

President's Message

Welcome back! I hope your summer was fun and relaxing and that your return to work has been a successful one!

Ontario College of Teachers' Elections – Make Your Vote Count!

Did you know that only 4% of eligible OCT members voted in the last OCT election?

Many of you recently received a letter and information from our President, Emily Noble regarding the OCT elections which began September 5 and continue until October 24. As a result of legislation passed this spring, classroom teachers in the publicly funded school system will hold a majority on the OCT Governing Council - 19 of the 23 elected positions - a first since the inception of the College.

The affiliate members of the Ontario Teachers' Federation have endorsed candidates in this election as it is crucial that we elect members who will be passionate advocates on behalf of the teachers of Ontario. See the attached sheet for the most up-to-date list of endorsed candidates - please note that there are now *two* endorsed candidates for the Central Region. Most members in Durham will vote for candidates in the "Central" region, which comprises York and Durham Regions, as well as Toronto. This election is being conducted on-line at the OCT website: www.oct.ca. The on-line ballot should only take a couple of minutes to complete. To vote, you must first register as a member if you have not already done so - again this will only take a moment. Be sure to vote . . . every vote counts!!!

Collective Agreement Changes The following collective agreement changes became effective Sept. 1, 2006:

Salary -	2% increase, A4 maximum is now \$80,652
Prep Time -	180 minutes per week (increase from 160 minutes)
Supervision Time -	80 minutes per week (decrease from 100 minutes/week maximum)
Vision Care -	Increase to \$350 (from \$300) every two years. Eye exams no longer covered by OHIP are now covered within the \$350.
Dental Benefits -	2004 Ontario Dental Association rates (from 2003). This increase means less money out of pocket each time you visit your dentist.

Changes at your Local Office

Welcome to our new 2nd Vice President, **Gerard O'Neill!** Gerard joins Anna Huston and me as one of your three full-time released officers. Gerard was a teacher at Sir John A. Macdonald P.S. in Pickering and has been an active member of the local executive for the last four years. **Tom Lazor** is our new Treasurer, joining us in the office two days per week. Tom will now be responsible for the Professional Development fund, so any questions regarding the fund or requests for PD funding should be directed to Tom at the local office.

Open House and Other Important Dates

We welcome members to join us for our **Welcome Back Open House** at the Local office on Wednesday, October 4, 2006, from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. Bring a new teacher! Join your colleagues to celebrate World Teachers' Day! Eat, drink and be merry! Tour your local office! We hope to see many of you there - see the flyer on your ETFO bulletin board for more information. **See the reverse of this page for other important dates to mark on your calendar this fall.**

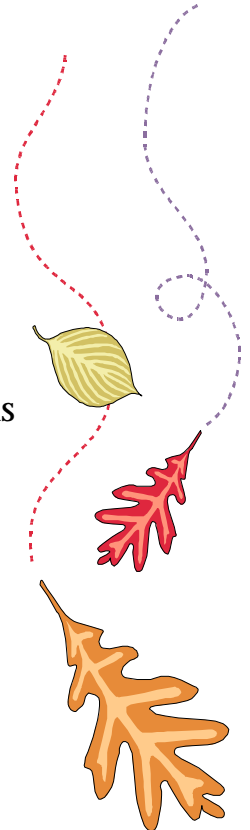
Wishing you a happy September!

– Rachel Gencey

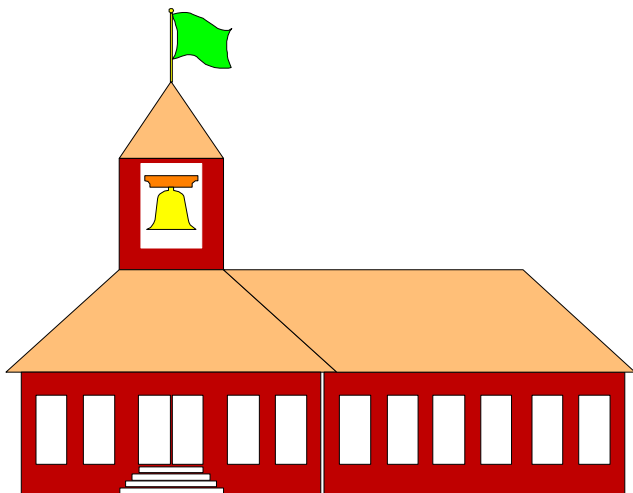


**Dates to Remember
(First Term)**

- September 20:** Payday (bi-weekly basis until end of June)
- October 4:** Welcome Back Open House, (3:30 to 6:00 p.m.),
Durham ETFO Office, 603 Palace St., Whitby
- October 5:** World Teachers' Day
- October 24:** Last day to vote in Ontario College of Teachers' elections
- November 7:** General Meeting and Retirees' Dinner, Le Gala, Whitby
- November 17:** P.A. Day
- December 1:** P.A. Day
- December 22:** Last Day of Work (1 hour early dismissal)
- December 23 to
January 7:** December Vacation



Contact us:
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 website: www.durhametfo.ca



2006-2008 ETFO – Durham Local Executive	
President	Rachel Gencey
1st Vice-President	Anna Huston
2nd Vice-President	Gerard O'Neill
Treasurer	Tom Lazor
Secretary	Debbie Dobbs
Member-at-large/ Political Action.....	David Mastin
North	Lloyd McInroy
Ajax/Pickering	Martine Pelletier
Whitby	Larry DeBrouwer
Oshawa	Daniel MacPherson
Occasional Teachers.....	Ingrid Thompson