

From the Presidents Desk

This represents my final article for Chalktalk as Unit President. As of July 1, 2009 Mike Devoy will become Unit President and I will assume my new responsibilities as 3rd Vice President at the Provincial level.

It has been my pleasure to serve you for the past eleven years; seven as Vice-President/CEO Elementary and four as Unit President. They have been rewarding years and we have made many positive changes in and around the classroom. When I first began, elementary teachers had 120 minutes of planning time a week beginning the 1st of October. Now we are looking at 240 minutes by the end of this agreement with the start date being the first Wednesday of the school year. Most often this will be the second day of school.

Supervision time has been reduced to 80 minutes a week down from an unlimited amount. Salaries have grown from A4 max of \$64,965 on August 31, 1998 to \$89,204 on September 1, 2009. Benefits have improved constantly over the course of this period as we fought off the negative impact of one of the most regressive Governments of the modern era. Similar gains in the secondary panel can be attributed to my secondary colleagues Grace da Silva and Mike Devoy.

It has also been an exceptional experience to serve with so many colleagues who have been in this office. Pat Cannon, Bill Brazeau, Grace da Silva, Patrick Etmanski, Mike Devoy, Carl Davey and Paul Sousa have served you well over the past years and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. The gains that we have achieved have been the result of this exceptional team of dedicated professionals who have sought to advance your cause while working with the Board to resolve those inevitable issues.

I would be amiss not to thank also those administrative assistants I have served with over the past eleven years: Helga Bartels, Barb Morrison, Jennifer Flanagan and Cathy Kuhn. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with each of them.



There are also many, many individuals to whom I owe gratitude for their work and support. Thank you to the members of Unit level committees, the executives I have served with, the teachers who have served as staff reps over the years and all those individuals who participate in making this Unit one of the most active in the Province.

In making my decision to become involved in OECTA eleven years ago I was strongly influenced by the remarkable amount of work that my colleagues in the classroom were being asked to do, the professional acumen with which they did it and the dedication to students I witnessed daily as a Vision Resource Teacher. Most of it went unrecognized by the governments and public of the day. While conditions have improved significantly over the past years there is still much to do. I look forward to assuming my new responsibilities at the Provincial level and representing all of the Catholic teachers of this province. My time here in Waterloo has been rewarding on a personal level and exceptional preparation for this new role.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. The support that you have given me over the past eleven years is greatly appreciated. This is not goodbye. I will be teaching in a classroom or classroom(s) within the Board and intend on filling the role of Past President within the Unit.

I leave the role of President with some reluctance but with the utmost confidence in those you have chosen to serve us in the future Mike Devoy, Patrick Etmanski, Chris Stockie, Paul Sousa and the rest of the elected executive. They will serve us well.

Upcoming Events

June 12, 2009
Retirement Dinner

June 15, 2009
Executive Council

June 16, 2009
Sunrise Retreat

June 26, 2009
Last Day of School

Warren Grafton

2008-2009 Teacher Awards

At the Appreciation and Awards Dinner, held at the Cortina Club on January 29, 2009, two of our members were presented with 25 Years Service in Catholic Education Certificates and OECTA watches. The names of these teachers are: Monika Roy and Eileen McCabe.

The **Dedication to Catholic Education Award** was given to Bernie Pickett of St. Mary's High School. Mark Temple made some inspiring comments about his co-worker and here are a few snippets for you to enjoy.

"Bernie consistently models and inspires both his students and colleagues with his strong values as a Catholic educator because he truly lives his faith daily in the way he interacts with students, staff and administration. His kind nature provides for a warm and welcoming environment for everyone to learn. He views and values each student as being unique and this is evident in that his students feel a strong sense of self and importance as a result of his teaching.

Bernie is an exceptional teacher – his gentle nature and teaching strategies naturally lend themselves to inspiring his students in a manner that is exemplary. He also consistently puts other before himself and as a result helps everyone who needs it – even if it means putting himself out to accomplish this task. Bernie Pickett is an exceptional teacher in that he does what only the 'exceptional' do...they make those around them better. Bernie makes both his students better people by being a part of their lives. He truly makes St. Mary's a better place."

The recipient of the **Dwyer Sullivan Award** was Amy Rockel of St. Daniel School. This recognition is given to a member who best suits the phrase "*In Recognition of Contributions to the Cause of Social Justice*". This is what was said when she was presented....

"Amy has been a constant source for justice initiatives in her Grade 3 classroom and her spirit has influenced and inspired the entire school community. Her leadership within the school is ever present. This year Amy helped facilitate a PA day workshop for Staff on How to Teach Social Justice in the Classroom. She also arranged for participants from One World Global Education to present on their experience in Ghana. Last year her Third Grader's Water project raised an amazing \$6500 to build 2 wells in Uganda for the Rayn's Well Foundation. This year she is organizing a school wide fundraiser to raise money for educational kits. These kits will be sent to students in poor countries. This year every Wednesday is Awareness Wednesday with Amy's class. They goals are to understand where products we use come from, child labour, fair trade and to build empathy even at the age of nine. All of this conscious raising for both staff and students is done by positive education and a cheerful example. "

The **Exemplary Service Award** is presented to a unit member or members who have given exemplary professional service to the Unit. The recipient has met the established criteria of serving on a Committee with a minimum of five years of active service at the local level. This year the award was given to Ed Wyse. He is a very active member of our local unit and has

sat on the unit executive as third Vice President and councilor. Ed has also been active on local committees including Secondary negotiations, Professional Development, Recognition, Legislation and Human Rights. Ed is a passionate defender of teacher's rights and actively supports his colleagues in whatever way he can. He has done this not just when convenient but throughout his entire career. While Ed hails from the Rock it was far too small to contain his spirit.

This year, two teachers were presented with the **Beginning Teacher of the Year**. Here is what the staff said of **Laura Fralick of St. Timothy's**.

"In our school community, Laura Fralick has demonstrated so many Catholic qualities by the positive example that she sets. On a daily basis she represents Catholic teachers in a positive light as she interacts with others in a down-to-earth manner with the goal of always trying to make those around her successful. Her ability to set a positive example for others, despite her relatively low level of experience (as seen by her number of years teaching) is evidence that regardless of her age or experience, she is an asset to our Catholic school system.

Long Term Occasional Teacher Jerry Polischuck

Jerry is the kind of teacher I'd want my own kids to have influence them each day. He is firm but fair and treats each child with respect. He is dedicated to the children he teaches. He interacts positively with others, greeting everyone with a smile, treating each person he meets with kindness, and always willing to help or lend an ear when needed. You can't help but be a better person when Jerry is around, and we are so blessed to have him on our staff.

Long Term Occasional Teacher Vell Giglio

"The people who truly benefit most from this educator are her students. They are welcomed into a safe and comfortable learning environment and know that every day their teacher firmly believes that each one of them is capable and successful. Their progress and achievements are celebrated daily in class, as well as, in the school community as a whole.

Coaching, sharing resources, volunteering her personal time to organize our literacy room, our science resources and phys. ed. equipment area, are just a few of the many contributions she makes at St. Bernadette.

A true testament to any educator is to have others express that they would want their children to be taught by them. This affirmation has been articulated frequently about this recipient."



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Retiree Honour Roll 2008-2009

Adele Black
 Rae Crossman
 Maria Dallner
 John Devine
 Peter DePratto
 Ralph Doyle
 James Drago
 Judy Dunn-Keighan
 Laura Eby
 Brenda Finch
 Peter Gross
 Mary Klein
 Bryan Mahn
 Eileen McCabe
 Diane McCormick
 Louis McFaul

Taffy McLeod
 Marie Miller
 Cathy Moloney
 Tom O'Brien
 Mary Ottman
 Ivan Persin
 Janet Phaffinger
 Ray Rennie
 Christine Sabourin
 Gail Schnurr
 Linda Schnurr
 Barb Simon
 Lenore Vaillant
 Katherina Voiculescu
 Connie Voll
 Martha Willis



Where did your money go ???



During the 2008-2009 school year we donated money to the following charitable organizations:

Marillac Place	\$500.00
Cambridge Shelter	\$500.00
St. John's Kitchen	\$500.00
Food Bank Waterloo	\$500.00
St. Monica House	\$500.00
Lutherwood	\$500.00
Waterloo County High School	\$300.00
English Awards	
Lutherwood	\$500.00
"Sleepless Nights"	\$500.00
Let's not forget the Labor Day Picnic	\$750.00

Provincial Awards to Waterloo Unit

Our Unit was awarded the **"Most Improved Publication"** award for Chalktalk. Thanks to Julius Pasca-Hossu for all his hard work and dedication.

We also won for the **"Best Website"**a big thanks to Mike Devoy !!!

And last but not least we had five Winners in four categories for Young Authors Awards.

Mary Lou Micheli's student Jaiden Schutz from Holy Rosary, Deborah Mawdsley's student Emmalise Conway of St. Augustine, Janet Lienhardt's students Shannon Lodoen and Rachel MacDonald from Resurrection CSS and Jon Zagaja's student Thomas Slabon of St. Mary's.

Congratulations to all of these students and all the students who submitted entries for this contest.

Important Dates

Skate with Santa	Dec. 2/09	Cambridge Ice Centre
Beginning Teachers Conf.	Feb.18-20/10	Toronto
OECTA Volleyball Tourney	Apr.16/10	Rockway Mennonite
OECTA Retirement Gala	June 11/10	Whistle Bear



Social Committee News

There were two main events that were the focus of the Social Committee this year. Our 30th annual volleyball night was held on Friday March 27 at St. Mary's High School. We had an amazing 30 teams representing the 30 years of this tournament. It was quite an event. Chuck Williams was honoured for his untiring support of this event. The Chuck Williams Spirit Award was established and will be awarded yearly to the team at the tournament who displays outstanding team spirit. We celebrated the day with fantastic Bar-B-Q outside in the beautiful, warm spring air. OECTA killed Canadian Martyrs again this year (I think...or was it the other way around?). The spirit of fair play and fun was evident in every game and handshakes and hugs were always the final result. The organizers want to apologize for some of the scheduling problems that cut our event short. This will not happen again and plan-

ning is already taking place to ensure all teams play a minimum of three games next year. Mark your calendars. The tentative date for next years tournament is April 16 at Rockway.

The other major event was our annual trip to Toronto to see the Blue Jays. This year they played the New York Yankees and unfortunately for most in attendance, lost. Fun was had by all as we hosted almost 100 teachers and other staff on two luxury coaches.

Currently, we are working on a wine tour/dinner in Niagara in early October and an event we're calling Skate with Santa which will be held at the Cambridge Ice Park on December 2, 2009 from 6:00 till 8:00 p.m. This event is for the kids and all others who would like to spend some time with Santa. The Social Committee will have a meeting on Monday September 14 at 4:00 p.m. at the OECTA office. Anyone interested in any of these events or who would be will to spearhead new events are welcome.



President Elect Waterloo Unit - **Michael Devoy** at the Blue Jays game



The Catholic Teachers of the Waterloo Unit wish you a safe and happy summer!

Office Email: office@oectawaterloo.on.ca

Unit Executive

President:
Warren Grafton

Past President:
Bill Brazeau

Treasurer:
Anton Milardovic

Vice President and CEO Elementary:
Patrick Etmanski

Vice President and CEO Occasional:
Carl Davey

Vice President and CEO Secondary:
Michael Devoy

Recording Secretary:
Melissa Garrett

Councillor Elementary:
Virginia Hansraj

Councillor Elementary:
Samantha Brehm

Councillor Occasional:
Paul Sousa

Councillor Secondary:
Mark Devlin

Councillor Secondary:
Ed Wyse

Unit Office Secretaries:
Catherine Kuhn
Jennifer Flanagan



Layout: Julius Pasca-Hossu