and relaxing summer. I hope that your plans include a lot of family time to reconnect and re-energize.

For those retiring I wish you the best in the next leg of your journey and I hope that you have a long and stress free retirement. Be safe in your travels.

I owe a tremendous amount to our Office Assistant, Jeannette Lee. She has been with our organization for the past 28 years. She has kept many a president, executives and staff representatives organized, not always an easy feat. For the past 14 years she has guided me in my journey as President for which I will be eternally grateful. Jeannette's presence at the Unit office has allowed myself and those who came before me the opportunity to deal with the rigors of the job and the emergencies that come up from time-to-time because she deals with the

daily running of the Unit office. She not only supports the Secondary Unit, but works with the Elementary Unit and the Occasional Unit. We would be lost most days without her support.

Jeannette has been the voice that answers the phone - a rarity these days. She has been the minute taker at our meetings, processes the reimbursement to those who have had Professional Development opportunities, and makes sure that all our expenses are paid. Not an easy feat when often times we are running in and out from meeting to meeting or school to school.

She has made my job easier from the first day I came to the office. I will miss the daily "good morning" and the end of the day "have a good night" and all the stuff in between. I may have to call in in September just to ease myself out of that contact.

I was truly humbled to receive the Frank Moore Memorial Award, there are so many deserving members of Simcoe Muskoka and I feel honoured to have been nominated for this award. I started teaching the year that Frank passed away and didn't know him, but over the years I have grown to know him through my colleagues stories and getting to know his wife, Dina. Thank you all so much for the incredible honour and I will continue to support my Association and community in retirement.



GOLF TOURNAMENT

Another successful year for the Simcoe Muskoka Unit Golf Tournament, minus the rain delay it was an awesome day! Thanks so much to Innisbrook for a great tournament and our prize sponsors - OTIP, Johnson Insurance Inc, and Molson's.

The Winners were:

Top Men's Team - The Rankin Boys

Top Women's Team - The Stingers

Top Mixed Team - Smile & Wave

Closest to the pin for Men was James Mcdade

Closest to the pin for Ladies was Lori MacDonald

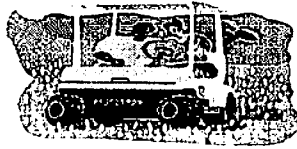
Longest Drive - Men - Kevin McCracken

Longest Drive - Ladies - Laura Lee Mullan

Closest to the Beer case - Brent Hamelin

Thanks to everyone who came out it was a great day of golf and comradair.

Next year's tournament is scheduled for May 25, 2019, Mark your calendar!!!



PENSION CORNER

Planning on retiring? Please remember that you must send to the Board your intention to retire - the date for your retirement should be June 30, 2018, if you put July 1 you may delay your first pension cheque to the end of August. Don't forget that your OECTA paid benefits will cease on June 30th and you only have 60 days to register for a new benefit plan without having to supply a medical.

Not planning on retiring for a few years? A couple of things you can do in the meantime - locate and upload the documents you need for the Pension Plan. The documents you will need are:

- birth certificate, license, or passport;
- marriage certificate;
- separation/divorce agreement

These documents can be uploaded to the document centre before you are ready to retire. They take a few days to verify.



Five Clever Car Cleaning Tips

Everybody loves a good hack - a little trick that makes your life just that much easier. That's why we've rounded up this list of car cleaning tips that are so clever you might actually look forward to cleaning your vehicle. Even better, these simple hacks involve ingredients and materials you probably already have at home.

You may be gearing up for a road trip once school's out for the summer. Why not try these cleaning tips to get your vehicle looking in tiptop shape before you hit the road?

1. Brush your seats

Believe it or not, toothpaste and toothbrushes clean more than just your teeth. Grab an old toothbrush and use it to get deep into those hard to reach places like between the seats or in textured upholstery. Toothbrushes not only give you a little bit of extra length, but the tiny bristles can remove even the most miniscule pieces of dirt and grime. Don't forget the toothpaste. Slather that minty goodness all over your car's headlights, wait a few minutes and then give them a good wipe clean. Toothpaste with baking soda is grittier which can be even better for lights that are particularly grimy.

The sparkle toothpaste leaves behind is definitely something to smile about, especially since clear headlights make it easier to see what's in front of you when you're driving.

2. Just the essentials

Natural cleaning solutions are not only easy to make yourself, but they're healthier for your body and the air you breathe. Plus, they smell amazing - even better than that new car smell!

You can make your own gentle car cleanser for the interior of your vehicle using a few simple ingredients. In an empty spray bottle (which you can find at the dollar store), mix:

Equal parts water

Equal parts white vinegar

5-15 drops of essential oils

Feel free to use whichever essential oils you like. A classic blend of lemon, tea tree and lavender will not only kill bacteria and eliminate dust, but will freshen the air with aromas of spring. Use a coffee filter to wipe the solution away for extra polish and shine.

If you're loving the smell of essential oil, drop a few drops of an invigorating scent like peppermint or citrus onto a clothespin and clip it on your vent for a natural air freshener.

3. Vaseline clean

Vaseline has a million uses, one of which is conditioning. You might already be aware that Vaseline makes for an incredible lip balm with its moisturizing and healing properties. Just like your lips, your dashboard can benefit from this too.

Vaseline's effectiveness has been compared to Armour All for its ability to diminish small marks and scratches and improve the overall condition of a car's dashboard. The trick is to clean the dashboard first then apply a small amount of Vaseline to a microfiber cloth and wipe the dash. Vaseline should be applied in a thin layer that adds a polished, conditioned look without appearing greasy. Wipe the dash down until the Vaseline has soaked in.

4. Foam party

Air vents are masters at collecting dust, but their design can make thoroughly cleaning them difficult. This means we may be breathing in a plethora of built up dust and allergens.

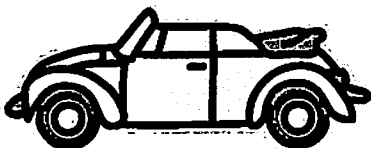
One way to combat this is by using a simple foam paintbrush, these foam brushes easily collect the dust bunnies that have been living in your vehicle by sliding seamlessly through the vents. Lightly spraying the brush with a cleaner (like the homemade essential oil one above) can help dust and allergens better stick to the foam, but it's not always necessary.

These brushes can be reused many times, so keep one in your glove compartment for easy cleaning on the go.

5. Wipe your wipers

If your windshield wipers are leaving streaks on your windows, it's time to give them a taste of their own medicine. Using rubbing or denatured alcohol and a cloth, wipe the wipers down to remove built up residue. Sometimes this residue is also responsible for that awful sound wipers make when they drag or snag along the window.

For more articles related to car maintenance and car insurance, check out www.otip.com.

**WebExperience: Interview Skills**

OECTA's Professional Development Department will be hosting an exclusive *Interview Skills* WebExperience workshop. The session will run twice, in advance of the opportunities for next school year:

- Thursday June 24 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday August 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The interactive session will provide participants with the opportunity to participate collaboratively in reviewing and discussing effective responses to interview questions about curriculum, classroom management, special education and what it means to be a Catholic Teacher. Resources, tips and strategies will be shared to assist in preparing responses that are rooted in best practice and the unique experiences of each participant.

Registration for this session is required. Registration will occur on a first come basis. Interested members can access registration at:

<http://www.cvent.com/d/mgqzq6>

The sessions will be recorded and available on the website for future on-demand viewing.

OECTA's website www.catholicteachers.ca has a complete list of OECTA's WebExperience offerings.

Summer Institutes and Workshops

OECTA, through Ministry of Education funding, is offering once again Summer Institutes and some one-day workshops. These will be offered in Kindergarten, Mental Health & Well-being and Technology and scheduled throughout July and August. Sessions will take place in various regions across the province. Most will be offered in person however new this year will be some on-line sessions.

Online registration is now open! A complete list and description of offerings is available at

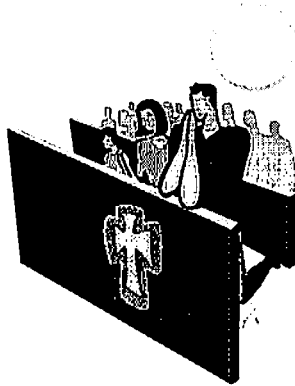
www.catholicteachers.ca

Registrants will receive email confirmation one week prior to their scheduled session, confirming location as well as start and end times. If sufficient registrations are not received, a workshop will be cancelled. Registrants will be notified of any session cancellations via email.

A maximum subsidy of \$200 is available to participants for expenses (travel, childcare). Expenses must be submitted in accordance with current OECTA parameters.

IN SYMPATHY WITH

Cullen Fay, Teacher at St. Theresa's, on the passing of his father, Sheumas.



CONGRATULATIONS TO!

Julie Murdy, teacher at St. Joan of Arc, and her husband Stephen, on the birth of their son Emmett.

Chris Vaillancourt, Teacher at St. Theresa's, and his wife Stephanie on the birth of their son, Charlie.

Jeff Hopkins, Teacher at Patrick Fogarty, and his wife Amanda on the birth of their daughter Brinley.

Kelly Cann, Teacher at St. Peter's, and her husband on the birth of their daughter Rebecca.

Sandy Burgio, Teacher at St. Joan of Arc, and her husband on the birth of their son, Dante



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 1 - August 31 - Open Transfer round
Applications must be received no later than June 30th

June 5 - Executive Meeting @ 4:30 p.m.
Michael & Marion's, Barrie

June 6 - Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
Board office, Barrie

June 20 - Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
Board office, Barrie

June 21 - 28 - Final examinations

June 29 - Professional Activity Day

July 2 - August 31 - Summer Vacation!!!!

August 29 & 30 - Technology PD
Unit office, Barrie
check for details at:
www.octasimcoemuskoka.on.ca

September 4 - First Day of the 2018-2019 school year

September 11 - Executive meeting @ 4:30 p.m.
Unit office, Barrie

October 4 - New Members Dinner & Staff Reps meeting
Unit office, Barrie @ 4:30 p.m.

October 9 - General Meeting @ 4:30 p.m.
Unit office, Barrie

October 9 - Executive Meeting
Immediately following general meeting

November 13 - General Meeting @ 4:30 p.m.
Unit office, Barrie

November 13 - Executive Meeting
Immediately following general meeting

December 11 - Executive Meeting @ 12:30 p.m.
Location TBA