

# AFTER SCHOOL

Volume 25, Issue 1—September 2023 • [www.armch12osstf.ca](http://www.armch12osstf.ca)



PONT DU GARD,  
FRANCE

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## AFTER SCHOOL VOLUME 24, ISSUE 4, APR. 2023

*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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## IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to *After School* Volume 25, Issue 1, our fall issue. Our newsletter provides important information, updates and more that we hope is helpful for you, our members.

It would also be great to see you in person at one or both of the upcoming events: **Thursday, October 5—**

Pub Tour at the Duke of Cornwall at 1:00 p.m. and **Wednesday, November 22—**RTIP Presentation at the Latvian Centre at 10:00 a.m.

In this issue, read the latest on bargaining from **OSSTF Toronto** on page 6. **Charlie Hawkes** recounts the exciting sites on his trip

to Provence, France with accompanying photos on page 12. You can also read about Health Ontario's concerns about the privatization of Ontario's health care on page 14. So much more within the issue, including yet another great pub review by **Allan Hux** on page 16. Enjoy!

### ARM CHAPTER 12 NEEDS YOU

ARM Chapter 12 is only as good as the participation of its members.

There are lots of ways, big and small, to get active in ARM Chapter 12:

- **Join the *After School* Editorial Board:** The Editorial Board meets online four times a year and helps determine the content of the magazine.
- **Submit to *After School*:** We are always looking for, opinions, reviews, poetry, art, photography and even short fiction. Send your work to [afterschool.armch12@gmail.com](mailto:afterschool.armch12@gmail.com). Deadlines for submission and the submission guidelines are on the ARM Chapter 12 website.
- **Organize an event for members:** Are you interested in golfing, curling, attending museums and/or concerts, playing euchre, bridge, poker etc. Do you have a bit of spare time and some experience in organizing an event? We have the resources to promote and support member events, and, depending on if there are costs involved, we may even be able to arrange subsidization or sponsorship. For more details on how to submit a proposal, just go to our website, [www.armch12osstf.ca](http://www.armch12osstf.ca) and look under Events.
- **Join the ARM Chapter 12 Executive:** Executive members are elected at the Annual General Meeting. However, there is no limit to the number of Executive Members At Large position, so, if you want to take a bit more of a leadership role in ARM Chapter 12, this is how you do it. Check out our Constitution on the website.



### KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH ARM CHAPTER 12 NEWS AND EVENTS.

CHECK OUT NEWSLETTERS AND THE CALENDAR AT  
[WWW.ARMCH12OSSTF.CA](http://WWW.ARMCH12OSSTF.CA)

NOTIFY ARM AND OSSTF/FEESO OF ADDRESS AND EMAIL CHANGES

[ARMCHAPTER12@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ARMCHAPTER12@GMAIL.COM)

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT—MANFRED NETZEL

Welcome back, dear ARM C.12 members.

On behalf of your Executive, I hope you had a relaxing and memorable summer. I was fortunate to enjoy a three-week European holiday, including a river cruise on the Rhine River which flows through three countries. I would recommend river cruising for anyone who wants to avoid travel planning and seeks care-free accommodation, dining and short shore excursions. Hopefully, your own health and financial situation will allow such an experience in your future travel plans.

Back in late June, your newly-elected ARM Executive held a planning session to map out the events and activities that reflect your interests. This was based upon the earlier feedback results received from both those online and also by mail from those who we had no email contact info. One rather disappointing observation was the low recognition and level of usage by members of our webpage. Besides being one of the best websites of any current ARM Chapter, our webmaster *Christos Aslanidis* takes great time and effort to keep the information up-to-date and interesting. Please refer to it regularly to keep informed and connected to Provincial OSSTF/FEESO, other ARM Chapters, the Teacher Pension Plan and many affiliated organizations such as the Ontario Health Coalition, Toronto & York Region Labour Council, and our benefits sponsors (RTIP and EFG).

Over the summer we were pleased to see the election of Mayor *Olivia Chow* in the June 26 by-election. Although there was no formal endorsement from OSSTF/FEESO or the other ed-

ucation unions, many members (including yours truly) offered time, donations and other forms of assistance to her campaign...we wish her and her City Council much luck and creativity in dealing with the daunting challenges ahead. Meanwhile, there were very few developments over the past three months with regards to teacher bargaining, so distracted by the court challenges against Bill 124, *Protecting a Sustainable Public Sector for Future Generations Act*, Ford 'missteps' related to the Greenbelt, and the devastating natural disasters such as wildfires and extreme flooding in specific areas across Ontario.

Suddenly, days before the long Labour Day weekend, we learned that the Minister of Ed had offered a "pathway" to successful contract negotiations by proposing to enter into binding arbitration if NO deal was reached by October 26. OSSTF/FEESO was game to this, although the other education unions weren't interested. Of course, such an arbitration process would only deal with salary and benefits issues, not with any of the other key bargaining topics such as class size, forms of instruction (eg. hybrid), school violence or health & safety. A condition to proceed by the Federation was that every active member would have the ability to vote province-wide either in support or opposition of the proposed strategy, starting September 8 until the 27th. By the time you receive this newsletter, a vote total may be known. The great surprise is that the local D.12 Executive has made a



**unanimous** decision to oppose this 'pathway' with a reasoned set of arguments that are presented by President *Michelle Teixeira* on page 6 of this issue. Stay tuned....

In closing, I sincerely encourage you to participate in the series of events and meetings that we are offering you to attend in September. Thanks to Treasurer *Michelle Barraclough* and VP *Charlie Hawkes* we have organized a dynamic travel presentation on **September 20** @ the Latvian Centre starting around 10:00 a.m. followed by a complimentary light lunch. The other event is a province-wide Day of Protest on **September 25** organized mostly by the Ontario Health Coalition to coincide with the opening of the new session of Queen's Park. Although one or both of these events will be past by the time you read this issue, numerous reminders will have been sent to you in the meantime. Other activities and meetings are also planned for October and November, so please stay informed and supportive of our efforts.

In Federation,

*Manfred*

FINANCIAL REPORT—MICHELLE BARRACLOUGH

OSSTF ARM Chapter 12 Toronto  
Final Bank statement July 2022 to June 30, 2023

Income Statement	ARM Chapter 12		July 2022- May 28 2023
Balance from 2022			\$14,643.77
	Balance	Expenses	Revenue
OSSTF Rebate Fees			\$12,285.00
Educators financial Contributions			\$1,000.00
OTIP contribution			\$7,500.00
Executive Lunches		\$3,377.94	
Luncheon Meeting Expenses		\$2,608.97	
Luncheon Meeting Revenue			\$1,031.88
Newsletter Expenses		\$7,293.13	
Newsletter Editor		\$2,550.00	
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		\$3,450.00	
Office & Miscellaneous expenses		\$805.19	
Election expenses			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$20,311.23</b>	<b>\$36,460.65</b>
<b>Net Income over the period</b>		\$16,149.42	

# OSSTF TORONTO REPORT—MICHELLE TEIXEIRA, PRESIDENT, OSSTF TORONTO

## **INTRODUCTION to Summary Explanation of Toronto Teachers Bargaining Unit re: Teacher Bargaining—Manfred Netzel D-12 ARM President**

After almost **NO** progress on teacher bargaining in Ontario since the spring, we now have some important developments both provincially

and locally. As you may have heard by now, the proposal to the teacher unions from Minister Lecce to proceed to binding arbitration if no tentative agreement were reached by October 27 was provisionally agreed to by Provincial OSSTF/FEESO. The other three education unions had all decided to disagree with this strategy, as was the opinion of local CUPE

4400 Education Workers President Laura Walton.

With voting on this suggested “pathway” having begun and continuing until September 27, the local D.12 OSSTF Toronto Executive has decided unanimously to oppose this strategy as well, and has produced a summary explanation of their decision which follows.



## **Important Message from Your Local Teacher Bargaining Unit Executive regarding the Provincial OSSTF/FEESO Voluntary Binding Arbitration Process**

September 7, 2023,

Dear Member,

As was shared with you in a [Provincial Bargaining Bulletin](#) on August 25, 2023, Provincial OSSTF is recommending to Members “a pathway to resolve outstanding bargaining issues. This pathway can include the use of binding interest arbitration for any unresolved bargaining issues at the local and/or central levels for those employed by school boards across the province. OSSTF/FEESO members under the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act will participate in a province-wide online vote conducted between September 8 and 27, 2023.”

After thorough and fulsome discussion, your local Toronto Teacher Bargaining Unit Executive unanimously passed the following motion:

*Be It Resolved That the TTBU Executive opposes the voluntary binding arbitration pathway pursued by OSSTF/FEESO.*

We have concerns about pursuing voluntary binding arbitration.

First and foremost, we have concerns about the impact on local bargaining.

We have concerns about voluntarily entering into a binding arbitration process that eliminates our right to strike or take other job actions such as selective withdrawal of services. The ability to strike or withdraw services is one of the cornerstones of the labour movement and has been hard fought over the years. To voluntarily give up that right has the potential to set a dangerous precedent for education workers and the entire labour movement.

It is also important to note the difference between mandatory arbitration and voluntarily entering into binding arbitration before other options to reach a deal have been attempted. In recognition of the fact that essential workers are unable to take job actions, arbitrators have traditionally awarded gains to those workers. This is not necessarily the case where workers voluntarily enter into the process.

Members are being asked to vote on this pathway with limited information about the details of what a final agreement will look like, unlike a ratification vote where they would have clarity on agreed wages, benefits, workload, etc. Through this pathway proposed by OSSTF/FEESO, Members will be unable to vote on the final agreement. In essence, Members are being asked to vote on an agreement before it is finalized.

Pursuing this pathway represents the most significant departure from OSSTF/FEESO collective bargaining orthodoxy ever undertaken by our union. We are concerned that this might have a serious impact on solidarity, on our capacity to organize our Members, and on building collective actions going forward.

After careful consideration, and much discussion, the Toronto Teachers’ Bargaining Unit Executive decided unanimously that we cannot support this pathway, and that this needed to be communicated to Members prior to the commencement of voting. Our aim is not to direct Members how to vote, but to share our concerns so they can make their own informed decisions. To that end, we encourage you to attend the [Town Halls](#) that will be held over the coming weeks, including an OSSTF Toronto specific Town Hall on September 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

In solidarity,

OSSTF Toronto Teachers’ Bargaining Unit Executive

PENSION PLAN REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023—PAUL HEADDON

OTPP net investment return for the first six months of 2023 was 1.9 per cent. The long term return for the last ten years was 8.6 per cent and 9.4 per cent since its inception. The Plan now has assets of \$249.8 billion and has a \$17.5 billion surplus. The government of Ontario and OTPP applied for an evaluation of the surplus on January 1, 2023. The 1.9 per cent return is the weakest return for the Plan since 2018.

Higher interest rates prompted the fund to increase its investment in bonds. Fixed income investments such as government bonds now comprise 52 per cent of the Plan's assets. In 2021 the Plan only held 19 per cent of its assets in fixed income investments. High rate fixed income assets retain less volatility in times of recession. Infrastructure investments also increased at this time. (Source: *Globe and Mail* August 16, 2023)

Some of the other major pension plans have had more favourable results.

OMERS has a 3.1 per cent net investment return for the first six months of this year. Their largest financial gain came from public equities. Private credit was the second best performer (Source: *Globe and Mail* August 17, 2023)

Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec posted a 4.2 per cent gain in the first half of 2023. Bond returns and private assets contribute to the increase. Performance in equities was lower. (Source: *Globe and Mail* August 17, 2023)

OTPP has entered into an agreement to sell its major ownership in Premier Lotteries Ireland to La Française des Jeux, a lottery and online gaming operator. Premier Lotteries Ireland originally sold the Irish Sweepstakes

tickets many years ago. The company was purchased by OTPP nine years ago.

OTPP has increased its shareholdings in Connexa from 70 per cent to 80 per cent. Connexa is New Zealand's specialist mobile tower infrastructure company. Connexa just recently acquired a New Zealand company called Two Degrees Mobile. This acquisition includes 1124 mobile tower sites in New Zealand. Connexa's tower network now has 2350 towers throughout New Zealand.

OTPP and Brookfield Infrastructures have purchased Compass Data Centres, a company that has large-scale data centres across many regions. Compass Data Centre provides its extremely knowledgeable customers with speed, flexibility and control to address the ever changing technology landscape. (Source: OTPP).

OTPP CEO Jo Taylor had his total compensation reduced by 8 per cent in 2022, to \$5.16 million from \$5.6 million in 2021. This compares to various compensations for other public sector pensions. Omers paid its CEO \$5.16 million last year, up 0.4 per cent from \$5.14 million in 2021. Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, cut its CEO's compensation by 4.9 per cent last year to \$4.21 million. They had a loss last year of 5.6 per cent.

The Public Sector Pension Investment Board paid its CEO last year \$8.63 million.

Compensation for public sector CEOs is still not as high as private sector CEOs. The median pay package for CEOs at 100 of the largest Canadian companies listed on the TSE for 2022 was \$ 8.6 million. (Source *Globe and Mail* September 2023)



**MAJOR PROTEST**

**OPENING DAY OF THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE  
Monday, September 25, 2023 at 12pm Noon**

**TORONTO** at Queen's Park outside the Main Legislative Building at 12pm noon

**THUNDER BAY** at Mini Queen's Park at South James St. at 12pm noon

**DRYDEN** outside MPP Greg Rickford's office, 439 Government St. at 11:30am CST (Dryden time)

**ALGOMA** outside the Sault Area Hospital at Lukenda Dr. at 12pm noon

**Please join the protest closest to you.**

\*The Ford government has set opening day on Yom Kippur. We will hold a second event on Sept. 26 at noon for people in the Jewish community who cannot attend on the 25th.

**Are you coming?**

Let us know if you are joining on September 25.

Share the link with your friends and family.

Plan to carpool or register to get on one of the many buses!

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/MassProtest> or scan the QR code.



**Let's make a major show of strength & make it impossible for the Ford government to carry on unchallenged. We are not going away. We will not let them privatize our public hospitals.**



# ARM EVENTS

## LABOUR DAY 2023—LARRY FRENCH, FOUNDING MEMBER OF ARM CHAPTER 12

### Toronto Labour Day Toronto 2023: ARM C12 joins the OSSTF/FEESO Contingent in the 151th Edition of the Parade

Led by ARM Chapter 12 President Manfred Netzel and ARM Council Chair Iain Beaton, with chief flag bearer Larry French and photographer retired ETFO member Cindy Bellman, the C12 delegation proudly brought up the rear of the OSSTF/FEESO marchers' part of the estimated 20,000 participants in the Labour Day Parade. This was the 151th edition of the annual Toronto Labour Day Parade following the two-mile route from University & Queen

West to the Dufferin Gates of the CNE. Conscious of the historic importance of this annual tribute to the union movement—the first parade in Toronto in 1872 was to protest the jailing of 24 leaders of the Toronto Typographical Union who, when they formed their union, had been charged with being members of a criminal conspiracy—we joined in solidarity with the unions on strike, among them TVO and ACTRA, who led the parade.

Along the way we were saluted by Mayor Olivia Chow, Councillor Gord Perks, former chair of the Toronto Labour Council John Cartwright, Ontario NDP leader Marit Stiles, as well as

the thousands of well wishers along the parade route. No doubt they wished education workers well as we continue negotiations with an obtuse anti-education provincial government.

After passing the review stand at the entrance to the CNE several of the ARM team doubled back to the venerable Gladstone hotel where D12 hosted its post-parade celebration. We were welcomed by the D12 delegation as well as members of the Provincial OSSTF/FEESO Executive and professional staff led by provincial President Karen Littlewood and marked the end of this memorable day.

On to next year!



Iain Beaton (ARM Council Chair, Ch.s 13/16), Larry French and Manfred Netzel (ARM Ch.12 President) at Labour Day 2023



Bhutila Karpoche (Parkdale-High Park MPP), Manfred Netzel & Larry French



Iain Beaton (ARM Council Chair, Ch.s 13/16), Larry French and Manfred Netzel (ARM Ch.12 President)

Larry French and Karen Littlewood, OSSTF/FEESO provincial President

# ARM EVENTS

## FABULOUS LUNCHEON TRAVEL PRESENTATION—MICHELLE BARRACLOUGH

Our first luncheon on September 20 this week was a great success. Anni De Lima from Direct Travel and Hillary Brown from The Globus family of brands presented a funny, interactive presentation on travel in Europe and around the world. Our members were engaged and articulate in asking questions on the topic so that we left much better informed than we started. Additionally, Pat Hawkes, made a personal presentation on Senior Discovery tours and DH Travel. She and Charlie have had many exciting travel trips with these two groups.

The most interesting part of the presentation to me, was seeing photos of the new boats that travel though the major waterways of Europe. Globus (Avalon) has increased size of the cabins by including the balcony inside the cabin with sliding glass doors, so you have a beautiful vista as you travel down the rivers. Another great aspect is there is no single supplement, which to me, as a single person, is priceless. They also have a variety of different options on their trips so that you can choose to do something totally different from your partner. (One can be golfing and the other doing a historic tour).

After the presentation the participants had time to socialize until the light lunch was served. We hope that if you were unable to participate that you will be available for our next luncheon in November with OTIP where you can get all the updated information on your health, house and car insurance. Hope to see you there.



Hillary Brown, The Globus family of brands and Anni De Lima, Direct Travel

## A TRIP TO PROVENCE—CHARLIE HAWKES

For two weeks during May of this year, we travelled in Provence, France with Senior Discovery Tours (SDT). It is a large Canadian company specializing in travel for people over the age of 55. Our group's ages ranged from about 55 to several people in their 80s. The company's careful preparations meant that none of the younger people in our group of 30 felt held back, or older people over challenged by travel demands.

SDT minimizes travel and tour problems. Transportation to and from airports is provided, guides meet and direct participants through ticketing, transfers and security. Senior Tours

anchor groups in one hotel, and use it as a base to explore the area. Our hotel for most of the two-week period was in Avignon, an ideal location to visit sites in Provence. Most meals were provided, along with all gratuities, entrance fees and guides. The price including the airline tickets was very reasonable and had no 'surprise extras' which can occur with other travel companies.

The French poet Frederick Mistral wrote once that "when the good Lord begins to doubt the world, he remembers that he created Provence." This section of south eastern France bordering on the Mediterranean is re-

nowned for sunshine, lavender fields, vineyards, hilltop villages, food and artists such as Van Gogh, Cézanne, and others. Provence was the most prized possession of the Roman empire, and the remains of their roads, bridges, and colosseums are found everywhere.

Avignon became the home of seven Popes in the 14th century when Italy was wracked by warfare. Our hotel was located next to the massive palace built by the Papacy on the shore of the Rhône river, where we could also see its famous unfinished bridge of story and song "...Sur le Pont d'Avignon. L'on y danse tous en rond..."

The Rhône river flows south into the Mediterranean through a coastal area known as the Camargue. A national wildlife reserve of great beauty is located there with over 300 hundred bird species, highlighted by pink flamingoes that populate the marshy areas. On dry land we saw the rare Camargue horses, descended directly from a prehistoric species, and the cowboys herding bulls on ranches. These animals are bred for use in bullfighting in Provence and Spain. The most aggressive bulls are used either for acrobatic type shows in Provence, or shipped to Spain where they meet their end in traditional bullfights. We enjoyed a hearty beef dinner on the ranch dining on the less

aggressive bulls.

Provence is identified with great painters. We bussed to Les Baux-de-Provence, a medieval fortress and hill town located on a mountain range with a stunning view south to the sea. Below the fortress a former limestone quarry has been transformed into an immersive multimedia exhibit space dedicated to art. Inside the huge cave, we saw projected on its walls the work of three artists: Vermeer, Van Gogh, and Mondrian, all synchronized with classical music. It was a soul stirring experience.

We visited a truffle farm (these 'Black Diamonds' are now located by trained dogs, not pigs), vineyards (dominated by pink and rose wines), lavender farms

(touted for many health benefits).

One experience we witnessed that is so typical of French life: a demonstration against President Macron's changes to the pension age. It started with a slow, rhythmic, banging of pots and pans, then speeches and applause, finally ending with the demonstrators retiring to our outdoor café for drinks. It all appeared rather orderly, and enjoyable for everyone.

Our trip ended in Marseille, France's oldest, most multi-cultural, and second largest city, described as possessing 'grit and grandeur', and we flew home via Paris.



Photos: Left page Vieux-Port de Marseille. This page CW— Pont du Gard; Carrières des Lumières Baux-de-Provence; L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue Market and Pont D'Avignon

Photo credit: Charlie Hawkes



## AFFORDABLE TRAVEL OPTIONS: THREE CANADIAN COMPANIES TO CONSIDER—CHARLIE HAWKES

**Senior Discovery Tours:** this 45-year-old company described in the article on Provence (page 12) has over 100 destinations in its itinerary, all geared towards senior travellers. Prices include transport to airports, all airport fees, hotel accommodation, most meals, gratuities, and entrance fees. No surprise charges. 225 Eglinton Avenue West, 416-322-1500.

**DH Tour:** this company specializes

in travel to the United Kingdom and Ireland. A favourite trip is off-season to London for a week in November, or February. Prices include return flights to London, hotel accommodation, and a pass for the subway. Then you are on your own. With a common language, the ‘tube’, and friendly citizens, London’s historic sites, theatres, and museums are easily accessible. Numerous other trips into the English countryside, Scotland, and Ireland are avail-

able. 2289 Fairview St., Burlington, 905-639-9954.

**Self-drive in Newfoundland:** Several companies offer a return flight to St. John’s, a rental car, and arrange hotel or motel accommodation wherever you chose to drive to and visit. Driving is easy on uncrowded highways, scenery often breathtaking, and Newfoundlanders love to talk To Upper Canadians about anything.

**The Ontario Health Coalition on for profit health care: See the below letter Natalie Mehra and Ross Sutherland wrote to the Canadian Medical Association about their unholy alliance with the *Globe and Mail* over this issue. Please take time to read it.**



### OPEN LETTER

Dr. Kathleen Ross  
Canadian Medical Association  
1410 Blair Towers Place, Suite 500  
Ottawa, ON K1J 9B9

By email: [mediainquiries@cma.ca](mailto:mediainquiries@cma.ca)

September 8, 2023

Re. Canadian Medical Association/Globe and Mail Hearings on Health Care Privatization

Dear Dr. Ross,

We are writing with deep concern about the activities of the Canadian Medical Association in partnership with the *Globe and Mail*. We have seen your promotion of your “consultation” on privatization in health care. On the front of your website, you have framed the issues as “Health care in Canada is in crisis. Should the private sector help fill the gaps?” and, “...the balance of public and private care”. In other communications you have cast the issue as having a “fearless” or “open” conversation about privatization.

This framing is deplorable. It is factually incorrect on many levels. For one, private for-profit interests and their champions have repeatedly and very openly pushed for more privatization. They have no fear about it. To pretend Canada hasn’t repeatedly had an open debate about public or private health care is nonsense.

The fact is that the majority of Canadians strongly, vociferously oppose privatization. We oppose privatization because it threatens our very livelihoods and even our lives. We oppose because it violates the fundamental values of our society. We oppose because it harms our neighbours, often irreversibly.

Perhaps even more deplorable is your choice to have a panel (in what is supposedly a public consultation) that includes private for-profit health care companies, including Maple, which is overtly charging patients for access to doctors. It is our position that such charges are a violation of the Canada Health Act and the core tenets of public medicare in this country. While you pay lip service to Canadians accessing care without user fees, you promote this voice as a panelist in a high-profile national campaign? How could you?

We further note that your panel is all providers, many of them, apparently with vested interests. No one represents the patient voice nor the public interest voice in public health care.

We are in a health care crisis. The issue right now is not some arcane debate with dubious intentions about adjusting the balance between private and public health care. This urgent issue at hand is how do we improve the public health system in the public interest. It’s how do we improve prevention and protect public health. It’s how we retain or recruit back retired staff and train more as quickly as possible to improve access under our deeply held principles of equity and compassion that are supposed to anchor our public health system.

Finally, we take issue with the claims that you represent as “facts” in this campaign on your website and in communications. It is patently untrue that “the evidence is not in” on the impact of for-profit privatization on user fees and extra billing of patients. We have called every private clinic in Canada, asking as patients how much it would cost to get a diagnostic test or surgery in their clinics. We have done this multiple times over more than a decade and have openly published the results, including transcripts of our conversations with the clinics. We caught the majority of the private clinics extra billing patients. Last you try to dismiss this, the most recent time we did this in partnership with the *Globe and Mail*, which resulted in a [multi-part front-page series exposing the clinics for extra-billing and even for double-billing](#). The prices were exorbitant – up to ten times the cost under public health care. Further, we have documented clearly and repeatedly as has the *Toronto Star* and other media across the country, that private clinics take their staff from the public hospitals. We have shown irrefutably where the siphoning of public staff has reduced hours of public MRIs, for example. The documentation about the impact of for-profit nursing agencies is also irrefutable.

In fact, as you know, the BC Supreme Court’s landmark decision in the private clinics’ attempt to bring down the laws protecting single-tier public medicare found, “The evidence suggests that there is a real risk that a duplicative private system would result in reduced capacity and an increase in wait times in the public system, undermining the legislative purpose of preserving and ensuring the sustainability of the universal public system.”

The evidence *is* in. Pretending it is not is disingenuous.

We have other issues with the way you have presented “the facts” and what you have picked to include and leave out, but space and time prevent us from including all of them here.

We are well aware of the historic role that the CMA and the *Globe and Mail* played in opposing single-tier public medicare at its inception in Canada. You were on the wrong side of history then, and in the intervening years when your organizations have represented the interests of greed and profit-taking from patients in need, you have done Canadians a terrible disservice. There are also times when you have been better than this.

We hope that you will revisit the manipulative language you have chosen and the choice to amplify for-profit interests that charge patients for doctors on your panels.

Regards,

Natalie Mehra  
Executive Director

Ross Sutherland  
Chair

## DUKE OF CORNWALL—PUB REVIEW BY ALLAN HUX

Duke of Cornwall  
400 University Ave.  
416-640-38553  
[dukepubs.ca](http://dukepubs.ca)

June 2023 turned out to be my “Duke” month. Alan Niester, a retired History teacher from Scarborough DSB and TDSB, invited me to join him at the Duke of Kent in midtown, Yonge & Eglinton, on June 8. Then on June 23 retired Justice Fran Kiteley and I went to the Duke of Cornwall on the west side of University Ave. just south of the St. Patrick subway station. There is a third Duke, the Duke of York, on Bloor St. W. The Dukes present a British pub atmosphere and share a common menu. I will focus on my visit to the Duke of Cornwall.

As you know, there are at least eight key criteria that must be considered when reviewing a pub. These include the location, atmosphere, design/layout/décor, brews, fare, service, price, and accessibility, and I will address them in random order.

On June 23, Fran Kiteley and I had a 11:00 a.m. meeting at the Ontario Justice Education Network office at 180 Dundas St. W. Following the meeting we set out to lunch, walked over to the Eaton Centre, checked out the menu of a restaurant there, were unimpressed, and walked back to the Duke of Cornwall where we had eaten in 2022. Since Fran was taking the go train back to Oakville and I was taking the subway to my condo at Yonge-Sheppard, this location was very convenient. The Duke of Cornwall calls this “the Discovery District on University Avenue” and of-

fers special group discounts to clients from hospital row. Their “fare” is still very “fair” for walk in customers.

The Duke of Cornwall radiates a British pub atmosphere. There is a bar with stools, comfortable booths and rooms that can be reserved for groups. The hours are basically 11 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday and it has just re-opened with a Brunch on Sundays. The entrance on University Ave. is up several steps, but it also has a ramp with railings that ensures accessibility for people.

We were graciously greeted and quickly seated even though it was 1:00 p.m. with lots of lunch hour traffic. Jayne was our server who provided us with menus and graciously answered our questions. The menu offers seven Lunch Express specials such as turkey clubs, a cheeseburger, fish tacos, and Greek or Caesar salads with chicken for \$17.99 and a pint of Mill St. Organic lager for \$6, total \$23.99. This is a very good price! Regular Greek and Caesar salad bowls come in small and large sizes for \$10.99 or \$16.99. The Lunch special is a real deal.

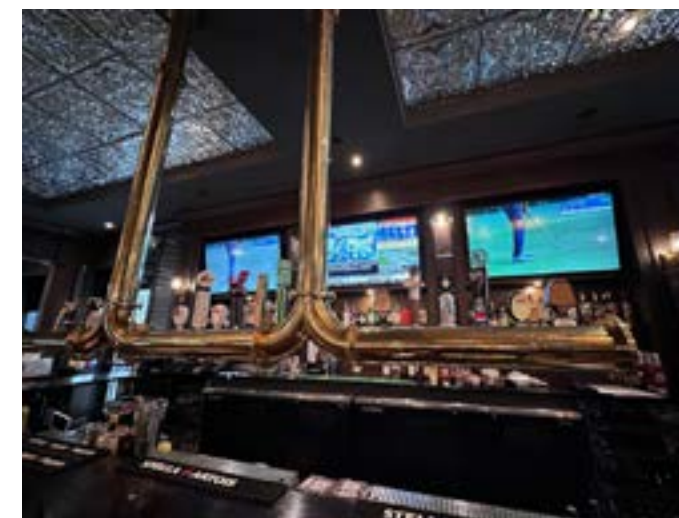
But the item that caught both Fran and my eyes was the All Day Breakfast. This includes two eggs, banger, bacon, grilled tomato, home fries, baked beans, multigrain toast, and strawberry jam for just \$16.99. The meals came on large plates. Fran had sunny side up eggs, and I had scrambled. The banger and bacon were well grilled, and the baked beans came in their own bowl. Everything was delicious. The ample portions allowed us to continue our conversations for two hours. I should

also mention that Al Niester raves about their haddock fish and chips meals that come in small [\$19.99] and large portions [\$25.99].

My one disappointment came when I asked Jayne for the Mill St. lager and she shook her head. She said they hadn’t received their delivery and she was very disappointed and apologized. She suggested that I have a pint of the DUKES’ DRAUGHT brewed specifically for them by Amsterdam Brewery. I agreed and it was fine [\$7.99]. The Duke does have at least eight white and eight red wines on their menu along with rose and bubbly, and cocktails, but the prices are fairly high. The house wines cost \$7.99 for 5 oz and \$10.99 for 8 oz. glasses. I do want to mention that they offer special half price bottles of wine with meals before 4:00 p.m.

I was so pleased with this pub that I invited Judi Coburn to join me for lunch on August 2. Judi had the fish tacos for \$18.99 that were very tasty and crunchy, and the pinot noir at \$17/glass. Judi is a retired teacher and the author of *Rebellion’s Daughter*, the historical novel about Eunice Whiting and the Rebellion of 1837 era in Upper Canada. Judi gave a wonderful presentation on *Rebellion’s Daughter* to ARM C12 on Zoom on February 23, 2022. Be sure to get a copy and read it if you haven’t already.

I have enjoyed my four meals at the Dukes. I do recommend them and I invite you to join me at the Duke of Cornwall on Thursday, October 5 at 1:00 p.m. Please email me to confirm your attendance by Monday, October 2 at [allanhux@sympatico.ca](mailto:allanhux@sympatico.ca).





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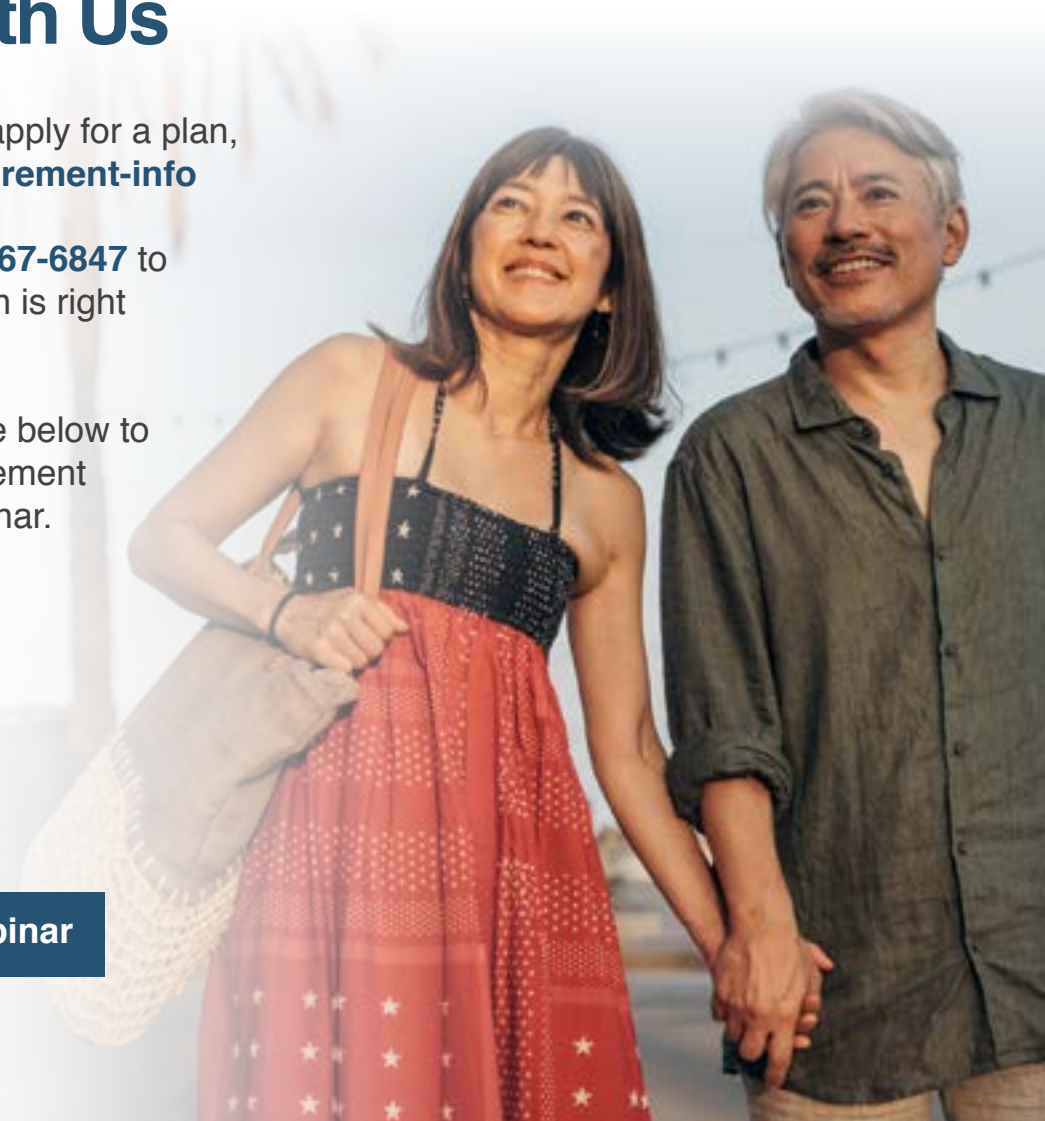
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