

# Active Retired Members Chapter 29

Mark Your Calendar | Keeping You in the Loop

## Next Meeting

Come join your fellow retirees for breakfast!

**Where:** Northway Restaurant  
**Address:** 205 North Front Street  
Belleville, Ontario K8P 3C3  
**Contact Information:**  
613-962-7119  
**Menu:**

[www.northwayrestaurant.com](http://www.northwayrestaurant.com)

**Date:** October 19

**Time:** 9:00a.m.

**Guest Speaker:** Scott Westlake,  
OTIP Representative

## Upcoming Plans

For those of you who like to plan ahead....

**November 16:** Breakfast

**Where:** Northway Restaurant

**Time:** 9:00a.m.

**Guest Speaker:** Scott Marshall,  
OSSTF D29 President

**December 7:** Christmas Social

**Where:** Federation House

**Address:** 114 Victoria Ave.,  
Belleville, Ontario K8N 2A8

**Time:** 2:00p.m.

**January 18:** Breakfast

**Where:** Northway Restaurant

**Time:** 9:00a.m.

**Guest Speaker:** TBD



## ARM Information Corner

For those of you wishing to stay abreast of recent developments or issues in education, either in our local area or more generally, read on!

### *ARM Council Update*

ARM Council resumed its regularly scheduled meetings on 28-29 September in Toronto with Doug Ferguson attending on our behalf. Of note were the following information items:

1. As mentioned in the spring, a survey will be released early in the new year about our personal experiences with the Home Care system. A final draft of the survey was approved at Council and after it is piloted in Chapter 9, it will be distributed to all members. The results will protect peoples' privacy and will be used to lobby MPPs for improvements in the system.
2. Jeff Denyes (Provincial Treasurer) updated us on current negotiations. There has already been an agreement with a positive outcome for teachers who retired between 2019 and 2022. The





## Your input, please!

Have a suggestion for the location of a future meeting? Contact Doug.

Have an idea for a future social event or future presenter/guest speaker? Contact Scott or Marian.

Know of someone who is not receiving ARM's communications or is newly retired? Contact Marian.

## Your Executive

Feedback? Questions? Want to get more involved? Contact us!

- Doug Ferguson, President  
email: [armdistrict29@gmail.com](mailto:armdistrict29@gmail.com)
- Mike McMahon, Vice-President  
email: [mcmahon@kos.net](mailto:mcmahon@kos.net)
- Sharon Ostman,  
Secretary-Treasurer
- Marian Moon,  
New Member Coordinator  
email: [mbm@kos.net](mailto:mbm@kos.net)
- Scott Young,  
Social Events Coordinator  
email: [xiscotty@gmail.com](mailto:xiscotty@gmail.com)
- Jim Stewart, Past-President
- John Zikopoulos,  
Founding President

government will be making a retroactive payment to reflect a more accurate cost of living in those years. This means a back payment will be coming to retired teachers who were working in any of those years. This will also have a positive impact on pensions. If there has been a change of address or banking account the school board will need to be updated. More information on this will follow.

3. There have been a few changes to RTIP. If you have not made a claim for a while, you will have to re-register to change your old log-in to your email address. This has caused some confusion. Also, travel insurance has changed from Allianz to CanAssistance. However the contact number for getting assistance has not changed. Allianz can still be used for purchasing extended travel insurance. If you are attending our Oct. 19 meeting, our new OTIP representative is our guest speaker and you can ask him more questions directly.

4. Next ARM Council Meeting: November 23/24

For more detailed information, you can visit the ARM Council website.

## *District 29 Negotiations Update*

OSSTF membership voted in favour of binding arbitration and not to engage in job action if a central agreement cannot be reached later this month and local agreements by March.

## *Putting the "Active" in Active Retired Members*

On 4 October the Open Door Café, operating from the hall of the Eastminster Church, celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In the picture below we see ARM ably represented by our treasurer, Sharon Ostman, who is holding the microphone while presenting a contribution on our behalf to the Café's coordinator in support of the Café's motto "To provide nutritional supplement for those who need it and fellowship for those who want it".

In the background one can see the usual winner of breakfast draws Harold Hildebrandt who, along with the other fellow in the picture, volunteers at the Open Door Café. Harold has been honoured for 25 consecutive years of voluntary service. Congratulations, Harold!



## What's Happening?

Looking for an opportunity to get together with past colleagues or make new connections with like-minded fellow retirees? ARM Chapter 29 is exploring offering new options beyond our monthly breakfast meetings. Do you have an idea? Email Scott with your ideas.

## Need some assistance?

Looking for support or professional advice?

- ARM Council  
[www.armcouncil.osstf.ca](http://www.armcouncil.osstf.ca)
- Financial/estate planning/advice  
Contact Edward Gougeon from Educators Financial. Ed can be reached at (800) 263-9541 x 3554 or by email at [egougeon@educatorsfinancialgroup.ca](mailto:egougeon@educatorsfinancialgroup.ca).
- Having difficulty with a health/travel insurance claim? Contact Scott Westlake at [SWestlake@otip.com](mailto:SWestlake@otip.com) or Tara Lam
- OTIP  
Contact Scott Westlake at [SWestlake@otip.com](mailto:SWestlake@otip.com)



Our August 2023 meeting, held at Sugarbush Vineyards in Hillier, provided ARM members with an opportunity to learn about the Quinte Society for Chamber Music (QSCM) while enjoying Bach's D Minor Partita, Allemande. Interested in learning of QSCM's next event or getting directly involved? Contact Bonnie Sallans at [info@qscmusic.com](mailto:info@qscmusic.com)

At our July 2023 meeting fellow ARM member Tony Crocker provided information about Seniors for Climate Action Now! (SCAN!). This "senior's climate action group...is democratic, accountable, equitable, and participatory", provides several new information posts each month, and has a number of committees and working groups from which to choose all of which welcome new members. For further information speak to Tony at the next ARM meeting or go to <https://seniorsforclimateactionnow.org>.

## Travel Tips

One of the benefits of active retirement is the opportunity to travel. Some members have suggested a section of the newsletter be dedicated to share travel tips. To get us started:

- From Doug Ferguson: Know how to get anywhere by bus, car, ferry, plane, or train (with links and fare information): [romezrio.com](http://romezrio.com)

Contact Marian to share your travel tip/"hack" with fellow ARM members.

## Upcoming Community Events

Know of an upcoming event which may be of interest to our members? Contact Marian.