

# ARM 18/21

2017 September 1

Active Retired Members of OSSTF

VOL 1

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### Labour Day Parade

Stuart at Tiffany St., Hamilton  
Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m.

### HBO CURC

Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>  
D21 1423 Upper Ottawa Street, Unit 2  
10:00 a.m.

### Breakfast at the Egg and I

Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>  
1242 Garner Rd W., Ancaster  
09:30 a.m.

### Lunch at the Olde School Restaurant

Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>  
687 Powerline Rd., Brantford  
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

Executive Meetings—

Meetings for the executive are scheduled for: Monday, October 2, Monday, November 6, and Monday, December 4. Meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. at the D21 Office. All are welcome.

Labour Day means the Ticats vs the Argo's and the Labour Day Parade. If you have never joined D21 OSSTF in the parade, we would be pleased to have you come out.

### D18/21 ARM LIST OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2016-2017

Each year we have 10 executive meetings—the last Monday in August, the first Monday in each month from October to May and our June meeting occurs in the afternoon before the D21 Retirement Tea.

- |           |                                                                                                             |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September | a large group attended the Labour Day Parade under the D21 OSSFT Banner                                     |
|           | September 20, lunch at Rose Garden Restaurant, Burlington                                                   |
|           | a tour of the new RBG Rock Garden                                                                           |
| October   | breakfast at the Village Restaurant, Stoney Creek                                                           |
| November  | Jennifer Stebbing, from Ross & McBride LLP, spoke to us about wills, estate planning, and power of attorney |
| December  | a tour of Battlefield House, Stoney Creek                                                                   |
|           | lunch at the Power House Restaurant                                                                         |
| January   | Robin MacDonald from OTIP was scheduled to talk to us but snow moved his presentation into early February   |

February	lunch at The Fool and Flagon, East Hamilton
March	lunch and tour of the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, Mount Hope
April	Annual Meeting and the election of the executive
May	tour of the Hamilton Cemetery and lunch
June	many members of the executive attended the D21 retirement tea  lunch at Barrangas-On-The- Beach on Lake Ontario
July	lunch at Emma`s Back Porch, Burlington, on the water

### HBO CURC

The next CURC meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 13, at the OSSTF Office, 1423 Upper Ottawa Street, at 10:00 a.m.

Also, all are invited to the Hamilton City Hall Council Chambers, Friday, September 29 at 11 a.m. The topic of discussion is the issue of seniors and healthcare including senior isolation. There is no charge for attending and refreshments are provided.

### 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/>

### Labour Day Parade

The parade starts at its traditional time—10:30 a.m. **However, the route has changed.** Unions and solidarity groups line up on Stuart St (at Bay) and head south on Bay St to Main St, east on Main St to James St, north on James St to Strachan St, west on Strachan to Harbour Front Drive and into Bay Front Park.

Section 3 (OSSTF) assembles on Stuart St at Tiffany.

### Breakfast at the Egg and I

Our September 19<sup>th</sup> social will occur at the Egg and I, 1242 Garner Rd. W., Ancaster, at 9:30 a.m. for breakfast. New retirees have breakfast provided. We will have a chance to catch up on everyone's summer activities.

### Lunch at the Olde School House

In October, we plan to go 31 km from my address to visit the Olde School House Restaurant in Brantford. Jan Lukas has assured me that we will not be in the "principal's office" and hopefully we will be assigned to the "library". We have several expert shoppers who plan to attend and they can provide assistance in getting to the lovely town of St. George which is quite close.

NB: One route is Hwy 403 west to Paris Rd., for 2 km. and then west on Powerline Rd. for 150 m.

### Our Group

President: Milt Payne; V.P: Colleen Wray; 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, Brian Radke, Frieda Smyth, Norm Urhig

## ARTICLES

### Public Funding of Roman Catholic Separate Schools Is Wrong

Catholic school systems were implemented in 1867 to appease the English minority in Quebec and the Catholic minority in Ontario. Ontario is now a multicultural, multiethnic, heterogeneous province with many religions represented. Segregation by religion leads to mistrust, misunderstanding and discrimination.

The Catholic school system is exclusive to Roman Catholics. Students of other faiths are permitted to attend [each student is worth approximately \$11,000]. However, they are subjected to the Roman Catholic ideology. Section 42[13] of the Education Act provides any separate school student with the opportunity to opt out of all religious courses, programs and activities. Unfortunately, Catholic school boards violate Section 42[13] by putting up barriers for parents to be exempt from religious classes and activities.

Catholic school boards still resist establishing student Gay Straight Alliance Clubs in many Catholic secondary schools. This is contrary to the Education Act principle of inclusivity.

Despite laws governing employment that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, etc., separate school boards discriminate in requiring educators to be practicing Roman Catholics who have obtained a Pastoral Letter from their local priest. This despite the fact that one's

religion has no bearing on his/her ability to teach. Non-Catholics need not apply.

The Catholic school system is not paid for by separate school supporters. For example: From 2002 to 2011, only 6 to 11% of the operating expenses for Catholic schools came from residential property taxes from separate school supporters. From 2007-08 to 2010-11, Catholic schools received \$1,500 to \$3,000 more per student in provincial funding than public schools. The majority of funding comes from provincial general revenues.

Maintaining the four duplicate education systems in Ontario is extremely expensive, especially the "extra" costs that are associated with their operation. For example:

Operating two, three or four board offices in each jurisdiction. Each board has a Director of Education, a group of superintendents, support and clerical staff. Several different bus systems to transport students. Costs for advertising expenses for competing school boards. Lack of economy of scale regarding school purchases. The list goes on.

The reality is that Ontario cannot continue to fund four distinct school systems, divided along religious and language lines, which results into smaller and less affordable schools.

Despite Ontario's political parties' opposition to changing the status quo a growing majority of the Ontario public disagrees. Many small towns in Ontario are facing local school closures. Despite parent and community protests, schools are closed and students suffer. Parents understand that a community school could continue to exist if the students from both the Catholic and public schools attended the same school. But politicians lack the political will to act.

School closures and increased educational costs across the province is driving the need for change.

The May 2017 Vector Poll results reflect the need for educational change in Ontario.

Seven in 10 Ontario residents support a single public school system and agree that the government should “end the current system of funding both the Catholic and public school boards”

Some 24% of Catholics strongly support a public system “not connected with any religion”.

51% of Catholic school parents support a single public school system.

The Vector Poll indicated support for the single public school system is based upon the waste and duplication that comes from having four duplicate school systems. “It’s the money”. Saving money is the most powerful reason to favour a single school system than resistance to government funding for religious schools.

The poll shows 61% across Ontario who favour a single school system say they support it “more because it would save the government money”. Just 31% want a single system more because they oppose government funding for religious schools.

Among Catholic’s who support a single school system, overwhelmingly [86%] saving money is their compelling reason.

As more and more schools are being closed across the province and the cost of maintaining four duplicate school systems continues to rise the public will demand government action. The recent Vector Poll reflects the growing support for a single

public school system. Political parties should be wise to take heed.

Malcolm Buchanan  
Civil Rights in Public Education

### **Niagara school closures show need for a single school system**

OPINION Jul 12, 2017 by Tom Roden  
Hamilton Spectator

South Lincoln high school students hold hands while listening to the motion being read by DSNB staff to close high schools in Grimsby, Beamsville and Smithville in order to build one centralized facility. The vote passed unanimously. - Alexandra Heck, Metroland

There is a disturbing situation in Niagara West. Grimsby, Beamsville and Smithville. Each has a public high school. The school board has voted to close the three schools, because of declining enrolment, and build a “super school” in a rural area between Grimsby and Beamsville, such that all students must be bused in from the three towns.

There is a Catholic school in Grimsby that draws from all three towns. There are enough secondary students in each town to have a viable secondary school in each town if there were no separate school system or if the separate system were willing to share facilities. The separate board has refused to share. All three towns will lose their community schools.

It has been suggested that town council, DSNB and our MPP very forcefully demand that the Government of Ontario either force the separate board to share facilities in each of the three towns or eliminate separate school funding entirely. It appears that no

one has the courage to address the fact that separate school funding is an anachronistic, undemocratic, divisive, exclusive and extremely expensive privilege that has no place in 2017 Ontario.

This situation is not exclusive to Niagara West. The problem exists in many towns and rural areas.

Public funding of Roman Catholic separate schools is wrong for many reasons:

1. Students should not be segregated by religion,
2. It is contrary to the education act principles of inclusivity and equity,
3. It is discriminatory toward students, favouring one religion, making it undemocratic,
4. It allows for discrimination in employment on the basis of religion,
5. The existence of public and separate schools in small communities divides the community on the basis of religion,
6. The extra cost of operating four systems of education varies from one billion to three billion dollars per year.
7. Public funding of Roman Catholic separate schools is not guaranteed in the constitution.
8. Ontario is now a multicultural, multi-ethnic, heterogeneous province with many religions represented. Segregation by religion leads to mistrust, misunderstanding and discrimination.

9. The separate school system is exclusive to Roman Catholics. Although section 42(13) provides any separate school student with the opportunity to opt out of the religious indoctrination, exemptions are rarely, if ever, granted.
10. The United Nations has twice condemned (1999, 2005) the practice of publicly funding Roman Catholic separate schools, while denying funding to other faiths, as a violation of the province's and Canada's international human rights obligations. In this regard, the process is undemocratic as in a democracy no group should have a privileged position.

Manitoba (1890), Quebec (1997) and Newfoundland and Labrador (1998) abolished their faith based systems of education.

11. Despite the laws governing employment that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, etc., the separate school boards hire only Catholics. One's religion has no bearing on his/her ability to teach.
12. The community divide is demonstrated in Niagara West (See Paragraph 1). There will be a loss to the local economies of the three towns as well as a loss of community spirit. If there were one system of education, there are sufficient students of all religions to have a viable secondary school in each community — Beamsville, Grimsby and Smithville.

The separate secondary school in Grimsby is not a community school.

Particularly in smaller towns, the one school system allows students to attend school in their own communities.

Regarding the extra cost of operating four systems of education, the emphasis is on “extra”. The more obvious extra costs are:

- a. Operating two, three or four board offices in each jurisdiction each board office has a Director of Education, a group of superintendents, support and clerical staff,
- b. Buses picking up students near the public school to deliver them to the nearest separate school and other buses doing the reverse

Implementation of one education system will reduce expenses for the following reasons:

- a. Amalgamation of nearby under capacity schools,
- b. Reduction in advertising expenses for competing school boards,
- c. Economy of scale regarding purchasing,
- d. Better use of support personnel,
- e. Better program selection and extracurricular opportunities in small town schools.

The most common estimates regarding the extra cost of operating four systems as opposed to operating one secular publicly funded education system are in the range of \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion annually.

In studies done using Ministry of Education

figures from 2006 to 2011, it was found that the separate school system received more money per student every year — ranging from \$700 per student per year to \$2,900 per student per year.

According to the Canadian Supreme Court the provinces have the absolute power to govern education, subject to conditions in Section 93, subsections (1) to (4). Essentially, the province has the right to fund separate schools if it so chooses. It also has the right to eliminate that funding if it chooses to follow the correct procedures.

Tom Roden lives in Grimsby and is a former member of OSSTF

<https://www.thespec.com/opinion-story/7419349-niagara-school-closures-show-need-for-a-single-school-system/>

### **Students can opt out of religious classes at Catholic school after complaint settled**

The move by the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board comes as a result of a human rights complaint lodged by a former student.

By **MICHELLE MCQUIGGE** The Canadian Press, Tues., June 13, 2017

Students at an Ontario Catholic school board will soon have more flexibility to opt out of religious courses and programs thanks to a human rights settlement that could have implications across the province.

A human rights complaint lodged against the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board by a former student has resulted in changes to the board’s exemption policies and an agreement to encourage other boards to adopt a similar approach.

The complaint, filed by Claudia Sorgini in 2016, alleged the student was discriminated against when she sought an exemption from

religious classes. The case was to go before the province's human rights tribunal but was privately settled late last month.

Sorgini's lawyer Paul Champ said the settlement represents a victory for students in Catholic schools across Ontario.

"We're hopeful that it will send a message to all Catholic school boards across the province that pressure to attend religious courses or activities is discrimination in publicly funded schools," he said. The lawyer representing all defendants in the case did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Sorgini's complaint against the board stemmed from her final year at St. Theresa's High School in Midland, Ont., a school with an estimated population of 1,050 students. Lawyers representing the school estimated about half the student body was not Catholic, including Sorgini.

Sorgini had taken what she thought were mandatory religious courses in her first three years at the school, consistently achieving grades of 95 per cent or higher, both parties said in documents filed in the case.

In her final year, however, she learned that exemptions were possible for students who are able to attend a public high school, but who attend a school run by a Catholic board instead. She applied for one in October 2015 with the support of her parents.

Both sides agreed that the school initially denied the request and sought multiple meetings to clarify the issue, but ultimately granted the exemption within about a week of the request.

Sorgini alleged, however, that she felt pressure to stop seeking the exemption and faced reprisals once it was granted.

Her complaint alleged the school would not let her audit a science course in lieu of the religion class she dropped, making it difficult for her to obtain nominations for major university scholarships, and implied her exemption would prevent her from attending events such as the high school prom.

The board denied all allegations. It contended that Sorgini had asked to audit a science course she had already taken, adding it would have been happy to let her pursue a different course for credit.

It said it ultimately did nominate Sorgini for two scholarships based on her strong academic performance and that Sorgini was never barred from events. The board also felt its exemption policies were sufficient and did not need to be changed.

"The board has a procedure in place for granting exemptions under the Education Act," reads a statement filed to the Human Rights Tribunal last year. "Students that have applied and have met the criteria for an exemption have received an exemption, including Sorgini."

According to the terms of the settlement, however, the board must now amend its policies and potentially set the tone for other boards across the province.

The board's exemption policy will be revised to allow students to stay in or opt out of whichever religious programs or activities they wish, the settlement indicated.

The board will also develop a standardized exemption form that clearly lays out the process and provides a list of activities that students may want to be exempted from.

"Once the student's eligibility is confirmed, the exemption will be provided by the school

without delay, pressure or other adverse treatment,” the settlement reads. “Students who apply for the exemption will not be asked to provide any reasons for their request, nor attend any meeting with school or board officials as a precondition to the application being recognized and accepted.”

The settlement also orders the board to share the new policy with the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Once approved and in place, the Ontario Catholic Trustees’ Association, which was also named in the complaint, must distribute the Simcoe Muskoka board policy to all 29 English Catholic school boards in the province.

The settlement requires the association to explain that the policy came about as a result of a human rights complaint and “encourage” other boards to review their existing policies.

Champ said the decision is important for the many non-Catholic students who attend Catholic schools for reasons ranging from class availability to geography.

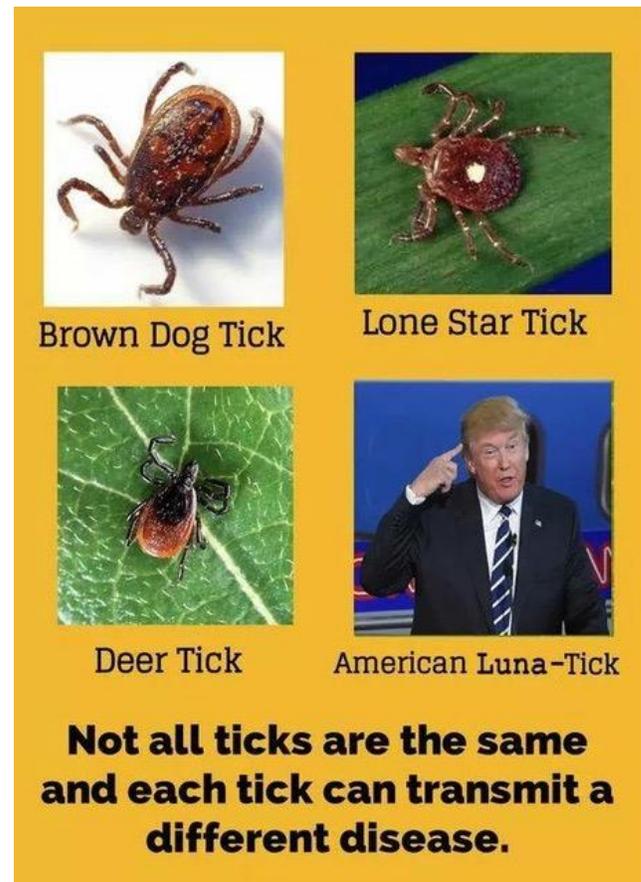
He also argued students who may have been enrolled in a Catholic school by their parents should have the right to adhere to their own beliefs if they evolve away from religious teachings.

“Teenagers have minds of their own, and they can arrive at their own opinions about their religious beliefs or creed,” he said. “If they, at that age, don’t want to take religious programs, they have a right under the Education Act to be exempt.”

The settlement stipulates that parents or guardians must be involved in exemption requests in most cases before the student turns 18.

<https://www.thestar.com/yourtoronto/education/2017/06/13/s...ious-classes-at-catholic-school-after-complaint-settled.html>

### On the lighter side...



Why teachers drink .....

The following questions were set in last year’s GED examination. These are genuine answers (from 16 year olds)

- Q. Name the four seasons  
A. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar
- Q. How is dew formed  
A. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire
- Q. What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on  
A. If you are buying a house they will insist that you are well endowed

Q. In a democratic society, how important are elections

A. Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election

Q. What are steroids

A. Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs (Shoot yourself now , there is little hope)

Q. What happens to your body as you age

A. When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental

Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty

A. He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery (So true)

Q. Name a major disease associated with cigarettes

A. Premature death

Q. What is artificial insemination

A... When the farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour

A. Keep it in the cow (Simple, but brilliant)

Q. How are the main 20 parts of the body categorised (e.g. The abdomen)

A. The body is consisted into 3 parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels: A,E,I,O,U

Q. What is the fibula?

A. A small lie

Q. What does 'varicose' mean?

A. Nearby

Q. What is the most common form of birth control

A. Most people prevent contraception by wearing a condominium. (That would work)

Q. Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section'

A. The caesarean section is a district in Rome

Q. What is a seizure?

A. A Roman Emperor. (Julius Seizure, I came, I saw, I had a fit)

Q. What is a terminal illness

A. When you are sick at the airport. (Irrefutable)

Q. What does the word 'benign' mean?

A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight (brilliant)



# Announcing our exclusive partnership with OTIP!



- Specialized insurance products and services for the Ontario education community, including auto, home, life and retiree health insurance.
- Exclusive promotions and contests throughout the year.
- Flexible retiree health and dental insurance, and free workshops to help with a smooth transition into retirement.

For more information and to learn about the discounts available to you, including up to 50% off your home insurance\*, visit [otipinsurance.com/ARM-Save](http://otipinsurance.com/ARM-Save) or call 1-888-892-4935.

\*Restrictions may apply, contact us for details.



OTIP is a proud partner of **Edvantage**