EXPERIENT 24

Issue 2 Fall 2017

Experient *(adj) having experience; having knowledge or skill from observation or participation. Synonym: experienced*

IN THIS ISSUE

- President's Update
- The Canadian Antifraud Centre – Guest Speaker Brock Godfrey
- Quick Dial Numbers: Winter edition
- After School Activities
- Opinion Page – A Question of Preparedness
- Why we need ARM to keep an eye on our pensions
- Caption contest
- Helpful Websites

OSSTF 100 Years of Celebration

1919 – 2019, A call for writers

To commemorate OSSTF/FEESO's 100 Year Anniversary in 2019, the Provincial Executive is commissioning **an updated version of OSSTF/FEESO's history.** The intent is to publish the history in both hard copy and e-book formats prior to AMPA 2019.

The Provincial Executive is seeking expressions of interest from both active and retired members who may be interested in participating in this project. The successful applicant(s) will be required to work with an editorial board comprising the General Secretary, the Associate General Secretary of Professional Services and the Director of Communications/Political Action. The deadline for the completion of the history book is December 2018. Once the structure and work plan for the book have been established, remuneration will be determined**. If you are interested in participating in this project, please submit a letter of application** outlining your interest in participating in the project and include the following information: • your contact information including non-employer email address; • if you are an active member, your current bargaining unit and district; • if you are a retired member – your bargaining unit and district at the time of your retirement; • why you would like to be involved in the project; • an outline of your experience in research and writing and any prior work related to OSSTF history, and • a sample of your writing (minimum 300 words). Please forward your letter of application by email to Lori Foote, Associate General Secretary, Professional Services, lori.foote@osstf.ca.

Applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 3, 2017.

Retirement does not mean leaving - Keep this link strong!

SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT 24 ARM MEETINGS FOR 2017-18

October 3rd -	Guest Speaker - Robin Smart from the Waterloo Wellington Alzheimer Society & Annual General Meeting & Election of Executive
November 7th	Guest Speaker Brock Godfrey: Return appearance, see story page 3, Computer and Internet Security for Seniors
December 5th	District 24 Office*
January 2nd	Informal Breakfast – location TBA
February 6th	District 24 Office *.
Future Dates	March 6th* , April 3rd* ,May 1st*, June 5th*.

* possible speakers for these meetings include the RCMP/OPP, Habitat for Humanity, OTIP, Educators Financial, Wills and Estates. Meetings are open to all District 24 ARM members. They will take place at 9:30 a.m. in the lower level of the District 24 Office unless otherwise noted. If in doubt check the website or email Rich Clausi.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Concerns and Goals for 2018: OSSTF ARM Chapter 24: President's Update for Fall 2017

Hello:

This is the start of our second year as OSSTF ARM Chapter 24. ARM is an acronym for **Active Retired Members** (**or Almost Retired Members)**—**Education Workers who have played a vital role in our schools**. We have come together to share mutual concerns and shared interests.

Our first season, 2016/2017, was focused on building our membership database and our sense of purpose. Our priority has been monitoring our Pensions, our Health benefits and other Issues of concern to members. We enjoy a direct channel to both OSSTF Mobile Drive staff and OTIP. This is of value to our retired members as there is no other voice to speak for OSSTF pensioner concerns. I have outlined my pension concerns elsewhere in this newsletter.

In our second year, we hope to extend our priorities to include SOCIAL events for members.

I hope you can find the time to join our organization to help us along in any way you can. We want to structure our committees to make sure that no one is stressed—after all, we retired from that nonsense.

You will recognize the names of many who are in our executive. I am proud to work with these extraordinary individuals. Please join us.

Our meetings should be interesting. Besides the "continental" breakfast, there will be speakers addressing many of the issues of concern to retired education workers: internet security and scams, OTIP, Estate Planning, Alzheimer and Dementia, Pension Plans. In fact, we will address your wishes for those items you want to hear about. Let us know what you need to know.
We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am. We usually meet at the District 24 offices. Join us.

Regards,
Richard Clausi,
President, OSSTF ARM Chapter 24:

Please feel free to contact me at raclausi@kw.igs.net if you have any questions

YOUR NEWLY- ELECTED EXECUTIVE FOR 2017-2018

From left to right in picture
John Ryrie – Political Action Chair
Rennie Laden- Secretary
Joe Amatruda- Vice President
Brenda Wiles- Treasurer
Rich Clausi – President
Also
Newsletter Editors: Wendy Foxall and Michele Alterman
Special thanks to Sue Senior for her assistance with this issue.

Report on the ARM Meeting of June 6th, 2017

Wendy Foxall

Our ARM Meetings often include a guest speaker on topics that are of interest to our members. Brock Godfrey, from the CAFC spoke at our June meeting and will return on November 7th for a second session.

Guest Speaker: Brock Godfrey

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre - (Formerly known as Phonebusters)

Brock Godfrey took early retirement in 1993 from **the Ontario Ministry of Education, after 30 years in education**. He joined PhoneBusters in 1997 as a Volunteer SeniorBuster.

He has been instrumental in educating the public and raising awareness of illegal mass marketing fraud and Id theft. He occasionally calls victims to assist them, but mainly gives presentations to Service Clubs, Seniors and Professional Groups.

Brock received the Superintendent's Award of Distinction from the RCMP for his work in making Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre presentations.

Mass Marketing Fraud and Cybercrime Awareness: - June 6th

A presentation developed by the RCMP and the Canadian Anti- Fraud Centre covering Mass Marketing Fraud, Identity Theft, Romance and other scams – and how to avoid them was delivered at our June District 24 ARM meeting.

Brock distributed the Canadian Edition of **THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK OF SCAMS- YOUR GUIDE TO PROTECTION AGAINST FRAUD**. He discussed many of the current scams, how to recognize them and how to protect yourself and your family. There was a lot of valuable information shared. Among other cautions we were told to beware of telemarketers informing you that the call would be recorded and then asking if you can hear them or if they are speaking loudly enough. If you reply "yes" they use your recorded voice as an agreement to the terms and conditions of what they are selling. If in doubt hang up or repeat the question, for example say, "You **are** loud enough" but beware of answering yes to any question by a telemarketer.

Brock also discussed many types of fraud and romance scams. He described rooms full of people with specially prepared scripts and stock photos designed to take advantage of lonely people. They have several reasonable sounding excuses why their web cam isn't working, and/or why they cannot have a live conversation. They correspond regularly and may build a relationship for 6 – 8 months before ever asking for money or help of any kind.

I was surprised to learn that nearly 80 percent of mass marketing fraud is conducted by organized crime groups and is currently the second most common criminal activity funding terrorist activities.

PASSWORDS AND BEYOND – November 7th, 2017

Brock will return for a second presentation covering computer security, password tips, password manager software, and alternatives as well as other security tips important for online safety. This will take place at 9:30 am at the District 24 office.

The Canadian Antifraud Centre

Mission:

''The CAFC is Canada's central repository for data, intelligence and resource material as it relates to fraud. The CAFC commits to providing timely, accurate, and useful information to assist citizens, businesses, law enforcement and governments in Canada and around the world.

The CAFC's primary goals are prevention through education and awareness, disruption of criminal activities, dissemination of intelligence, support to law enforcement and strengthening partnerships between the private and public sectors with the aim of maintaining Canada's strong economic integrity.''

QUICK DIAL NUMBERS:

Service Codes You NEED to Know...*More than just 911 and 411*

Wendy Foxall

Service codes, commonly called N11 codes are used to provide three digit dialing to special services.

Most people know that 911 is used for emergencies, you have likely used **411** for directory assistance, **but have you used 211, 511 or 611?**

211 is used to access a wide variety of **community and social services**. It may not be available in smaller communities, but if you search 211.ca on a browser you should be able to find help through a community close to where you live.

611 is used to contact most **phone service carriers** to report a problem with your phone.

511 is used for road conditions and traveler information. If you search Ontario 511 in a browser you can find interactive maps with road conditions, road closures, unscheduled events, construction delays and much more information. There is a mobile app and a twitter feed with up to date information. You can dial 511 to get a recorded message of on-going road conditions.

N11 CODE	SERVICE
211	Non-emergency community services
411	Directory assistance
511	Road conditions & traveler information
611	Phone repair services
911	Emergency services

Ontario 511 is an Ontario Ministry of Transportation telephone service that provides the public with **voice-activated, hands free information on provincial highways by just dialling 511**. Please use hands-free technology, have a passenger make the call, or pull over to the side of the road before using this service. Voice recognition and text to speech technologies give road information in audio format.

Winter driving can be dangerous; 511 could save your life.

One January I was at a friend's cottage north-east of Peterborough. A winter storm was expected so we headed home early but unfortunately not early enough. I noticed a sign for 511 and called on my cell phone (as the passenger, not the driver). It was a recorded message with road conditions, road closures and accident reports. The information allowed us to choose a safer way home and avoid some accidents and road closures along the way.

Closer to home, traffic that was moving slowly, slowed down even more. I called 511 again and was informed that the 401 had just been closed due to a serious accident. We got off the road at the exit before the accident and avoided a lengthy wait in nasty weather with a dwindling tank of gas. A drive that usually takes 3-4 hours took us twice that long because of the weather and road conditions but without the information from 511 it would have taken us even longer and we could have been left stranded in a blizzard.

Submit articles to YOUR newsletter

We are looking for reader submissions for the following regular features:

Viewpoint/Point of view
An opinion piece on a topic that concerns you personally.

After-School Activities
An update on what you have been doing since retiring from your job in the education sector.

Photo Captions
An interesting or entertaining photo that could be used for a caption contest. Please include the location and necessary background information.

Around the World
A report on interesting places or people you have meet while travelling. Include a few pictures when relevant.

All members are invited to submit items of interest for retirees and for those who are within sight of retiring.

Articles need to be proof-read and not exceed 600 words.
Images no less than 1MB will be accepted. Please provide the name of the photographer and/or source and identify the people or places in the photo.
Note: Editing will be done for clarity and space limitations

Send submissions to:

experient24@gmail.com

by January 10th, 2018 to be included in the Winter 2018 edition of EXPERIENT24.

After- School Activities

Michele Altermann

How's retirement going? It's a question I've been asked often since June 2016 and the answer is always "awesome". If the other person is a teacher I add, "It's worth hanging in there for!" When people look at me and say "you're too young to be retired" I reply that I've only retired from Teaching not from life! I'm happy to say that I am as busy as I want to be doing many activities that I was only able to pursue on a limited basis. I have always been involved/ volunteered with the **Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition** but since retiring I have been able to contribute many more hours, especially during the day when I would normally have been at work. This includes working with my local Neighbourhood Group (Parkwood Gardens) where last year I taught ESL classes to newcomer women (all from Syria) who were now living in my community. We were also able to provide childcare. This was an area of need I had identified when I learned that the local Adult Day School had limited childcare spaces and many newcomer mothers with preschool children could not attend. Not being an ESL teacher I actually took my ESL Part I in my last year of teaching to prepare myself for this new teaching role. It has been very rewarding and while I work with the moms, our volunteers work on language acquisition with the children. I am looking forward to more new students this year. I also facilitated a weekly Conversation Circle for anyone who wanted a safe place to practice English and learn about Canadian culture. For example, what do you bring to a "potluck" from a Korean mother whose daughters were on a swim team? In exchange I learned a lot about other cultures from the people in the Circle.

Another advantage of retirement is being able to travel outside school holidays. Being able to visit my son in BC in November was great because I have only ever been there in the summer. Watching him surf in the 7-8 foot waves off Tofino was pretty amazing! Even though it was November there were still flowers blooming in Victoria.

The most exciting new project I am involved with was starting a **free Fresh Food Market** for the Neighbourhood Group (Onward Willow) around my Church. This community scores very low on the Social Determinants of Health, is culturally and economically diverse and contains many newcomer families. We have run 5 markets to date which at this point are funded by the congregation and a monthly donation from another congregation. We get support from the Guelph Community Health Centre as well. There are no criteria for attending the Market and so far, 84 families have registered. The last market had 40 families attend which consisted of 171 people (50children and youth, 121 adults). We are looking for other partners and grants to expand the Market to twice a month and eventually to weekly. Our market is modelled after the North End Harvest Market which provides a weekly fresh food market to the northeast corner of Guelph. (Editors' note: Pictures of the fresh food market appear on page 8)

Becoming more integrated into the social support networks in Guelph has been exciting and rewarding. I have met so many new people and made many new friends. Having a pension that allows me to spend my time working with others is awesome indeed!

Question of Preparedness: 'Might the Sky Fall Again'

Joe Amatruda

In our inaugural edition of EXPERIENT 24 (Issue 1: Summer 2017) I shared one of President Trump's legislative priorities: to roll back Dodd Frank and the Volcker rule. These legislative measures were originally put in place in the U.S. after the calamity of the financial crisis of 2008-09. In addition, the Bank for International Settlements instituted the Basel III accord and the Financial Stability Board (FSB). The intent was to improve and 'failsafe' the banking system to stave off more financial mayhem - in other words, to avoid a future world-wide economic depression by establishing better financial practices.

However, on June 8, 2017, the U.S. Congress passed the 'Financial Choice Act' which repealed Dodd Frank. The repeal of the Volcker rule has been included in a draft spending bill (June 28, 2017). Currently, it seems that these items are out of the political limelight, overshadowed by other political disturbances, conflict and upheaval.

The current ballpark global economic statistics merit consideration. Worldwide 1 to 1.5 quadrillion dollars in derivatives contracts are circulating about. In 2016, world-wide annual GDP was around 75.6 trillion US dollars. As of Dec. 31st, 2016, the top 25 U.S. Banks had just over $ 14.25 trillion dollars in assets. At the same time, they held just over $ 222.13 trillion dollars in derivatives contracts. These derivative contract categories include: Exchange traded (regulated with rules), Foreign Exchange (FX) and the Over-the-Counter (OTC – trades privately negotiated). OTC

Trades include: Forwards, Swaps, Options and Credit derivatives. For the 25 biggest U.S. banks, their OTC holdings accounted for approximately $ 210.5 trillion dollars. You may recall that difficulties with 'credit default swaps' was a critical factor linked to the financial crisis. Given existing legislation and proposed changes in financial regulation has the U.S. administration provided 'wiggle room' to create another financial crisis?

ARM members are pensioners and I believe would prefer not to have OMERS & OTPP negatively impacted by untoward 'banking practices and risk-taking allowed by the repeal of Dodd Frank and potentially by the repeal of the Volcker rule.

Consider the following:

1. Might the repeal of Dodd Frank and pending repeal of the Volcker rule increase the probability of negative global financial consequences due to the trading of derivative contracts (knowingly or unknowingly by the traders, trading in "financial vehicles sometimes so complex that it is problematic for the buyer to completely assess")?
2. Will contracts that may contain toxic unseemly assets spread contagion through the global financial markets?"
3. Has the Government of Canada completed a risk assessment on the potential negative impact of the repeal of Dodd Frank and the Volcker rule on the future financial integrity of our country?"
4. In the event of another financial crisis could the Canadian government seek compensation from foreign perpetrators of 'financial malpractice'? What might the Government of Canada do in order to mitigate these potential financial risks on behalf of all Canadians?"

What might we 'do' as retirees to mitigate these potential financial risks?
Joseph Amatruda ARM Chapter 24
(If you would like more key references and data related to this article; please email me and I will forward the items to you: jamatruda@rogers.com *)*

Dodd-Frank Act information
http://www.investopedia.com/terms/v/volcker-rule.asp

The Bank for International Settlements instituted the Basel III Accord
http://www.bis.org/bcbs/basel3.htm

Mark Carney's open letter to G20 Aug 31 2016
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2017/09/25/banks-get-rap-across-knuckles-carney-steps-p

Why we need ARM to keep an eye on our pensions

Richard Clausi

My personal priority as President continues to be the defense of the sanctity of our pensions. The non-teacher public, unfortunately, consider our pensions ill-deserved. We can easily explain how these forced savings have accumulated through smart investing by our trustees. Anyone who puts as large a percentage of earned income into a retirement savings plan that is run professionally as teachers have been forced to do, could generate a healthy retirement pension too. This is irritating but incidental.

The real danger is the notion that somehow our pensions are a pot that troubled governments can dip into in times of trouble. Both our federal Liberal government and Provincial Liberal government have spent foolishly. You simply cannot dig your way out of a hole by digging a deeper hole. The ultimate fate of misguided borrowing (think electricity rate relief provincially) or lavish spending (think federal infrastructure spending and subsidization of businesses such as Bombardier etc.) cannot be in a good place.

The history of this province is littered with pension abuse. Most recently, Sears employees woke to find that they were out of a job and, just plain out of luck with their pensions. Oddly, senior executives gorged themselves on payouts and bonuses. The media report, today, October 16, that "Days after Lisa Okill turned 100, her son found out the health benefit and insurance his mother acquired after working 26 years with Sears Canada would be disappearing along with the company." Her son said that she was the first woman to manage a Sears location when the company entered Canada. "Her health benefits ended Sept. 30, her life insurance policy ended Sept. 30 because they're no longer paying the premiums to the group plan." Sears liquidation of all stores means that 12000 jobs disappear from the remaining 130 stores, and the pensions of 16,000 retirees are compromised. If this can happen to a national icon, one must ponder the implications.

You have also, recently, heard the cries of anguish accompanying the recent tax change announcements by Federal Finance Minister Morneau designed to stop the "sprinkling" of money within businesses to reduce taxes. In a "response" article in the Financial Post (Terence Corcoran: Oct. 5, 2017), a headline shrieked: "Millions of Canadians use equivalent passive-investment vehicles to duck billions in taxes. They're called pension plans." As you might guess, within the article is a predictable attack on the Teacher Pension Plan, among others. The claim is made that: "Canada's pension funds in 2015 held assets of $1.5 trillion in assets invested tax free…the top eight funds include the Canada and Quebec pensions plans ($600 billion), the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan ($263 billion), the Ontario Municipal Workers' plan ($129 billion) and Alberta pensions held by AIMco ($57 billion), all operating tax free." This, of course, ignores that fact that these dollars are invested into the economy and businesses, and that, eventually, the dollars are taxed.

In addition, of equal concern, is a provision in a yet un-tabled federal bill (C-27) for the establishment of "target-benefit" pension plans to supplant the defined benefit plans. The clear intent is to "tap" the resources and take the heat off those who are reluctant to deliver on their pension obligations. The Canadian Labour Council is now beginning a response to this attack on pensions, all of which were set up in good faith. Read for yourself: More information is available at www.canadianlabour.ca Select "Issues and Research" then "Social and Economic Policy" then "Retirement Security" then "Canada's unions call bill C-27 a betrayal". At risk, no doubt, are folks who are still working and contributing to their pensions; however, it never pays to be too complacent. When Italy and Greece decided to raid the pension savings when those countries faced external pressures to bring their debt into control, there was protest, yes! Perhaps, it is a better idea to do what is necessary NOW to avoid any tendency by folks who are making bad fiscal decisions to raid pension plans to save their own skins. I hope that by being both vocal and active now, we can avoid hardship and pain later. I am interested in chatting with you at our meetings about this concern.

TBU Pension Remedy

If you retired between 2010 and 2016, surplus funds in the Teachers' Pension Fund will restore full inflation protection for post-2009 pension credit.

If your pension is affected you should have been contacted by the pension board.

For more information visit the pension plan's website at:

www.otpp.com/funding

A free fresh food Market in Guelph, story on page 5 in **After School Activities**. Photo by Michele Alterman

Can you spot the hidden elephant?

Picture by Wendy Foxall, Botswana Africa

While I was staying in a tented camp in Botswana a young male elephant made a midnight raid on the camp kitchen crashing through the bamboo enclosure and eating a large quantity of food. The next morning as we were eating a belated and rather limited breakfast he reappeared outside the dining platform.

Caption Contest

What was he thinking as he watched from his hiding place?

- *I thought I ate the whole thing.*
- *There goes the neighbourhood.*
- *What's for dessert?*

Send your captions to:

experient24@gmail.com

There are no monetary prizes, just the satisfaction of sharing your ideas with others.

If you have a picture suitable for this feature send it to the above email address, include the location and the name of the photographer.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

District 24 OSSTF	http:// www.d24.osstf.ca
District 24 OSSTF ARM	http://www.d24.osstf.ca/active-retired-members-chapter.aspx
ARM Council	http://www.armcouncil.osstf.ca
Edvantage	http://www.edvantage.ca
OMERS	http://www.omers.com
Ontario Teachers Pension Plan	https://www.otpp.com
OTIP	https://otip.com
OTIP's Carepath Program	http://otip.carepath.ca