

# " THE WARM OUTLET "

ARM CHAPTER 22 NEWSLETTER  
Autumn/Winter 2023 VOL.27 NO. 1

## ARM 22 EXECUTIVE 2023-2024

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ARM Council Website:			<a href="http://www.armcouncil.osstf.ca">www.armcouncil.osstf.ca</a>

## MONTHLY BREAKFASTS: 9:30 a.m. 'w'arm up to us on Wednesday

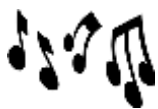
October 11 <sup>th</sup>	Silks Country Kitchen 1501 Niagara Stone Road, Virgil
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	Pür & Simple, 290 Glendale Avenue, St. Catharines
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Lina Linguini's, 111 Fourth Avenue, St. Catharines LUNCH; please RSVP to Ray by Dec 5
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	Phyl's All Day Breakfast & Lunch, 6864 Lundy's Lane, Niagara Falls
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Stacked Pancake House, 343 Glendale Avenue, St. Catharines

## OTHER EVENTS

**Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>** Person's Day & Fall Garden Cleanup 10:00ish District 22 Office

**CH'ARM'ING BITS :** "Lexophile" describes a person who loves sentences, i.e. "To write with a broken pencil is pointless" The following were submitted to the annual New Times Competition.

- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.
- Police were summoned to a daycare centre where a toddler was resisting a rest.
- Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
- The guy who fell into the upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.
- I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.
- I didn't like my beard at first, but then it grew on me.
- I'm reading a book on anti-gravity, I just can't put it down.
- When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.



## from your President

September, 2023

Dear ARMites of Chapter 22,

Summer is almost complete and the kids are back in school. The Toronto Star published the editorial cartoon on Labour Day weekend. If you missed it, look to the right. WHAT DID YOU DO??

The Federation was busy both locally and provincially negotiating a new collective agreement with the Government and School Boards. Late in August, OSSTF announced a “pathway” to a collective agreement. As he has done in the past, the Minister announced that a new collective agreement had been reached and only needed the approval of the membership. THIS IS NOT THE CASE! What has been agreed to is a possible pathway to an agreement. Both sides will continue to meet and attempt to resolve their differences and if they do on or before October 27, that tentative agreement will be voted on by the membership. If they do not, then any outstanding issues will be given to a 3-member arbitration board who will decide on all matters. If there are issues that the two sides can agree upon between now and the end of October, those will not be placed before the arbiter, but will be in the 2022-2026 collective agreement. As well (and this may apply to you if you retired after June 2019) there is a remedy to Bill 124 (the marvellous 1% restriction on salary & benefits). As of September 1, 2019 an additional 0.75% will be applied to all compensation. As of September 2020, a second 0.75% will be applied to the grid and other monetary allowances. The sides were not able to agree on a remedy for the 2021-2022 school year, but have agreed to submit the decision to an arbitration board (again 3-person, and I believe chaired by the same William Kaplan). They did agree that the arbitrators must come up with an amount between 1.5% and 3.25%. So, if you retired in the last 4 years, you should have some retroactive pay owing. School Boards will be charged with getting that to you, once the arbitration happens. (I believe they have 120 days following the announcement to get it to you. Stay tuned; I may have more info next time.) ACTIVE members are encouraged to vote by logging in to the Member Login at [www.osstf.on.ca](http://www.osstf.on.ca). Voting closes at noon on September 27.



You should also have seen that Ontario Labour and the Ontario Health Coalition are planning a rally at Queen’s Park on Monday, September 25 at noon. This is the day that the Legislature resumes sitting following its Summer Vacation. (I have never understood why politicians criticize the teaching profession for its holidays – the legislature rose in early June and returns in late September, but I suppose that anybody can teach. HA HA!! I’ve been told that the boards are so in need of occasional teachers that students who are in their second year of teachers’ college can apply and get a job. Well, imho, they will certainly learn more in schools than in an academic session.)

We have usually done our garden cleanup on the six-month anniversary of Earth Day; this autumn, it falls on a Sunday, and I don’t work Sundays. So, since October 18 is International Persons Day, I thought it fitting to do our garden cleanup then. Come with your secateurs, lopping shears, and containers so that we can move much of the summer growth to the compost bin. I think we will need to wait until next year to have some compost to return to the garden, but the group can decide.

Next week I am off to ARM Council for Thursday and Friday; remember at the Biennial we tasked ARM Council with forming a workgroup to review ARM goals and membership. I anticipate forming that workgroup at the meeting. Also Council will be working on a survey of Home Care in Ontario. I expect to have something to share with you (most likely via email so if you are not receiving my “meeting” reminders, I don’t have yours and you should send it to me) related to that.

Some pics for you:

@ Chippawa Volunteer Firefighters Association in July



Memory Garden in July – our butterfly bush in full bloom!! 😊



Please see the next page for a “welcome back” from OTIP. AND, as always, keep in touch. Feel free to contact me anytime, but especially before a breakfast/lunch so we have numbers to give the restaurants.

Thanks, 😊 Ray



## Feeling refreshed for a new school year

Summer break is an excellent time to reinvigorate yourself for the next school year. Perhaps you learned a new skill, did some adventuring, read a few books, or started a new workout routine. Whatever you got up to, we hope your mind, body, and soul feel refreshed. Summer break is also an ideal time to reflect on the highs and lows of the previous school year and realign your personal goals, including those that support your health, wellness, and financial security. Let us help you with that!

You may be most familiar with Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP) as your group benefits provider, but did you know that we also offer personal insurance coverage? Your local union and Provincial Affiliate partner with OTIP to ensure you have access to the following:

- Exclusive car and home insurance rates. Our in-house claims services are available to support you through the claims process.
- Three flexible retiree health, dental and travel insurance plans.
- Life insurance and identity theft and cyber protection.



*Are you a part of AEFO, CUPE, ETFO, OECA, or OSSTF? Fortunately for you (and us!), OTIP is your exclusive auto and home insurance provider!*

We don't stop at exceptional coverage and personalized service; our members also have access to contests, awards, bursaries, and special offers, including Edvantage – your exclusive savings program.

Read on to learn more about some of our new and limited-time offers.

### Find coverage that fits your lifestyle

As an insurance brokerage, OTIP makes finding the right auto and home insurance coverage easy. When you get a quote from us, our brokers will compare your options against multiple carriers to ensure you get the right coverage at the best rate, saving you time, effort, and money!

As our way of saying thank you for getting an auto and/or home insurance quote, we'll send you a \$20 gift card of your choice. Plus, throughout September and October, you'll be entered to win a \$1,000 gift card from Mark's, one of our valued Edvantage partners, to refresh your wardrobe! [Get an online quote](#) or call 1-888-892-4935 and **mention this offer**.

### Fill out our survey and WIN

When you complete our short Start of School Year Survey, you could be one of ten lucky winners of a \$50 gift card of your choice. You only have until October 31, 2023, so [get started now!](#)

### Endless ways to save with Edvantage

Whether you're shopping for clothes, making updates to your home, planning a vacation, or simply looking for a break on your phone bill, Edvantage has a discount for you! We partner with several of your favourite brands to offer the Ontario education community exclusive deals that help you save. If you haven't already, why not [register](#) for your free online account and automatically enter our [Win with Edvantage](#) contest? Stay tuned for more details on the Edvantage website's [What's New](#) section about our first-ever Virtual Holiday Partner Fair in November.

### Retire with RTIP

OTIP is here for you even after you retire with our Retired Teachers Insurance Plan (RTIP). RTIP offers three flexible health, dental and travel insurance plans for you to choose from as your needs evolve throughout your retirement. Plus, when you become an RTIP member, you'll still have access to the Edvantage savings program and the discounts you love. We know there are many things to consider for transitioning into retirement. That's why we provide free [retirement planning resources](#) like our plan selector tool, podcast, and [workshops](#) with some featuring financial planning advice from Educators Financial Group. [Learn more](#) about retiring with RTIP.

### Reinvesting in the community

As a not-for-profit organization, OTIP supports the communities in which our members live and work. Being good is great, but doing good is better, so we use the proceeds we generate to fund charitable programs. [Learn more](#) about our awards, bursaries, and sponsorships.

### Start of school benefit reminders

Are you a group benefits plan member? Check out our [back-to-school article](#) for important reminders on reviewing and updating your group benefits coverage as we enter a new school year.