



President's Message

We are entering what one past president of OCETF used to call, "the last mad dash downhill" in elementary. By that he meant, this is the time when elementary school teachers wind up trying to fit two months work into twenty remaining school days. He contrasted this with how high school wraps up its year and I must say it was a comparison which stuck with me over the years. Regularly, in news articles, I preach the need for balance and remind members to look after themselves since it is all too easy to get stuck on a work treadmill. That being said, I know that many of you have already filled every single moment of the school year with a variety of activities designed to maximize the children's learning opportunities. I do hope that you're also able to pace yourselves so that it doesn't become too onerous a task.

At the union level these days we have been devoting a lot of time to the issue of the Board's "Intermediate Review" which has recommended and begun implementing a change to the rotary system in grades seven and eight which would see reduced numbers of teacher contacts for the students. We have been meeting with the Board regularly to try to have them reconsider this decision and are encouraging teacher representatives on School Councils to make our concerns known directly to the community.

Special congratulations go out to this year's OCETF award winners. At the May 14th Awards Reception, Shaz Tyndale and Diane Daoust received Service Leadership awards and Monique Vandenbosch was honoured with the Mary Hill Award for exemplary service.

On a more somber note, it was with great sadness that we learned of Trustee Alex Getty's passing earlier this month. Trustee Getty was a

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man passionate about education who devoted untold hours to making his community a better place and his presence will be greatly missed.

Peter Giuliani
President, OCETF



On May 14th OCETF held its annual Awards Reception at the R.A. Centre. It was a wonderful event with tremendous support given to all OCETF Award Winners, 25-year-pin recipients and our Bursary Winners. It was great to see our Past Presidents, Chief Negotiators, Honourary Life Membership winners, Service/Leadership Award winners and former Mary Hill Memorial Award winners.

Mary Hill Memorial Award
Monique Vandenbosch (Richmond PS)

OCETF Service/Leadership Award Winners:
Diane Daoust (Centennial PS)
Shaz Tyndale (Queen Elizabeth PS)

25-year Pin Recipients
Elizabeth Beaudoin, Lorna Bernbaum, Sharron Findlay-Mitchell, Monique Fournier-Redding, Alexandra Guerin, Marilyn Jenkins, Francois Lachaine, Rachel Lachance, Wayne Lapointe, Irene Neumann Melo, Monique Vandenbosch, Cathy Wilcox

2008-2009 OCETF Bursary Winners
10 Bursary Winners were awarded \$500.



FROM SCHOOLS

My grade 5 class from Berrigan Elementary School has been visiting the senior residents at the Court of Barrhaven on Tuesday mornings this month. When we gather, we sing a variety of songs together both old and new. After singing, we then move into an interview session in order for the children to learn about the past as well as to learn the skills of asking questions, listening to the response and recording these responses for future reference. We will be scrapbooking a memory book to contain the stories the seniors have shared with the children. Each Tuesday session is concluded with the children and seniors working together on an assortment of activities such as knitting, painting, woodworking, completing crosswords, Sudoku puzzles, word searches, puzzles, tongue twisters, etc. The experience has been profoundly meaningful both to the children and the seniors which has taught them both lessons about life and friendship.

Arlene Hutchinson
Berrigan Elementary School



OCETF AGM

Thursday, May 28, 2009
4:30 p.m.

Nepean Sportsplex—Salons A & B

It's your union—come and elect your Executive and Collective Bargaining Members.



Childcare Available

Please register with Jill Paré



HRT Honouring Retiring Teachers

Thursday, June 11, 2009
Hellenic Centre
5:00—7:30 p.m.

Cost—\$12 (for non-retiring members)

Send cheques payable to OCETF by Friday, June 5, 2009 to Cheryl Morris

Reserve a table for your school.

Musical entertainment provided by the Ottawa Brass Quintet.

Come and enjoy hot & cold hors d'oeuvres, cake, coffee & tea.