

Currently Speaking

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www.ugot.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Membership:

I hope you are all well and you had a relaxing March Break. I can't believe how quickly this year has gone by. Our collective agreement ends on August 31, 2012, so your executive is already thinking about the next round of negotiations. Your bargaining team includes myself, Marina Howlett (chief negotiator), Ted Pritchard, Barb Walkey and our newcomer Carol Waffler. Carol is replacing Karen Hunsberger who was an integral part of the last two collective agreements. We all attended a very informative collective bargaining workshop ETFO held on February 3rd and 4th. It was great to see so many enthusiastic people there. Our group attended all the workshops and we had some time to talk and build some team cohesiveness. In the fall, we will be emailing you a questionnaire to get your input in shaping goals for our preliminary submission. That will be one of many opportunities for you to provide input in the process.

In the fall, we will be very concerned about the upcoming provincial elections. Believe it or not, this election could have a great impact on us and our collective bargaining. A Conservative government would mean tough times in education. For those of you who were around during the Mike Harris years, you will remember well how difficult it was for educators and their working conditions. Tim Hudak has made it very clear that there will be cuts to public services. This is very important to us because it will mean fewer jobs. The Tories won't expand the Early Learning Program. The Liberal party have full implementation planned over five years.

Under Hudak this will likely remain frozen at 20%. Other initiatives Hudak plans include:

- putting grades back in the fall report cards,
- disbanding the Human Rights Commission, and
- reducing WSIB coverage.

He would also make it difficult for any educational improvements ETFO is seeking to:

- hire specialty teachers for physical education, health, art, music and drama,
- modify/eliminate EQAO and other standardized tests,
- provide more resources for special education,
- support initiatives to reduce child poverty and
- revise Literacy and Numeracy programmes.

ETFO is asking all members to support either a Liberal or an NDP candidate where strategically it will prevent a Conservative seat. It is going to be tough.

We can do our part. The most important step is to register as a voter and get out and vote. You should talk to family and friends and encourage their support for a Liberal government. It is important to talk about education and how it matters to you. Right now there is a media blitz to put health care on the table for the election. Education issues, this time around, don't have the public interest. We need to try to put it back into public discussions. You can also volunteer in a campaign in many ways. I will be more specific in the fall as the elections get into full swing.

On a final note, I would like to welcome everyone to our Annual Meeting. (See the flyer included in this newsletter). I also encourage anyone wishing to get involved to put your name forth to be a part of our executive. There has been a lot of interest of late, but members are unsure of the level of commitment.

As far as the level of commitment, the minimum is one meeting a month. If there is an illness or an urgent matter and you can't attend, then you just let me know you won't be attending and that is fine.

Another commitment that we make to our executive is to pay for mileage to and from meetings. We believe in covering those costs for volunteering your time.

We want you to have a great experience and we value your input. Questions are great too. Believe me, I asked plenty. I think the members of the executive were awesome in that each meeting became a learning session for me. I was bombarded with acronyms and jargon I didn't get, but I was never made to feel inadequate. It wasn't until about my third or fourth meeting that I actually said anything. If I

can do it, you can too. Just take that first step. I assure you, you won't regret it. Attend a meeting to get a feel for it.

At our Annual Meeting, you will meet your executive, hear about professional learning opportunities, and receive a Budget update. You will meet our guest speaker, Susan Swackhammer (ETFO First Vice-President), and listen to what is happening at the provincial office. You will also have a great meal and walk away with an awesome door prize. This time we are including excellent resources for teachers, a GPS, and other prizes. Everyone leaves with something.

Andrew Aloe

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Tracking Sheet

In several newsletters, I have been asking members to help by letting me know which schools were not providing the Occasional Teacher Handbook and a classroom key.

Included with this newsletter is a tracking sheet so that you can easily track which classrooms didn't provide you with essential materials.

I have received emails from several of you telling me which schools didn't provide you with these materials. When I went to the Board with this information, they told the principals and there seems to be a bit of confusion. I think there is a disconnection between principals and teachers, so the tracking is for specific classrooms, because principals are saying they have the books at the school.

Please fill out the Tracking Sheet and send it to me at Orchard Park using the Board mail system. I will then take your information and see if there are trends.

Hopefully, we can then solve this ongoing issue. If you require more of these sheets, go to our website under resources, and print off another sheet. It is entitled OT daily assignment tracking sheet. *You will also see above that an example of what should be in the O.T. Handbook.*

Thank you.



Websites to help Educators

OTF, the Ontario Teachers Federation, with funding from the Ministry of Education, has created a special education website, www.teachspped.ca. This website provides a ton of resources. It lists and defines exceptionalities and provides you with strategies to meet the needs of each student. We know through universal design, that strategies to help students with exceptionalities will also help all students in the classroom. There is an FAQ section and many links to further understand special education. This is an excellent site for any aspiring teacher.

Another excellent website for literacy and numeracy teaching ideas is www.edugains.ca. This also has tons of resources and it includes video segments and links to curriculum documents.



Where will I find that?

The next two links require you to login with a user id and password. I am including the websites here but unfortunately I can't publish the login information here. We will email the login information in the near future. That doesn't mean you can't get them. [Http://hpe.ophea.net](http://hpe.ophea.net) is a website the board pays for all its teachers to access. I encourage you to ask teachers at different schools. I have let Occasional Teachers know and have asked them to spread the word. Ask for these at any of our meetings, professional learning opportunities or at social events like Minga. I have passed them on to our executive so ask any of them for it. An executive list is posted on our website, www.ugot.org. The other website is <http://resources.elearningontario.ca>. This is a ministry-funded website and is open to all Ontario teachers. The ministry doesn't publish the login information because it cost a lot of money to develop and many other professional groups would love to be able to access these.

'Members Only' Page

By April 30th, we will activate the 'members only' section of the website as mentioned in the January 2011 newsletter. For reference, see the newsletter on our website. I had explained that we needed a secure way of posting private information.

You will be receiving an email during the last week of April containing a user id and password. This will allow you to log into the members' area.



Announcements

Executive Meetings: Please consider attending our executive meeting and find out what is happening at the local level. We had members attend our last two executive meetings and they enjoyed coming. Our next meeting is on Wednesday April 13th at our office in Orchard Park. Please let us know you are coming so that we can arrange for enough food and copies of the agenda, etc. If you need to arrange for child care, we will cover the costs. If travel cost is an issue, we will reimburse you for mileage. So call if you are interested.

Minga: Our next Minga is on April 29th and it will be at the Café Crêperie. It is located at 40 West Mill St. in Elora. Come and see a wonderful art exhibit and enjoy good food and company.

NEW BEGINNINGS



M. Anne Smith: textile



Deborah Dryden: encaustic



Jean Loney: mosaic

New work showing at the Cafe Creperie from March 29th to May 2nd

Opening reception March 31st, 7:30 - 9:30 pm

40 West Mill Street, Elora 519-846-1618

Anne Smith does the newsletter for us.

Our last Minga on March 4th at Boston Pizza in Orangeville was a lot of fun. Here is the picture I promised.



Pre-booking Occasional Teachers: There is a rumour going around, that principals were pre-booking for hub days and capacity days. Some principals believed this to be correct and called occasional teachers directly, bypassing Smart-Find. They have received a letter from the Board stating that this is incorrect and further pre-bookings will result in a grievance.

In our Collective Agreement clause 15:02, principals

shall not request a specific individual Daily Occasional Teacher except for assignments in a self-contained classroom. This is done so that it remains fair and equitable. If you hear of any pre-booking other than the one just mentioned, please let me know.

Privacy of Information: Please do not put your SIN# on your pay sheet. I wouldn't include your address either until you are actually submitting it at the end of the pay period. This is for your protection. I think your employee number is safe to put on the time sheet. That shouldn't be traceable for someone outside the Board.

Fifth Disease: Smart Find will alert occasional teachers if there are known cases of Fifth Disease in a school. It will be posted under announcements on the front page when you log in to Smart Find. It is up to members to check it periodically.

Keeping up to date: If you move, change your address or change your telephone number, please notify Donna Perry, H.R. Department at the Guelph Board Office 519-822-4420 immediately! Please email me if there is a change in email address. I will forward that to our webmaster to update our database. You don't want to miss any of these announcements. Also contact the ETFO office in Toronto at 1-888-838-3836 to keep your information up to date. Ask for the Members Records Department.

Voice Magazine: I have just received my copy of Voice magazine and I encourage you to read the articles, "Seeing Students' Strengths" and "Managing Student Behaviour", which were taken from the I Am the Teacher: Effective Classroom Management Techniques for Occasional Teachers. The I Am the Teacher workshop was held at J.D. Hogarth on February 22nd. It was very well attended and I got excellent feedback from the members who attended the workshop. Also check out the insert, Step Forward with French. We have two copies of the full resource. If you are interested in borrowing it, let me know and I can send it to a school via the Board Courier.

Japan Relief: Your executive decided to donate \$200.00 to Doctors without Borders to aid in the relief effort in Japan. ETFO has contributed \$10 000.00 to the EI Solidarity Fund-Japan and \$5 000.00 to global medic. Many other locals have been contributing as well. Our sister local, Upper Grand Teachers' Local, has contributed \$1000.00 also. The news from Japan has been tragic and ongoing. We thought it was important to contribute in a small way.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING



Your Collective Bargaining Team has begun to prepare for negotiations with the Upper Grand District School Board. Now is the time for the membership to become involved and support your CB team to improve working conditions, health benefits and your daily rate of pay. Without your support, we will not be successful! The outcome of the provincial election on October 6, 2011 will be a major factor in shaping our future direction. If the Conservatives under Hudak's leadership win a majority, all teachers will face a serious threat with distinct possibilities for cutbacks. No teacher wants to return to what happened in the 1990's.

Here are some things that every OT can do to help safeguard our professionalism and our bargaining rights:

- Attend the UGOT Annual Meeting on June 2, 2011 to be aware of current local issues;
- Become a member of the UGOT executive;
- Provide feedback on local working conditions that need improvement;
- Become actively engaged in the provincial election by supporting local candidates who will advance public education;
- Make sure you and your family members vote to support public education on October 6, 2011.

Without your support and participation, nothing will be achieved and so much could be lost.

**Your vote and participation
will make a difference.**



DATES TO REMEMBER

Federation Dates

Thurs., June 2, 2011.....**Annual Meeting**
Time: 4:45 p.m. Location: Marden Community Centre

Professional Development Days

Friday, June 3, 2011



Holidays

April 22 - 25, 2011 Easter

U. G. ETFO Occasional Teachers' Local

President:	Andrew Aloe
Vice President:	Marina Howlett
Treasurer:	John Ritchie
Secretary:	Donna Henderson
Executive:	Julie Birken
	Jacqueline Gray
	Ted Pritchard
	Ralph Rainford
	Ruth Tomlins
	Carol Waffler
	Barb Walkey
Website:	www.ugot.org
ETFO Provincial:	1-888-838-3836

Website www.ugot.org

Please visit the website for current information, Professional Development opportunities, an Executive contact list, Executive Meeting Minutes, Currently Speaking (our OT newsletter), and other pertinent information as mentioned in this newsletter.



We will continue to use the website to communicate to members when it is impossible to contact all members by telephone or through the mail.

Upper Grand ETFO Occasional Teachers'

ANNUAL MEETING AND 2011-12 EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

Marden Community Centre

7368 Wellington Rd. (Exit west from Highway 6N at Marden.)

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2011

Cost: \$10.00 per person
4:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

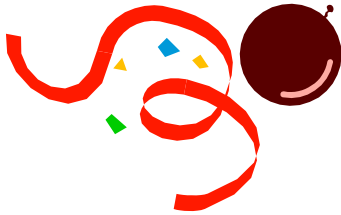
ETFO: PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVE

GUEST SPEAKER:

Susan Swackhammer

1st Vice-President, ETFO

ENTERTAINMENT: LIME PARADE (Guitarist and Soloist Duet)



*Draw
Proceeds to go to
Guelph Charity*

Agenda	Elections - 5:30 p.m. Meet Your Executive Budget Update Committee Updates New Business Collective Bargaining Social Reception - 6:15 p.m. Dinner (Turkey, Vegetarian) - 6:00 p.m. Draw/Door Prizes
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*\$10.00 each
Subsidized
By UGOT*

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- I will attend the Annual Meeting and Dinner. Payment: \$10.00 per person
Name: _____ Phone: _____
- I will only be able to attend the General Meeting.
Name: _____ Phone: _____
- I will require a vegetarian meal.



Please return to Andrew Aloe (President) by May 25, 2011

Orchard Park, Suite B2
5420 Hwy 6 N
Guelph, ON N1H 6J2

by Royal Mail
by Board Courier from each school site
by fax to 519-836-9759

