

December 2008 / Décembre 2008

This holiday season,

THE EXECUTIVE AND STAFF OF THE ONTARIO TEACHERS' FEDERATION

would like to extend our best wishes for the holidays, as well as a New Year filled with joy, happiness and good health.

Take this time to enjoy a much deserved rest and the company of loved ones.

In the spirit of giving, and in lieu of sending cards, the President

GEORGE (JOE) LAMOUREUX

has chosen to make a donation to



George (Joe) Lamoureux
President

À l'occasion du temps des fêtes,

L'EXÉCUTIF ET LE PERSONNEL DE LA FÉDÉRATION DES ENSEIGNANTES ET DES ENSEIGNANTS DE L'ONTARIO

aimeraient vous souhaiter leurs meilleurs vœux pour la saison, ainsi qu'une nouvelle année comblée de joie, bonheur et santé.

Saisissez cette occasion pour vous reposer et célébrer avec vos proches.

Dans cet esprit de partage, et au lieu d'envoyer des cartes, le président

GEORGE (JOE) LAMOUREUX

a choisi de faire un don à



Rhonda Kimberley-Young
Secrétaire-trésorière



© Gartner Studios

interaction



December 12, 2008
Volume 11, No. 1

Message from the President

FELLOW TEACHERS,
I am honoured to be your President for the 2008-2009 year.

When I was elected, I told the Governors that I was proud to be one of the group of OSSTF Governors who returned to the OTF table. I look forward to working with each of the OTF Governors and with our four Affiliates to represent the teachers across the province in some challenging times. I made the commitment to endeavour to continually earn your support.

I have been on the OTF Executive and Board of Governors for some time now. I have had the pleasure and the fortune to have had strong role models in Past President Maureen Davis and others around the Executive table and the OTF Board.

I have to thank each of you, and especially my Affiliate, as I have been afforded tremendous opportunities for professional growth and a chance to be OTF President. For me, OTF draws its strength from the sum of our Affiliates. As is often the case, the sum of the parts can be more than simple addition would imply.

Recently, I saw a video from the 1973 protest at Maple Leaf Gardens. It reflected teachers at the heart of the fight for the right-to-strike and other collective bargaining rights we now take somewhat for granted. In that video, the teachers sang the song *United We Stand, Divided We Fall* and I believe that is the core of the OTF legacy. Our similarities far outweigh our differences; our interests are more common than dissimilar; and our goal is shared. I look forward to offering, with your support and advice, continued competent leadership and you should expect no less.

I am humbled by this honour and I guess I am no longer "just an average Joe."

Yours truly,



George (Joe) Lamoureux

YOUR PENSION REPRESENTATIVES

Meet your representatives on the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board of Directors. As part of the unique partnership between the Ontario Teachers' Federation and the Government of Ontario that is the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, each Partner names four people to serve on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan. The Partners then jointly appoint a ninth person to be the Chair of the Board. Each person is appointed to the Board for a term of four years, renewable once.

The characteristics that OTF seeks in its appointees and the process are outlined in OTF's By-Law XII.

The current Chair was originally appointed to the Board by OTF. At this time, five of the nine people on the Board of Directors were named by OTF.

Your representatives on the OTPP Board of Directors are: Eileen Mercier, Hugh MacKenzie, Louis Martel, Guy Matte, and Sharon Sallows.



MERCIER

Initially appointed in 2005, Eileen Mercier is the first woman and the first OTF appointment to chair the OTPP Board of Directors. Fully bilingual, she has a very strong business background. From 1995 to 2003, Eileen Mercier was the president of her own management consulting firm,

FINVOY Management, specializing in financial strategy and corporate governance issues. Prior to that time, she spent 25 years in the financial services, communications, integrated oil and forest product businesses, culminating in her position as Senior Vice-President and CFO at Abitibi-Price. She holds an MBA from York University and an MA from the University of Alberta. She is a Fellow of The Institute of Canadian Bankers. Currently Eileen also serves on the Boards of CGI Group Inc., Hydro One Inc., and ING Canada Inc.



MACKENZIE

An economist educated at the University of Western Ontario and the University of Wisconsin, Hugh Mackenzie has been active in the field of public policy development for more than 30 years. He has been involved with all three levels of government as well as the non-profit sector, including the position of Research Director for the United Steelworkers of America.

For many years, Hugh has been involved with the Ontario Alternative Budget project and with People for Education. A member of the Board of Directors of People for Education, Hugh serves as the Treasurer.

Currently, Hugh is also a member of the Ontario Pension Board and the Investment Committee of the Canada Post Pension Plan. He is the Treasurer of the Atkinson Charitable Foundation and a member of its Investment Committee.

As part of his duties on the OTPPB, Hugh is the Chair of the Benefits Adjudication Committee and a Member of the Audit & Actuarial Committee.

Educated at Laval University, Louis Martel is also a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries and a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries. Currently, he is Vice-President of Product Development and Client Service for Greystone Managed Investments Inc. Martel has worked with Mercer, Watson Wyatt and AON Consulting. While at AON Consulting, he was a senior pension and investment consultant. In this capacity, he worked with the Ontario Teachers' Federation as an independent actuarial consultant on matters relating to the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan.



MARTEL

The Executive of OTF came to know Louis Martel and to appreciate his skills when he served as our consulting actuary, when he was with Mercer's.

Louis is a member of the Audit & Actuarial and Governance Committees of the OTPPB.



MATTE

Guy Matte, a graduate of the University of Ottawa and Laurentian University, is the former Executive Director of the Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens. He is a former teacher who taught in the former Ottawa Separate School Board. Guy has been a very active advocate for Ontario's francophone community. He has served on several boards and has been involved in Le Festival franco-ontarien. He was a member of the Advisory Committee on Francophone Affairs for the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur when she was Minister for Francophone Affairs. He is a member of the Audit & Actuarial and Governance Committees of the OTPPB Board.

Active in the financial world for more than 30 years, Sharon Sallows is a graduate of Carleton University, The London School of Economics and The Wharton School (University of Pennsylvania). Sallows completed her PhD in 1978. In addition to senior positions with the Bank of Montreal, MICC Properties, Sharon has provided financial advisory services to all three levels of government as well as many private sector companies.



SALLOWS

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

At its meeting in August, the OTF Board of Governors honoured nine new Fellows at the President's Banquet. The new fellows, pictured below are:



Front Row - Left to Right: Sam Hammond; Claude Lamoureux; Jan Moxey; Ken Thurston; Carmaine Hall; Bill Reith; and Ken Coran

Back Row - Left to Right: Larry Trafford; OTF President Maureen Davis; and Ed Chudak

Also on the same evening, President Maureen Davis and OTPPB CEO Jim Leech acknowledged the presence of Alice Ogden with a bouquet of flowers. A retired teacher and an OTF Fellow, Alice Ogden is one of the 76 teachers over the age of 100 who are collecting pensions from the OTPPB.



Left to Right: Jim Leech, CEO, OTPPB; Alice Ogden, OTF Fellow; and OTF President Maureen Davis



A Message from the OTF Secretary-Treasurer

Most teachers in the province are probably well aware of the changes made to the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan as a result of the September 30th deadline for the mandatory filing of the 2008 Plan valuation. In this first issue of *Interaction*, we thought it important to introduce you to the OTF-appointed Directors at the OTPP who work on behalf of all Plan members and who oversee the managers of the fund. We are fortunate to have such highly qualified, talented and industrious individuals safeguarding our pension interests.

As teachers, we often pay most attention to our pensions at times of specific interest—the filing of a valuation, when considering a leave of absence or when contemplating retirement. It is always the right time, however, to become more familiar with your pension. The OTF website has an excellent resource available—just go to the OTF site www.otffeo.on.ca and click on the *Pension Update* icon on the home page. The Plan's website has a wealth of information readily available at www.otpp.com. In addition to the general information, you may access your personal pension data literally at the click of a button called *iAccess*. Pension officers in your Affiliate, the Pension and Economic Affairs Director at OTF or the pension specialists at the OTPP are all available to answer your questions. You can reach Jeff Holmes, the OTF Director, at jeff.holmes@otffeo.on.ca.

At OTF, pension issues consumed our efforts early in the school year. This meant that a few other projects were delayed slightly as a result. This newsletter is a case in point.



If you've read *Interaction* in the past, we trust you notice the difference with this edition. The Ontario Teachers' Federation has developed a new "look" which includes a new logo, new slogan and new colours. Our original logo served us well—for almost 65 years—but it was time for our organization to take on a more contemporary and dynamic look. A visit to our website will show that this process is not yet complete. In-house materials and print materials have been adapted but the website is our next big project. Anticipating that changes were needed to our communications to make them more relevant to teachers and more focused on OTF services, we convened a group of Governors last year and asked them to critique our communications. Their input has been valuable in what we have done so far and will be taken into account in our next steps as the website is redesigned for content, navigation, tools and "look".

This newsletter will be published several times a year—posted on our website and emailed if you sign up to receive it. We will also send a few printed copies to each local Affiliate unit for information at local Affiliate meetings and for staff room bulletin boards. If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically in the future, you can register at <http://mailman.vex.net/mailman/listinfo/otffeo>.

In the last few years, twice a year, OTF has published an all member newsletter called *Teaching Matters*. The *Teaching Matters* newsletter is another way for OTF to help teachers become more familiar with OTF and what we do. If your school didn't receive copies of *Teaching Matters*, let Siria Szkurhan know by emailing her at siria.szkurhan@otffeo.on.ca or by calling 416.966.3424.



Teaching Matters is an OTF program which is going strong. A visit to the Teaching Matters section on the website will let teachers know what PD opportunities are available for OTF members. You can get there

from the OTF home page by clicking on the Teaching Matters icon. If you haven't looked, you may be surprised by what you find. Take advantage of the services OTF has to offer—whether an on-line conference for new teachers, anti-bullying resources, access to a PD calendar of events or participation in a conference, workshop or Camp OTF in the summer.

And, speaking of camps, I would wager money that many teachers are unaware that OTF owns a campground at Parry Sound. The website provides further information on how to sign up for a campsite or a cabin. You can access the Campground website at www.parrysoundcampground.on.ca.



The OTIP Teaching Awards Ceremony held on October 1, 2008 was the perfect example of celebrating the success of OTF members in a public way. This year's award winners are profiled on our website and even featured, along with articles about public education, in an eight-page *Toronto Star* feature section. This year, think about nominating a colleague deserving of recognition. The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2009 and you can learn more by clicking on the OTIP Teaching Awards icon on the OTF site.

Best wishes for the Season and the New Year.

Rhonda Kimberley-Young
Secretary-Treasurer