

WELLINGTON WORKS

March 2009

Newsletter of the Elementary, Secondary and Occasional Teachers of Wellington Catholic

Volume 16, Issue 5

Agenda

MONDAY March 30

Reps Council
OECTA Office 4:30 p.m.
Wellington Works March 2009

TUESDAY March 31

Strategic Planning - Staffing
Committee
Board Office 1:30 p.m.

FRIDAY APRIL 10—

MONDAY APRIL 13

Easter Weekend

WEDNESDAY April 15

Catholicity Council
OECTA Office 4:00 p.m.

THURSDAY April 16

Joint Staffing Committee
Board Office 1:00 p.m.

MONDAY April 20

Executive Meeting
OECTA Office 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY April 27

Reps Council Meeting/Dinner
Details to be confirmed 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY April 30

Program Dept./Officers
Board Office 1:00 p.m.

ONTARIO ENGLISH
**Catholic
Teachers**
ASSOCIATION

Wellington Works
is prepared
by
Wellington OECTA
President Jim Whitechurch
Elementary VP Judy Mullen
Secondary VP George Giovinazzo
to provide important information
to members

AGM 2009

This issue of Wellington Works is primarily dedicated to reporting on the activities of the Annual General Meeting of OECTA held March 13th to March 16th.

We thank the ten OECTA members who voluntarily gave up the first four days of their March Break to represent the unit as voting delegates at the AGM and ably represented the teachers of Wellington Catholic at this important event:

Jim Whitechurch	George Giovinazzo
Nancy Baker	John Maschio
Marty Bell	Laurence Vignola
Mike Topolie	Sheila Hynes
Alexandra Fitzpatrick	Yvonne Bendo

Wellington members were actively involved in the business, social and spiritual activities at the AGM.

On Friday evening, delegates actively participated in the fundraiser, which raised over \$17,500 for the Starlight Foundation. Although no unit members won any of the major raffle prizes, unit delegates "won" a number of other prizes including a \$230 50/50 draw win by "Lucky Jim" Whitechurch, the second time in 3 years.

The Saturday evening Mass had a decidedly Wellington flavour. Our Board choir again wowed the gathering with their vocal prowess and the celebrant was Archbishop Thomas Collins, a graduate of Bishop Macdonell High School.

On Sunday, a resolution of particular significance to Wellington which would have resulted in a "clawback" of increased release time funding received last year was defeated on the floor of AGM.



His Grace Archbishop Thomas Collins, Archdiocese of Toronto, presided over the Saturday mass service for delegates and their families at the end of the first day of the AGM.

Some of the highlights from AGM 2009 held in Toronto are outlined on the following pages. More detailed information will be forthcoming from provincial OECTA and is available on the provincial web site at www.oecta.on.ca.

More info and pics on our unit website www.oectawellington.ca



Wellington Unit President speaks to AGM delegates in opposition to a resolution to "clawback" release time to joint units.

Inside this issue:

Report from Annual General Meeting
• 2009-10 Provincial Executive, • Monte Carlo Fundraiser • Provincial President's Opening Comments • Education Minister addresses AGM • Maude Barlow Speaks to AGM • Membership Fees Set • Funding Review Completed

Application for Provincial Committees

Wellington OECTA

1, 2
and
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R.R.#5 Guelph, ON
N1H 6J2

Phone: 519-763-3043
Fax: 519-763-2682

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Email: oecta.wellington@rogers.com
Web: www.wellingtonoecta.ca

Report from the
OECTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 Friday March 13 to Monday March 16

2009-10 Provincial Executive

PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE

President: James Ryan
Past President: Elaine Mac Neil
First Vice-President: Kevin O'Dwyer
Second Vice-President: Chris Karuhanga
Third Vice-President: Warren Grafton
Treasurer: Sonia Di Petta
Councillor: Louis Trinchi
Councillor: Ann Hawkins

OTF Table Officer: Reno Melatti

ONTARIO TEACHERS FEDERATION (OETCA REPRESENTATIVES)

OTF Governor: Tom Doyle
OTF Governor: Julie Pauletig
OTF Governor: Reno Melatti
OTF Governor: George Saranchuk
OTF Governor: Mike Wosniak

Monte Carlo Fundraiser



\$17,500 was raised at Friday's Monte Carlo Night. Proceeds will be donated to Starlight Starbright Foundation, which helps seriously ill children, teens and their families through imaginative programs that alleviate the pain and fear of a prolonged illness. A popular event each year, the casino night is organized by the AGM Monte Carlo Committee.

Provincial President's Opening Comments and Report



A year of challenges

It has been a year of challenges posed and met, OECTA president Elaine Mac Neil said in her report to members. "Collective bargaining, the pension valuation, staff negotiations, a search for a new General Secretary all presented the Association with important responsibilities in addition to the daily service that is provided to members."

Team effort produced 4-year agreements

"It goes without saying that every person involved in negotiating the new four-year local collective agreements put in many hours of personal and professional time to serve the needs of members. It was a tremendous team effort on both the provincial and local fronts", Elaine Mac Neil told delegates.

Political activism needed

OECTA president Elaine Mac Neil urged teachers to join political parties to ensure their voices are raised on behalf of Catholic students and schools. It is important that teachers hear first hand the statements and policies being made by parties on Catholic education, she said. As members of a party they can speak about what goes on our classrooms when policy is being developed. Members of OECTA's Provincial Executive and Secretariat, and teacher delegates attended the provincial NDP and Conservative party conventions in February and March. The NDP leadership convention was particularly concerning for OECTA, said Elaine Mac Neil, and speakers at the convention were able to influence the outcome of a motion by the NDP to review support for public funding of Catholic schools in Ontario.



FEE INCREASE APPROVED — See next page

AGM Report Continued...

Ontario Education Minister Addresses AGM Delegates

Education Minister Kathleen Wynne addressed the AGM and spoke very highly of the work being done in the education system and, in particular, by the teaching profession in this province.

Constructive working relationship with OECTA

Education Minister Kathleen Wynne told the AGM that OECTA's openness to dialogue has contributed to a positive and constructive working relationship. "This doesn't mean we haven't had difficult conversations," she acknowledged. She thanked

OECTA members and leadership, "for your hard work on behalf of students and for your willingness to help us create a provincial dialogue in the best interest of education and the students in this province. We expect a robust discussion about what we learned in the last round of bargaining. We will build on the positives."

U.S. can learn from Ontario

Commenting on reports about Barack Obama's proposed reforms for the American education system, the



Minister noted that the U.S. President, "is working in a very different context than we are in Ontario. Few students in Ontario do not have access to computers, our students are consistently performing near the top of international tests, and we have excellent teachers in every school in the publicly-funded system in Ontario. The U.S. can learn from us," Wynne said.

Maude Barlow Speaks to AGM

Canada needs a National Water Policy

It is time for the Canadian Government to implement a comprehensive National Water Policy, Maude Barlow, Chairperson of the Council of Canadians told AGM delegates. "We have no national strategy to address urgent water issues and no federal leadership to conserve and protect our water. The Federal Water Policy is over 20 years old and badly outdated. There is a growing list of crises facing our freshwater including contamination, shortages and pressure to export water to the United States through pipelines and diversions." Barlow urged delegates to visit the Council's website and add their names

to an online petition to Prime Minister Stephen Harper telling him Canada needs a National Water Policy.

The Right to Water

No one should be able to control water or expropriate it for profit, Maude Barlow told AGM delegates. "In the current global water crisis, billions of people still lack access to basic water and sanitation services and thousands of people die every day from preventable diseases because they do not have access to clean water." Barlow said that although the right to water is recognized internationally through the UN, the Canadian government voted against accepting water as a human right at the UN Commission on Human Rights. "Canada's position, both internationally and domestically, continues to deny the fundamental human right to water." She urged delegates to join the Council of Canadians' campaign to ensure water is a human right.

Funding Review Completed

The AGM delegates endorsed the major recommendations of the two year study by the Funding Review Task Force. The review examined all aspects of OECTA funding, both local and provincial. As a result, a number of actions were taken to provide stability in funding for legal defence of members, and to improve funding at both the provincial and local level.

Among the major recommendations by the Task Force which were approved by AGM 2009 was a modified fee structure, which would add 0.12% of grid salary to the fixed fee of \$950. This total amount would be dedicated solely to a member legal defence fund.

Membership Fees Set for 2009-10

Actions taken by the AGM delegates resulted in a modification to the OECTA membership fee beginning in 2009-10, and the first fee increase in four years. **The 2009-2010 fee will be \$950 + 0.12 % of grid salary.** Last year's AGM had decided not to approve an increase pending the completion of the Funding Review Task Force.



For more on AGM 2009 visit:

www.oecta.on.ca



Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association

Join a provincial committee

Are you a knowledgeable, interested and committed member of your association? Please complete and return this application by May 1, 2009. Present committee members seeking reappointment are asked to reapply.

STANDING COMMITTEES

- Awards
- Beginning Teachers
- Catholic Education
- Collective Bargaining
- Communications and Public Relations
- Educational Aid
- Elementary Schools
- Finance
- Health and Safety
- Human Rights
- Legislation
- Occasional Teachers
- Political Advisory
- Professional Development Steering
- Program and Structures
- Status of Women
- Secondary Schools

DUTIES

To study and report on such matters as may be a) referred to it by the annual general meeting, the council of presidents or the provincial executive; b) undertaken by it with the approval of the annual general meeting, the council of presidents or the provincial executive; c) pertinent to it and introduced by one of its members.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information may be found in the Handbook 2008-2009 on pages 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 56-60.

APPOINTMENTS

The Provincial Executive will make decisions for committee appointments to take effect July 1, 2009. All applicants will be informed of the status of their application.

Committee service application

NAME _____ M/F _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE _____

SCHOOL NAME _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE _____

OECTA UNIT _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1-5 Years 6-15 Years 16+ Years

CURRENT POSITION _____

SUBJECT _____ GRADES _____

OTHER/RELATED ACTIVITIES, EXPERIENCE _____

WHY I WANT TO SERVE _____

UNIT INVOLVEMENT

COMMITTEE/ACTIVITY/POSITION/DATES

PROVINCIAL INVOLVEMENT

COMMITTEE/ACTIVITY/POSITION/DATES

COMMITTEE PREFERENCES

IN ORDER OF CHOICE

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

ARE YOU WILLING TO SERVE AS A CHAIRPERSON? YES NO

Please complete and return this application form by **May 1, 2009** to:
Committee Applications, OECTA, 65 St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto, ON M4T 2Y8
Fax 416-925-6940