

" THE WARM OUTLET "
ARM CHAPTER 22 NEWSLETTER
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MONTHLY BREAKFASTS, 9:30 a.m. 'w'arm up to us on TUESDAYS

Sept. 15th **Angel's Diner**, St. Catharines. New retirees welcomed.

Oct. 27th **The Unseen Niagara**, Part 1 – meet @ Tim's, Prudhomme Landing
for a Country drive & lunch in Beamsville

Nov. 17th **B-Jays**, Cummington Square, Chippawa

Dec. 1st ****LUNCH** @ The Old Bank Bistro**, Fort Erie **** LUNCH 12:00 noon;**
RSVP to Ray by November 20

Jan. 19th **Cora's**, Pendale Plaza, St. Catharines.

Feb.16th **Sunset Grill**, Lowe's Plaza, Niagara Falls

OTHER EVENTS:

Oct. 14th BBQ night & presentation: **As We Age – what to know, who to ask** -- *Robin MacDonald*, OTIP.
5:00 p.m. @ D22 Office; Pot Luck dinner; ARM will bring the meat, you bring the pot
RSVP to Ray with your special dish, on or BEFORE October 7

Nov. 11th Movie night @ D22 office.
Meet at Domenic's at 20 for dinner @ 5:00p.m.; movies to follow at the District Office, at
7:00 p.m. RSVP to Ray for a person-count by Nov. 4

CH'ARM'ING BITS ... rest in safety

A public school teacher was arrested recently at Toronto Pearson International airport as he attempted to board an Air Canada flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a compass, a slide-rule, and a pocket calculator. At a morning press conference, Conservative Attorney General Peter MacKay said he believed the man is a member of the notorious Al-Gebra movement. He did not identify the man, who has been charged by the RCMP with carrying weapons of math instruction."Al-Gebra is a problem for us," the Attorney General said." They derive solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on tangents in search of absolute values. They use code names like "X" and "Y" and refer to themselves as "unknowns" but we have determined that they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country. Canadians under a Conservative government cannot be exposed to concepts that might cause them to question what we tell them."

As the Greek philosopher Isosceles used to say, "There are 3 sides to every triangle."

When asked to comment on the arrest, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said, "If God had wanted us to have better weapons of math instruction, He would have given us more fingers and toes." Aides to the PMO told reporters they could not recall a more intelligent or profound statement by Prime Minister Harper. It is believed at the PMO that a Nobel Prize will follow.

President's



I'm just back from the OSSTF Leadership Conference, this year in Ottawa. I learned that train traffic is as busy as QEW/Gardiner traffic – both going and coming there were significant delays – good thing that I took a book along with me. I went to Leadership anticipating a series of “rally the troops” messages as Ontario heads back to the classroom next month. I was sitting in the lobby, reading the morning paper, waiting for registration to open, when a colleague asked me where I found my paper. She wanted to read about the “deal” announcement. There was nothing in the paper. As I checked my Facebook feed, I noticed a post asking if “anyone had seen this” – a publication of a deal reached between OPSBA (the Ontario Public School Board Association) and OSSTF. There was a notice of the settlement posted at 5:30 that morning. I learned later that bargaining had essentially been ongoing for 48 hours (Tuesday and Wednesday) and, in fact, the central table had been successful in reaching a satisfactory agreement. In his message to delegates later that morning, President Paul noted that this was the first negotiated contract since 2008 – that's far too long. Now the local membership will have an opportunity to hear more after classes on September 9 at a place to be determined. District 22 still must negotiate with the DSNB for the portions of the contract that were deemed “local issues” last fall. It is good news for us all; school will start without sanctions in Niagara Public Secondary schools.

Your executive has been busy working on our “meeting” locations for the fall & winter; see page 1 of this newsletter for details. Please note that we have decided to change (what a scary thought) the meeting day to **TUESDAYs** this autumn. We have heard that there are some senior specials available on Tuesdays, and ever frugal, we would like to take advantage. We have met on Wednesdays for over ten years; it's time for a change.

Speaking of change, President Paul spent some time in his address on the need (in his view) of change in our Federal Government. It should come as no surprise to you that the Union movement feels under attack by some of the legislation enacted by Prime Minister Harper's government. I quote a portion of his speech:

“I want to take a minute here to talk about something else that needs to become a relic of the past. Its name is Stephen Harper. I have said a number of times now—at our Annual Assembly, at our CPAC Conference and elsewhere, so this is nothing new—but we cannot sit idly on the sidelines of the federal election. We can no longer ignore the Harper government's attacks on unions, on working people, and on the very social fabric of Canada.

Stephen Harper's contempt for unions, for working people, and for free collective bargaining has played itself out time and time again since he came to power. His government jumps at every opportunity to side with employers and to legislate striking workers back to work wherever they have jurisdiction, whether it's Canada Post, or Air Canada or the railroads.

Bill C-377, which requires unions to comply with levels of disclosure that no other type of organization in the country is forced to comply with, is one of the most absurd and disingenuous pieces of legislation any of us has ever seen. It speaks volumes about the depths of deceit to which this government is prepared to sink. But if the Conservatives are re-elected, I have no doubt that Bill C-377 will be remembered as just the tip of the iceberg, because Stephen Harper is determined to do whatever it takes to destroy the labour movement in Canada.

But his hatred of unions is far from the only reason to dump Stephen Harper. He has led the most underhanded, devious and unprincipled government in the history of Canada.

- He is the only prime minister ever found to be in contempt of Parliament.
- He has muzzled public servants, particularly Environment Canada scientists over climate change.
- The robocall scam misdirected non-Conservative voters to the wrong polling stations

