

# “News At 11”



## District 11 OSSTF District Newsletter



December 2008



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From left to right: Dave,  
Colleen, Nancy, Mary  
Lou, Tony, Laurie

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Colleen Canon  
Mary Lou Cunningham  
Nancy McDougall  
Tony Stokes

Executive Assistant:  
Laurie Lafraniere

### President's Message

So far, the 2008-2009 school year has been a very busy and productive year for your OSSTF representatives. Congratulations to our PSSP and Con-Ed Instructor Bargaining Units upon the successful ratification of new collective agreements. The professionalism and persistence of their table teams has led to favourable results for their members and their working conditions.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, presidents of all OSSTF Teacher and Occasional Teacher Bargaining Units endorsed a Provincial Discussion Table (PDT) framework agreement. Discussions that were originally planned to take three consecutive days ended after a second session of two days needed to be added. No one is saying that our path to a new local collective agreement will be smooth, but we are now aware of some of the funds and resources that will be available to solve current and ongoing issues. Negotiations for Teachers/Occasional Teachers will resume on December 16-17, and there are more dates planned for January. As we head toward a well deserved holiday, I want to take a moment to remind all of us of the OSSTF motto, "Let us not take thought for our separate interests, but let us help one another". Although this can be a fun and joyful time of the year, it can also prove to be very stressful. Support each other, share a laugh together, and be sure to take the time to rest up for what will surely be a busy new year.



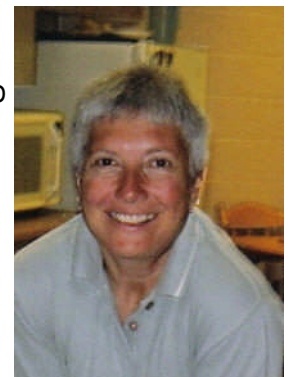
David Russell

It's that time of year again to check and see what's been naughty and nice. First the naughty: partnerships which seem to parallel our roles and responsibilities are still concerning, increased workload issues are prevalent across the job classes, some Psychological Services members and some Environmental Educators are anticipating new job sites which can be stressful and time-consuming with moves at this time of year. Now for the nice: a new 4 year collective agreement has been ratified by OSSTF and the Board and is now in for Ministry approval, the School Counselling and Social Work Services Department has a new supervisor and her name is Shelley Markland, and Dr. Barrie Evans will be in his new role as Coordinator of Psychological Services some of the time in the new year. Welcome to our new administrators and I hope that our new members have felt welcomed in their positions so far.

My wish to all of you is to have a healthy and happy holiday! Enjoy your time with family and friends and hopefully you will feel rejuvenated.

Happy New Year everyone.

Jody Harris  
District 11 PSSP Bargaining Unit President



Jody Harris

*"Let us not take thought for our separate interests, but let us help one another."*

## Important Dates

**February 26**

**Bishop Townshend Awards**  
London Convention Centre

**April 23**

**E.C. McTavish Award  
Dinner**  
Sir George Ross S.S.

**May 7**

**TBU & District AGM**  
District Office

**May 25**

**CEI AGM**  
Wheable Centre

**May 26**

**PSSP AGM**  
District Office

**June 3**

**Citizenship Awards Dinner**  
Thames S.S.

**June 11**

**Annual Retirement Dinner**  
London Convention Centre

**June 18**

**District Executive  
BBQ & Social**  
District Office



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## OSSTF — Uniting Education Workers since 1919



**Don Rowdon**

It has been a busy fall for the Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit. The negotiating team has met and prepared a brief which was presented to the Board on October 15. We have negotiated on three occasions. On November 27<sup>th</sup> our Provincial Executive reached an agreement with OPSBA on a framework for reaching collective agreements with individual Boards. With this in place, we expect negotiations to move forward more quickly. We will be meeting with the Board on December 16 and 17. Updates will be provided via the OSSTF District 11 website.

This fall, the Board made significant upgrades and changes to TVARRIS. This includes the removal of the ability for members to "job shop". We have opposed this decision and will continue to lobby the Board to restore the ability to job shop. Consequently, it becomes more important for our members to market themselves in the schools.

OT members are requested to provide input on this issue. As well, I would like information on the support (or lack of support) supply teachers receive from schools when doing daily assignments. We have been lobbying with the Board, with little success, to have schools provide school rules and procedures etc. that would be helpful to supply teachers when arriving at a school. Any input on this would be appreciated by email: donrowdon@osstf11.com .

Finally I wish all members of District 11 a safe and happy holiday season.

If there was ever any doubt that a member is a member is a member, let me share the bargaining experience that we just had with the Continuing Education Instructors group. First of all, the support that I as a new president received from Dave Russell, each of the Federation Services Officers and Laurie was astounding.

When we got down to the wire and a deal was nowhere in sight some unsung heroes of significant consequence decided to place their collective weight at our bargaining table and a tentative agreement was hammered out. The talents of Karl Dean initially, and then the Director of Protective Services, Dale Leckie and the Provincial President himself, Ken Coran were both humbling and inspiring.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all those who played a part in this bargaining process, not the least of which were Monica Zacharias & Gwen Moore. The ratified agreement was officially sent to the Ministry on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Looking forward to hearing that the TBU and OT units have a deal as well!

I haven't any doubt that the support will be there for you as you go into the next few weeks of bargaining.

Happy Holidays to all!

Lydia Salmon  
CEI Bargaining Unit President



**Lydia Salmon**

Visit our website at: <http://www.osstf11.com>