

Halton Hotline News

Winter 2020 Online Edition



Happy New Year!



Message from the editor...

Welcome to the premiere online edition of Halton Hotline News! In line with the roaring 20s comes this state-of-the-art newsletter to keep you informed of the Halton local's activities. This particular school year, it is of most importance to keep current of new developments as ETFO is in negotiations with the provincial government on many crucial issues. Remember you can keep up-to-date with collective bargaining bulletins by joining the secure section of haltonot.ca. I sincerely hope you had a restful break and spent time with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you soon at a HEOT event!

Jacquie Tancoo, Newsletter Editor

Awards & Goodwill

At our Festive Open House in December, we gathered donations for the Burlington Food Bank. That amount was matched by the local and resulted in a donation of \$460. In lieu of Christmas cards this year, we made a donation of \$100 to Books to Bars. It is an organization which provides recordings of incarcerated mothers reading children's books and the recording is sent to their children.

Donations of \$300 each were sent to the Red Cross for the Bahamas and the Nova Scotia disaster relief fund.

In March, we will send nomination forms to all school stewards and administrators to nominate our members for STO or LTO of the Year. Let's hope that we receive a nomination for you! The winners will be celebrated at our Annual General Meeting in May.

Donna Bethune,
Awards & Goodwill Chair

Blast Emails

This year our local has been in the process of collecting non-board emails. The purpose of this is to have the ability to communicate quickly with our members through blast emails. If we do not have your non-board email then you would not be aware of many of the issues we are facing in the coming months. Don't delay! Send your non-board emails to president@haltonot.ca so that you can be informed. We have just under 800 of our members' emails out of 1360. The other 500+ will not be informed as well as they can be. Our first blast email will go out early in January. If you don't receive it, you likely haven't provided us with your email.

Al Bero,
President

President's Message

In spite of the fact that much time is being devoted to keeping up with Central Bargaining news, as your president I still keep up to date with member issues. I have attended many meetings with members to protect and support their work. We are keeping very busy at the office. I am thankful for a very dedicated Executive who are always there for you by helping to run our local smoothly. Without their assistance, this job would be impossible to manage.

Keep in mind that our events are free to our members and we do these to support you. Participate when you can; we run many PL and Social events that we feel are fun and instructional for our members.

Remember, I am only a phone call or email away. Don't tackle issues on your own, let us help. Contact our office at 905-332-6840 or by email at president@haltonot.ca.

Al Bero, President

Professional Learning

Well, we have had a very busy and exciting fall! I hope that everyone had a great holiday! I have enjoyed meeting many of you at our PL sessions. I appreciate the honest feedback that you are providing for me in your exit passes.

Information for upcoming events will continue to be advertised on our Google Group as well as our website. Events are advertised a day or so before registration opens so be sure to make note of the events that you wish to attend. We will continue to use Eventbrite for ticket processing. Participants are limited to one ticket per registration and must be members of our union. Please remember that you will be asked to pay a \$10 fee if you have signed up for an event and have failed to attend or cancel within 48 hours of that event. This helps to defray the cost of the food that we must preorder for our workshops. All PL events are eligible for Dependent Care subsidies. If you require dependent care, please check out the Member Resources section for information on the paperwork required. As well, I am always more than happy to accommodate any dietary needs that you may have, so please let me know in advance so that I can make the necessary arrangements.

Many of you have taken advantage of the Resource (book) subsidy and the PL subsidies available through the union. Every member can apply for a Resource subsidy of up to \$50 to use for items such as books, CDs, and resources. Sadly, we cannot reimburse you for orders done through your Scholastic book order. Please contact me if you have questions as to whether a particular resource qualifies for this subsidy. The \$150 PL subsidy can be used to attend workshops and events. It can also be used towards an AQ or ABQ course after you have been a union member for 12 months. The paperwork and requirements are located on our website (haltonot.ca) under Member Resources and Subsidies. The subsidies are in drop down menus on the right-hand side. For either subsidy you can submit multiple receipts, but they must all be submitted at one time. Please note that these subsidies are available until the funding is depleted or until May 31st each year; so don't delay.

Did you know that when you attend any of our PL sessions, that not only is your name entered into a draw for door prizes that night, but that same ticket is put into the draw for a tablet which will be done at the Spring Annual Meeting. The more often you attend our monthly PL sessions, the greater your chances will be to win that tablet!

Upcoming Events in 2020

January 21st - ELL- How can I assist the student with ELL needs in the classroom? This will be held at the HEOT office.

February 12th - FDK - This will be held at the Halton Resource Connection in Milton. We will have an opportunity to review what resources are available to you to use in FDK, "loose ends", and will have a tour of the library itself.

March 11th - IT - This workshop will be held at Captain R. Wilson in Oakville.

March 26th - FNMI - We will look at resources to support you in the classroom and Tammy Hardwick will lead us through the "blanket" activity. You do not want to miss this!

Other PL Opportunities

Halton Board PL: The board holds 20% of the spots in their PL for occasional teachers. Go to PD Place and browse for events that are open to all elementary teachers.

ETFO PL: Go to the ETFO website and find the Event Portal. You must create an account to see the member events, but the instructions are easy to follow and once you have an account, new and exciting PL is available to you! Keep an eye and ear out for ETFO summer academy workshops. They are always getting great reviews. You might also want to check out ETFO's website that is specifically designed for Occasional Teachers- <http://etfo-ots.ca/>. There are resources, classroom support, tips and ideas to help you succeed every day.

Teri Caldwell-McCann, PL Chair



Collective Bargaining

I'm sure everyone has been keeping up with the news about Central Collective Bargaining and the lack of progress. As I write this article, it is evident that this is not going to go away quickly and that we are in this for the long haul. There have been many bargaining dates for ETFO and the government and OPSBA (Ontario Public School Boards Association) with no progress at all. This has been very frustrating for all involved because it has caused much tension with the teaching population.

It is important that our members get the information they need from the union and not from the press, which often is bias.

In order to keep up-to-date with bargaining news you must register for the Secure Section of our website (haltonot.ca). Bulletins are being placed there on a weekly basis (at this time we have just released Bulletin #14). It is quick and easy. Simply *click* on the **Secure Section** when at the website homepage. Then *click* **Join Us** and fill in the pop-up form. Once filled, simply *click* **submit** and you will receive your Username and Password within a day or two. This is the only place where you will see the most up-to-date and the most accurate information.

Don't listen to rumours. Get the correct information from your union. Sign up for the Secure Section as soon as possible.

Our local team has been collecting data and information in order to begin our local bargaining once the central bargaining has been completed. Prior to meeting with the board our team will call members together to present our Preliminary Submission. Once the central bargaining is complete, look for that information to come your way.

Al Bero, President



Social Events



We have been having some enjoyable social events this year. It was great to welcome back new and returning occasional teachers at our office Meet and Greet in September. We had a new activity negotiating a 22-acre corn maze at Hanes while raising money for diabetes research. In November, a group of us met at Longo's for a very informative session where we had a shopping trip to then create a variety of meals to cook and sample. There was an excellent turnout for our Festive Open House at the office in December where we also contributed to the food bank.

We will be meeting January 28 for our annual film night at Film.ca. We will treat the occasional teachers and feel free to bring guests at their cost. It is a great chance to meet families and friends too. Stay tuned on Gmail for information and to register.

A package has been purchased for Help a Child Smile which is the NHL Alumni Benefit tour featuring NHL legends from Stanley Cup winning teams in Hamilton Feb. 16. I will post this event in January for a limited number of OTs. We can make ticket arrangements for family members as well if there is interest.

We will return for another challenging experience at an Escape Room on



February 26. There are choices for beginners as well as experienced participants. It is a great way to work together to solve clues in order to escape the room.

Our next social on March 31 is a beginner generic portrait drawing. It will be a new opportunity which should be fun.

I have booked Guys and Dolls at Sheridan College April 14. It is an entertaining musical done by very talented fourth year students.

We are having our annual pub night April 29. It is a fun way to catch up and meet colleagues.

There will be a workshop on spring planting May 5 to get us ready for spring.

We are hoping to confirm our annual trip to the Mohawk race tracks in June. It includes a lovely buffet meal and watching the races.

We have a variety of activities on different days in different locations so I hope to see you out there!! Stay tuned on our Gmail for posts about events and registration links!!

***Gay Ahmed,
Social Chair***

First of all, thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter, as we support each other in our role as occasional teachers. I have been a proud ETFO member for almost 30 years now and believe strongly in the public education system and the collaboration and support that ETFO provides but I also know that a union is only as strong as its members. As the first half of this new school year comes to a close, I have to say that it is an honour to represent you and to be a part of an exceptional Executive that works hard on your behalf.

As we head into negotiations, it is even more important that we remember the importance of sticking together and taking care of each other. Remember to continue to tell yourself that you are a teacher and that you are amazing and awesome. We are living and working in a world that continues to wear us down if we don't keep reminding ourselves and each other of how awesome and amazing we are. We are teachers and we need to give ourselves permission to be proud of that.

Along with the rights protected by our collective agreement come the responsibility of staying informed and being involved. Keep up-to-date with what is happening through our webpages (Provincially at etfo.ca and locally at haltonot.ca) and our Facebook page (HEOT). Be sure to take advantage of the many opportunities and resources that the HEOT local provides to improve the lives of Occasional Teachers here in Halton.

Stay informed, attend an event, sign up for a workshop, join a committee, run for the Executive or become a delegate to the ETFO Annual Meeting.

As always, if you have a questions or concerns, please contact the office.

Brad Boehmer, 1st Vice President

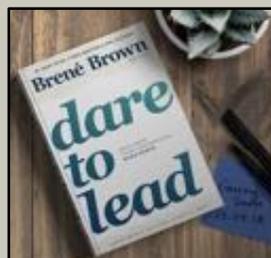
Status

Stay tuned for our annual International Women's Day Contest Quiz and a chance to win a ticket to the annual International Women's Day Dinner Party! The date for the 2020 Dinner Party is Wednesday, March 4th to be held at the Oakville Convention Centre. The quiz will be posted to our Occasional Elementary Teachers Google Group. Make sure you are set up to receive updates from the group as they are posted.

Also, our Status Book Club is reading Brenee Brown's book, Dare to Lead. Join us by signing up on Eventbrite and get your personal copy of the book for

\$20. Attend the Book Club evening on April 21st and receive a \$20 refund and join in the discussion and dinner, of course.

Mary Kebalo-Plata, Status Chair



OTF Coding Connections

We hear so much about STEM, STEAM, and Coding as a required skill in today's world.

Are you looking for a chance to deepen your professional practice in this area? Do you see a need to explore how computational thinking and coding might have a place in your classroom? If you are interested in participating with a group of your colleagues in a teacher professional inquiry about how computational thinking and coding can positively increase student learning and well-being, then our OTF Coding Connections project may be perfect for you.

OTF Coding Connections is part of Code to Learn, a program funded by the Government of Canada, which offers free resources to Canadian students and teachers to help them learn coding, robotics, computational thinking and 21st century skills. Code To Learn focuses on learning to code and "coding to learn" by supporting activities in diverse subject areas and across broad curriculum goals. [For information on how to apply for OTF Coding Connections click here.](#)



Where ETFO members save on car insurance.

An exclusive offer for ETFO members:

- ▶ Save up to 25% on car insurance
- ▶ Convenient payment options
- ▶ Deal with an insurance brokerage who understands your unique needs and is dedicated to the education community.

Get a quote and start saving today!



Strike Action Escalates

ETFO has been bargaining with the Ford government and school board bargaining associations for over five months, and there has been virtually no progress at the bargaining table on substantive issues. Therefore starting **Monday, January 13, 2020** all ETFO members will be enforcing Work-To-Rule-Phase 3 strike protocol. It is as follows:

STRIKE PROTOCOL:

WORK-TO-RULE – PHASE 3

In addition to the Phase 1 Work-to-Rule (WTR) Strike Protocol begun on November 26, 2019, and the Phase 2 WTR Strike Protocol begun on December 10, 2019,

Effective Monday, January 13, 2020, all ETFO members will:

- NOT plan or participate in any assemblies, except to provide supervision to students;
- NOT participate in extracurricular activities except for those that are scheduled within the regular school day;
- NOT participate in field trips;
- NOT arrive at work any earlier than 30 minutes before the start of the instructional day for students (or for

hourly paid ETFO members, not arrive any more than 30 minutes before the start of the scheduled work day); and •NOT remain at the worksite later than 15 minutes after the end of the instructional day for students (or for hourly paid ETFO members, not remain later than 15 minutes after the end of the scheduled work day).

STRIKE PROTOCOL: PHASE 4

In addition to the Phase 1 Work-to-Rule (WTR) Strike Protocol begun on November 26, 2019, the Phase 2 WTR Strike Protocol begun on December 10, 2019, and the Phase 3 WTR Strike Protocol begun on January 13, 2020,

Effective Monday, January 20, 2020, all ETFO members* will:

- NOT participate in any District School Board or Ministry professional learning.

If no agreement is reached at the Teacher/Occasional Teacher and Education Worker Central Tables by January 17, 2020, effective **January 20, 2020, ETFO locals will commence a full-withdrawal of services strike on a rotating basis.** [For Phase 3 & 4 WTR Strike Protocols - FAQs click here.](#)

WHAM
WOMEN OF HALTON ACTION MOVEMENT
Hosts the 17th annual...

Title & Founding Sponsor
Halton Elementary Teachers

The Dinner Party
International Women's Day 2020
Wednesday March 4
Oakville Conference Centre