



THE NO BULLETIN

OPSEU Local 217
The Niagara Parks

Volume 12 Issue 1

February 2000

Convention Call!

Our next membership meeting, February 15, at the Icon, we will be electing delegates and alternates to participate in this year's convention. Convention has been set for April 6,7,8 at the Sheraton hotel in Toronto. This is our opportunity to have a say about how OPSEU head office is run and how our dues dollars are spent. Anyone wanting to bring a constitutional change or policy resolution to convention must first have the motion passed at our upcoming general membership meeting. Only motions that have been duly passed at a local meeting (that has quorum) are accepted by the resolution and constitution committees for presentation at convention.

The year 2000 is a big year for us locally. This is an election year for the local executive. Steward elections will be held in May, followed by executive elections in June. Watch your papers and bulletin boards for meeting notices. Those members that are interested in becoming stewards should contact any member of the executive for more information.

Our contract is also finished this year, October 31. Everyone should be starting to think about changes they would like to see in the collective agreement. Our demand set meeting will be coming up soon. Anyone that has not received their copy of the collective agreement may pick one up at the meeting on the fifteenth.

Remember, the strength of the union is in the membership. Please take the time to be involved in your future.

See you at the meeting!

In solidarity
Rob Atkin



IN THIS ISSUE

Let's be careful out there!



The lunacy of language!



Mark these dates on the calendar!





"You will be pleased to hear we installed safety guards just like you suggested."

Hey, let's be careful out there!

Marie Stokes

Tourist season is fast approaching and soon all our members will be back to work. You may notice a few changes upon your return.

Thanks to Bill Poole and the Joint Health and safety committee there has been a real push to getting our safety house in order. Committee members Jody Cant and Colleen McComb Page have been touring the work sites and developing job hazard analysis for each position in the park. They will be looking at things like work space and potential dangers on the job. The information will be collected and a game plan set up to develop a safer work environment. If you see Jody and

Welcome to the new Millenium!

Hi folks! Hope everyone had a safe and happy Holiday Season. I was kind of hoping that the Y2K bug would wipe out all my Christmas credit card bills, but no such luck. Oh well at least I didn't buy 4000 pounds of canned goods and bottled water. The food banks would be happy to take any donations from those of you that did stock up.

Is everyone gearing up for the coming season? It was nice to see that more of the full time jobs are being filled and that some of our seasonals were extended well past their normal layoff. I hope that this is the first of many such seasons. There are lots of opportunities in the offing, what with the start of work on the new golf course, moraine (the bank) restoration and hints of further development in the air. What a great start to a new century!

Colleen wandering around your job site make sure you answer any of their questions. You are the one who knows best what your job entails.

Things like emergency and fire escape plans are being prepared by members of the safety office, and appropriate training is already in the works. There are now a number of members certified in health and safety and they will be teaming up with management counterparts to ensure that areas are properly inspected and issues are resolved before accidents can occur.

A number of our members have just completed a confined space training course through

the Region. This training will aid workers in recognizing potential hazards and dealing with them to make entry into confined areas safer. Now if only the rest of the supervisors will take the training, we will, with some equipment purchases, finally be up to the standards of the Health and Safety act.

Many of these measures should have been in place years ago, but the previous safety office did not push to get them in place. (It used to drive the worker members of the Joint Health and Safety Committee nuts) Kudos to Bill Poole for setting the Park on the right track!

The lunacy of language

PPWC Leaflet/CALM

Let's face it. English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger, no apple or pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French toast in France. Sweetmeats are candies, while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, and a Guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, two geese, so one moose, two meese? One index, two indices?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend, that you can comb through annals of history but not through a single annal? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? If you wrote a letter, perhaps you bote your tongue?

Sometimes I think that all the English speakers in the world should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? ship by truck and send cargo by ship? have noses that run and feet that smell? park on driveways and drive on parkways?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same thing while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? How can overlook and oversee be opposites, while quite a lot and quite a few are alike? How can the weather be hot as hell the one day and cold as heck another?

Have you noticed that we talk about certain things only when they are absent? Have you ever seen a horseful carriage or a strapful gown? met a sung hero or experienced requited love? Have you ever run into someone who was combobulated,

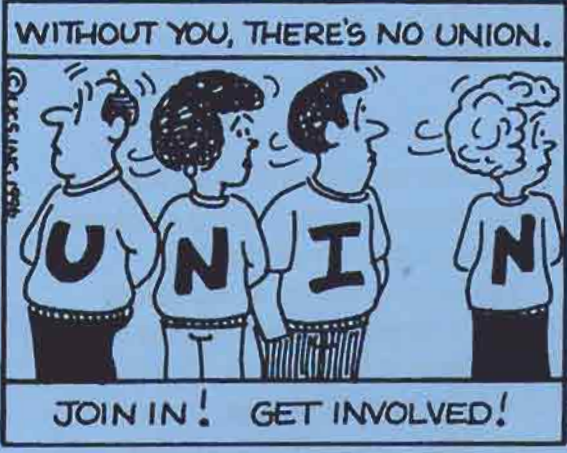
grunted, ruly or peccable? And where are all those people who are spring chickens or who could actually hurt a fly?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out, and in which an alarm clock goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race (which, of course, is not a race at all). That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible. And why, when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I end it.



AS SOON AS SHE BEGAN TO READ THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, THE BOARD MEMBERS KNEW THAT MRS. FELSTNER WAS NOT GOING TO WORK OUT AS THE NEW SECRETARY.



Our Motto (Besides No Bull!)

The *No Bulletin* is published by Local 217 and mailed to all signed in members. The *No Bulletin* is **your** newsletter. If you have any related articles, jokes or cartoons, please give them to:

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We welcome your comments and suggestions and we reserve the right to edit for length and content.

Authorized for distribution: *Marie Stokes*

Widening the gap between rich and poor

CALM

The 225 richest people in the world have a combined wealth of more than \$1 trillion, equal to the annual income of the poorest 47 percent of the world's 2.5 billion people..



Mark these dates!

General Membership Meeting
 Tuesday, February 15
 The Icon (old Union Center)
 7pm

- *Election of convention delegates
- *Resolutions and amendments for convention

OPSEU Convention
 April 6-9, 2000
 Toronto

Come and participate!