



# THE NO BULLETIN

OPSEU Local 217  
The Niagara Parks

Volume 14 Issue 1

August 2000

## The end of an Era... or two!

*Marie Stokes*

It's hard to believe that another tourist season is well under way. Hope everyone is having a safe and happy summer! As you have probably heard through the grapevine, executive elections were held at the last General membership meeting and there were a few changes.

I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome our many new and returning stewards and also to recognize and thank some of our outgoing executive and stewards for all their time and hard work. As a former executive member I am well aware of all the extra work the position entails and these individuals deserve our thanks.

Jody Cant served well as our Chief-Steward for the last two years. During Jody's term the Park decided to revisit many of our old grievances that had entered the black hole of head office and through a series of meetings with grievors and management, many of our outstanding grievances were settled to the satisfaction of all parties. Jody had chosen not to seek re-election and has handed over the reins to newcomer Dino McDonnell, who is looking forward to serving the membership. All the best to you both!

Bill Burns has been elected to the position of Vice-President.. Bill has returned to active status after almost eight years. We look forward to having you back on board. Bill! It will be a hard pair of shoes to fill, Grant Carson has held the VP-position for 10 years. Grant was the first Seasonal employee to be elected to the local executive and the local negotiations team. Grant worked tirelessly to ensure equal representation to all bargaining unit members. He has chaired the Human rights Committee for the past six years, and happily he will continue to do so for the next term.

Thanks also to outgoing stewards Randy Ralph and Chris Hepworth. We hope to see you back in action soon. All of these members deserve much praise and cudos. The positions they fill require giving up a lot of their own time and that is rarely appreciated and even more rarely recognized. I hope I can speak for us all when I offer sincere thanks for all you have done.

**Bravo!**

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HEALTH & SAFETY IN  
THE "OLD DAYS" OF  
THE NIAGARA PARKS

## Local Human Rights Committee appointed

One of the first duties of our newly elected executive was swiftly carried out following the last general membership meeting. The Human rights committee was revisited and some new faces were added to the team.

**Chair:** Grant Carson: 354-7884

Jennifer Homan Camden; 788-1060

Jon Jackson: 374-9223

Marie Stokes: 357-4219

Bernie Villamil 374-1097

Members of this committee are available to help you with any Human Rights questions you may have. They are also available to help represent you should you need it. All discussions with committee members will remain confidential.

## Worker Co-Chair of the Health and Safety Committee resigns

Whenever you thought of health and safety, the name Bill Rudd would immediately come to mind. It was a given, as Bill was the heart (and often raised voice) of the workers on the Joint Health and Safety Committee. Bill was first appointed worker co-chair of the committee in 1989. At that time the committee merely seemed to play lip service to the parks. Bill, coming from the auto industry (aka 'the real world') knew how a true committee operated. The first few years of meetings were contentious to put it mildly. I remember the shouting matches and I think we all had flat spots on our foreheads from beating them against a wall. Fortunately for us, Bill kept after the Parks and finally wore them down. Bill's efforts paid off, we finally got proper inspections going and the *bare minimum* number of certified members required by law. (Certification training was just *too* expensive you know).

Things have changed a lot for the better since the old days. Our new and improved safety office is slowly making things happen (albeit slower than we wish). We now have 18 Certified Members. Sometimes the Park still needs a friendly nudge in the right direction and Bill Rudd always had the courage to follow through even though he ruffled more than a few feathers.

Being the chair of the safety committee is another one of those thankless jobs. Putting up with lots of flack (from both sides) and volunteering hours of your own time. Thank you Bill for standing up for all of us workers and sticking it through to help shape the committee as it stands today. Your dedication is greatly appreciated and a break from the grind is well deserved.

As of this newsletter deadline, Bill's successor had not yet been chosen. I wish the new Chair all the best.

# OPSEU Local 217, The Niagara Parks Commission

## Executive and steward listing July 2000 - July 2002

<b>President:</b>	Rob Atkin	871-8078
<b>Vice President:</b>	Bill Burns	358-3580
<b>Chief Steward:</b>	Dino McDonnell	357-9886
<b>Secretary:</b>	Paul Martin	684-0346
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Colleen McComb-Page	358-8725

## Steward body: (alphabetically)

Randy Aird	354-8081 (Niagara Glen and Clock)
Penny Berketa	353-8834 (QVP Hort)
Karen Brooker	295-6099 (ICC)
Sue Campbell	358-0278 (Kingsbridge)
Jody Cant	354-1223 (Paint shop)
Grant Carson	354-7884 (QVP Hort)
Flo Cryderman	371-9371 (Peplemovers)
Sonia Delaney	356-5548 (Butterfly Cons)
Sharon Desmarais	295-3747 (Table Rock Rest)
Paul Ecker	356-9917 (Queenston Hort)
Debbie Grossi	934-4044 (Queenston Hts Rest)
Janine Hamm	227-7244 (Peplemover cashier)
Janet Hepworth	356-9959 (Peplemover)
Jon Jackson	374-9223 (QVP Hort)
Rich Lesniczek	356-0446 (Road Dept)
Ellen Newstater	354-1435 (Queenston Hts Rest)
Tracy O'Brien	356-5086 (Table Rock Retail)
Dan Pozzebon	354-0196 (Recycling)
Millie Rakich	356-0614 (Greenhouse Retail)
Shelly Reed	227-5599 (VPR)
Anita Simonetti	356-9418 (Table Rock)
Marie Stokes	357-4219 (Greenhouse)
Martin Sutch	734-9773 (McFarland)
Mario Vetrone	358-9560 (Fort Erie Hort)
Bernie Villamil	374-1097 (Cash Office)
Robin Watson	374-6125 (Oakes Garden)

**OPSEU Head Office 1-800-268-7376**

**OPSEU Region 2 Office 1-800-268-7306 (Staff Rep: Russ Ellerton)**

# An Alternate view of Convention

Dino McDonnell

Greetings to all my Union Brothers and Sisters and welcome back to another season at the Parks. The reason for this letter is to thank all of you who sent me to represent you at Convention 2000 this year and to tell you what I saw on the convention floor.

The Convention itself lasted from Wednesday, April 5, 2000 to Saturday April 8, 2000 and during the days I would spend from 9:00am to 5:00 pm attending the convention with a 90 minute lunch. I was sent as an alternate, meaning that I could not vote on any motions, but could comment on them if I wanted to. This being my first convention it was a real learning experience for me as I tried to figure out the complex political arena that was the floor. The key to getting yourself heard I learned, was understanding the rules of order which are strictly enforced. For instance, a debate that you are strongly opposed to comes up so you move to a 'Con' microphone set

up for your region and you wait. However there are 19 other microphones set up and all must be heard in order.

Then just as your microphone is the next to be heard, someone calls closure, which means the debate stops and you are out of luck.

Overall I was fascinated with the political chess match that the delegates played on the debate floor, finding imperfections in the wording of proposed constitutional changes or objecting when a person was no longer speaking on the issue being addressed. I have had many people ask me what was discussed at the convention this year and how it applies to us as a local and I do know of a few things, but I will tell you the first couple of days I had a hard time just following what the delegates were talking on, let alone how it applied to us. I am very

fortunate that Colleen sat next to me and showed me where to look for motions being discussed in the handouts we were given.

This convention has certainly shown me one thing all of us as a local should know if we want our rights upheld and that's this: in order to win disagreements between us and the Parks we must educate ourselves on what our rights are. The way to do that is to take more than a skim through our collective agreement and understand how it affects our work day.

Most of the time our supervisors do not know what is in the contract let alone understand it. I know I like nothing better than knowing my rights and confidently telling an uneducated supervisor what they are.

So again I thank you, the membership, for sending me to convention and I hope you would choose me again to represent our local.



"You've reached the live, sensitive voice of Robert Z. Gottlieb Jr. ... If you'd like to leave a message, call right back and I'll turn on my answering machine."

## Keep those changes coming!

Just a reminder to keep those address changes rolling in to our secretary Paul Martin. Although the Parks has supplied us with their address list of all bargaining unit employees, we have been approached by several members who never received the last issue of the No Bulletin. If you did not receive your own copy of the newsletter, please contact Paul to verify your address. I would also suggest making sure that the Park has your most current address as well as it is your responsibility to do so. If the Parks cannot reach you, you may miss out on early or even regular recall

Beetle Bailey



## Proposed Budget for 2000-2001

<b>Budget breakdown</b>	<b>99 proposed</b>	<b>99 Actual</b>	<b>00 Proposed</b>
<b>Item or description</b>			
Income: Rebates	\$17,200.00	\$19,042.93	\$19,000.00
<b>Expenses</b>			
Meetings: GMM, Exec & Stewards	\$1,500.00	\$1,449.70	\$1,500.00
Educationals	0	\$416.77	\$300.00
Alternate costs (Convention)	\$1,000.00	\$1,678.16	\$2,000.00
Bank Charges	\$80.00	\$72.00	\$80.00
Postage	\$1,000.00	\$1,377.28	\$1,500.00
Office supplies and printing	\$1,500.00	\$706.26	\$1,500.00
E-mail/ internet	\$650.00	\$795.12	\$700.00
Other meetings	\$600.00	\$522.12	\$500.00
Telephone	0	0	0
Executive expenses	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Sponsorships: Wreath, Curling, United Way	\$210.00	\$210.00	\$210.00
Social: Golf Tournee	\$1,500.00	\$2,988.25	\$1,500.00
Children's Christmas Party	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00
Misc (CALM & Info membership)	\$125.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$17,165.00</b>	<b>\$17,865.66</b>	<b>\$18,940.00</b>
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>	<b>\$1,177.27</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>

### Key to budget notations

1. Two members attended educationals, monies covered either lost wages or part accomodation
2. Two alternates were sent to convention rather than one
3. Mailing costs higher due to larger mailing lists
4. Curling -\$50, Remembrance Day wreath -\$60, United way -\$100
5. Amounts matched dollar for dollar with the NPC to a max of \$1500 each.
6. Newsletter Memberships in CALM and Infobis
7. We will sponsor a steward educational with OPSEU, this will cover our share of the costs
8. We anticipated sending two alternates to next years convention



"A safety poster fell on him."

## Flight Path Blues

Steel Labour/CALM

Members of USWA Local 3950 had a close call recently when a block of frozen human waste hurtled through the corrugated steel roof of Versatech Industries Limited in Toronto.

The object, about a square metre in size, caused workers to dive for cover. Versatech is a packaging plant situated below the flight path into Canada's busiest airport, Pearson International



## Our Motto (Besides No Bull!)

The *No Bulletin* is published quarterly 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:

Marie Stokes (Editor)  
at 6548 Dunn St NFO L2G-2R1.  
(357-4219)

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

Authorized for distribution: *MS p/r A.*

## Mark these dates!

**General Membership Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 30**  
The Firefighters club  
7pm

Corner of Dixon and Orchard St. NFO  
\*election of negotiation team  
\*demand set  
\*budget

**Come and  
participate!**

