

## WELLINGTON OECTA

UNIT EXECUTIVE

2014-2015

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# WELLINGTON WORKS MARCH

2015 MARCH

VOLUME XXII

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION

As you know we are back in the news. Our right to our Catholic system seems to be in the news on an almost weekly basis. Our opponents are many. 'Catholic Parents as First Educators' is one of the groups that attack many of our schools, Boards and especially teachers. The other group the 'One School System' is also trying to increase the opposition to Catholic Schools.

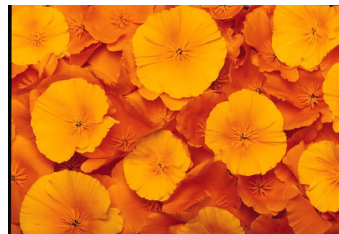
Both these groups are attacking us on different fronts but together they place us in the media more often than we would like to see. Recently, the so called 'Wynne Polls' appeared online and they had

Day to day there are events, meetings, reports and phone calls in the OECTA Office.

We hardly have time to recognize some of the people who are behind the scenes.

I want to thank our many Reps who are there every day to ensure all our members are being treated with respect and fairly. They have also been trying to find Job Action Co-captains for every site, almost all 21 sites are

several areas of topics that asked whether Ontario should support Catholic School Boards. OECTA, the Trustees and the Boards are



**Meaningless picture of Spring Flowers to hopefully cheer you up after February!**

all working together to ensure we are aware of these polls and responding appropriately.

## WHO IS HELPING OUT?

represented. Thanks to each member who volunteered. Our committee chairs are doing an amazing job this year and are working with their committees to ensure meetings are scheduled, issues and concerns are addressed and where appropriate events are being planned and held. Members represent OECTA on

I was given the privilege by our Director to represent Wellington Catholic at the FACE (Friends and Advocates of Catholic Education) tele-conference. This is a cooperative partnership of OECTA, OCSTA and the Catholic Boards. One form of changing our image in the media is to start a new emphasis on showing positive news stories that happen at our schools. These ideas were presented at the last OECTA Council of Presidents and during the FACE tele-conference. More details will be forth coming as this campaign picks up speed, stay tuned.

the Joint H and S, Joint PD and the Catholicity Committees. They spend extra hours making sure all our interests are raised.

Finally, David, Peter, Tim and I want to thank our Executive who are supportive, available and dedicated to OECTA.

**WELLINGTON  
WORKS  
MARCH**

**WELLINGTON  
OECTA  
UPCOMING DATES**

**MON MAR 2  
PRE-AGM DELEGATION  
OPEN MEETING  
OECTA OFFICE 4:15**

**WED MAR 4  
SPEC COP TORONTO**

**SAT MAR 7  
CLC WOMEN'S  
LUNCHEON**

**MON MAR 9  
EXEC MEETING 4:15**

**WED MAR 11  
YOUNG AUTHORS  
COMMITTEE NOON**

**THURS MAR 12  
OTIP WELLNESS  
WORKSHOP 4-7**

**GDLC 7 PM  
MARK TIM BERNARD**

**JHS COMMITTEE  
ST JOES G 1:30**

**FRI 13 TO MON 16  
PROV AGM**

**MON MAR 30 4:30  
REPS COUNCIL/ EXEC**

**TUES MAR 31 4-7  
RTIP RETIREMENT  
WORKSHOP**

# JOINT PD COMMITTEE REPORT

Last week we had the start of our Winter Workshops with Session I and II. This week we will finish the Winter Workshops with Session III, IV and V. We are grateful for the members who volunteered to share their knowledge with others. Together over 60 teachers participated in these sessions.

We believe the redirection from major conferences that involve high travel costs to locally devel-

oped PD opportunities ensures more members have an opportunity for Professional Growth. We also believe this will give more members a chance to share their work and develop skills as workshop presenters.

In total, so far, more than 75 teachers had PD opportunities this year. We will be meeting with the Board to discuss how much of our budget is left and

to discuss how to allocate the funds over the rest of the school year. In addition, OECTA sponsored 17 members to WFMP out of our own budget.

We will be looking ahead to next year this Spring to discuss with the Board how to continue to operate the Joint Fund. We will continue to keep you up to date on PD Opportunities. - Peter Stoop

## UPCOMING CLC WORKSHOPS

The CLC is hosting two events that are open to our members. If you are interested in attending either of these events please contact Mark as soon as possible so we can register through the websites.

### CLC FEDERAL ELECTION WORKSHOP

HAMILTON CONVENTION CENTRE  
FRI MARCH 6—SAT MARCH 7

FRI 6-9 SAT 8:30-4:30

PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL MARK  
IF YOU CAN ATTEND EITHER DAY

### CLC 2015 WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

PORT ELGIN UNIFOR  
FAMILY EDUCATION CENTRE

FRI MAY 1 TO SUN MAY 3  
REGISTRATION ACCOMODATION  
MEALS TRAVEL ALL INCLUDED  
RSVP MARK IF INTERESTED

## Canadian Labour Council and Guelph District Labour Council

Hopefully you have noticed a marked increase in the words CLC (Canadian Labour Congress) and the GDLC (Guelph District Labour Council). After the fall out of the MoU and the question of OECTA's role in the process our image

with our sister affiliates was questioned if not tarnished. This Unit has made a definite step to ensure our Union Brothers and Sisters that we are a strong voice for Labour. That is why we made direct affiliation with our local Labour Council

and why we are sending Reps to the CLC events. We need to change the face of unions and protect the rights of workers in Canada. If not us then who will offer a platform to ensure our social services are protected.

**LABOUR  
DAY  
PICNIC**

**OFL/CLC  
RALLY**

**CLC  
WOMEN'S  
LUNCH**

**GDLC  
MEET-  
INGS**

# OECTA AGM MARCH 13 TO MARCH 16 TORONTO

## ANNUAL OECTA AGM

In a few weeks everyone will be driving home in preparation for a well earned rest, or perhaps a frantic few hours packing up the suitcases for a quick trip south to some warmer weather.

Whether you are going on a quick vacation or just putting your feet up and enjoying the time off; there will be a small number of us hard at work to start March Break. The Provincial AGM starts Friday night March 13 and continues through the weekend until Monday March 16.

Our delegation will be discussing and voting on the future of our Union, OECTA. There are some hot topics this year. First the fee debate, which is always an issue, continues to be placed in the forefront of our concerns. We have not increased the base rate for many years. All through the years of our 3% increases our base rate stayed the same. OECTA needs to

stay financially strong to continue to service our programs, pay for our legal defenses, protect our vocation in the political arena and build our 'war chest' in case of strikes. The impact of provincial bargaining means our reserves can be used up very quickly if the entire province is on strike at the same time.

Second our leadership at the Provincial Executive is up for election from the President on down. Reflected in these election campaigns are some diverse opinions on where we are headed as an Association. There are those who would change the power structure between the Provincial Executive, the Council of Presidents and the AGM.

Third and most important will be the tone of how bargaining should take place now that we sit as a Provincial Team face to face with not only the Boards but the Government. We can't

ignore the Province's call for austerity and think we can continue to have public services delivered as they always have been in Ontario. We need to send a strong message to Queen's Park that OECTA is united, is strong and teachers are willingly to stand up for Public Education and all Public Social Services.

We can't ignore the agenda of the government that tries to sell us on a few hundred dollars of tax breaks for families while the corporate business world, like Linamar, are gifted hundreds of thousands of dollars. These corporations are reaping the benefits of our country. They are no longer paying their share to support the services of the very country that supports them.

Finally, we need to reaffirm our strength of will as a Union and as OECTA. The delegation team will be listening, speaking and voting to protect You!

**Wellington**

**Delegates**

**AGM 2015**

**Mark Berardine**

**David Derewianko**

**Peter Stoop**

**Tim O'Brien**

**Sheila Hynes**

**Laurence Vignola**

**Traci Coulas-Gaca**

**Cathy Whyte**

**David Del Duca**

**Mike Breadner**

**Alternates**

**Becka Dupuis**

**Bernard Macdonell**

# NOMINATION COMMITTEE

## Volunteers Wanted!

The nomination committee is to assist the Election Chairs, Peter Marzo and Amberlea Daigeneau, in overseeing our 2015 Wellington OECTA election campaign and process. We have made significant changes that will include an on line voting process. If you can assist Peter and Amberlea in acting as scrutineers, or sit on the larger committee to discuss timelines and process



please email Peter Marzo. You must not be involved in the election campaign to sit on this committee. This year we are asking for additional volunteers with some technology background to help run the spreadsheets associated with the election internet program. Expect more details on our Unit elections at the end of March and in the April edition of Wellington Works.

## COMING SOON

- OTIP WELLNESS WORKSHOP  
FEELING BETTER NOW  
THURSDAY MARCH 12  
@ THE OECTA OFFICE 4-7
- RTIP BENEFITS WORKSHOP  
PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT  
TUESDAY MARCH 31  
@ THE OECTA OFFICE 4-7
- OECTA H AND S WORKSHOP  
BY JOHN PECSENYE OECTA  
TUESDAY APRIL 7  
@ THE OECTA OFFICE 4-6:30
- WOMEN'S RETREAT  
HOSTED BY OECTA WOMEN'S COMMITTEE  
FRIDAY APRIL 17  
@ ST. BRIGID'S VILLA 5-11
- MEN'S RETREAT  
HOSTED BY OECTA CATHOLICITY  
FRIDAY APRIL 24  
@ ST. BRIGID'S VILLA

Don't see the event or social or workshop you want? Send in your suggestion!

## CONTRACT 101

### SURPLUS AND REDUNDANCY

These two words can cause everyone stress and anxiety. The terms are very different though and should NEVER be used to describe both situations:

**Surplus** : The word surplus refers to a site specific situation. A school may find itself losing a classroom teacher. This is what surplus to the site means. In this situation if the school finds itself losing a teacher then the teachers in order of seniority with the Board may chose to declare themselves surplus. If no one declares themselves surplus then in reverse order the lowest person is surplus. **They still have a job and are placed on the unassigned list.**

**Redundancy** : This is the more frightening of the two words. This word means the teaching position is not available anywhere in the Board. In this case the Board tries to place any permanent teachers in any appropriate year long position that is open such as a temporary re-assignment or leave of absence. In the worst case scenario a teacher would be placed back on the OT roster and have a first right of recall according to their permanent seniority. **We have not had teachers declared redundant recently.**

**OECTA would like to caution all our members to talk to your Rep and seek guidance with the OECTA Office prior to declaring yourself surplus.** Surplus teachers are placed after the first two rounds of permanent posting and before the third round of posting. Keep in mind one classroom job lost affects all planning time teachers too.

## WALK INTO RETIREMENT WITH A PLAN WORKSHOP

PRESENTED BY : OTIP

TUESDAY MARCH 31ST  
AT THE OECTA OFFICE FROM 4-7

This free workshop is open to OECTA members and spouses. It covers valuable information that will be useful to all those planning to retire within five years. During this workshop you will learn about :

\*Retirement health insurance benefits

\*RRSPs

\*Investments

\*Tax and estate planning before and after retirement

\*Lifestyle planning

Please rsvp by emailing Mark. Register early as space is limited.  
Please send any dietary restrictions as a light dinner will be served.

## MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS

ONTARIO ENGLISH  
Catholic  
Teachers  
ASSOCIATION

United we save. Members save up to 50%  
on home insurance when you purchase  
both your home and car  
insurance with OTIP.



## ANNUAL IN APPRECIATION BANQUET

THURSDAY MAY 28TH

@ THE ITALIAN CANADIAN CLUB

RECEPTION 5:30

DINNER 6:15

MENU

Wine

Antipasta with Panini and Seafood Salad

Risotto with Mushrooms

Stuffed Pork Loin with  
Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables  
Salad

Dessert : Triple Truffle Chocolate Torte  
Coffee and Tea

Join us as we honour our Retirees, 25 year members and all our OECTA volunteers. If you are thinking of retiring please let the office know. If you are in your 25th year of teaching with OECTA please contact the office. If you know someone who has worked in another Board and are in their 25th year please mention their name to us or have them call the office.

Tickets are \$30  
Please contact the OECTA Office  
Email [oecta.wellington@rogers.com](mailto:oecta.wellington@rogers.com)  
Or  
Contact any of the Release Officers

## OECTA ANNUAL AWARDS

Every year at the Annual In Appreciation Banquet we recognize OECTA and Community members with several Awards. If you would like to nominate someone that you think is deserving of these Awards please send their name into your Rep or any member of the Executive.

### **Wellington OECTA Awards of Merit One Member One Community**

"Awarded for outstanding contributions to OECTA, Wellington Catholic District School Board and/or Catholic Education."

### **Wellington OECTA Lifetime Achievement Award**

"This award was established in 2005 in honour of Brenda McGinnis who served as OECTA President from 1987 to 2005. The award will be presented to appropriate OECTA members who have made a significant long-term contribution to Wellington OECTA."

### **Wellington "25 years in one" Award**

Awarded to someone in the board who has 'packed' 25 years experience into one year - someone who has had an exceptionally bad year.

### **OECTA "Rep of the Year" Award**

Awarded to an outstanding staff association representative.

This award is selected by the Executive.



### PROVINICAL BARGAINING EBLAST UPDATE

Our Provincial Bargaining seems to change almost every other week. We have to caution everyone that no one can predict what is going to happen and we are still on the hope for the best, prepare appropriately for the worst. This is why we have asked Job Action Co-Captains be chosen for every site. It is also why we have formed a District Committee.

A week before Council of Presidents (COP) at the start of February we fully expected the call for Strike Votes across the province. Again this is for a Strike Mandate to show our solidarity and a show of strength as we approach real negotiations. THIS is not new from any past year when negotiations are expected to be tough. What is new is that it is a Provincial wide Bargaining Team and not local. When we arrived at COP all was changed as our Team and

the Gov't/Board team would not meet on Feb 10/11 and their meetings were pushed back to the 27/ 28. We were told no Strike Mandates would be held until after March Break and AGM. Now your Presidents have been summoned on Wed March 4 for another Special COP. We will receive our first look at the Gov't/Board offer. Prior to that, we should all have a summary by March 2nd or 3rd.

Once again, as promised, you will be as up to date as we are in the OECTA Office. We expect to be given more direction at the Spec COP about our own timelines, a local Unit Rally and then the Provincial Strike Votes. Wellington called for all Presidents to join other Units at their own Rally's and this was received with support from other Units. Stay Tuned.