



OCCASIONAL TEACHERS' BULLETIN

Dufferin-Peel Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit

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volume 14 Issue 3



The President's Message

Jean Smylie

With another school year drawing to a close, I would like to thank you for your commitment and hard work as caring professional educators in the classrooms.

As occasional teachers, you are strongly encouraged to check the OTBUnit's web site at www.dpeel-ot.org regularly, if not daily, to get up-to-the minute information! If you are not doing so on a regular basis, you are missing an opportunity to pick up such helpful topics as Classroom Management, Accusations of Misconduct, Defensive Teaching, and Success Tips as well as updates relating to Unit, Professional Development, Board and Education news. A link to WebTracs, School Directory, Jobs in Education and Ontario Teachers' Pension is also readily accessible. Resource sites such as OECTA, teaching ideas and plans, QECO, Ontario College of Teachers, Ministry of Education, E.I., Dufferin-Peel C.D.S.Board, and more are just a click away. Please visit the web site to download our newsletters, General Meeting notices and agendas, and teaching fillers. A good idea would be to add www.dpeel-ot.org

to your Bookmark/Favourites list. Should you not yet have access to a home computer, you might want to visit your local library or utilize the one available for public use at the Dufferin-Peel Board office (located in the foyer behind the reception desk). Don't miss out on latest breaking news that may affect your livelihood (see Spring newsletter article "School Information Package for OTs"). Be an informed member!

The OTBUnit will be using email as a means of communication so we are asking for your help. **Simply send your personal email address to dspotbunit@gmail.com – just put "Please add me" in the subject line.** If at any point you change your personal email address, please notify the OTBUnit by email dspotbunit@gmail.com. Remember, we need to stay in touch!

As you plan your summer activities whether they involve reading a book that you have been putting off, spending time at the cottage, travelling, barbequing, or maybe taking a course, remember to take a more leisurely approach. Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you in September!

Local Executive 2010-2011

Jean Smylie
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Lesia Teply
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Michael Farrugia
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On the web

dpeel-ot.org

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GENERAL MEETING — ELECTIONS

Wednesday, May 25th

at the OECTA Office Auditorium
(6435 Edwards Blvd.) at 4:30 p.m.
Refreshments served from 3:30 p.m.

Please come! Bring a Colleague!

Summer Institute 2011

The Dufferin-Peel Board will be offering courses from August 16th to August 25th at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School, 2800 Erin Centre Boulevard, Mississauga. These courses are open to all Dufferin-Peel teachers for a cost of \$50 per day. All registration information, including registration forms and sessions will be available on the Board's web site (www.dpcdsb.org/si) and booklets will be available at the schools by the end of May. Please apply early to ensure that you get your desired courses.

Employment Insurance

(E.I.) On-line!

All occasional teachers who have worked enough hours (7 hours for one full day) may qualify for E.I. benefits over the summer months due to 'shortage of work'. Currently, the number of qualifying hours for the GTA area (includes Mississauga) is 910 hours or 130 teaching days. Please check the back of your last Pay Statement in June and the OTBUnit's website (www.dpeel-ot.org) for procedures and the special reference number needed to file your application.

Applications for benefits should be completed on-line at <http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ei-ae>. If you do not have access to a computer at home, you can visit any Human Resources Canada Centre and use the computers located there or your nearest library. Make sure to record the confirmation number given to you upon successfully completing the application.

Although it is necessary to file an E.I. claim within 3 weeks from the last day worked in June, HRDC will not actually process the claim until they receive your Record of Employment (ROE). Again, the Board will automatically be sending all ROEs electronically to HRDC after the last pay date. For example, if you work June 27 – 30, you will be paid July 21st. Therefore, your ROE will not be sent to E.I. until after July 21st.

LTO Summer Postings!

Since there is a surplus of teachers in both the elementary and secondary panels at this time, there will be no LTO positions posted during the summer. Should the situation change in either or both panels over the summer, the Association will be advised, and the LTO positions will be posted on WebTracs' *Internal Job Opportunities* as of August 1st.

If you are interested in LTOs, go to WebTracs, click "*Internal Job Opportunities*", select Available Jobs, then either Group 'LTO – elem' OR 'LTO – sec' and click on 'query'.

This will allow you to review and apply to any or all LTO positions that you are qualified to teach and are **NOT filled**. LTO positions **MUST BE APPLIED** for on-line! Keep a record of the LTO job postings you have applied to by clicking on "Jobs Applied to" and printing the page(s). Remember, you will **ONLY** be contacted by the Board or school administrator if they want to invite you for an interview, or offer you the position.

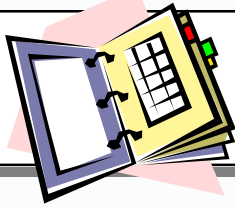
It is recommended that you check WebTracs' *Internal Job Opportunities* throughout the summer.

Criminal Offence Declaration 2011

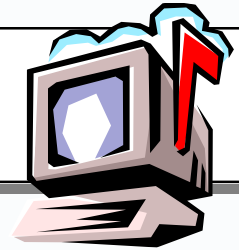
Since the Dufferin-Peel Board is required by law to have all employees complete an annual Criminal Offence Declaration (COD) form, occasional teachers who did not complete and submit the form, will have the declaration forms mailed to them. The 2011 COD form is also available on WebTracs' Home page, click on OT Website/General Information/Forms to download.

You **MUST** complete and return the declaration by **May 20th** or you will be unable to teach in the next school year. If you do not receive a form, please call Agatha deLemos at 905-890-0708 Ext. 24189.

You can NOT TEACH if you do not comply!



Committee News



Collective Bargaining

The current collective agreement between occasional teachers and the board expires on August 31, 2012 and we will be entering into negotiations in May 2012. In order for the OTBUnit collective bargaining team to present a proposal that accurately reflects the needs and priorities of the occasional teacher members, a survey was mailed out at the end of April to all members. It is imperative that you **complete and return** the survey by courier or by mail to the OECTA – Occasional Teachers’ Bargaining Unit office by **May 13, 2011**. Your participation is needed and valued!

Since the OTBUnit is preparing for the next round of negotiations, we are trying to make our communication paperless. We are asking for your help. **Simply send your personal email address to dpotbunit@gmail.com – just put “Please add me” in the subject line.** If at any point you change your personal email address, please notify the OTBUnit by email at dpotbunit@gmail.com

Thank you for the time spent completing this survey!

WebTracs Profile

According to Article 13.03 b), an occasional teacher may request changes to their profile during the months of September and February by sending written notice to the clerk according to their surname:

- Alpha Letters: A to G - karen.tanner@dpcdsb.org
- H to N – cathy.deichsel@dpcdsb.org
- O to Z - marie.rodriques@dpcdsb.org

Since this written request could take up to 10 working days to accommodate, you are encouraged to submit your request during July or August so that the changes can be made by the clerks over the summer. These profile changes will be effective as of September 2011.

Teacher Satisfaction Survey

A Teacher Satisfaction survey was mailed out at the end of April to all members. It is an opportunity to voice any concerns or successes you have within your job. Answer all questions to the best of your ability. Please take this opportunity to provide feedback on your working conditions as an occasional teacher. Feel free to include additional comments wherever necessary.

Thank you for the time spent completing this survey!

A Note of Appreciation!

Kudos!

I would like to extend my personal gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the dedicated ‘team’ of the OTBUnit Executive - Lesia Teply, Mike Farrugia, Teresa Kolk, Valerie Longo, Michael Rahal, and Roman Vynyarchuk who have worked exceptionally hard on your behalf throughout the school year. Kudos also to John Horemans, our Editor and Webmaster, for his committed efforts in publishing our newsletters and in keeping the OTBUnit’s web site up-to-date!

Occasional Teachers' Statistics

(as of April 28, 2011)

LTO - elementary	289
LTO - secondary	193
Daily	862
Certified Emergency	132
Total	1476

Reminders:

If your personal information changes over the summer, please send your change of name, address and phone number in writing to: Lucie Baptista, Manager of Teacher Personnel or email her at lucie.baptista@dpcdsb.org and copy the clerk that corresponds to your surname:

Alpha Letters:

A to G - karen.tanner@dpcdsb.org

H to N - cathy.deichsel@dpcdsb.org

O to Z - marie.rodriques@dpcdsb.org

School Information

Package for OTs

According to Article 7.03 in our Collective Agreement, all pertinent information for the 2011-2012 school year regarding school hours, school calendar, pay schedule, WebTracs (access, Tracs call-out times, and available jobs), and forms will be posted the Thursday before school starts on the Board's website - WebTracs' Home page, by clicking on Occasional Teacher Web site (General Information, Forms, or WebTracs Information). Should you require a paper copy, the request **must** be made in writing on an annual basis no later than June 30th, 2011. Your written request can be made to:

Karen Tanner
(karen.tanner@dpcdsb.org)

Requested copies will be available for pickup at the Board office on Thursday, September 1st, 2011.

You are encouraged to keep an updated copy of the school information in a binder/duo tang in your car/school bag should you need it for reference.

Professional Teaching Portfolio

OECTA supports voluntary, self-directed professional development that is meaningful to teachers. It recommends that all members develop personal teaching portfolios to document their growth.

In developing your portfolio you need to:

- Choose a way to store your documents that is easily accessible, expandable, manageable, organized and conveniently stored;
- Determine your portfolio's purpose or theme;
- Set your own goals and priorities for your collection;
- Select a series of appropriate activities and venues to achieve these goals;
- Document participation in these activities; and
- Reflect upon and assess their success in achieving these goals.

Teachers should obtain and keep documentation of all their professional development activities. A professional portfolio is composed of a combination of the following kinds of items:

1. Professional Learning Log – conferences, workshops, committees, in-service and their corresponding certificates of participation and dated records of attendance.
2. Reflections – personal journal/notes that describe the activities.
3. Examples of Professional Practice such as units or lessons, student work, and photographs of classroom layout.

During the summer, take the time to develop your own portfolio. Maintaining a personal, professional portfolio will allow you to develop a concrete record that demonstrates your commitment to lifelong learning. The portfolio is a good management strategy for keeping your records in one place.

Chicken Soup for OTs

Education is the ability to meet life's expectations

Dr. John G. Hibben

Education is not a preparation for life: education is life itself.

John Dewey

AGM 2011

By Lisa Stokaluk-Bartnik

After a few years of occasional teaching and attending OECTA-Occasional Teachers Unit meetings, I wanted to become more actively involved in the Association. I applied to go as an Annual General Meeting delegate which was a very thrilling time for me because I would represent seventy-five of my colleagues. This valuable opportunity was going to be an exciting learning experience.

I was required to attend two Pre-AGM meetings. These meetings were to inform and prepare delegates for what was to come. We received information about what was going to occur at the AGM. This helped me to feel more prepared and less anxious. All fellow delegates were very supportive and welcoming, which made the beginning of this journey a lot easier.

The time came for me to attend AGM 2011 at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel. On the Friday evening, the Dufferin-Peel elementary unit invited their delegates to their Hospitality suite. After getting acquainted with some of my fellow colleagues, I went to register and collect all the documentation needed for the weekend. There was also a social in one of the ballrooms where all OECTA teacher delegates from across Ontario could go and socialize with their peers.

The meeting officially started on the Saturday morning. It was a very educational weekend filled with information, guest speakers, elections of OTF Governors, and voting on resolutions that would affect OECTA members. It was a very stimulating, exciting and wonderful three days.

There is so much that I have learnt from this weekend about OECTA. I can't wait to go back again, and I encourage my peers to attend the next AGM in 2012. It is a rewarding learning experience that you will never forget!



You Asked Us....

Question:

I have been an occasional teacher doing LTOs with this Board while waiting to be hired for a permanent teaching position. What is the Board's hiring procedure? Should I continue applying for LTOs postings during the summer?

The Board only hires according to its needs. In Dufferin-Peel, there is a surplus of teachers in both the elementary and secondary panels at this time.

The Board informed the OTBUnit that when they hire for permanent teaching positions, they choose from OTs who:

1. received 'outstanding' interviews when originally hired; and
2. have the required qualifications (teachables); and/or
3. have completed at least one LTO during which they were evaluated and recommended for permanent hire by the school administrator.

New graduates who have received 'outstanding' interviews and have the required qualifications are also considered.

The names of individuals who have met the above conditions are placed on the "preferred list" which is available to school administrators who select candidates and recommend them for hire.

It is, therefore, highly recommended that you apply to any and all LTOs for which you are qualified and interested in teaching. If a permanent position becomes available before the LTO starts, the Board can offer the position to you. But, if a permanent position becomes available after the LTO starts, the Board is reluctant to offer the position to you as it will disrupt the students you are teaching, unless the position is in the same school.

Beginning Teachers' Conference 2011

By Agnes Parapura

OECTA's Conference for Beginning Teachers in Niagara Falls was a success! I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend this two-day conference. I gained a wealth of knowledge from this conference, which I can apply to my own teaching practices. There were three hundred beginning teachers from all across Ontario who participated in this exciting event. Guest speakers, workshops and exhibits were organized by the Beginning Teachers' Committee. Presenters, such as Alfie Kohn, Joe Pece, Taylor Gunn and Victoria Hunt, discussed significant issues relating to today's education.

Alfie Kohn was a very intriguing guest speaker as he spoke about challenging standardized testing and the quality of education. Time magazine has described him as America's "most outspoken critic of education's fixation on grades and test scores." He spoke about questioning the purpose of EQAO testing as teachers, and focusing more on meaningful teaching and learning.

Alfie Kohn stated:

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

- * **"The best classrooms have the kids talking more than the teacher."**
- * **"EQAO-are very accurate measures to what the size of the community homes are in that community."**
- * **"Researchers found that shallow thinkers did better on EQAO than deeper thinkers."**
- * **"Measurable outcomes may be the least significant result of learning."**
- * **"Higher scores are indicative. Tests measure what matters least."**

Kohn believed that in order to reach an important goal, it's sometimes necessary to actively oppose practices that get in the way (like standardized tests and a one-size-fits-all provincial curriculum).

Joe Pece discussed Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan; Taylor Gunn spoke about getting students involved in Democracy; and Victoria Hunt discussed Politics and Education. All guest speakers were wonderful. I greatly appreciated the chance to listen to these teaching advocates and listening to issues relevant to the education system.

Altogether, there were 25 prospective workshops available to beginning teachers. I had the opportunity of participating in three: Literacy in Primary/Junior, Progressive Discipline (Bill 157 Keeping Our Kids Safe at School) and Building Inclusive Communities in Catholic Schools. All three workshops were enlightening.

During my stay, I was also able to explore a variety of vendors that provided teachers with various instructional resources and books that could be utilized within the classroom. Draws and prizes were also available.

I enjoyed my experience at the 2011 Beginning Teachers Conference in Niagara Falls. Not only did I have the opportunity to participate in workshops that would enhance my professional development, but I also had the opportunity to meet Catholic educators from all across Ontario. This was an incredible experience. I would definitely recommend the Beginning Teachers Conference to all novice teachers looking for new and innovative ideas to help them get through the first few years of their vocational path.

Thank you to OECTA for organizing such a grand event!