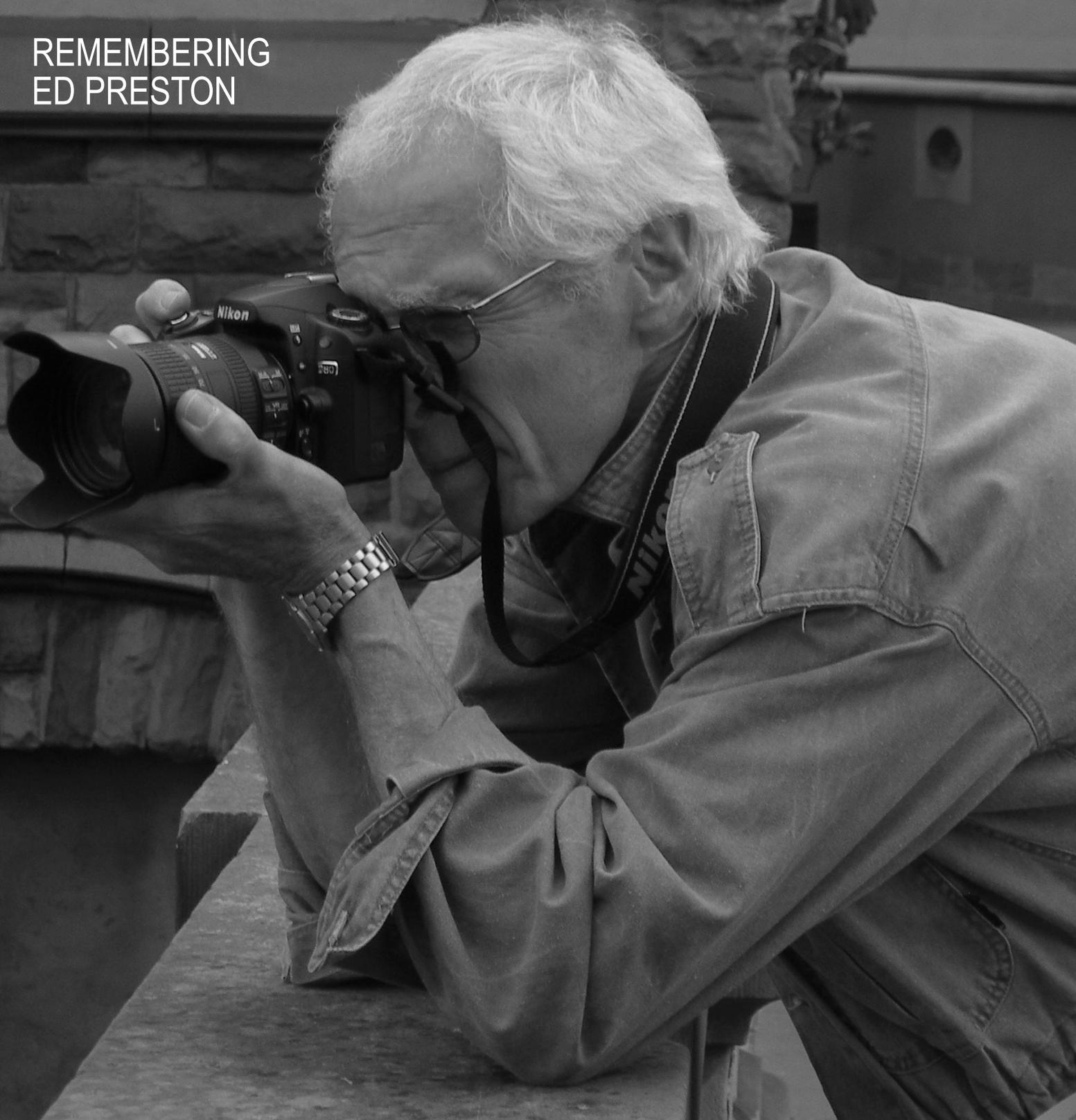


AFTER SCHOOL

Volume 24, Issue 1B—June 2022 • www.armch12osstf.ca

REMEMBERING
ED PRESTON



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AFTER SCHOOL

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 1B, JUNE 2022

After School is the official publication of Active Retired Members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, Chapter 12 Toronto (ARM Chapter 12).

Opinions expressed in *After School* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of ARM Chapter 12 or of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO).

Submissions are always welcome but will not be returned. All submissions are subject to editing for length and style while respecting the author's intentions.

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Cover photo: Supplied by the Preston family

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the second half of our May issue, in June. We had originally planned a large, print edition full of election related articles as well as tributes to members who had recently passed away. Unfortunately, our printers went out of business without telling us. So, after a mad scramble to find a printing company that would be able to meet our pre-election deadline for distribution at a reasonable cost, we decided to send out a truncated, "Special Election Issue" and get the tribute issue out later. So, here it is.

This issue of *After School* is dedicated to our late Associate Editor Ed Preston and former OSSTF Staffing and Pension expert, Sally Pengelley. You'll find several tributes to Ed on pages 8–9 including photographs of Ed with his favourite car, a cherry red Miata, as well as a striking portrait of him as a photographer. Tributes to, and photographs of Sally can be found on pages 16–17. Members may find one particular photo of Sally smoking a pipe charming, but it was truly reflective of her feisty spirit.

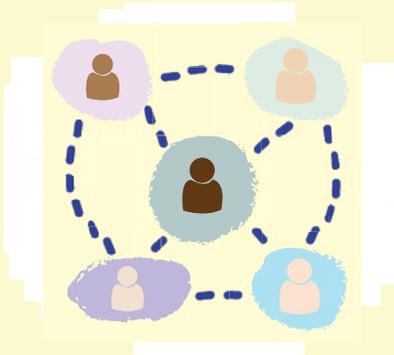
Ed Preston's final essay, an exploration of the implications of the Freedom Convoy, "Cracks In Our Confederation" can be found on pages 14–15.

Dazzling photographs of floral displays by Guatemalan villagers are featured in Michelle Barraclough's travelogue of her recent trip on pages 18–19.

These items and much, much more are in this latest issue. Thank you for taking the time to read *After School*.

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Dear ARM C.12 Members,

Welcome to the second consecutive hard copy and all-member issue of After School, the first having been our pre-election issue in May. Of course, despite our best efforts (and those of OSSTF/FEESO, the broader labour movement and many progressive groups and voters,) the results on June 2nd were extremely disappointing with the re-election of another Doug Ford regime...with an even larger majority for the next four years!!

If it is any consolation, some dozen of our endorsed Liberal and NDP candidates in Toronto were successful on election night. Of course, the results in the 905 and other parts of the GTHA were not. It is important to remember that most Ontario governments are also given a second mandate by the voters, so we must ensure that this IS the PCs last mandate by 2026.

You will see throughout this follow-up newsletter issue, the content has been carefully collected and presented through the creative skills and efforts of Ed Preston and Ronda Allan, who have worked so well together over the past several years to create an outstanding publication. Of course, with Ed's passing in April, that team has now been broken up, but the product you are currently reading is still a legacy of that partnership. Fortunately, our other Vice-President, Christos Aslanidis, already the creativity behind our local website has graciously offered to act as our interim co-editor for After School's next issue. We have dedicated tributes to both Ed and another well-known deceased colleague and Chapter 12 member, Sally Pengelley. As a former D.15 activist, then Superannuation Commissioner and Member of the Provincial Executive, Sally's passing in early February left a legacy and sense of great loss for many. Thus, we approached her friend, fellow Federation leader and ARM member, Wayne Cushman, to organize a tribute to her



in this issue. Thank you, Wayne and to those who added to this tribute.

Finally, I want to end on a positive note by thanking the outgoing Executive members, especially those who decided not to seek re-election at our recent AGM on June 8. They are Paul Rook, Julia Harney, Eunice O'Mahoney, Karma Naike and David Orenstein. Julia, Paul and Karma have been long-standing members and activists in our Chapter for many years, while Eunice and David had shorter periods of service on your behalf. The remainder of the Executive were acclaimed and I look forward to working with them again in 2022–23. It is worth mentioning that our current PAC Officer, Charlie Hawkes, agreed to fill the vacancy left by Ed as the other Vice-President. We now have a complete leadership team for the next term which I look forward to working with as your President. The AGM itself had several invited guests and a well-known healthcare advocate and Director of the Ontario Health Coalition, Natalie Mehra, who gave expert insights into the likely future cuts to Ontario's public healthcare/Long-Term Care systems under another Doug Ford-led government over the next four years. For a recorded segment of Natalie's presentation, please view our website for a link to our new YouTube channel.

Enjoy this issue and have a wonderful summer,

Manfred

EDITORIAL SPRING, 2022—CHANGE CAN BE HARD

—CHRISTOS ASLANIDIS,
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Change is inevitable. It comes whether we want it or not. Sometimes quickly, sometimes barely noticed. It can be disruptive, destructive, restorative and even welcome.

Because of the pandemic, the lives of practically everyone in the world have been, at the very least, disrupted over the past two years, if not forever altered. Europe is currently experiencing a seismic change because of the war in Ukraine, with the shocks, tectonic in nature, extending well beyond the continent. For people in the Middle East, Africa and many other parts of the world, turmoil is part of their daily existence.

We were hoping for a change in government in the most recent provincial election. Unfortunately, that particular change did not come despite the efforts of ARM members in Chapter 12 in coordination with other chapters, OSSTF Toronto along with other education and public sector unions.

But, there will be changes in Ontario, and not likely to the benefit of the less fortunate, the less enfranchised, the weak, the ill, the aged and the vulnerable of our society or for the environment. The Ford government and the PCs will be emboldened by what they might be tempted to call a “mandate,” having not only won a second majority, but an increase in the number of seats as well. The reality that only about 17 per cent of the eligible voters in Ontario supported their leadership and their

policies will not likely moderate the PCs efforts to shape Ontario in their image. Look for more and bigger fights with public sector unions, in particular those representing teachers and nurses, more development in environmentally sensitive lands, and more erosion of the public services that many of us rely on.

Change has also come to our own small circle of ARM Chapter 12. This

spring we lost our colleague and friend, Ed Preston. *After School* has lost a great Associate Editor. This issue is in part dedicated to Ed, with several tributes and photographs. Ed was a meticulous and conscientious editor, and a talented photographer who brought that artistic aesthetic to the design, look and quality of the magazine.

It is with a profound sense of respect and gratitude for the tremendous ser-

vice that Ed Preston gave ARM Chapter 12, piloting this publication through two years of the pandemic, fostering its growth and development, that we hope to continue his work.

It is said that we should embrace change, regardless of whether or not it is difficult and unasked-for. The fact is, we should always be prepared for it, because, as Hamlet said, “The readiness is all.”

***After School* is published by the Active Retired Members of OSSTF/FEESO in Toronto, and is privately funded by members' dues. *After School* encourages and welcomes feedback from readers.**

Please send your letters to the editor to: afterschool.armch12@gmail.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

May 19, 2022

I just received my copy of *After School—Special Election Issue*. I am absolutely disgusted with the publication. I am part of OSSTF because I have to be and cannot believe that a publication from a publicly funded system is allowed to print and circulate such biased and insulting material.

I am an adult with access to all media and can assess for myself who I believe would be the best leader for the province of Ontario.

This material is insulting, immature, simplistic and offensive. We teach our children not to bully or insult. How on earth do you justify this material?

Marilyn Warrick

May 2022

Dear Editorial Staff,

It is evident that our democracy and electoral system are dysfunctional. The

fact that the Tories received the majority of seats with only 17% of eligible voters speaks for itself.

Since retirement, I have engaged with the Green Party for a variety of reasons: the climate policy, the grassroots structure, and their values.

During this campaign, I organized two zoom meetings with OSSTF D12 members (Eco-Committee) involving the policies of Dr. Dianne Saxe, our last Environmental Commissioner. Dr. Saxe spoke directly to members and elucidated her research on the climate file.

I also approached ARM regarding a presentation by Dr. Saxe. That was respectfully declined.

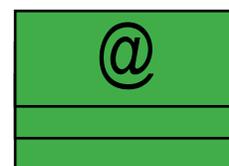
What baffles me is the reflexive endorsement of our union(s) of NDP candidates (or Liberals) based on historical allegiances. While the NDP and Liberal candidates may have aligned with broad educational goals, the lack of imagination or support regarding credible, principled Green candidates

befuddles me.

Mike Shreiner, according to many, was the most compelling speaker at the one debate. He won his seat and will represent Guelph with integrity and civility. It is sad that the constituency of University—Rosedale will not be represented by the most qualified candidate.

Without union support and endorsements, Jessica Bell, who I know, would not have been re-elected. She did not vote against the scrapping of the vehicle licence fee. Her voice at Queens Park has been silent or inaudible over her first term. While she may be a nice person, niceness does not change policy or advance resistance of destructive policies.

With respect,
Cam Kilgour



FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE AGM OF ARM CHAPTER 12 JULY 1, 2021 TO MAY 2022

—MICHELLE BARRACLOUGH

As Treasurer of ARM Chapter 12 I have outlined what has occurred over the previous year.

Our major funding comes to us from the Provincial OSSTF/FEESO, based on \$22.50 per member rebate. The total amount rebated \$12,847 in 2020/2021 and \$12,204 in 2021/2022. This will be offset by a decrease in membership numbers. If any of you have friends who belong to another teacher's group, please encourage them to consider our program. We have the ARM booklets that would explain the advantages of our program. (Comparison chart On the ARM Council website: <https://bit.ly/3xLYsAV>)

That being said, I would like to thank our sponsors, OTIP and Educators Financial for their generous support. Generally, OTIP makes their contribution in June so it is not yet in our statement. Last year OTIP made a donation of \$7500. Educator's Financial did give us a generous donation of \$1000.

However, because of the construction at Mobile we are no longer able to access their facilities, at this time. Depending on when we go back to in person meetings and luncheons, this will drive up our costs, as other facilities will need to be rented, when we get back to meeting in person.

The combination of an online magazines and one print edition and the Zoom events have allowed us to have a surplus in our bank account. We have recently updated our website, and hired an editor, Ronda Allan, to facilitate communication with the membership. Additionally, we now have a YouTube account, so you will be able to access presentations at your leisure. These items have costs associated with

them and are reflected in the report. We hope that you have taken advantage of the website, the online version of the magazine and our brand new YouTube account. Our Webmaster is Christos Aslanidis, and I would like to thank Christos for totally revamping the website and setting up the YouTube channel. I would also like to mention, that both Chris and Ronda have taken on a much larger responsibility with the sad passing of our friend, Ed Preston.

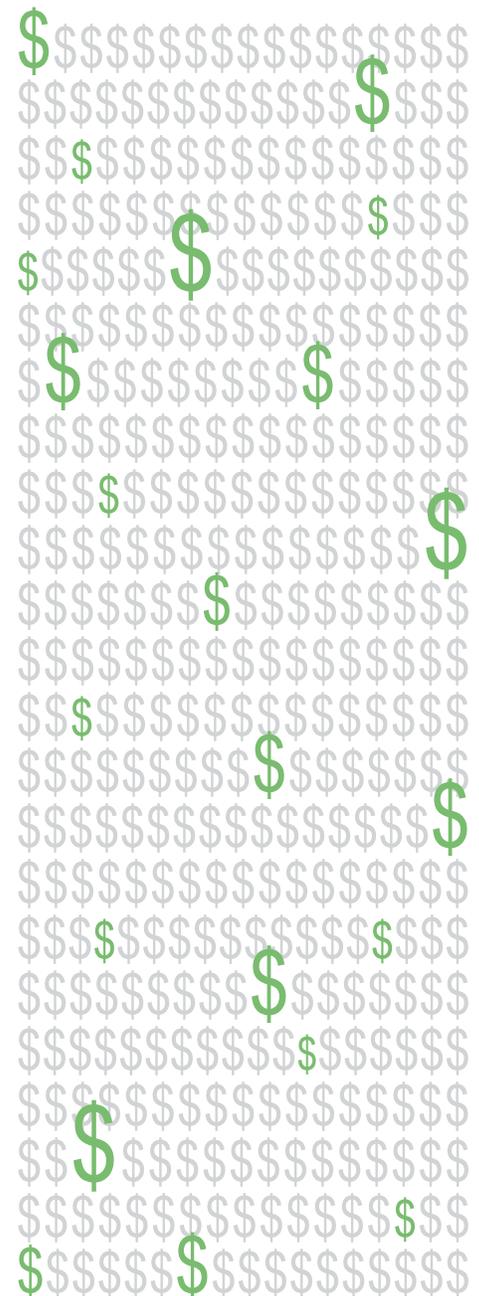
We are hoping that perhaps we will be getting back to in person events in 2022/2023, so stay tuned to find out what is upcoming, hopefully, in the near future. All updates will be on the website and in the seasonal magazine.

The executive is aware that we have supported a number of charities over the years and in that vein the following charities were supported: \$1500 Red door shelter, Massey Centre, and Rosalie Hall. A donation was also made to the Ontario Health Coalition of \$750 and to UNHCVR of \$150. In the past two and a half years the challenges facing most charities increased with the COVID-19 Pandemic and now with the Ukrainian invasion. On behalf of the membership we are happy to support community shelters and those advocating for the rights of seniors, particularly in the health care field.

As always, the Chapter is at the disposal of Jim Spray (Provincial OSSTF/FEESO Associate General Secretary and Chief Financial Officer) for oversight in financial matters.

Yours sincerely
Michelle Barraclough
Treasurer

Note: This statement is until May 21, 2022. There will be additional charges applicable until the end of our year June 2022, which will be addressed in the Final Financial Summary in the digital version of After School in the fall.



Income Statement ARM Chapter 12
July 1, 2021–May 21, 2022

Income Statement	ARM Chapter 12		July 2021 - June 2022	
Balance from 2020			\$15,394.56	
	Balance	Expenses	Revenue	
OSSTF Rebate Fees			\$12,204.16	
Educators financial Contributions				Pending \$1000
OTIP contribution				Pending \$7500
Executive Lunches		\$1,540.11		
Luncheon Meeting Expenses				
Luncheon Meeting Revenue				
Newsletter Expenses		\$5,548.20		
Newsletter Editor		\$1,700.00		Pending \$1000
Website expenses		\$226.00		
Golf and Curling Activities Expenses				
Golf and Curling Activities Revenue				
Theatre and Excursion Expenses				
Theatre and Excursion Revenues				
Gifts, Cards, Membership & Charities		\$7,476.00		
Office & Miscellaneous expenses		\$92.50		
Election expenses		\$336.73		
Totals	\$0.00	\$16,919.54	\$27,598.72	
Net Income over the period		\$10,679.18		

Several donations were made to the following charities:
 \$1500 each to: Red Door Shelter, Massey centre, Rosalie, Hall
 \$750 to Ontario Health Coalition
 \$150 to UNHCR

Pending: Room rental LCCC \$320
 Newsletter editor: \$1000

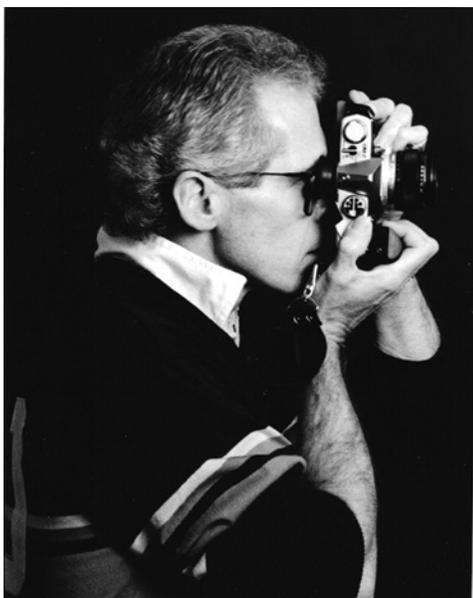
REMEMBERING ED PRESTON

Ed and I worked together as editors of *After School* for the last couple of years. Although this may not seem very long, within that time we took the ARM Executive Editorial Board's content and produced eight issues for the ARM membership. Ed and the executive worked hard to provide members with informative and enjoyable content—and Ed's goal was always just that. Ed made me feel very welcome and part of the team from the get go. He was very appreciative and supportive of the work I did. I can't say that it would have been as easy of a task for me, without acknowledging how amazing Ed was in providing me with well organized files and instruction. He was also very quick to respond if I had any queries. I will miss working with him, as I know will many. Following, are some others sentiments and memories about Ed.

By Ronda Allan

One of the pleasures of ARM membership is reconnecting with colleagues from the past. So it was when I met Ed as, after many years, we had lost track of one another as we shifted schools and subject areas. As a new executive member, he made his mark quickly with new ideas for our group, from speakers, to presentations, and finally, as assistant editor of our newsletter. The talents he had honed in photography, writing and self-publishing a book from his travels to war sites and memorials in Europe found full expression in this newsletter. So we mourn for Ed's passing, and our condolences to Donna, and Cole.

By Charles Hawkes



I came to know and appreciate Ed Preston, when I joined the staff at Mowat Collegiate in Scarborough, where he was head of a very successful Geography Department. I remember that Ed was one of the teachers I enjoyed having discussions with at lunch. In meetings, Ed's recommendations were always well thought out. When he supported a proposal, he did so in a very logical but easy to understand fashion, which helped him to win support. Ed was a popular teacher, which helped to attract students to his department. As OSSTF Branch President at Mowat and then as a member of the DISTRICT 16 (Scarborough) OSSTF Executive I appreciated his support for the Federation's actions and positions on issues. That is why I was happy when he joined the ARM Chapter 12 Executive. I knew we were gaining a talented member who would contribute in a meaningful way, which of course he did, especially as Editor of our *After School* newsletter.

By Paul Rook



Photos provided by the Preston family

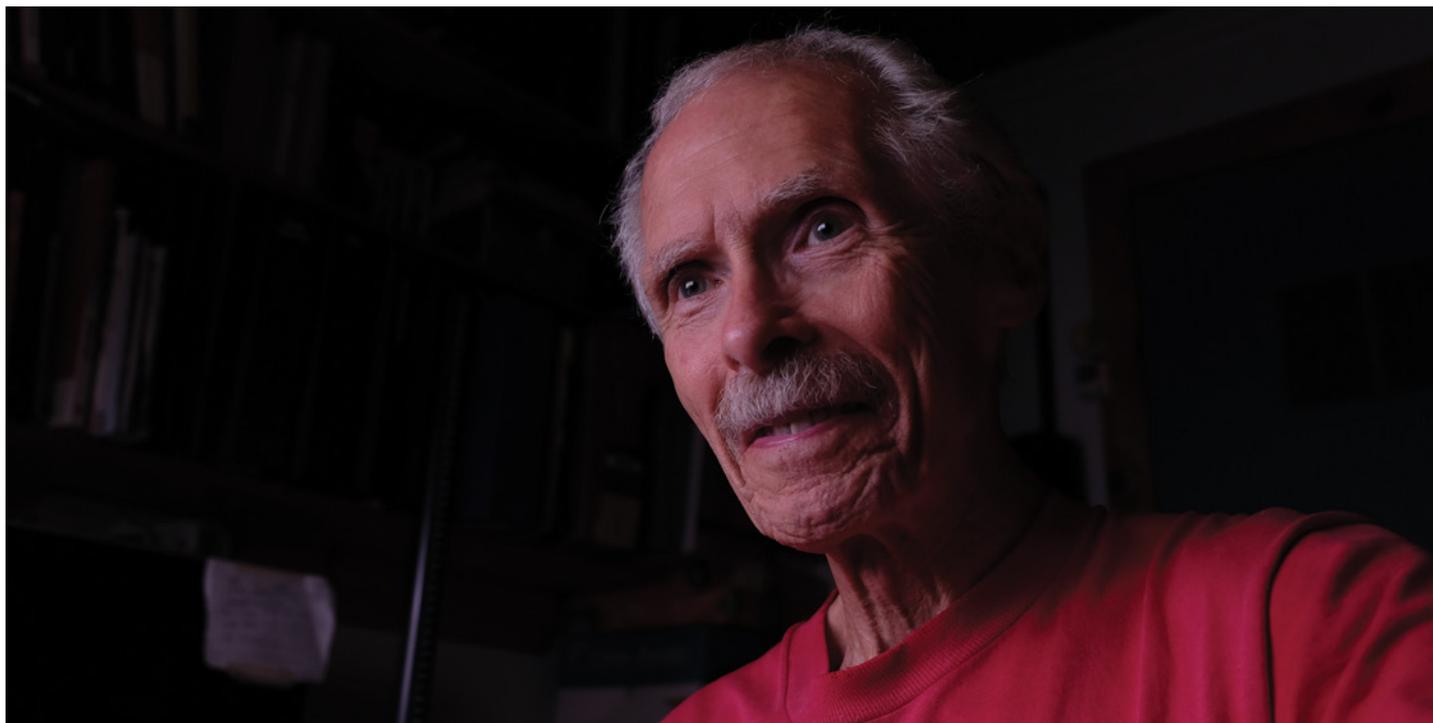
My memories of Ed are limited to the last 5 years or so, once he joined our ARM Chapter as a member, then joined the Executive and became an integral activist. Of course, he is best regarded as our primary photographer to record meetings and events since Neil Walker was no longer able to do this important task. These skills were put to the test when he then succeeded Neil as Associate Editor of our newsletter *After School*, working closely with the Editor Ronda Allan and the Editori-

al Team to produce award-winning digital and hard copy issues over the past two years. This current issue is really a true legacy of Ed's skills and commitment, for which we are eternally grateful.

There was also another side to Ed, which was his passion for the family, his sports car-related circle of friends and his strong interest in current affairs and political causes. This was shown by his advocacy to promote the political movement called The Charter City which was

pushing for greater autonomy for our City and away from the existing Provincial constitutional authority. As a result, we hosted former Toronto mayor and activist John Sewell, for a lively and interesting online presentation in late 2020. I will always thank him for his support of me as a Vice-President, providing good counsel and sometimes a contrary view of an important decision to be made. RIP my friend.

By Manfred Netzel



PENSION REPORT—MAY 2022

—PAUL HEADDON, ARM CH12 PENSION AND BENEFITS OFFICER

Last year was a successful year financially for our pension plan. Our assets increased to 241 billion dollars CDN. We had a return of 11.3 per cent on our investments and the plan is fully funded (107 per cent). The average annual net return since inception of the plan is 9.7 per cent.

Traver Cole of the Globe and Mail interviewed Jo Taylor the CEO of our Pension Plan in an article in the Globe and Mail Report on Business magazine. The following information was provided during the interview:

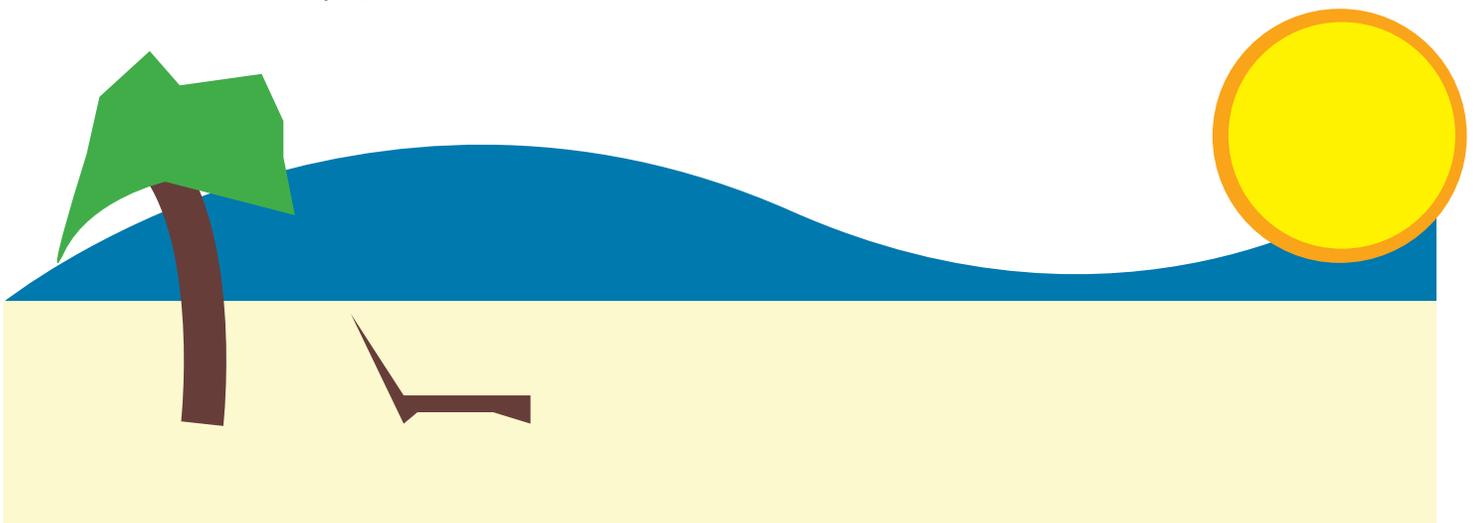
- Last Year contributions from the Ontario Government and members of our plan totaled \$3.2 billion, and retiree benefits were \$6.7 billion. The gap is expected to increase. (As an aside the returns on our investments more than cover the shortfall.)
- Taylor feels that the inflation threat can be addressed with inflation protected revenues by rents from real assets in infrastructure and real estate.
- 14 per cent of the Plan is invested in commodities as an inflation hedge.
- Investing in private companies makes the plan less vulnerable to massive fluctuations in value.
- Private assets give you predictable returns.
- Jo Taylor wants to increase the value of our Plan by \$300 Billion dollars.

- International investments are now made in only nine different countries: Canada, U.S.A., Brazil, China, U.K., France, Germany, India, and Australia.
- Only 40 per cent of its assets are invested in equities.
- Oil and gas exploration amounts to 3 per cent of our portfolio.
- When you consider fixed income securities, 49 per cent of our plan's investments are Canadian.
- Our plan has reduced its carbon intensity by about 30 per cent since 2019.

Some additional information about the OTPP:

- The average pensioner is 73.
- The active members average age is 43.
- We have approximately 183,000 active members and 143,000 retired members.

Inflation in Canada has escalated this year. It is good to remember that there is an 8 per cent cola cap on our pension plan. If the inflation rate is 12 per cent or higher over one year, the extra 4 per cent cola would be carried over to future years.



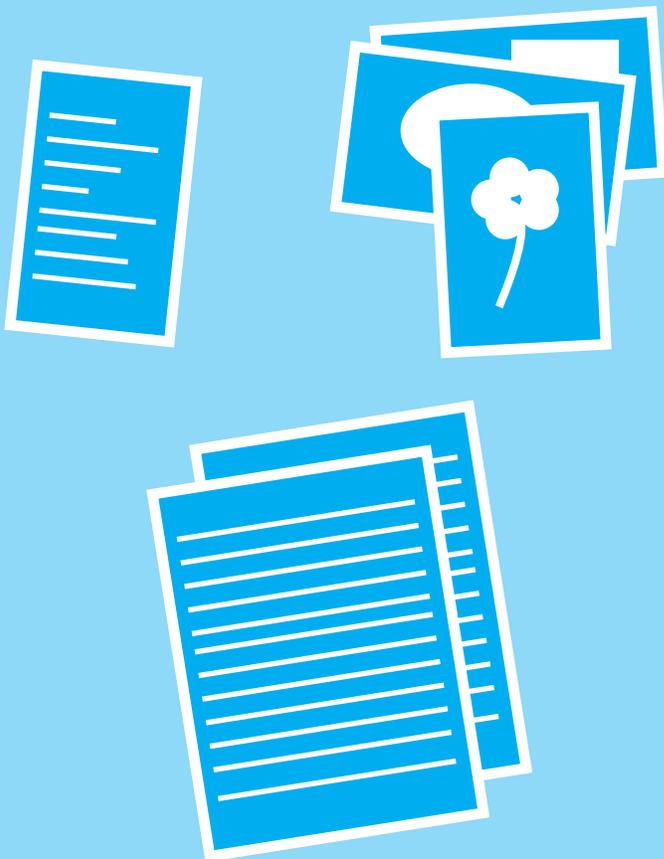
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OLD 1—BY JIM MILE

Ok, some say I'm very old
Damn annoying to be told
And I deny that it's true
Really am as good as new
My sometimes iron muscles plenty
Vain Heracles should fear & envy
Fillings, bridges only three
With remaining teeth many
A killer smile, hey Aphrodite!

Gym and sports truly a waste
See them on tv more my taste
Well, bones stiff in the cold
Buy multi vitamins in large size
More years make one wise
Like watching tv with closed eyes
Not asleep just thinking
Actually, planning and scheming.

Buy tonic for wheezing or sneezing
Pill or two for heart and head
Scoop of psyllium before bed
Washed down with scotch or gin
Depending on the mood I'm in.
Just ask me for something profound
Plato, Kant or Schopenhauer
And expect talk for a half an hour?
No, you're in for a big surprise
Listen, be enlightened without a sound.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE—CHRISTOS ASLANIDIS, VICE PRESIDENT

ARM Chapter 12 now has a YouTube Channel. We started it because we wanted to share recorded items of interest with members.

During the pandemic meetings shifted to online events using Zoom. One of the nice features of the meeting program was that it allowed for the recording of the event. ARM Ch. 12 was able to record several presentations, including those on benefits and financial management. However, storage space was limited on Zoom without additional expense. We constantly had to delete recording before we could store another one. It was a short step to realize that the recordings could be posted on YouTube without the same constraints.

So, now, we have a YouTube channel.

There are two searchable, or public videos on our channel, at the moment, and two private ones. Of particular interest is the presentation Natalie Mehra, the Executive Director of the Ontario Health Coalition, gave to this year's Annual General Meeting. This is available publicly. The private videos were of meetings in which matters confidential to the members of ARM Chapter 12 were discussed. These videos are not visible and were only accessible when members were provided with direct links. The public cannot search for these videos.

The address to our YouTube channel

is ARM Chapter 12 OSSTF Toronto. Members can also link directly to it by clicking the YouTube icon on the lower right of the screen when visiting the website: armch12osstf.ca.

If you missed a meeting, a presentation or an event, you might be able to view a recording of it on YouTube.

Members are encouraged to visit the channel and subscribe to it. They will receive automatic notices when new videos are posted.

As well, check the website regularly for the latest information on what's happening including updates from OTIP and Educators Financial Group. As we like to say, "There's always something new at ARM Chapter 12."

The screenshot shows the YouTube channel interface for ARM Chapter 12 OSSTF Toronto. At the top left is the YouTube logo with a 'CA' tag. A search bar is located at the top right. Below the header is a blue banner image. The channel name 'ARM Chapter 12 OSSTF Toronto' is displayed with a profile picture of a yellow oil lamp and the text '1 subscriber'. Navigation tabs for HOME, VIDEOS, PLAYLISTS, CHANNELS, and ABOUT are visible. Under the 'Uploads' section, there is a 'PLAY ALL' button. Two video thumbnails are shown: one for 'Natalie Mehra ARM AGM 2022' with a duration of 26:06 and 5 views from 12 hours ago; and another for 'Rebellion's Daughter by Judi Coburn, ARM Ch 12 Speake...' with a duration of 1:09:01 and 28 views from 1 month ago.

JUDI COBURN: A SHORT BIOGRAPHY



Judi Coburn, Author

I grew up and went to University in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan before moving to Toronto in 1973.

I have been a History and English teacher in Toronto high schools until 2005 but have always been involved in writing projects. Beginning in 1974 I worked for a Canadian publisher, Women's Press and was one of the coordinators and authors for *Women at Work*, Ontario, 1850–1930, which won the 1974 City of Toronto Book Award.

My article in *Women at Work*, "I See and am Silent, a History of Nursing in Ontario" was reprinted in *Health and Canadian Society*, Fitzhenry and Whiteside, Toronto, 1981.

I worked on various educational projects for the Women's Press and for the York Board of Education:

- *Harvest Yet to Reap: Teacher's Guide*, co-author, Women's Press, 1980.
- Toronto's Children, Mudpie Magazine 1984 Historical Calendar, producer
- *City of York, a Local History*, coordinator and co-author, York Board of Education, 1988.
- *Teachers' Guide: City of York, a Local History*, co-author, York Board of Education, 1989.
- *Memories in a Box*, a collection of taped interviews with seniors, York Board of Ed., 1995

In 1998 I published my first historical fiction, a story set during the early 1900 wave of immigration to the area in West Toronto in which I was teaching. *The Shacklands*, was published by Second Story Press, Toronto, December 1999, and was nominated for The Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction

Since retiring I have been researching and imagining the story of Eunice Whiting, a rebel during the Upper Canada rebellion of 1837. I received a fellowship, the Geraldine Grace and Maurice Alvin McWatters Visiting Fellowship, to do research at the archives at Queen's University in 2013.

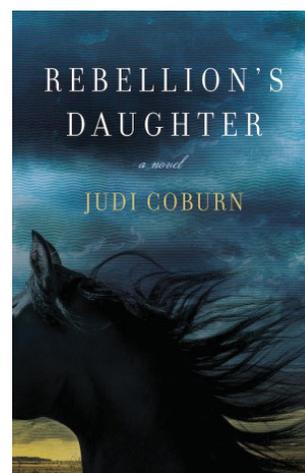
GUEST SPEAKER JUDI COBURN

—ALLAN HUX

Judi Coburn was the guest speaker at the ARM Members meeting on February 23, 2022. Judi is a retired English and History teacher who published an amazing historical novel, *Rebellion's Daughter*, in October 2021. Judi taught in the City of York and Toronto District School Boards. Judi shared with us her 18 year journey researching and writing the story of Eunice Whiting, the protagonist, which she did while she was teaching. She even shared some drafts of her work with her Creative Writing classes in the last three years that she was teaching.

The curator of the Kingston Penitentiary Museum informed Judi of the records of Eunice Whiting who served a three-year sentence for horse theft from 1839–8142, Ms Whiting was interviewed by Charles Dickens in the Kingston Penitentiary for Women in 1842 which he mentioned in his book, *American Notes*. Who was Eunice Whiting? Judi discovered in the provincial archives that Eunice was married at the age of 15 in 1836 to Jacob Schainholtz and census data placed the family near Chippawa in the Niagara District. Judi was able to trace Eunice's paths helping to carry messages to reformers and rebel sympathizers like Ben Wait who rowed the messages to Mackenzie on Navy Island. Government court records reported her trial and conviction for horse theft. Prisoners were taken in chains by boat from Niagara to Toronto to Kingston and conditions in the penitentiary were harsh. In these challenging conditions, Judi re-creates the amazing character of a young woman and her presentation was outstanding. See the presentation on the ARM 12 website at: Welcome To ARM Chapter 12 Toronto—Active Retired Members of the OSSTF (armch12osstf.ca) under THE LATEST—*Rebellion's Daughter* Judi Coburn.

You may purchase the book in Toronto at Chapters/Indigo, Book City on St. Clair Ave. and Type Books or from the publisher at: fernwoodpublishing.ca/book/rebellion8217s-daughter.



CRACKS IN OUR CONFEDERATION—ED PRESTON, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Reflections on the Freedom

Convoy: 01 Feb. 2022

The truckers had paralyzed the Hill in Ottawa for a week, then moved the protest to Toronto and Quebec City, and I'd just finished reading *The Next Civil War: Dispatches from the American Future* by Stephen Marche (a Canadian). Marche very clearly lays out the forces that are pulling America apart, politically, economically, socially and geographically. *E Pluribus Unum—out of many, one*—is disintegrating into “disunification” at an alarming rate. If present trends continue in the U.S., unabated, he forecasts the break up of the country into a least four geo-political nations.

Observing the truckers' protest against mandated vaccination and vaccination passports—and the support that they were receiving from anti-maskers, anti-vaxxers, fringe groups, and members of the Federal Conservative party, the banner of Freedom is loud and clear. Freedom not to be vaccinated, not to have restrictions placed on them crossing the International border. They fail to accept that they do have the freedom not to be vaccinated, and the freedom to surrender their livelihood in defence of their position. And they choose to be blind to the reality that in times of crisis—as is the COVID-19 pandemic—that some of our normal civil liberties must be temporarily suspended, or at the very least, compromised, for the protection of the broader social weal. This is what it means to be a member of society, a citizen of a nation. If we fail to act responsibly to protect others, then the function of government to intervene must emerge to mandate what its' citizens fail to do.

Now, while the truckers - a very small proportion of the truckers across Canada—their miscellaneous supporters, and judging from the presence of large tractors on the streets, from the agricultural community, are advocating their right

to protest and the freedom to refuse to accept what the majority of Canadians have voluntarily accepted by being vaccinated. The consensus from the majority has been to accept the best advice from the scientific/medical community, and all levels of government.

The significance of the current protests must be seen as reflecting existing, and growing cracks in Canada's Confederation. Threats of Western and Quebec separation, increasing hyper-partisanship, lies promulgated by politicians and political parties, obscene and growing inequities of income, racial, cultural, and religious tensions, the crisis of unaffordable housing—regional tensions that are appearing as the nation faces the challenges of global warming, are only a few of the strains on the unity of Canada.

It's becoming increasingly clear that the truckers' protest is symptomatic of a larger, and growing, unrest in this country. Are we beginning to see, as is the case south of the border, challenges to the legitimacy of government, to the vision of Canada as a single unified country, that the past is no longer a roadmap for the future? It must be asked that, as we address the past colonization of our indigenous peoples, and the enduring inequities that this brought, is the country ready to tackle the larger issues that threaten its unity? Internet and the evolution of social media have facilitated the formation of an overwhelming number of disparate groups advocating self-interest nationally and internationally, many of whom challenging the old established order. Tribalism is slowly gnawing away at the unity we cherish in “our home and native land.”

According to Stephen Marche, America is well on its way to the dissolution of the entity that the world has known and admired. There is very little that happens in the U.S. that doesn't make it's way north into Canada. In this re-

spect, “lagging behind” the U.S. can work to our advantage, as long as we recognize and confront the growing tensions in this country as we move into the future. While cliché, it does seem appropriate here to repeat, “We can't move into the future while looking in the rear view mirror”.

What does freedom mean ?

If one refers to **Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms**, freedom seems to be clearly defined.

1. “The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.”
2. Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:
 - (a) freedom of conscience and religion
 - (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;
 - (c) freedom of peaceful assembly;
 - (d) freedom of association.

Abuses or abrogations of these freedoms can be addressed through the Rights annunciated in The Charter. The expression of these freedoms cannot be used to malign or hurt others, incite hatred or racism, deny historical fact, incite violence, or incite the overthrow of government. The latter is considered an act of sedition in Canada, punishable by up to 14 years imprisonment.

The Charter is the foundation for a civilized and enlightened life in Canada, accepted in every legislative and judicial body in the country. The Rights and Freedoms are spelled out to protect us from each other and from abuses from institutions upon which we rely to govern and protect us. Unfortunately, The Charter

is too often interpreted to provide unfettered rights and freedoms to defend narrow self-interests, without regard for the best interest of the country, for society as a whole. For every country in the world, the laws, the constitution, the explicit rights and freedoms lay down the conditions for living in each country. These are the terms of residence. And citizens rely on their governments to implement them in a fair and just manner for the benefit of all. All too often our Charter is unfortunately mistakenly confused with the rights and freedoms guaranteed in the American Constitution. Perhaps, it is better to try to define “freedom” by what it is not, in order to shed light on what many claim as their personal freedoms. “Freedom” is not some ill-defined concept permitting unrestrained behaviour, thought, or expression. “Freedom” is restricted by the laws, rules, norms, mores, and beliefs inherent in every society. It is not something that can be cherry-picked to suit or justify an individual’s, or group’s, actions. Nor can unbridled freedom be mandated, as many recent protesters, with signs demanding “MANDATE FREEDOM”, seem to think.

Consider the restrictions that bind us in all walks of life, of how our “freedoms” are not as generous as we would like to perceive. To illustrate, consider a few areas: driving a vehicle, the consumption and sale of illicit drugs, bearing arms, physical and sexual abuse and harassment, building a home, production and sale of unsafe products, promotion of hate and discrimination, environmental degradation, and so on. Restrictions exist to protect us all from ourselves and from others.

It needs to be stated that the vaccine protest by a minority of truckers, and the supporting right-wing fringe groups, is only possible because the majority on both sides of the international border have voluntarily been vaccinated. If none of us had done so, many of the current trucker protesters would either be seriously ill or dead.

Their health, livelihood, security rests on the backs of the rest of us. A call to mandate freedom in times of a national crisis/emergency is a non-starter for the well-being of the country as a whole.

As the protest continues, it’s becoming increasingly clear that the protest by the anti-mask, anti-vaxx, passport truckers is being manoeuvred and financed by disparate Canadian and U.S. groups unrelated to trucking. It’s recently been revealed that much of the planning and logistics of the Ottawa protest is being coordinated by Canadians with past RCMP and military experience. The protest is being used to/ advance agendas that are very dangerous to Canada’s peace and stability.

This is a call for firm and unwavering action by the Federal and Provincial governments. Not to do so, will be a signal of weakness to the those wishing to dismantle what is important to the majority of Canadians. Once this protest is over, there will be more protests, but no longer aimed at the restrictions imposed consequent to the pandemic. The struggle against COVID-19, both the medical virus and the social virus, will be viewed historically as child’s play when weighed against the future struggle emanating from climate change and all of its consequences, as many cherished freedoms will indeed be called in, nationally and internationally. Current challenges against our governments will be seen as whispers in comparison to the howls waiting in the wings.

“Anyone who advocates for exponential growth for a finite planet is either a madman or an economist.”

Kenneth Boulding

We have crossed the line of balance with the destruction of many of the life support mechanisms for this planet. Our oceans have been acidified and are warming at an alarming rate, water captured in polar ice is melting affecting sea levels and the paths of ocean

currents, 50 per cent of all species have been driven into extinction, global warming has increased the incidence of extreme weather events, coral reefs are dying, the rainforest—the lungs of the world—have been drastically reduced, an overload of CO₂ and methane in our atmosphere, the best of global non-renewable resources have been consumed, and more. Too many people with ever increasing demands for food and material goods have pushed Earth beyond sustainable limits. And it’s predicted to get worse before getting better.

To think that the 21st century, as well as the next, will continue to open as previous centuries have, is folly. To meet the challenges outlined above, on a global scale, if we are to continue to live on this planet in a sustainable manner with a population level in balance with the resources available, many of the “freedoms” that we now hold sacred will be compromised, reduced, and will perhaps disappear. Freedom extinction alongside species extinction. It’s not illusion to think of whispers becoming howls, and howls evolving into violent protest. Compound all of this with conflicts resulting from resource scarcity, wealth distribution, and international migrations.

Governments need to be prepared. Incidents of insurrection will only grow—storming of the Capital Building in Washington and truck protests in Canadian major cities are only the beginning. Governments must meet pending insurrection with clear, unequivocal, and repetitive information about the changes occurring in the world, and the impact that they will have on what we assume are our freedoms. Unlike the U.S., we have not had a civil war, but protest is no stranger in our history: the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837 (Wm. Lyon McKenzie), the North-West Rebellion in 1889 (Louis Riel), the Winnipeg General Strike in 1919, the Quebec FLQ Crisis in 1970 (a former Trudeau and The War Measures Act), the OKA Crisis in 1990. Stephen Marche has warned us.

REMEMBERING SALLY PENGELLEY—JULY 4, 1933—FEBRUARY 1, 2022



Many of us have fond memories of Sally and her involvement in OSSTF and ARM Chapter 12.

Sally Jane Dibblee was born in Toronto. She studied for a short time at Cornell in New York and then returned to the University of Toronto. At a U of T football game in the early 1950s she met Michael Pengelley and they were married a few years later.

Both acquired positions at Imperial Oil, Sally as a geologist. However, yearning for more challenging careers in the 1960s, both became teachers of English at Central H S of Commerce in Toronto.

Sally and Michael were heavily involved with the executive of the pre-amalgamation District 15 OSSTF Toronto, he as a creator and editor of the local District 15 Forum and she as a pension ex-

pert and the staffing officer (analyzing the results of those annual staffing surveys we metro teachers loved to fill out).

She also focused on broader superannuation/pension issues both for the District and provincial OSSTF. She and Fred Allen became pension experts within OSSTF. In that role in the 1980s and 1990s, they helped many of our members maneuver through the intricacies of our pensions. As part of OSSTF and along with the other Ontario teacher unions, they participated in the campaign resulting in the 1990 transformation of the old Superannuation Commission into the current Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan. Now, freed to invest in the open market rather than solely in Ontario government bonds, the OTPP has become one of the strongest most reliable pension plans in Canada.

Though she was serious when she chided me as a relatively young teacher for not fully recognizing the importance of our pension, Sally, complicated and strong-willed woman that she was, also enjoyed life. After Michael's death in 1998 and her retirement, she became an active member in ARM Chapter 12. She enjoyed the Chapter's bus trips to the Stratford Festival. During the ARM Chapter 12 excursion to Woodbine, Sally seemed to enjoy the casino as much as the racetrack or the behind-the-scenes tour we had of the stables. Many may remember Sally in the past for her pipe smoking, whether at AMPA or during consultations with her about their pension. Smoking one of her many pipes, may well have helped her concentrate on the task of marking English papers.

Another personal contact I had with her was teaching history to her daughters, Cass & Madeleine, at Jarvis C.I. in the early 1970's. With her passing, I have happily reconnected with my former students after more than half a century. Both have proudly indicated they view their mother as a curious free thinker, a lover of beauty and a tireless social advocate who fought to change rules she saw as unjust. On July 4, 2022, a celebration of Sally's life will be held at 70 Scriven Rd, her daughter's home built by their Pengelley grandfather in Bailieboro just north of Rice Lake. All wishing to remember Sally are welcome.

By Wayne Cushman

A past colleague of mine, married with a family, became ill, and it tragically turned into cancer. Concerned about his family's financial security, he contacted Sally who worked at the Teachers' Superannuation Fund. At that time, most teachers didn't know much about their own pension plan or continuing benefits for surviving spouses. Sally's financial advice to Bob and his wife, and particularly her manner of counselling, gave them some comfort during the health crisis they were facing. Bob mentioned Sally in appreciation several times before his passing.

Sally was active in the first few years of ARM, attending our AGM, and theatre trips to Stratford. Her bright presence, and sage advice on matters political will be missed.

By Charles Hawkes



SEMANA SANTA (HOLY WEEK) POST COVID-19—MICHELLE BARRACLOUGH

I'm here in Antigua just before Holy Week and the city is bustling. As North Americans, we tend to get very superior in how we are reacting to COVID-19. Here in Guatemala, they are masking outdoors, taking temperatures when you enter a restaurant or store and you sometimes even get sprayed down, as on a recent visit to my hairdresser. Here they are taking COVID-19 seriously as they can't afford to overload their health system. For those of you who are nervous about coming down to a Central American country, get over it. You are safer here than at home where I understand the COVID-19 rates are soaring and the government is dropping mask mandates in restaurants, schools and supermarkets. Here you eat on beautiful outdoor patios and bask in the sunshine. The temperature is a balmy 25 C in the Land of the Eternal Spring. To top it off, Antigua and it's surroundings are justly world famous in Latin America for Semana Santa, Holy Week.

Four weeks before Easter, the villages around Antigua start their processions. In each village the local residents decorate the street outside their doors with alfombras, carpets of flowers and coloured sawdust. Each alfombra is a tribute to Christ's death and resurrection, and is done the night before the procession. Many of them take several hours of painstaking work to get the precise designs and depictions produced.

The procession generally starts at the local church and the anda, or float, with the figure of Christ or Our Lady is carried through the streets over top of these magnificent carpets of flowers, vegetables, or coloured sawdust. As the procession passes over them, the carpets are destroyed with a blessing to the household that produced it. The procession can go for several kilometres with anywhere from 10 to 100 cucuruchos (penitents), dressed in purple, to carry the float. The float can weigh up to three metric tonnes (7000

lbs). Normally they walk from their village to the cathedral in Antigua, so the procession can take 18 hours or more to complete. These men or women are organized into groups to carry the anda. Each person carrying the anda, is measured to match up heights and is given a particular spot on the anda, float, to support. Each person pays a fee for the honour of carrying the anda and depending on where you are carrying it the price varies.

In the last two years the processions and of course, that means the alfombras as well, have been cancelled. This year some of the processions have been allowed to proceed. I felt very fortunate a couple of weeks ago, to be able to be present for the procession in the nearby village of Santa Ana. It is said to have some of the most beautiful alfombras around. If you haven't been to Guatemala, put it on your bucket list for your next vacation. And if you can go during lent, you to might be fortunate enough to witness one of the processions.



Above: Volcán Agua

Left: They start early working on the alfombras



Above: Alfombras of Santa Ana

Photos credit: Michelle Barracough

ARM CHAPTER 12 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 8, 2022

—CHARLES HAWKES

President Manfred Netzel, and Secretary Bill Pryde, opened the AGM with the OSSTF/FEESO pledge, the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement, and the appointment of Jim Mile as Anti-harassment Officer, all under the expert technical operation of our webmaster, Chris Aslanidis.

The AGM agenda was passed with dispatch, then came a moment of silence for members who passed in the last year, with particular mention of Executive member Ed Preston, who doubled as the Associate Editor of our prized newsletter.

A number of guests attended the meeting and made comments. Paul Caccamo from the OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Executive said that without the efforts of the Federation and ARM, the election results might have been even worse for the Liberals and NDP. He noted that the Conservatives ignored the education platform the Federation had developed with so much care.

Michelle Teixeira of the Toronto (TBU) thanked ARM for helping out teachers who were exhausted after a year of shutdowns and remote learning. Linda Bartram (OTBU) highlighted the health risks all educational workers faced.

On a happier note, Bill Rakovitis from the Educators Financial Group =invited ARM members along with their family and friends, to use the EFG for financial advice, (which can be done online). Andrea Hadlington, our OTIP representative, thanked us for our patience in transitioning from Manulife to Greenshields. OTIP plans to promote ARM on their website, and in a series of webinars, featuring interviews with retirees.

Natalie Mehra, Executive Director of the Ontario Health

Coalition gave the keynote address. She told the tragic story of Margaret, a foster mother to several children, who ended her life in a for-profit long term care home due to dehydration, starvation, and depression. One doctor, one PSW to thirty patients was typical of these homes where the death rate during the pandemic was five times greater than in non-profit homes. For-profit homes pay less, hire fewer staff, and face no legal indemnities for inadequate care. Yet the Ford government has just expanded this sector along with privatized home care, with new licenses and subsidies.

Natalie faulted both the Liberals and NDP for not pushing this deplorable record of neglect by for-profit companies during the election.

Private hospitals, private labs, payment for COVID-19 tests all violate the spirit of universal health care established years ago by the *Canada Health Act*. But the public was not made aware of the government's privatization agenda. It should have been a major election issue.

Natalie's speech was followed by election of the new Executive for our chapter. No offices were contested, but there were some changes, as individuals resigned or shifted to new positions. Following the elections,

Executive reports were given by our President, Vice President, Treasurer, and those members of the Executive who report on and assist in Political Action and the Pension Plan. Each of these reports is available on our website.

Andrea Hadlington from OTIP ended our AGO this year with a trivia contest. Quickly now: who is the current president of the OSSTF/FEESO? Answer in the next newsletter!



Natalie Mehra, Executive Director of the Ontario Health Coalition

INFORMATION FOR THE TRANSITION FROM OTIP TO RTIP

—ANDREA HADLINGTON AT OTIP/RTIP

As promised I am attaching some FAQs and previous member communications you will recognize as they were sent to all ARM/RTIP members. I thought it may be helpful to consolidate them here. I am also including some answers below from our benefits specialists that your members were looking for today. May I suggest we schedule some time after the ARM council meeting to discuss the publication of the FAQ's on your website etc? Kris would like to be a part of the discussion however please share the answers I have supplied below to those who were on the call today needing them. For further assistance relating to their individual needs, they will need to call OTIP.

1. Claims history was not deleted and will continue to be available to plan members by accessing the former site (i.e. the Manulife site). To be directed to both new and old sites visit otip.com/For-Retirees/RTIP-Renewal/Welcome-RTIP-member.
2. Beginning with 2022 claims, members will be able to view this history through the new site.
3. Members can continue to submit 2021 claims to Manulife as they have in the past (ie on line or by paper). **They must be submitted by March 31st** though to be eligible as Manulife does plan to invoke the 90 day filing limit.
4. We will be sending out 2021 premium receipts as we have in the past. Beginning with 2022 premium, premium reports will be available for the member to self-serve on line through the new site.

Some additional points related to our conversation today:

- Members received a communication in early October informing them of the upcoming changes. They also received additional information in November as part of their annual renewal prior to January 1, 2022. Finally, members received their new ID numbers, including an image of the benefit card, in early December.
- If a member needs to make a claim and doesn't have a computer, they will need to mail in a paper claim using the P.O.Box listed on the appropriate claim form.
- Claims made prior to December 31, 2021 that are being mailed in for should be submitted to Manulife to the address indicated on the claims form. **They must be submitted by March 31st 2022** as per above.
- Our RTIP Contact Centre has a new mailing address and is in Windsor, Ontario for all claims effective January 1, 2022. This address will be available on our website and will be pre-printed on most forms.
- For claims inquiries, contact us:
 - Call our RTIP Contact Centre at 1-833-318-2811 to determine eligibility for a specific item or service and OTIP's pre-authorization requirements; or
 - Visit our website at otip.com to submit your questions.
- How do I email my plan change request?
 - Please email your change request to planchangesandbilling@rtip.otip.com
 - In order to maintain your privacy, please include your name, along with your change request only.
 - A representative from our RTIP Contact Centre will be in touch with you to confirm your personal information and plan changes with you.
- I'm going to exceed the 95 days travel coverage, how can I top up my out-of-country travel coverage?
 - RTIP provides coverage for trips up to 95 days.
 - If you need coverage beyond 95 days, you will need to arrange for this coverage on your own.
 - You can contact 21st Century and they may be able to assist you.
- RTIP members will still have access to the following:
 - CAREpath Cancer Assistance Program
 - Express Scripts
 - Bayshore HealthCare
 - Edvantage
 - FeelingBetterNow



THE RECIPE PAGE

Send us your recipes to
afterschool.armch12@gmail.com.

You've got a hungry audience!

This issue's recipes supplied by the Pryde family and Ed Preston.

THE BEST PUMPKIN LOAF

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose bread. (I use 3/4 cup all purpose and 3/4 cup whole wheat flour) 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 cup granulated sugar 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 cup canned pumpkin purée, not pumpkin pie filling
- 1/2 cup extra virgin or light olive oil. (canola oil will do as a substitute) 2 eggs beaten with 1/4 cup of water
- 1/4 tsp each of ground nutmeg, cinnamon, allspice

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Pre-heat the oven to to 350 F (180 C).
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, salt, sugar, and baking soda.
3. In a medium bowl, stir together the pumpkin, oil, eggs/water mixture and spices. Add the flour mixture to the pumpkin mixture and stir just until combined.

At this stage, I work in some crushed walnuts (quantity to preference).

Also, while doing all of the above, I hydrate some dried cranberries, at least 1/2 cup. Work these into the mixture.

Pour into a greased 9x5x3 inch (23x13x7 cm) loaf pan. Bake 50-60 minutes or until a tester inserted into the centre comes out clean. Turn loaf onto a rack and let cool completely.

Makes 1 loaf.



ABSOLUTE TASTE BROWNIE RECIPE

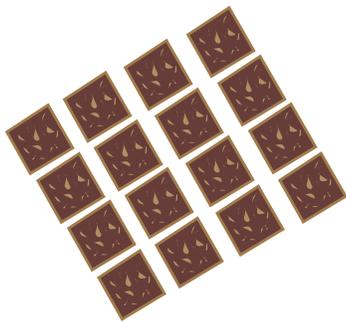
INGREDIENTS

- for 24 brownies
- 2 1/2 sticks unsalted butter, plus more, softened, for greasing
 - 8 oz good-quality semisweet chocolate (225 g), or bitter-sweet chocolate, 60-70% cacao, roughly chopped
 - 3/4 cup unsweetened dutch process cocoa powder (90 g), divided
 - 1 tablespoon espresso powder
 - 2 cups granulated sugar (400 g)
 - 1/2 cup dark brown sugar (110 g), packed
 - 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
 - 2 teaspoons kosher salt
 - 6 large eggs
 - 1 cup all-purpose flour (125 g)
 - flaky sea salt, for sprinkling

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Grease a 9×13-inch (23×33-cm) dark metal pan with softened butter, then line with parchment paper, leaving overhang on all sides. Grease the parchment with softened butter.
2. Combine the chopped chocolate, 1/4 cup (30 g) of cocoa powder, and espresso powder in a heatproof liquid measuring cup or medium bowl and set aside.
3. Add the butter to a small saucepan over medium heat and cook until the butter just comes to a vigorous simmer, about 5 minutes, swirling the pan occasionally. Immediately pour the hot butter over the chocolate mixture and let sit for 2 minutes. Whisk until the chocolate is completely smooth and melted, then set aside.
4. Combine the granulated sugar, brown sugar, vanilla extract, salt, and eggs in a large bowl. Beat with an electric hand mixer on high speed until light and fluffy, about 10 minutes. It will be similar to the texture of very thick pancake batter.
5. With the mixer on, pour in the slightly cooled chocolate and butter mixture and blend until smooth.
6. Position a rack in the middle of the oven and preheat to 350°F (180°C).
7. Sift in the flour and remaining cocoa powder and use a rubber spatula to gently fold until just combined.
8. Pour the batter into the prepared baking pan and smooth the top with a spatula. Bake until lightly puffed on top, about 20 minutes.
9. Remove the baking pan from the oven using oven mitts or kitchen towels, then lightly drop the pan on a flat surface 1-2 times until the brownies deflate slightly. Sprinkle with flaky sea salt.

10. Return the pan to the oven and bake until a wooden skewer inserted into the center of the brownies comes out fudgy but the edges look cooked through, about 20 minutes more. The center of the brownies will seem under-baked, but the brownies will continue to set as they cool.
11. Set the brownies on a cooling rack and cool completely in the pan.
12. Use the parchment paper to lift the cooled brownies out of the pan. Cut into 24 bars and serve immediately.



CHERRY NUT CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

The dried red tart cherries called for in the following two recipes are available year-round at specialty foods shops and by mail from American Spoon Foods, 411 East Lake Street, Petoskey, Michigan 49770; tel. 1-800-222-5886.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 sticks (1 cup) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¾ teaspoon baking soda
- 2 cups (about ½ pound) dried red tart cherries
- 1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

INSTRUCTIONS

In a bowl with an electric mixer cream the butter, add the sugars, and beat the mixture until it is light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition, and beat in the vanilla. In another bowl whisk together the flour, the salt, and the baking soda until the mixture is combined well, add the mixture to the butter mixture gradually, beating, and beat the mixture until it is just combined. Stir in the cherries, the walnuts, and the chocolate chips, drop rounded tablespoon of the batter 2 inches apart onto lightly buttered baking sheets, and bake the cookies in the middle of a preheated 375° F. oven for 12 to 15 minutes, or until they are golden. Transfer the cookies to racks and let them cool. The cookies may be stored in airtight containers for 5 days. Makes about 48 cookies.



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