

Active Retired Members Chapter 29

Mark Your Calendar | Provincial Election | Keeping You in the Loop

Next Meeting

Come join your fellow retirees for breakfast!

Where: Birdy's. Fine Dining
Address: 449 Dundas. St., W.,
Belleville, Ontario K8P. 1B6
Contact Information:
(613) 779-0856

Menu:

Date: 20 February 2025

Time: 9:30am

Guest Speaker: N/A

Don't forget to email Doug with your RSVP by 17 February 2025 to assist in our planning!

Upcoming Plans

For those who like to plan ahead....

March 20: Breakfast

Where: Birdy's Fine Dining

Time: 9:30a.m.

Guest Speaker: TBD

April 17: Breakfast

Where: Birdy's Fine Dining

Time: 9:30a.m.

Guest Speaker: TBD

May TBD: Canoe Museum,
Peterborough

Stay tuned for details of this upcoming event.

Hosted by:
RTO D19 & OSSTF D29

RTO District 19
ERO Hastings and
Prince Edward

OSSTF/FEESO
29
Hastings, Lennox and Addington

ALL CANDIDATES MEETING

Bay of Quinte Riding

Wednesday, February 19th, 2025
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Trenton High School
15 Fourth Street, Trenton

Tyler Allsopp
Ontario PC

Lori Borthwick
Ontario Green Party

Dave O'Neil
Liberal Party of Ontario

Amanda Robertson
Ontario NDP

Hastings, Lennox and Addington Riding

Thursday, February 20th, 2025
7:00 - 9:00 pm
North Hastings High School
14 Monck Street, Bancroft

Ric Bresee
Ontario PC

Mike Holbrook
Ontario Green Party

Lynn Rigby
Liberal Party of Ontario

Derek Sloan
Ontario Party

Jessica Zielke
Ontario NDP

— Meet your Candidates and Ask them Questions —

Have You Heard? Election Day is 27 February 2025.

To support you in making an informed choice, several all-candidates meetings have been scheduled. One option will be held on 18 February at the Empire Theatre. OSSTF District 29 has partnered with Retired Teachers of Ontario and will jointly host two all candidates meetings, as note above. See you there!





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

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

From ARM's Provincial Council meeting of 23 January 2025:

Doug Ferguson, President, represented our chapter at ARM Council held via Zoom. Iain Beaton from Chapter 13/16 is the current Chair and Roxanne Beauchamp from OSSTF Provincial Executive is assigned to ARM.

1. Executive Assistant John Wells spoke about School Board Budgets. Accounting for inflation, per pupil funding is down \$1500 since 2018. With Core Education Funding down and the huge repair backlog, 1/3 of school boards are currently in deficit funding.
2. Roxanne Beauchamp (Executive) and Dan Earle spoke to the councillors about election readiness and the rumours the election call would be January 29 (they were right). Members were reminded that people can be involved by visiting FordHigh.ca and saferschools.ca to help keep education an issue.
3. RTIP premiums are going up 8%. This is the biggest jump in a number of years. However, 2025 will see a number of improvements in the travel plan and dental plan.
4. ARM will have an information table at AMPA and Council had four applicants for running the ARM table.
5. Considerable time was spent planning and finalizing aspects of the ARM Biennial (June 10/11). More information will follow regarding registration and the final agenda in April. We also firmed up the venue for the meetings and the hotel, awards, motions, reports, meals, entertainment and guest speakers.

Next Provincial Council: 10/11 April 2025

OTIP / RTIP Tax Receipts

In response to a member's question during our last breakfast meeting, Doug has been able to confirm OTIP will be sending tax receipts for the spring filing. It will be sent by email and if there is no known email address it will be mailed. OTIP will also mail tax receipts upon request.



Need some assistance?

Looking for some help?

- ARM Council
www.armcouncil.osstf.ca
- Financial/estate planning/advice:
Contact Edward Gougeon or Randall Craig, CFP, TEP from Educators Financial.
Ed can be reached at 1 (800) 263-9541 x 3554 or by email at egougeon@educatorsfinancialgroup.ca.
Randy can be reached via his cell at (416) 881-1389 or rcraig@educatorsfinancialgroup.ca
- OTIP
 - ▶Have questions or difficulty with a health/travel insurance claim?
 - ▶Contact Scott Westlake
SWestlake@otip.com
- RTIP
 - ▶Contact Scott Westlake
SWestlake@otip.com
 - ▶To Submit a Claim:
rtip.otip.com OR
"RTIP on the go" app
 - ▶Questions about a claim or coverage: claims@rtip.otip.com
 - ▶Emergency Travel Support:
1 (800) 936-6226
 - ▶Contact Centre: 1 (833) 318-2811

Putting the "Active" in Active Retired Members

Looking for something in which to get involved? Consider one of these options:

🧩 Looking for more information regarding the voting process? Check out: <https://www.elections.on.ca/>

🧩 OSSTF's Dual Campaigns: OSSTF invites all of us to stay connected and informed about the issues affecting our membership. You are encouraged to sign up to both of the campaigns noted below in order to receive more information about OSSTF's advocacy for publicly funded education in Ontario.

📝 Ford High (fordhigh.ca)

📝 Safer Schools. (safeschools.ca)

🧩 Meals on Wheels: contact Cristina Cadavid, Fundraising & Community Relations Coordinator at ccadavid@unitedwayhpe.ca

🧩 Quinte Society of Chamber Music: The QSCM welcomes those who wish to offer their time and talents in a number of areas including hosting performers, meal support for performers, venue set-up/tear-down, and technical/website support. Contact Bonnie Sallans (info@qscmusic.com) for more information.

Know of a local group that our members may wish to know more about? Contact Marian to include that organization in future newsletters.

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): rome2rio.com

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

Upcoming Community Events

Know of an upcoming event? Contact Marian.