

ARM 18/21

2017 May 1

Active Retired Members of OSSTF

VOL 5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

HBO CURC

Wednesday, May 10th

D21 1423 Upper Ottawa Street, Unit 2
10:00 a.m.

ARM Hamilton Cemetery Tour

Tuesday, May 23rd

777 York Blvd., L8R 2A4
10:30 a.m. with lunch at Rose Garden

OSSTF Retirement Tea at St. Naum's

Thursday, June 8th

1150 Stone Church Rd E, Hamilton
04:00 p.m.

Barangas on the Beach

Tuesday, June 20th

380 Van Wagners Beach Rd, Hamilton
12:00 p.m.

Emma's Back Porch

Tuesday, July 18th

2084 Old Lakeshore Rd, Burlington
12:00 p.m.

Editors: R. Giles, M. Payne, T. Viola

OSSTF ARM Website

For a compendium of information regarding ARM chapters from across Ontario, please see <http://www.armcouncil.osstf.ca/>.

President's Report

On Tuesday, March 21 a large group of our members attended the Warplane Heritage Museum for lunch and tour. A retired RAF/RCAF pilot did an outstanding job in talking about the huge variety of planes on display. Thanks to Suzanne Burchell for arranging the day.

On April 18 we held our Annual General Meeting at the District 21 Office and elected a new executive for 2017/2018. Thanks to Colleen Wray for the munchies.

In May we make a return visit to the Hamilton Cemetery.

June takes us to Barangas. Please email Barb Brown at barbbrown45@gmail.com if you plan to attend this luncheon Tuesday, June 20, at 12 noon.

Our summer function occurs on the Tuesday, July, 18 at Emma's Back Porch. Please email Frieda Smyth, by Friday, July 14, at frietz@aol.com if you are able to attend.

The final Executive meeting for this year will occur at the Office directly after lunch at noon at the Brown Barrel on Thursday, June 8. The OSSTF Retirement Tea will be held at 4 p.m. at St. Naum's the same day.

Our September Executive meeting will occur on Monday, August 28.

Hamilton Cemetery Tour

'The Stories in the Stones'

Tuesday, May 23rd at 10:30 a.m. to be followed by lunch at the Rose Garden at noon.

Hosted by Robin McKee of Historical Perspectives, this tour is new this year and the focus is on Women of Influence in Hamilton and area. The tour begins at 10:30 a.m. rain or shine.

Parking is available in the Dundurn Castle parking lot. Please park at the far east end of the lot. There is a crosswalk which takes you across York Street to the main entrance. We will meet just inside the main entrance outside the chapel and office.

If you plan on lunching at the Rose Garden following the tour, please e-mail Barb Brown at barbbrown45@gmail.com.

HBO CURC

The next CURC meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 10 at the OSSTF Office, 1423 Upper Ottawa Street, at 10:00 a.m.

There will be a presentation regarding OPSEU's 'We Own It Campaign'. Arrangements are being made for another presenter to talk about Home Care and Long Term care issues. There will also be an update regarding Pension Legislation [Bill C-27].

Pharmacare:

- a) ONDP announcement regarding a provincial universal pharmacare program.
- b) National Pharmacare lobbying.

Reports from National CURC and OFUR and local HBO CURC Executive will be made.

One Publicly Funded School System

Click onto the link below and follow the instructions. Also click onto the additional links once the page is open for further information:

<http://www.onepublicsystem.ca/support-the-charter/>

Our Group

President: Milt Payne; V.P: Frieda Smyth (D18); Benefits Officer: Jay Parekh; Secretary: Mary Lou Mattucci; Membership Secretary: Barb Brown; Editors: Tony Viola, Milt Payne, Ruth Giles; Treasurer: Bob Thompson. Members at Large: Malcolm Buchanan, Suzanne Burchell, Chester Faulknor, Warren Johnson, Murray Kilby, Pat Lachapelle, Jan Lukas, Anna Misiti, Brian Radke, Norm Urhig, Colleen Wray

Your 2017—2018 ARM Executive

President:	Milt Payne
Vice-President:	Colleen Wray
Benefits Officer:	Jay Parekh
Secretary:	Mary Lou Mattucci
Treasurer:	Bob Thompson

Membership Secretary:	Barb Brown
Newsletter Editors:	Ruth Giles, Tony Viola

Members-at-Large 2017—2018:

Malcolm Buchanan, Suzanne Burchell, Chester Faulknor, Warren Johnson, Murray Kilby, Pat Lachapelle, Jan Lukas, Brian Radke, Frieda Smyth (D18), Norm Uhrig

Parents need to learn school is about education: Mallick

Instead of proposing staffing changes that would lead to a teachers' strike, why don't parent groups demand that teachers mark harder and assign more reading?

By [HEATHER MALLICK](#) Columnist
Wed., March 29, 2017

What do parents think school is for? I know what teachers think: students should learn how to speak, write and read well, understand the value of lifelong learning, and get along with others. Also read the book, Noah. Your assignment's due last week.

That's the best boiling-down I can do of your child's 14 years of Ontario public education that should lead to jobs, training, college or university. Education is basic. But in this culture of complaint, actual worthwhile learning ends up buried and bulldozed over.

It puzzles me that parents' wish lists rarely mention study. They want amorphous things. Don't we all. We want love and understanding with a little euphoria thrown in. In the meantime, learn math. Worse, angry parents demand more layers of bureaucracy to complain to. Now they want ombudspersons to take precedence over elected school trustees, an open misuse of democracy. Perhaps school boards should be abolished so that parent complaints can be more efficiently centralized.

Am I old-fashioned? Yes. Someone has to play the villain here. Let it be me.

There is something about education that brings out the irrational in parent groups, religionists, lobbyists and the perpetually

disaffected, while teachers are left on the sidelines.

The worst recent example came in the battle over [Muslim prayer](#) sessions inside local public schools in the Peel District School Board. The only decent option for the board was to allow them. The board was right.

A reasonable person opposing prayers might hope for a public discussion of whether the male-led sessions are discriminatory against girls, if menstruating girls are shamed by being isolated, if prayer sessions are welcoming or split classes apart, or whether the time might be more valuably spent on, say, extra science classes. A trustee might suggest that allowing school prayers would keep students in school. A religious parent might defend all religions.

This didn't happen. What happened was so appalling that it went largely unreported because there was no polite Canadian way to describe it. Some of the anti-prayer [protests](#) were militants from another religion, and the insults heaped on Muslim students and parents were vile.

I won't dwell on this, and the horrified board didn't either. They couldn't publicly cave in to racism, whatever its source, and I, without religious belief, agree with them. But again, the ugly quarrel about prayers had nothing to do with schooling. The meetings were bearpits.

Equally, the parents and community groups complaining at the troubled York Region District School Board — the Star's Noor Javed and Kris Rushowy have done stellar [work](#) on this thankless task — may be right, wrong, or halfway in-between. But the question of learning went strangely unconsidered. Instead, public board [meetings](#)

became a study in placing inchoate feeling over precise thought.

The educational jargon alone would bewilder a sensible parent. Parent groups, trustees and provincial officials were talking to each other in code.

Who referred to “recommendations on how she may direct the board to ensure effective board governance that promotes equity, increases accountability and transparency and builds public confidence?”

Who said “all lesson planning and instructional practices should be delivered through a social justice and diversity lens to ensure that a range of perspectives are reflected?”

I might well agree with these bloodless phrasings if I knew what they referred to. Who talks this way? No one who wishes to be understood. I oppose standardized testing but I can see why its advocates yearn for numbers, for clarity.

Instead of proposing staffing changes that would lead to a teachers’ strike, why don’t parent groups demand that teachers mark harder and assign more reading? No, they said they wanted “a student bill of rights on issues that matter to students” so that students “view themselves as agents of change.”

Howls of laughter ensue. Good parents decide what matters to students and it’s generally that they’ve read the news, their [Wagamese](#) and their [Thien](#), so get cracking on that essay. No parent of teenagers has ever fallen for the teenager bill of rights. Why should high schools?

And at times, it’s clear that some parents themselves aren’t competent, which is why

Ontario offers sex education. Someone had to seize that nettle.

Students have the right to learn sufficiently that they can function as a civilized person in Canadian life. A civilized person respects learning and doesn’t shout brutal things at people of another skin colour or religion.

I’m giving some parents a C here. “Parent doesn’t play well with others, doesn’t do assignments, doesn’t work on being kind. Could do better.”

hmallick@thestar.ca

Long-running Theodore court case decides non-Catholic students won’t be funded to attend Catholic schools

Ashley Martin, Regina Leader-Post

Published on: April 20, 2017 | Last Updated: April 20, 2017 5:48 PM CST
Court of Queen’s Bench.

The decision of a long-running Queen’s Bench court case means non-Catholic students won’t be funded to attend Catholic schools in Saskatchewan.

Justice Donald Layh’s 242-page decision was published Thursday afternoon, nine months after the end of the trial involving Yorkton-area Good Spirit School Division (public) and Christ the Teacher School Division (Catholic).

The case concerns the Catholic elementary school in Theodore, 40 kilometres northwest of Yorkton, St. Theodore Roman Catholic School. Prior to 2003, it was a public school known as Theodore School.

Separate schools have protection under the Constitution. So with the school on the closure list by the pre-amalgamation Yorkdale School Division, a minority group

of Catholics in the community petitioned the government to form the Theodore Roman Catholic School Division, which is now part of Christ the Teacher.

The new division purchased the school building and opened St. Theodore School.

In 2003, 13 of the school's 42 students were Catholic — 31 per cent. In the years since, the highest was 39 per cent.

The case has been playing out in court since 2005, when the public school division filed a legal complaint. The trial wrapped up in July 2016.

Layh's decision reads, "The Constitution Act, 1867 does not provide a constitutional right to separate schools in Saskatchewan to receive provincial government funding respecting non-minority faith students.

"Section 17(2) of the Saskatchewan Act, which provides constitutional protection against discrimination in the distribution of moneys payable to any class of school, only protects separate schools to the extent they admit students of the minority faith."

The decision goes on to say that the province is violating the Charter of Rights and Freedoms if it funds non-minority faith students in separate schools, as the state has a duty of religious neutrality per section 2(a) of the Charter. It is also violating equality rights per section 15(1) of the Charter.

The sections of the Education Act and Education Funding Regulations under which the government has funded non-minority faith students in separate schools "are of no force and effect."

Layh appreciates this decision "will cause significant repercussions in the province," so it is stayed until June 30, 2018.

The provincial government declined to comment until having time to further review

the decision. In reference to the Theodore case earlier Thursday, Education Minister Don Morgan said it has cost the government "millions of dollars" over the years.

"We're pleased that a ruling has come forward, and we'll be working with our partners in the Catholic system and the province to implement Justice Layh's ruling," said Quintin Robertson, Good Spirit director of education.

Larry Huber has been involved in the case as executive director of the public section of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association.

"Our public section has never had an issue with the minority rights of minority faith groups having their school divisions," said Huber.

"We've only felt that Catholic school divisions are there for members of the minority faith and those are the students that should be funded in Catholic school divisions. ... Their change to accepting more non-Catholic students was something we felt really needed to be looked at; it affected us in terms of enrolment, it affected us in terms of capital."

Huber wouldn't speculate on the future of St. Theodore, or of non-Catholic students who are currently being educated in Catholic schools.

"(The Catholic side) also might appeal the decision; we don't know. I don't think any changes are going to happen tomorrow," said Huber. "And from our standpoint as educators, any changes that affect children have to be looked at carefully and have to be done with kindness and in a judicious way."

A spokesperson for the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association (the SSBA Catholic section) or Christ the Teacher could not be reached for comment.

The SCSBA website states: “The challenge by the public school division of the right of Catholic separate schools to admit non-Catholic students threatens the choice of parents, limiting the education options of non-Catholic parents for their children.

“We interpret the Saskatchewan Act in a way that requires funding to Catholic separate schools be comparable to that provided to public schools. Fair and equitable funding includes all students, regardless of their faith.”

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<http://leaderpost.com/news/local-news/long-running-theodore-court-case-decides-non-catholic-students-wont-be-funded-to-attend-catholic-schools>



“No, Thursday’s out. How about never—is never good for you?”