



THE NO BULLETIN

OPSEU Local 217
The Niagara Parks

Volume 17 Issue 1

February 2002

No Bull's Twisted fairy tales!

Once upon a time there were three pigs, Edwin, Edward and Theodore or as they are commonly known, Ed, Ned and Ted. These weren't just any pigs though, they were entrepreneurial pigs that each had their own bars..

Although great friends, the three pigs had radically different business ideas and each felt that their way was the best. Ed was an ultra-conservative pig. His motto was 'If it worked once, stick with it and it will always work.' Ned Pig was the exact opposite, embracing every new-fangled idea that came down the pike, often without thinking of the consequences. His motto was 'Go big or go home'. Ted was a careful but progressive pig. His motto was 'Keep what works, but always leave your options open, Rome wasn't built in a day!'

One day Ed, Ned and Ted got together for dinner. As usual, they got into their argument of who was the most successful. Confident of his superiority, Ned proposed a bet, they would meet in three years time and compare their bars. The winner would get the coveted 'Brass-Bull Nose-Ring' trophy to display in their bar. The bet was on and all three pigs got on with their master plans.

Ed Pig didn't like change. He felt that his bar had been successful for thirty years, so he didn't have to change a thing. He found his niche and people will always come to *Ed's Old-Fashioned Bar and Eatery*. So Ed just painted the place and kept the same decor and specials, the same music in his juke box and the same pinball games and Pac man video games. Why bother to change?

Ned, with his "Go big or go home attitude", was true to nature. He was determined to be the best. *Ned Pig's Cocktail Emporium* would be the poshest, most state of the art bar in town and Ned would be famous. He hired a whole gaggle of high-priced marketing advisors and immediately did a massive renovation of his bar. He built a huge addition and patio. He added big screen TVs in every corner and a state of the art sound system. He imported cedar from British Columbia to panel his bar and and polished limestone and marble for his floors. He decorated the VIP lounge with leather furniture and imported mahogany and teak. To complete the 'look', he

Continued on page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

New Local Executive
Position filled **2**

New Local Treasurer to
be elected **3**

Looking for your
support! **4**

Guess who didn't make
the grade. **5**

Mark these dates on
the calender! **6**

Things that make you go Hmmm...

Why is it that the Parks cries 'no money' when we are required by law to conform to the Workers Health and Safety Act for training and safety standards, yet somehow, money is found to finance a new International Friendship Mosaic Garden to open (for a fee) at the greenhouse May 2002? Doesn't the money all come from the same pot?

More new definitions

Internet/Calm

Umfriender: A sexual relation of dubious standing or a concealed intimate relationship, as in "This is Dylan, my ... um ... friender"

Adminisphere: The rarefied organizational layers beginning just above the rank and file. Decisions that fall from the adminisphere are often profoundly inappropriate or irrelevant to the problems they were designed to solve

Local Executive welcomes new position.

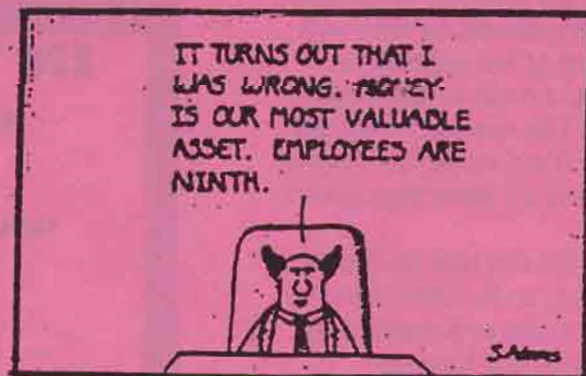
For those of you that were unable to attend the last General Membership Meeting there are a few things that transpired.

The 2001-2002 budget was approved with a couple of amendments. The Sponsorship for the Children's Christmas was reduced to \$1000, Traditionally the amount was \$1500. The Executive expenses were increased to reflect an increase in the size of the executive.

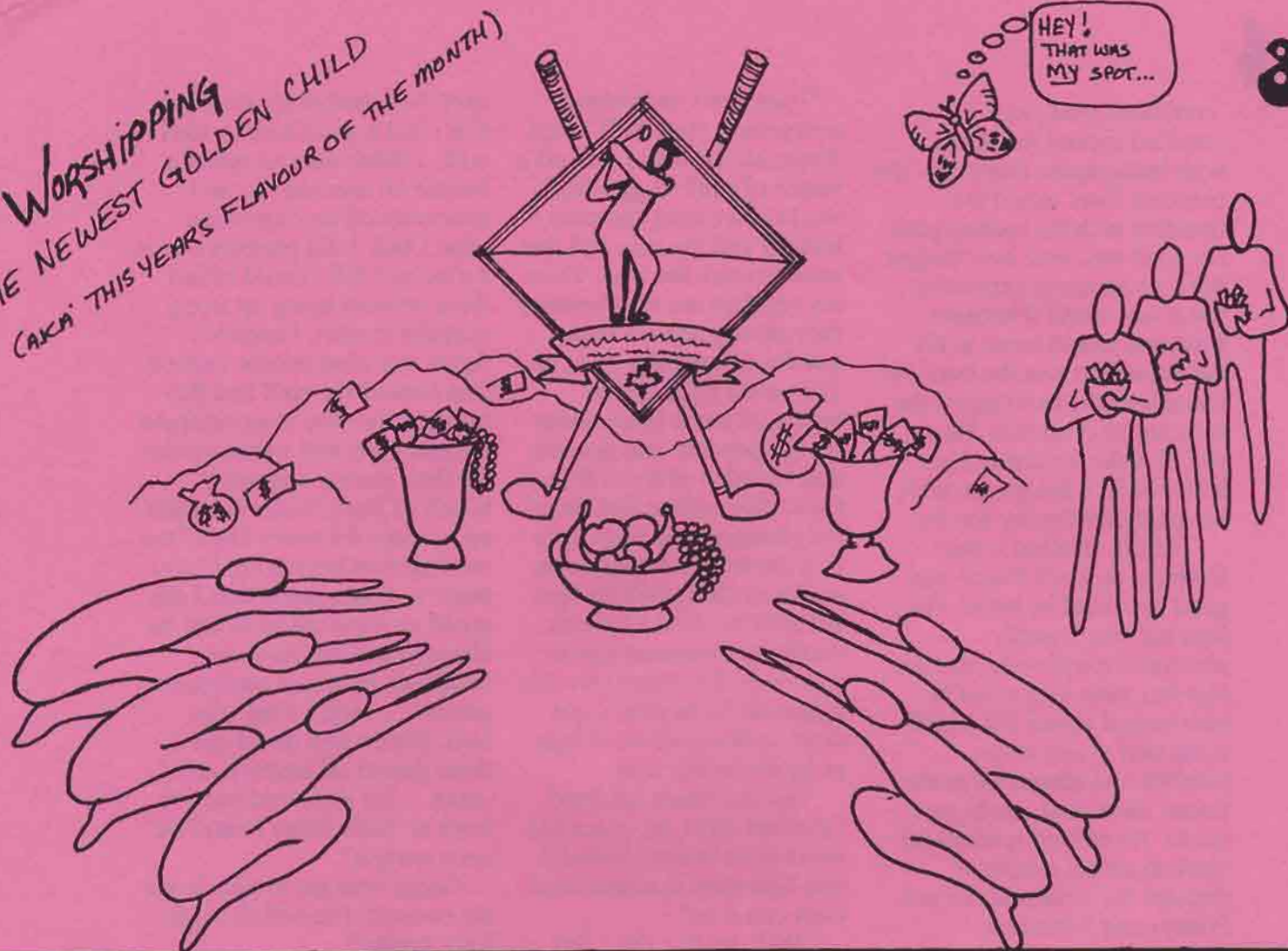
A motion was duly made, seconded and passed to create an new executive position to act as a Health and Safety Chair and WSIB advocate for the Local members. The position is paid the same expense amounts, and has voice but no vote in executive matters (to satisfy the terms of the OPSEU Constitution) The election for this position took place at the meeting as was posted on the notice.

I am pleased to announce that Colleen McComb-Page is our new representative. Colleen brings to the job a wealth of health, safety, hazard assessment training and WSIB experience. She also has an empathy for the position that can only come from personal experience battling with the WSIB and Park return to work policies. If you have any questions about safety or your WSIB claims and appeals, please feel free to contact Colleen.

We wish you all the best in your new position Colleen!



Worshipping
THE NEWEST GOLDEN CHILD
(AKA: THIS YEAR'S FLAVOUR OF THE MONTH)



Local treasurer position to be filled at next GMM!

There has been a cabinet shuffle in the Local 217 executive.

As a result of the last General membership meeting our Treasurer for the last ten years Colleen McComb-Page has been duly elected to the position of Executive member for Health and Safety and WSIB.

We have long discussed the need for someone to help our members with their compensation claims. The recent actions of the Parks Commission in dissolving the existing central Joint Health and Safety Committee in favour of more smaller workplace specific groups prompted us into action. Members were concerned that satellite committees, although good for dealing with the individual worksites, would have difficulty identifying issues that are not just site specific but actually park wide. We needed someone to coordinate all of the inspection reports and meeting minutes to see where trends are appearing. The Park was not willing to continue to have a central committee to do this very important job so the Local has taken it upon itself to ensure that the best interests of the employees is also considered and that issues are not allowed to fall through the cracks between the fragmented committees. The result is the new executive position. Colleen was up to the challenge, and had all the ammunition needed to see the job through: JHSC experience, Health and safety training, Hazard assessment training, Health and safety certification and extensive personal WSIB experience. Who better for the job?

Unfortunately, health and safety's gain is accountings loss, and the position of treasurer must now be filled. Election of this position was postponed until the next General Membership Meeting (Feb 12) to satisfy the posting requirements of the OPSEU Constitution. Colleen did an excellent job during her many years as treasurer and her successor will have big shoes to fill.

continued from page 1
 installed special fireplaces with holographic flames, so the chimney flues would not interfere with his rooftop patio. He went way, way over budget. Sure it was really expensive but it was worth it because everyone would come to his bar because it was the best. He could hear the ka-ching of the cash registers already. He would make a fortune. He better build a fancy case now, for surely the trophy was his.

Ted Pig also had a plan. Business at 'Ted's Place' was good but could be better. He kept his nice friendly atmosphere and made sure his regulars were happy, but he also looked ahead. He added some new music to the jukebox and sponsored more teams, darts pool, cards, and sports. He offered specials all week to attract people all through the week and not just Fridays and Saturdays.

The economy had taken a serious downturn the last two years and the picture did not look great for a quick recovery. True to the bet, the three pigs met three years to the day to compare their stories.

"I've held my own" says Ed. "I still have my regulars... but they don't come out as much. This recession is hurting me. I don't get any new customers because they say that retro is out and they want new games and music."

"Well, as you know I have the best place in the city" boasts Ned Pig "My picture is in all the papers. But this recession is killing me. Of course all my renovations put me in the hole, but they were the best and that's all that matters."

"I just don't understand, everyone is pissed off at me. Times are slow so I laid off a bunch of staff so all of the workers are mad, the ones I laid off and the ones left that have to carry the load. Then my regulars are mad because they say the service sucks and the prices have gone up. They even gripe about having to pay a lousy dollar for the popcorn and peanuts that I used to give out free. Don't they realize that times are changing and nothing is free any more? My advisors said everything will be fine, but with my bills I have to double my business just to stay even. If it weren't for this recession I'd be rich! I just don't understand" he shrugs as he downs his shot.

Ted just shook his head. "Too bad guys, my place has never been busier" Both Ed and Ned stare in amazement. How can it be?

"Well, its like this" Ted

says "My customers are loyal and I had a good base to start with. I didn't want to spend a bundle on speculation, so I concentrated on improving what I had. I did projects one at a time as I felt I could afford them without being up to my eyeballs in debt. I tried to figure out what people wanted. So I asked the staff and they said people were worried about the economy and wanted value for their money and not a bunch of fancy frills. We made up specials for every day of the week and its been a hit. I have made so much profit that I can speed up my expansion and its already paid for! Its great-minimum debt and maximum profits! and by the way Ned, don't worry about all those pissed off employees of yours.... I've just hired them to work at 'Ted's Other Place' We open tonight".

Guess who got to take home the coveted Brass-Bull Nose-Ring trophy?

Looking for your support! Walking for Multiple Sclerosis.

The 'Niagara Parks Greenhouse Walkers' will be hitting the pavement for Multiple Sclerosis again this year. Last year, your generous pledges enabled us to be the second highest fund-raising team in Niagara. We missed out on first place by a mere \$45.51. (oh! so close!)

This year's walk is April 20th. We will gladly accept all pledges, no matter how small. Official tax receipts will be issued for all donations of \$15 dollars or more. We will soon be circulating pledge sheets and visiting work sites. Please be generous and support research to treat Multiple Sclerosis. MS usually strikes between the ages of 20 and 40, affecting women twice as often as men. There is no known cause or cure for MS and over 50,000 Canadians have MS. Every day three more people in Canada are diagnosed with MS.

Thankyou for your support!

Marie Stokes, Sue Stoll, Andrea Chu and Sharon Wills

The Parks never came close to making this grade!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new and returning health and safety representatives and committee members. It is refreshing to see so many interested people. I look forward to working with all of you.

In the role of my position as Health and Safety executive member, I plan on using the General Membership Meetings and the "No Bulletin" to keep the Local informed on safety issues.

The Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB) Prevention Branch conducted a "Workwell audit" of the Niagara Parks Commission on December 10, 2001. The audit was performed according to Section 82(1) of the WSIB Act and its purpose was to look into the Park accident rate and number and type of Ministry of Labour workorders issued.

The audit looks at the Health and safety program of the Niagara Parks at all levels right up to the General Manager. It consists of 30 pages of questions and criteria, each having their own point value. To receive the points in each section the criteria must be met consistently throughout the park and it must be documented. If it is only in one or two areas, no points are awarded.

There are 1545 points available in the audit and companies must receive at least 75% to pass. The grade is determined by an employee of WSIB. The inspector met with Health and Safety representatives, including me, for the day. A series of questions were posed. The Park had to answer all questions and provide written proof as evidence that their responses were factual. By the end of the first phase of the audit the Parks was standing at 30.7%

The second phase of the audit consisted of a visual workplace inspection. This was completed on December 17, 2001. The inspector toured several Park worksites at random and spoke to the employees. This phase of the audit resulted in a further lowering of the Parks already miserable grade. At the end of the audit the Park was granted 430 points of a possible 1545. That's a mere 27.8%. This failing grade has made the Parks liable for a fine of as much as \$247,451.37. The WSIB has given the Parks until September 2002 to bring us up to a passing grade. We will be re-evaluated in September and

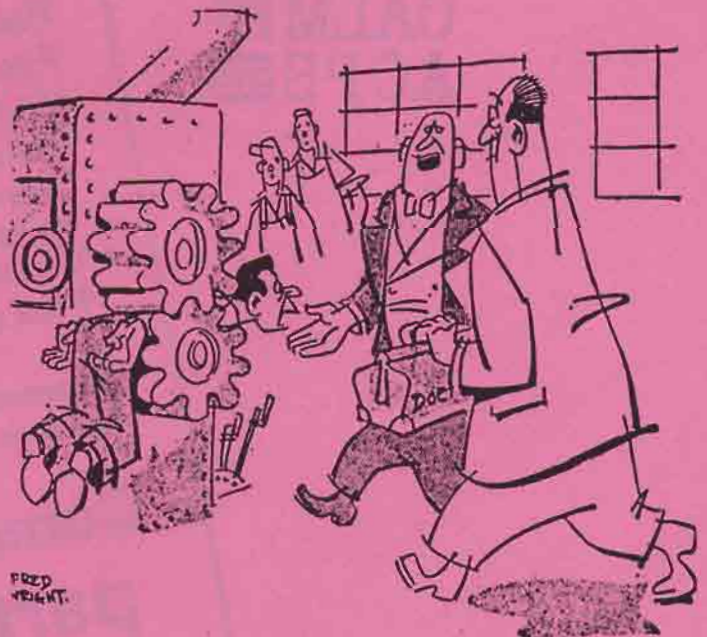
if the Park does not pass, they will have to pay a fine that will be based on their grade for the re-evaluation. Perhaps the dollar value may finally make the Parks sit up and take notice.

The new focus on safety will mean a lot more work for the Health and Safety team members but I know we are up for the challenge

Speaking of challenge, I'd like to remind our Health and safety members that you are required to schedule and complete: your Phase II Hazard Specific Training, your monthly workplace inspections, and finally, if you are on a committee and not just a representative, the first of a minimum of three JHSC meetings for 2002. Please send me copies of all your inspection reports and meeting minutes as they are completed so I can organize the issues Park wide. I will be setting a meeting date in late February so we can all get together to discuss any concerns. I will contact you when I confirm the date and location. In the meantime if you have any questions or concerns please contact me.

Yours in solidarity

Colleen McComb-Page



It isn't serious as it looks, Doc...The machine doesn't seem to be damaged at all....

Humour Bits

Kraftworker/CEP1115/Calm

Terri, a University student, was having trouble with her computer. So she asked Lori, a computer friend, over to her house. Lori clicked a couple of keys and solved the problem.

As she was walking away, Terri called after her, "So, what was wrong?"

Lori replied "It was an ID ten T error."

What's that, in case I need to fix it again?"

"Write it down," Lori said, "and I think you'll figure it out."

Terri wrote ID10T.

CALM Canadian Association of Labour Media
ACPS Association canadienne de la presse syndicale

Our Motto (Besides No Bull!)

The *No Bulletin* is published by OPSEU 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:

Marie Stokes (Editor)
at 6548 Dunn St NFO L2G-2R1.
(905-357-4219)

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

Authorized for distribution:



Mark these dates!

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, February 12th

Fire Fighter's Club, 7pm

*Bi-Election of Local Treasurer

*Election of convention alternates (2)

and delegates(2)

*Constitutional amendments and resolutions

***Pick up a copy of the new contract**

Convention: April 4, 5 & 6
Sheraton Centre, Toronto

Come and participate!