

Stay Informed
Get Involved in
Your OECTA
Call Early!!! Call Often!!!

Fall 2017
Volume 5, Issue 3

Keep in Touch:



Renfrew OECTA Unit
Office

349 Christie Street
Pembroke, Ontario
K8A 4R6

Website:
www.oectarenfrewunit.com

Email:
oectarenfrew@cogeco.net
Follow us on Twitter
[@oectarenfrew](https://twitter.com/oectarenfrew)

P: 613 735 0869
F: 613 735 1807

- Dec 3
-World Disability Day
-Advent begins
- Dec 3-9
-National Influenza
Vaccination month
- Dec 6
-National Day of
Remembrance and Action
on Violence Against
Women
- Dec 8
-Feast of the Immaculate
Conception
- Dec 10
-Human Rights Day

UPCOMING SANTA CLAUS PARADES



- Dec 2 Barry's Bay 12 noon
- Deep River (Lights Festival) 530 pm
- Renfrew 5 pm
- Dec 9 Killaloe 1 pm
- Dec 10 Eganville 1 pm
- Dec 17 Douglas (Children's Fun Day) 1 pm

NEW UNIT EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

- All vacant Local Unit Executive positions have been filled.
- Alanna Hermans fills the remainder of the one year position as Elementary Councillor.
- Nigel Yantha and Laura Dawson will be the OT Councillors for the remainder of that one year term.
- The Unit Executive for the 2017-2018 school year are as follows:

President: Tracey Pecarski

Secondary Vice President: Jack Rosien

Treasurer: Terry Fitzpatrick

Elementary Councillors:

Secondary Councillors:

Occasional Teacher Councillors:

Elementary Vice President: Jody Shaddick

Recording Secretary: Scott Lafreniere

Micheline Blondin and Alanna Hermans

Natalie Jalette and Trent Skelhorn

Laura Dawson and Nigel Yantha

Physical Restraint of Violent Students is Never a Good Idea

(Condensed from an article by Joe Pece in @OECTA; Oct 2017 issue; page 17)

- Nothing in the Ed Act permits a teacher to use physical restraint.
- Teacher obligation is to exercise reasonable care in protecting all students; even those perpetuating violence.
- If physical contact is made, an investigation is usually initiated putting the teacher at risk of discipline.
- Teachers with non-violent crisis intervention or restraint training certification are held to a higher standard.
- A trained teacher may be subject to more serious consequences than the one who is not trained.
- Bds with non-violent crisis intervention programs might not cover costs of liabilities assigned to a teacher restraining a student.
- WSIB benefits (for teachers seriously injured performing such duties) are often difficult to recover.
- Bds actively oppose compensation for injured teachers.
- A teacher put in a situation of ongoing risk of harm for a continuous application of restraint, should contact OECTA locally or provincially about a possible health and safety remedy.

Ontario Federation of Labour Convention Highlights

- The OFL financial status has moved from tenuous to stable in the last 2 years.
- President Chris Buckley, Exec V.P. Ahmad Gaied, and Secty-Treasurer Patty Coates remain for 2 years.

5 Paid days Leave for Domestic Violence Victims

The ON govt has announced that victims of domestic violence will be allowed 5 paid days off work and a further 5 unpaid days as part of a revamp of labour legislation.

ELHT BENEFIT PLAN NEWS

Backlog fixed

- Backlog of unreturned calls eliminated Nov 13.
- If you have an unresolved coverage issue please contact the unit office.

New Call Centre System

- Pilot project to be initiated in Jan 2018
- Calls to be divided into two categories:
 - 1/Issues immediately resolvable or non-complex/critical and resolvable in 3 working days.
 - 2/Critical/Complex issues to which an OECTA expert is immediately assigned.

ON Fee Guide Only

Effective Jan 1 2018 the plan will use ON fee guides only, regardless of the member's province of residence.

Semi –Annual Benefit Memos

- To be distributed to all members to improve understanding of plan and to provide benefit issues updates.

Psychotherapy Coverage

Retroactive to Sept 1 2017 coverage for Certified Counsellors supervised by a psychologist will be covered.

-Life Event and Enrolment Window

- Prior to the Christmas Break members will be provided with an information piece further explaining this.

REMINDER RE PERSONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PD)

- Some funding may be available from OECTA for personal PD.
- The criteria is on the unit website www.oectarenfrewunit.com ... Forms ... OECTA PD Funds Request.
- Pre-approval is recommended.
- AQ courses are not covered.
- Reimbursement is made by trimester. The amount depends on the number of applications submitted.
- We strongly recommend accessing all avenues available for personal PD.

RETIREMENTS

- Congratulations and Best Wishes to Diane Klobouk and Debbie Mulligan on their upcoming retirements!



Thinking about buying winter tires? Here's what you need to know.

Winter tires improve handling and overall traction in snowy, icy and slushy conditions and reduce the likelihood of collisions. They can even reduce braking distances by up to 25%! Their wider tread and softer rubber are designed to eject snow and ice and prevent skidding on the frozen roads.

When shopping for winter tires, here are a few things to remember:

- Check for a logo of a peaked mountain with a snowflake. This is how you differentiate winter tires from regular all-season tires.
- Consider the severity of weather in your area. If you get a lot of snow and ice, be sure to get tires that can handle those conditions.
- Purchase and install your winter tires in sets of four. Many retailers offer discounts for buying a set of four tires.
- Change your tires as soon as you need to. You can check how worn your tires are from the tread-wear indicators.
- Do not mix tires of different sizes or treads. This can create unsafe driving conditions.
- Check the air pressure on your tires frequently. Not only does this help with the overall safety of your vehicle, it also optimizes fuel efficiency!

It's also important to switch out your winter tires when the seasons change. Winter tires are not well suited to warmer weather conditions and they will wear much quicker. If you are diligent about changing your tires, they can last up to five years.

Contact OTIP today at 1-888-892-4935 to see if your policy qualifies for a winter tire discount.