



THE NO BULLETIN

Volume 18 Issue 1

May 2002

Here comes tourist season!

Is everyone ready for another tourist season?
Well it's here!

As you know, we are just back from the OPSEU Annual Convention. During the convention a 0.2% dues levy was put to the floor to come into effect whenever the strike fund falls below 30 million dollars (like right now due to the OPS strike.) There was much debate on the legality of the motion, as any dues increase is supposed to be raised to the entire membership and voted on prior to convention. It was decided that the motion was trying to get around this issue and as a result convention delegates decided that it should indeed be raised at the grassroots level. This topic will be discussed at the upcoming general membership meeting May 30, as well as the election of union Stewards.

Yes its election time again.

On behalf of all the members I would like to thank all the stewards that have given their time to work for the membership. It can be a tough job, but also rewarding. I hope that all our sitting stewards will consider standing for election again. I would also like to encourage any members who are interested to come and get involved. We have a very large union and many people to represent. The more stewards there are, the easier it makes everyones job. Also the more people that we have that know their contract, the less chance there will be of our managers disregarding it.

I do hope that those seasonals who were working at the Easter holiday and had their pay shortchanged

have now been reimbursed. Just a few words on what happened: There was a change in the Employment Standards Act that had been misinterpreted by the parks. We brought this to their attention at an ERC meeting and after some discussion the Parks agreed that the change had indeed been misread. The Parks promised to work quickly to rectify the situation.

In closing I just want to say... If they call it 'Tourist Season' then why can't you shoot one?? HA HA!

In Solidarity
Rob Atkin

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Through the Grapevine

I am glad to see the return of this section of the newsletter after an absence of several issues. I hope that readers will continue to supply me with news of our Union Brothers and sisters.

 Congratulations go out to **Jamie Vout** and his wife Kim. Jamie and Kim renewed their marriage vows at the QVP Old Yards at lunch, Friday April 26.

 **Alex Lalicich**, Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Your friends at the Old Yards and the Greenhouse

Egotist:

Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation

CAW 4304/Calm

Walkers raise over \$3200 for MS

The 2002 Supercities walk for MS was a great success. The weather was cool and overcast, but thankfully the rain held off. Our team, the NPC Greenhouse Walkers pulled through with flying colours, with only a few aches and pains and one small blister. We completed the 12 km walk in just over 2.5 hours.

I am pleased to say we bettered our last years pledge amounts, managing to raise a total of over \$3,200. (We are just waiting for the last pledges to come in before we get our grand total) The Niagara Parks generously matched all of the employee pledges to the tune of \$1,275. We thank the Parks for their terrific support.

We believe that we were the top fundraising team in the Niagara Walk, but have not been officially notified. We were mentioned by his Honour Mayor Wayne Thompson just prior to the official start of the walk. However we had started to walk 15 minutes earlier than the official start time to ensure that we finished the walk early enough to allow one of our teammates to attend a confirmation, so we were unable to acknowledge the recognition (It figures)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who generously supported our team in the Multiple Sclerosis Society Walkathon and hope for your continued support next year. A special thanks for putting up with my pestering as I went 'door-to-door' through the Maintenance Center and Oak Hall to beef up our employee pledges. It is also safe to enter the greenhouse without being hit up for a pledge...at least until next year.

Thank you for your support

Marie Stokes, Sue Stoll,

Susie "Q" Tombs and Fernando Fortino

The NPC Greenhouse Walkers



An 'alternate' view of convention

Shelley Reed, Secretary, Local 217

This year's convention was held April 4-6. This was the first convention for two of us. I would like to thank the members for the opportunity of attending convention and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rob Atkin and Colleen McComb-Page on behalf of Andrea Chu and myself. Because of these two seasoned convention veterans, Andrea and I walked into the Convention with knowledge of the procedure and left the convention with the confidence to stand up for what we feel our local members would benefit from, even when most of the convention was not standing.

Going into convention we were all a bit uneasy on how the convention mood would be considering almost half of OPSEU was on strike. The striking members represented themselves with determination and optimism that unquestionably gained my respect from the beginning of convention right through to the end.

Some of the highlights of this year's convention were:

*Delegates voted to establish a \$25,000 accomodation fund for sign language interpretive services and to provide documents in alternate formats for disabled members at local membership meetings. If any of our members require these services, please let Shelley Reed know well prior to any upcoming meeting so services can be arranged.

*The establishment of an annual scholarship fund for dependants of members

*Delegates defeated proposals put forth by the Task Force on Board Structure that would have

added sectoral and equity representation to the OPSEU Executive Board, and reduce the number of regions from the current seven to four.

*Delegates approved a constitutional amendment that will allow the Retired Members Division to participate more fully in the activities of the Union.

*Delegates gave the go-ahead for OPSEU to investigate the feasibility of a merger with the Association of Management, Administrative and Professional Crown Employees of Ontario (AMAPCEO), a group representing about 6,000 supervisory-level staff of the OPS.

*Delegates empowered the executive committee to investigate merging locals.

*A resolution calling for an end to mandatory retirement at age 65 was passed.

*Delegates approved the extension of pension credits to full-time Union Officers based on their full OPSEU salary.

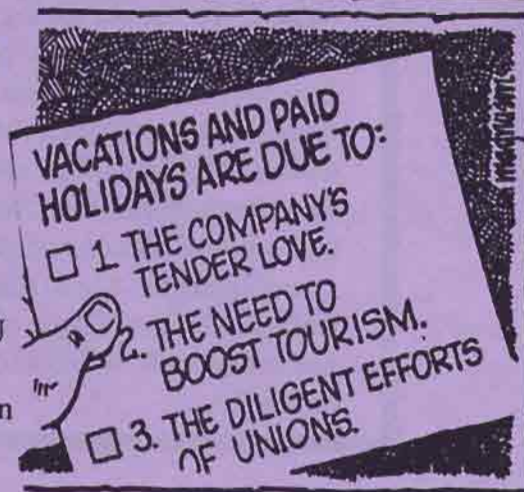
*Delegates approved a proposal to explore moving OPSEU's finances to a Credit Union.

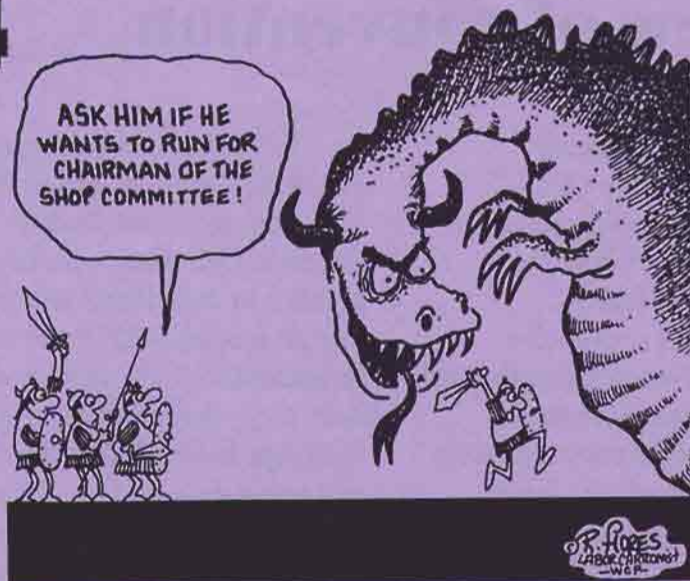
*OPSEU members working as security guards at Windsor and Fort Erie Raceway slots, and at Casinos in Thunder Bay and Niagara are facing an extremely anti-union management. Convention passed a resolution calling on all members visiting any of these areas to wear OPSEU hats, shirts, buttons or other insignia in support. This resolution was carried unanimously by the delegates.

*A strike fund levy was introduced, after an earlier defeat of a proposed union dues increase. Delegates were asked to go back to their locals and discuss the the proposal that there will be an automatic 0.2% supplementary dues levy whenever the strike fund dips below \$30 million. This will bring dues up to 1.575% of pay, and will end when the strike fund hits \$30 million. All revenue from the levy will go directly to the strike fund. A mail in vote of delegates will be conducted by June 6 to approve the amendment. We will discuss this at the May 30 Membership Meeting.

These are a few of the items discussed, debated, carried and/or defeated at this years convention. It was a learning experience for me and I was very happy to be there representing our Local. To end on a lighter note, Rob can tell you...Andrea and I were were quick learners to the nod and look!!

POP QUIZ #41





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Marie Stokes elected Local Treasurer.

Our last general membership meeting almost never got off the ground February 12. We were to conduct two important pieces of business. The election of convention delegates and alternates, and the election of a new local treasurer. Our constitution dictates that we must have quorum to conduct any official business. It didn't look like there was enough interest to get our numbers. However, in order not to waste our room rental, a few phone calls were made to members who lived nearby and Sandy Moore came to the rescue, giving us quorum and allowing business to continue. Rob Atkin, Bill Burns and Andrea Chu were elected as convention delegates, Colleen McComb-Page and Shelly Reed were elected alternates and lastly, Marie Stokes was elected as Local Treasurer. Marie replaces Colleen McComb-Page, who was elected our new WSIB and Health and Safety Chair.

A NoBull guessing game. What Committee am I?

Shelley Reed, Secretary Local 217

What does that Committee want?

They are asking for input, ideas, request for language changes, and new language that you would like adapted into the Collective Agreement.

What are they doing for me?

They are documenting all change requests from all members regarding our current language, on an ongoing basis. If you have any suggestions or ideas, write them down and send them to one of the members. If it is a change request to current language, please write the article number and the change you would like to the language. Please print your name and number so we can contact you if we have any questions

Remember: One word in an article can make all the difference in the world.

Who is on that Committee?

Dino McDonnell (Chair) - Tree crew
 Shelley Reed - Victoria Park Restaurant
 Janet Hepworth - People Mover
 Jon Jackson - QVP Horticulture

What do I get out of this?

Your voice to be heard

What is the name of that Committee?

The Constitution Committee.

We need your Help!

Marie Stokes

As chair of the Employee Compliment Review Committee I had requested a meeting with our management counterparts to get the proverbial show on the road. I met briefly with Barbara Arndt and Dave Morris the beginning of March. It was an informal meeting where I asked for some specific information, namely a printout via payroll of any seasonal employees that have received full hours for two consecutive years. I also gave them an idea of some of the positions that our Committee is aware of that have been filled for two years or better and would like to address at our first formal meeting. This way, we would all have the necessary background information already in place to start considerations.

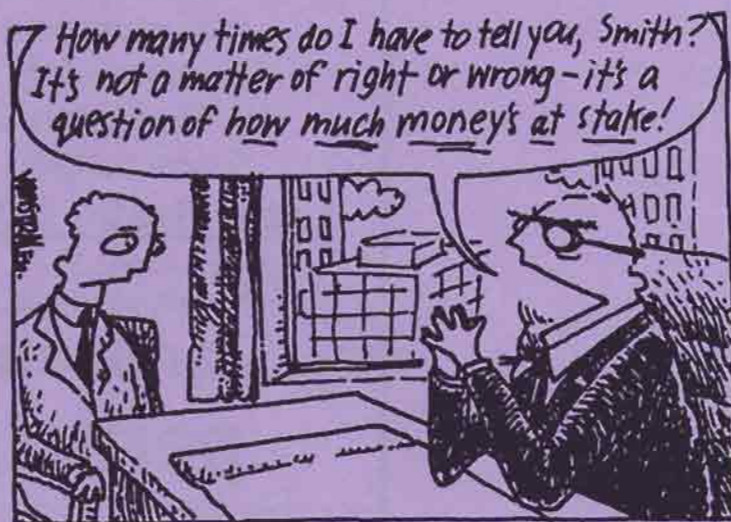
I had hoped for a meeting to be scheduled by the end of March. Management was not sure it could get the information that quickly, but they would try. What's the hold-up? It seems that our brand new computer system is not presently capable of red flagging positions that have been filled for two consecutive years. I then asked for the same kind of printout that was used for the basis of the initial compliment review done by the human resources department I was told that this was possible but would take some time as the computer people were swamped. It would be added to their to-do list. Management would send me the information as soon as it was completed. It is now well into

May and I have yet to hear anything.

Our committee has already named positions that they are personally aware of, mainly in the horticulture department. We have noted some Leadhand positions (even some currently filled by full time employees) Tree Department, Greenhouse labourers, Seasonal Gardeners and several positions at the School of Horticulture. It is our position that having these jobs 'temporarily' filled, some for in excess of four years, demonstrates an obvious need for a few more full time positions. Hopefully once the questioned positions are posted and filled, all of the other 'temporary' positions would be backfilled as necessary. Currently, because a position is labelled temporary, the successful candidate must be able to return to their job so *their* position is temporarily

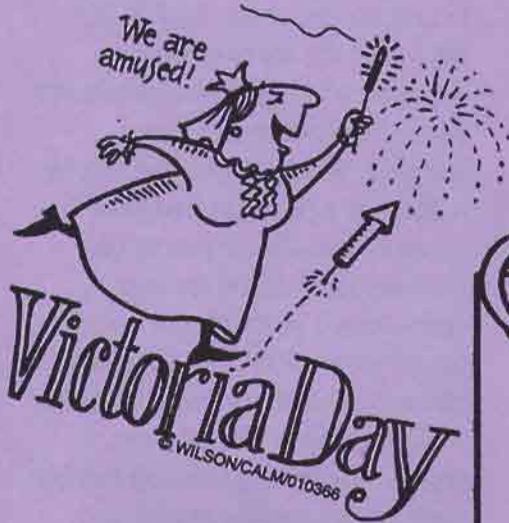
filled and so on and so on creating this convoluted loop of positions that never seems to resolve itself.

These are only the positions we are currently aware of. I am sure there are more in other departments. This is where you, the members, come in. Rather than wait for management to come up with the information our committee needs to move forward, we are appealing to you. If there is a position that you know of that either you or co-workers have filled for two consecutive years please contact me at home (905-357-4219) or through interoffice mail to Marie Stokes C/O the Greenhouse. I seem to be having the odd trouble with my answering machine lately, so if you don't hear back from me within 2 days please call again. My machine sometimes does not register messages. It has happened at least two times that I am aware of.



Mind bender!

The beginning of eternity
The end of time and space
The beginning of every end
The end of every place
What can be described in
this way? Find the answer on
bottom of page



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
CALM
OF LABOUR MEDIA

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 Niagara Falls, 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:

M. Stokes
per R. ATKIN

Mark these dates!

General Membership Meetings

Thursday, May 30

Niagara Fall Firefighters Club, 7pm

Orchard at Dixon in the Falls

*Election of Stewards

*Dues levy vote

Thursday, June 27

NF Firefighters Club, 7pm

*Election of Local Executive

(You must be a steward to run for office)

Thursday, July 18

NF Firefighters Club, 7pm

*Local budget

Local Health & Safety meeting

Monday June 24

NF Firefighters club, 7pm

**Come and
participate!**

Answer to Mind bender: the letter "e"