

# interaction



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## A message from the OTF President



**Terry Hamilton**

### Fellow teachers

As we start another school year, many issues are facing us as educators, both in Ontario and in the broader world. On October 5, World Teachers' Day, we celebrate the contributions of teachers to education and society. The theme for this year's day is *"Take a stand for teachers!."* This theme is most appropriate for teachers in Ontario this year. The Liberal Government's abrupt change in approach to our profession is demoralizing, to say the least. The Affiliates are contending with the government agenda as they feel is best for their members.

However, OTF's and the Affiliates' focus always has been and remains the classroom and our students. This will not change.

As well, it is a critical time for pension plans in Canadian economic history. OTF and the Affiliates are the gatekeepers of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan. Watch for

updates on pensions throughout the year.

For several years, I was a branch president in Thunder Bay and was proud to represent the members in my school. Then as district president and as OTF Governor, I proudly represented the members of the district and then OSSTF members across the province. Now, as OTF President, I have the honour and responsibility to represent the teachers of Ontario.

I accept this responsibility and welcome the challenges it brings. Whether you are new to our profession or returning, I sincerely wish you a great school year.

Yours in education,

## Au revoir et merci !

I am proud to have been the spokesperson and advocate for OTF and, therefore, for all teachers of Ontario this past year.

It was a very busy but rewarding time dealing with pension issues, consultations with government and Ministry officials, representing OTF at various venues and conferences, dealing with media, and outreach presentations across the province.

I have always been a proud defender of publicly funded education and educators. This coming year presents new challenges which, as always, we will meet.

I wish Terry Hamilton the very best as OTF President and know that he will represent us well.



**Past President Francine LeBlanc-Lebel**



# QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL

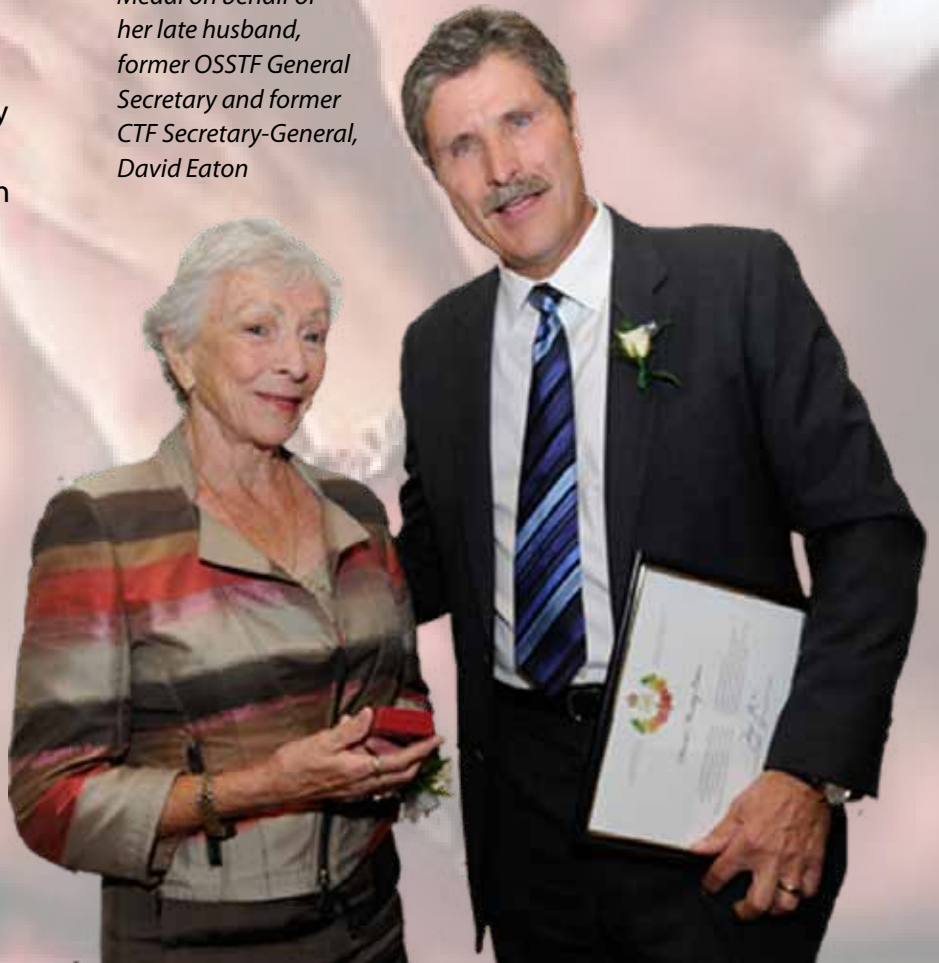
The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal not only honours Her Majesty for her service to Canada, but also honours significant contributions and achievements by Canadians.

The two honourees at the OTF Board of Governors' Annual Meeting certainly met the criteria, especially in making a significant contribution to education in Ontario.

*Audrey Eaton accepted the Diamond Jubilee Medal on behalf of her late husband, former OSSTF General Secretary and former CTF Secretary-General, David Eaton*



*Diamond Jubilee Medal recipient, Rhonda Kimberley-Young, OTF Secretary-Treasurer with CTF President, Paul Taillefer*



## NO TO TWO YEARS OF TEACHER EDUCATION

OTF and the Affiliates agree that two years of teacher education is not the answer.

However, if the Government is determined to alter the length of pre-service training, the OTF Executive supports a program of three-semesters, offered over 12 months. Ideally, such a program would commence in July and end the following June. There would be 100 practicum days in an Ontario classroom.

As well, the Executive recommends strongly that the method of division specialization (P/J, J/I, I/S) be retained.

There have been several meetings with the government since they announced expanding pre-service for prospective teachers in August 2011. Currently, the Liberal Government has indicated that it will delay implementation of the new program until September 2015.

# COMMENTS FROM THE Secretary-Treasurer

Rhonda Kimberley-Young



OTF has much to be proud of as an organization and as teachers collectively. In fact, Ontario is a much sought after jurisdiction—delegations have come from many countries to meet with OTF, the Ministry, and educators to see what Ontario is doing right and why Ontario students perform so well on international measures. A key part of Ontario's success, according to the Ontario Government, has been its collaboration with teachers and its investment in the profession through teacher professional learning. At this time, however, it is unlikely that Ontario's teachers are feeling that same appreciation and respect from the Government.

Over the past year, a number of significant events took place which affect teachers and will for years to come; including the *Drummond Report*, the provincial budget, education grants, the Liberal election promise and subsequent consultations on an extended pre-service teacher education program, and the LeSage review of the Ontario College of Teachers.

In August, we saw the unprecedented return of the Ontario Legislature to enact the overriding of the collective bargaining

process for teachers. Although OTF has no responsibility for negotiations, it has a long history of supporting its policy that all teachers have the right to representation in the collective bargaining process and to participate in sanctions. As the Affiliates head into this school year with the task of settling collective agreements, we wish them success.

There is truth to the words that the working conditions of teachers are the learning conditions of students. We have seen Ontario's students thrive in an atmosphere of investment, support and professional collaboration for the past 10 years.

Despite what will be challenging circumstances for teachers this year, OTF will continue to represent the interest of the profession, whenever and wherever the opportunity presents itself. Be proud to be a teacher; you make a difference every day!

## OTF Fellows 2012

Since 1964, OTF has awarded fellowships annually to acknowledge service to the organization and to the teaching profession.

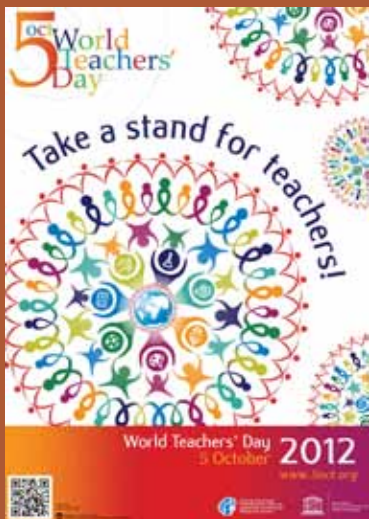
George Drew, the Ontario Premier when the *Teaching Profession Act* was passed in 1944, was the first to receive a fellowship. The recipients this year certainly are no exception to the excellence of those who have received fellowships in the past.



**L to R:** Jean-Baptiste Arhanchiague, AEFO; Victoria Réaume, non-member; Pierre Côté, OSSTF; Angelo Ippolito, OECTA; Marnie Daly, OECTA; Daniel Peat, OSSTF; Maureen Weinberger, ETFO; and Anne Lavoie, AEFO. Regrets: Pat McAdie, ETFO



## ON A SIDE NOTE...



**Taking a stand for teachers!**  
How appropriate for Ontario's teachers! On October 5, give your colleagues a pat on the back and yourself as well!



**Congratulations to Randy McGlynn, former Chief Executive Officer of OTIP/RAEO, on his retirement. Ontario's teachers thank Randy for many years of excellent service and support.**



**On August 30, OTF hosted a delegation of Italian trade unionists from la Confederazione Generale del Lavoro (CGIL).**

# THIS + THAT

### Aboriginal literacy camps

OTF has been a sponsor of the Aboriginal Summer Literacy Camp for several years. Frontier College runs about 70 camps across Canada, several of which are in northern Ontario. Check out the following videos on YouTube to get a flavor: Muskrat Dam Camp and Camp on my Mind.



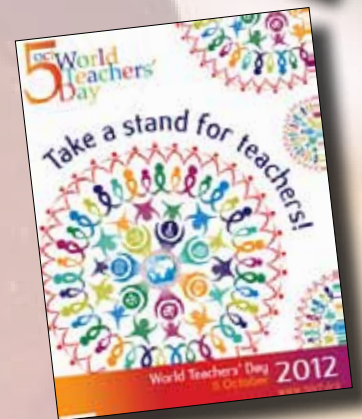
### Yes, teachers do PD in the summer

OTF and several subject associations held successful two and three-day workshops this past summer: the Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association (OMLTA); the Ontario Music Educators' Association (OMEA), Council of Ontario Drama and Dance Educators (CODE); Ontario Art Education Association (OAEA), Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario (COEO), and the Ontario Association of Physics Teachers (OAPT). If you are interested in next year's offerings, visit [otffeo.on.ca](http://otffeo.on.ca) next spring.



### OTF Professional Learning Online

*OTF Professional Learning Online* newsletter will be available by late September. Just go to [otffeo.on.ca](http://otffeo.on.ca) for the OTF PD offerings for 2012-2013.



### Need a lesson plan?

The Teacher Resources section of the OTF website offers a multitude of resource links as well as a searchable lesson plan resource – [otffeo.on.ca](http://otffeo.on.ca).

### PD at your fingertips

*OTF Connects* is an online, ongoing support built by teachers for teachers which provides opportunities to learn and interact through easy-to-use technology. Our online interactive webinar tool gives you great PD right at your home computer and allows you to collaborate with other teachers across Ontario.



The *OTF PD Calendar* lists professional learning opportunities across Ontario and beyond. All known AQ and ABQ courses, face-to-face and online, are included.

ALL THIS IS AVAILABLE AT [OTFFEO.ON.CA](http://OTFFEO.ON.CA).

