

# AFTER SCHOOL

Volume 26, Issue 5—June 2026 • [www.armch12osstf.ca](http://www.armch12osstf.ca)



**ALICE THE CAMEL:  
SPOTTED IN THE  
BEDOUIN DESERT**

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# AFTER SCHOOL

## VOLUME 26, ISSUE 5, JUNE 2026

*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.

### **Editorial team:**

**Editor:** Ronda Allan

**Associate Editor:** Eileen Markwick

**Editorial Board:** Michelle Barraclough, Charles Hawkes, Allan Hux, Jim Mile, Manfred Netzel

### **AFTER SCHOOL CONTACT:**

[afterschool.armch12@gmail.com](mailto:afterschool.armch12@gmail.com)

## **ACTIVE RETIRED MEMBERS CHAPTER 12 TORONTO EXECUTIVE**

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Cover photo: Cindy Bellman

# IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the June 2026 Issue of YOUR ARM newsletter, *After School*. President Paul Kossta's report (pg. 4) reviews the year's activities and his first year as president. Toronto OSSTF President Michelle Teixeira, alerts us to problems in our schools caused by the Ford government's attack on Public Education (pg. 5). Interesting acquisitions by our OTTP plan are detailed in Paul Headdon's Pension Report (pg. 6) Read about ARM's 30th Anniversary Celebration (pg. 8),

member engagement in the OHC Big Rally to defend Public Health Care (pg. 9), and the Olive Oil Tasting (pg. 13).

We encourage you to check the ads for our supportive sponsors, OTIP/RTIP and EFG and enjoy the amazing photos and travelogue of Manfred and his partner's journey of discovery through Jordan (pg. 10) in January of this year.

We encourage you to think about how you can contribute to YOUR newsletter while you enjoy a happy safe summer.

## 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.



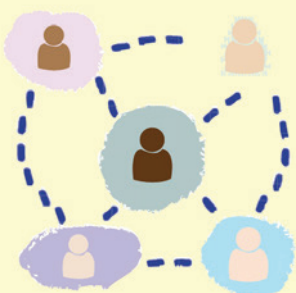
## KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH ARM CHAPTER 12 NEWS AND EVENTS.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT—PAUL KOSSTA



As we reflect on the past year, I wanted to thank you for your continued support of ARM Chapter 12. Your membership makes it possible for us to continue to interact with our retired members. We've had an exciting year of meetings and events. With the direction and support of your Chapter 12 executive, we have hosted a number of very successful social events. First, the holiday party in December had over 50 attendees. They enjoyed a sumptuous catered buffet lunch followed by skits and music. We followed that with our first-ever St. Patrick's Day Celebration featuring a buffet lunch and Irish-themed music. More than 40 members sang along to the memorable songs.

As well, we've had a number of other events throughout this past school year, including separate workshops hosted by OTIP/RTIP and EFG. We also had a workshop by LegalShield.

In addition, we hosted a lunchtime ad-

dress on food insecurity by the Daily Bread Food Bank's CEO Neil Hetherington at the Canadiana Restaurant in Etobicoke. We followed that event with an olive oil tasting that attracted an appreciative audience. The tasters had a very fulfilling and informative experience.

In May, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of ARM. The province-wide event featured two main speakers including our very own former President, Manfred Netzel, recounting the history of ARM and former NDP MP Charlie Angus highlighting the resistance to Trump. Our

chapter hosted both an in-person luncheon and a virtual component.

Besides participating in the various D12 sponsored sporting and cultural events throughout the year, Chapter 12 also had its very own Blue Jays day on May 27 at an afternoon game.

All is not just fun with our Chapter, we are also serious in supporting political and social causes, particularly under the guidance of OSSTF/FEESO. Both our Provincial President, Martha Hradowy, and D12 President, Michelle Teixeira, continue to encourage us to be prominent at rallies and protests. We particularly thank our Vice-President, Charles Hawkes, and Member-At-Large, Domenic Bellissimo, for leading us at these events.

As we conclude the year, we wanted to give thanks and appreciation to our outgoing Treasurer, Michelle Barraclough. Michelle has done an excellent job in keeping an eye on our Chapter's financ-

es during her 10 years as Treasurer. Although she is vacating this post, we are thrilled that she has agreed to stay on the executive. We are fortunate that former D12 Vice-President and Provincial Treasurer, Earl Burt, has agreed to become our new treasurer.

I also wanted to thank all the members of the executive for their leadership and dedication to our membership. Their continued involvement bodes very well for the future of Chapter 12.

As we look forward to the next school year, I believe that we can continue to build on this past year's achievements. The hard work by members of our executive, including the exemplary foundational leadership of our former President Manfred Netzel, allows us the opportunity to build an even stronger Chapter 12. During the next year, we hope to present a multitude of events for your review and, hopefully, participation. We also encourage you to send us your ideas at [armchapter12@gmail.com](mailto:armchapter12@gmail.com) for implementation. We want big and small events that will reach our varied membership. All event suggestions are welcome.

Finally, if you are inclined, we will be hosting a golf day on Tuesday September 1 at the Richmond Hill Golf Club. We will transition the day to be one in support of the Daily Bread Food Bank. We believe it is important for us to give back to our community. Enjoy your summer!

In Federation,

*Paul*

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



It's hard to believe another school year is coming to an end. This past year has been full of new challenges as we have had to navigate through many challenges at the TDSB.

The restructuring of the People and Culture department (formerly Employee Services) has been nothing short of chaos. More and more, those with experience in edu-

cation are being replaced with Human Resources professionals. There is a serious lack of understanding, and unwillingness to understand, how schools work. I have been in meetings with the Supervisor, the Director, and others in senior management over the last year advocating for our members. More than ever, we are collaborating and working with the other bargaining units such as the Elementary Teachers of Toronto and CUPE 4400 to coordinate our efforts. Most recently, we are coming out against significant cuts—289 teaching positions across secondary and elementary and 189 support staff positions.

We are in this together because we know that despite what the TDSB says, these cuts will have a direct impact on students. It is also clear that many of these cuts, and the cuts of teaching positions for schools high on the Learning Opportunities Index represent a direct attack on equity initiatives in the TDSB. These cuts will directly impact some of

our most vulnerable and marginalized students and that is truly shameful.

Collective Agreements expire August 31, 2026. We are facing an unprecedented round of bargaining. Trustees will no longer be responsible for ratifying local agreements. Rather, newly installed C.E.O.s of Education will have sole responsibility for approving those agreements. In the TDSB, in addition to the newly hired CEO, Camille Cipriano, our provincial appointed Supervisor remains in place. It is unclear when his tenure will end.

Though school board trustees have been stripped of most of their powers under new legislation, they do still have immense power to speak out against the underfunding of public education. In fact, the voices of progressive, activist trustees will be more important than ever before. The Campaign for Public Education will be looking to endorse these kinds of candidates in the municipal elections in the Fall. We will also be looking for the help of ARM members in getting these candidates elected. Stay tuned!

It's time for Ford, and Calandra to stop playing political games with our students. This is not about fiscal mismanagement as they continue to claim over and over - this is about continued underfunding, and their ultimate goal to run schools like businesses, sell public land and move towards privatized models of delivering education. This is a consequential moment for us. We need to seize it, and we need to do everything that we can to fight back so that we can win—not just for us, but for our students—today and in the years ahead.



Renew, switch, or get a new mortgage with rates starting as low as 3.59%\*.

Lock in your low rate today—guaranteed for 120 days<sup>2</sup>—and you could receive up to \$500 cash back<sup>3</sup>. Conditions apply. Offer ends June 30, 2026.

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<sup>2</sup> Variable rates are based on the Prime Rate minus a percentage discount. We guarantee the percentage discount below Prime for variable rates and terms for up to 120 days from the application date to the funding date. For fixed rates, we guarantee the interest rate for the selected fixed rate mortgage type and term for up to 120 days from the application date to the funding date. If the mortgage is not funded within the 120-day period, the interest rate guarantee expires.

<sup>3</sup> Conditions apply. Speak to an Educators Financial Group Mortgage Advisor for full details.

## PENSION PLAN REPORT JUNE 2026—PAUL HEADDON

OTPP has acquired four fully let (leased) multi-family assets in southern Germany. This is the first residential investment in the country and the launch of a new partnership with DWEffectum Residential (“DWE”), it’s local partner.

The transaction reinforces Ontario Teachers long term strategy to expand its real estate footprint across leading European residential markets. DWE, its specialist German residential partner strategy, will focus on building a portfolio of multi-family assets across Germany’s leading cities and surrounding metropolitan areas. This investment strengthens OTPP’s exposure to high quality urban rental markets in Europe by building a resilient and diversified, income-generating portfolio.

OTPP has acquired a portfolio of royalties on critical minerals in Western Australia from RCF Management L.L.C. (RCF) and Global Advanced Metal Greenbushe’s PtyLtd (together “GAM”). This portfolio provides exposure to lithium, tin and tantalum. The portfolio’s primary assets are underpinned by the Greenbushe’s and Wodgina mines in Western Australia which have a long track record of production. As part of this transaction, OTPP will also gain royalties on PF’s-level development and an exploration project. The royalty structure provides commodity-linked cash flows and minimal exposure to operating and capital loss.

OTPP has announced its 2026-2030 climate strategy designed to build climate resilience, capture investment opportunities created by the energy transition, and make a real world impact.

The strategy introduces a 2023 tar-

get of \$70 billion in Climate Transition Aligned assets in private markets, encompassing investments in companies that are decarbonizing their operations and those enabling energy transition.

Jo Taylor, President and CEO of OTPP said that “Our mission is to deliver retirement security for our members, that includes effectively addressing material long-term opportunities and risks that come with climate change and energy transition” *Source OTPP and Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan*

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (CGT) and Global Container Terminals Inc. are planning to build next year a multibillion dollar Roberts Bank Terminal 2. Ontario Teachers Pension Plan and Australia-based IFM investors each own 37.5 percent of CGT, while B.C. Investment Management Corp. holds a 25 percent stake. The port wants to build an artificial island for the container expansion, which will be near CGT’s existing Delta-port operation located 30 kilometres south of Vancouver. “As Canada’s largest port, Vancouver plays a critical role in enabling trade and supporting the natural economy. Increasing container capacity is essential to meeting future demand, improving supply chain resilience and maintaining Canada’s global competitiveness” according to a joint statement from the port authority and CGT. *Source Globe and Mail, April 22, 2026*

Bank of Nova Scotia economists, in a report last June, said “About half of all government-owned infrastructure—the roads, rail, bridge, ports, airports, utilities and pipelines that total \$ 470 billion on public balance sheets, would

be a good fit for private investors such as a pension”. Jo Taylor, chief executive of OTPP said his fund “would prioritize investing in infrastructure in its home province and sees more potential investment opportunities in Ontario than at the federal level”.

In general Taylor said it’s much easier to generate interest among institutional investors in asset recycling programs because of the lower risk profile, particularly if it involves an asset class when they already have experience. The concept of a built project to fund is easier than a to-be built project.

Taylor’s interest in Ontario does not rule out interest in a key asset owned by the Federal Government i.e. airports. Prime Minister Mark Carney’s first budget reignited a decade old idea that the government could unload some of the airports it owns, many of which are operated by non-profit airport authorities.

“Pearson and Vancouver are the two choices really that you could start with” Taylor said, adding that although Teachers sold off the last of its global airports last year, the fund has decades-long experience investing in airports including links for international travel. *Source Financial Post, March 24, 2026*

OMERS gained 6 percent on its investments in 2025 earning positive returns across most of its portfolio in what CEO Blake Hutcheson called “one of the most difficult years to invest”. The pension fund’s annual performance was hampered by a weakening US dollar which negatively affected returns by 1.3 percentage points. The Plan’s assets increased to \$145.2 billion at the end of 2025 up from \$138.2 billion a year earlier.

OMERS improved from being 98 per cent funded in 2024 to 99 percent funded at the end of last year. *Source Globe and Mail February 24, 2026*

In 2025 our OTTP pension plan achieved the following:

- a one-year total fund return of 6.7 per cent
- strong returns across venture, growth, equity, gold and credit
- declared a ten-year annualized net return on 6.8 per cent and a return of 9.2 per cent since inception
- the net assets grew to \$279.4 billion, up from \$266.3 billion in 2024

Investment income of \$18.5 billion

and employer contributions for the year, were partially offset by benefits paid of \$8.5 billion and administrative expenses of \$1.0 billion.

The plan is fully funded as of January 1, 2026. There is a \$31.2 billion preliminary funding surplus. The plan is fully funded with the funding ratio increasing to 111 per cent up from 110 per cent in 2024.

Jo Taylor, CEO of OTTP said that “Our 2025 results reflect the resilience of our portfolio and disciplined approach to managing the plan. Our return of 6.7 per cent was supported by strong performance from gold, and our venture growth and public equities

asset classes. Our private equity and real estate teams had a more challenging year given broader headwaters.”

*Source OTTP*

The plan’s real estate portfolio is weighted towards office and retail properties such as malls in Canada, and OTTP is trying to shift new investments towards other sectors and countries. Hudson’s Bay stores closed in 15 of its malls.

Jo Taylor said “We were able to sell a number of assets at good prices”. That included deals to sell five airports in the U.K. and Europe for proceeds of \$8 billion.

*Source Globe and Mail March 11, 2026.*



## Your guide to summer road trip travel safety

There’s a special kind of magic to hitting the open road in the summer: the sun is shining, your favourite playlist is playing, and endless possibilities lie ahead. Whether you’re escaping to cottage country, visiting loved ones, or discovering hidden gems across Canada, road trips are about adventure and making memories at your own pace. Before you set out, a little preparation goes a long way. By checking your vehicle and ensuring you’re properly covered, you’ll spend less time worrying and more time enjoying every mile. [Read more](#)

**Celebrate the end of the school year with a bonus offer! For the month of June, receive a \$30 gift card of your choice when you get a car, home or leisure insurance quote. Get a quote or call 1-888-892-4935 and mention this offer!**

## 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARM— EILEEN MARKWICK

On May 11, 2026 over 30 members of ARM Chapter 12 gathered together at Mobile to celebrate 30 years of ARM. We were joined through Zoom with other ARM chapter members across the province.

Before the Zoom meeting, Chapter 12 President Paul Kossta welcomed everyone and shared information about upcoming Chapter events, enthusiastically encouraging everyone to be active participants in these activities.

On the Zoom ARM Council members welcomed everyone and introduced our own Manfred Netzel, Past President of ARM Chapter 12. Manfred gave an interesting history of ARM from the beginning of an idea from Malcolm Buchannon and Earl Manners in 1995. At the 1996 AMPA, it became official and 50 volunteers across the province (including Chapter 12's own, Don Wright) formed chapters and worked to increase the membership. Manfred detailed the growth of ARM and its membership highlighting some of the initiatives and activities undertaken by the chapters and the Council, including participation, leadership and advocacy in municipal and provincial elections. A major

initiative was the research and chapter involvement in the Home Care report, which is now being used to lobby for changes provincially. Now ARM is an organization of 4,300 members with active chapters and a Biennial Council Conference. Manfred acknowledged and thanked Don Wright for his mentorship, historical documentation and role in the formation and growth of ARM.

OSSTF/FEESO President Martha Hradowy (who appeared by zoom from the CLC Convention) brought greetings and congratulations to ARM and its 30 years of solidarity and advocacy for public education

ARM Council member, Bryan Smith introduced and welcomed our guest speaker, Charlie Angus, sharing a brief history of his activism, music and political involvement as an NDP Member of Parliament in Ottawa for two decades..

Charlie began his presentation with shout outs to 3 of his teachers emphasizing their importance and value in the huge role they played in his life, especially as a “disrupter”. He talked about his travels across Canada on the Meidas Canada Resistance Tour, having just returned from Alberta. With chaos from

Danielle Smith, Doug Ford and Donald Trump we in Canada are in a fragile moment. Charlie's tour focuses on grassroots community organizing, protecting democracy and fighting against rising authoritarianism.

In his presentation to us his main focus was on young people, their vulnerability and the threats they are facing. They often have no safe place and need to have the tools to deal with what is happening in the world including the number of wars around the world highlighting Ukraine, and the rapidly changing digital world. He highlighted the serious concerns of children's addiction to social media and the growth of AI and its poisons. He urged us to ensure that children and our youth have safe places. He urged us to be militant, to make and maintain safe places, to resist when needed, to write letters, to lobby, to hold leaders to account and to be active. He ended with encouragement that as a resistance movement grows there is always hope and he believes we can be hopeful.

Thanks were extended to Charlie and we continued discussions of his message to us over a celebratory lunch.



Charles Joseph Angus, Canadian journalist, musician and politician shares a brief history of his activism, music and political involvement as an NDP MP

## DEFENDING MEDICARE: THE BIG RALLY—CHARLIE HAWKES

On May 28 thousands of protesters marched from Union Station to rally at Queen’s Park to support the Ontario Health Coalition’s campaign to preserve our medicare system. Health care workers, patients, seniors, unionists, and ARM members from all over southern Ontario came to Toronto, many by train, to protest the Ford government’s privatization policies which have seen dozens of for profit clinics appear while hospitals remain underfunded and short staffed.

The size of the rally was first estimated at 5000 until the police revised that figure to 8000 marchers. The Ontario Health Coalition had worked for a year to organize the rally which is one part of what executive director Natalie Mehra called an all-out campaign to stop privatization.

Premier Ford’s policies were denounced by NDP leader Marit Stiles, Liberal leader John Fraser and other speakers at Queen’s Park. Fraser sum-

marized the problem neatly “Too many Ontarians are having to use their credit card rather than their health card. That’s simply wrong.” A rally marcher and ARM friend told me that he felt forced to pay \$7000 for a complicated cataract surgery to be done as soon as possible in a for profit clinic. He said that although he was fortunate that he could afford it, he regretted violating the *Canada Health Act’s* principle of free health care for all.

The OHC campaign of ‘inform, engage, act’ employs social media, pamphlets, ‘kitchen table’ discussions, and local rallies through over 70 local chapters from Thunder Bay to Ottawa. Two facts have dominated their criticism of Ford’s policies. First, Ontario has the lowest per capita spending on health care of all the provinces. Second, Ontario funding for public hospitals per capita is the lowest in the country.

These two funding shortfalls inter-

twine to produce specious reasoning for Ford’s policies. Hospitals verge on bankruptcy due to low funding, forcing cuts in staff, hospital beds, and services. Wait times increase, producing a demand for faster care. For profit clinics appear to answer that demand - for patients able to pay, while reducing the numbers using public hospitals.

Of course, the problem is, not every one can afford extra charges. That has not deterred the government. It announced a 300 million payout for 61 for-profit clinics which they estimate will divert 1.2 million patients away from treatment in public hospitals easing the cost pressures on them.

Canada voted years ago for a free, and equal medicare system. It backed it up with the *Canada Health Act* in 1984 that forbade for profit health care. That act has not been enforced by the Federal government. It is time for the Federal Liberals to use their majority to do so.



Photos: Michelle Barracough and Domenic Bellissimo

## INTRODUCTION TO JORDAN TRAVELOGUE—MANFRED NETZEL

This past January, my partner Cindy and I were fortunate to visit a part of the Middle East that was to become a major conflict zone just a month later. Specifically, we planned to spend two weeks in Egypt and Jordan. The accompanying photos and captions focus on Jordan, a country that has not been on the ‘radar’ for many Canadians compared to both Israel and Egypt.

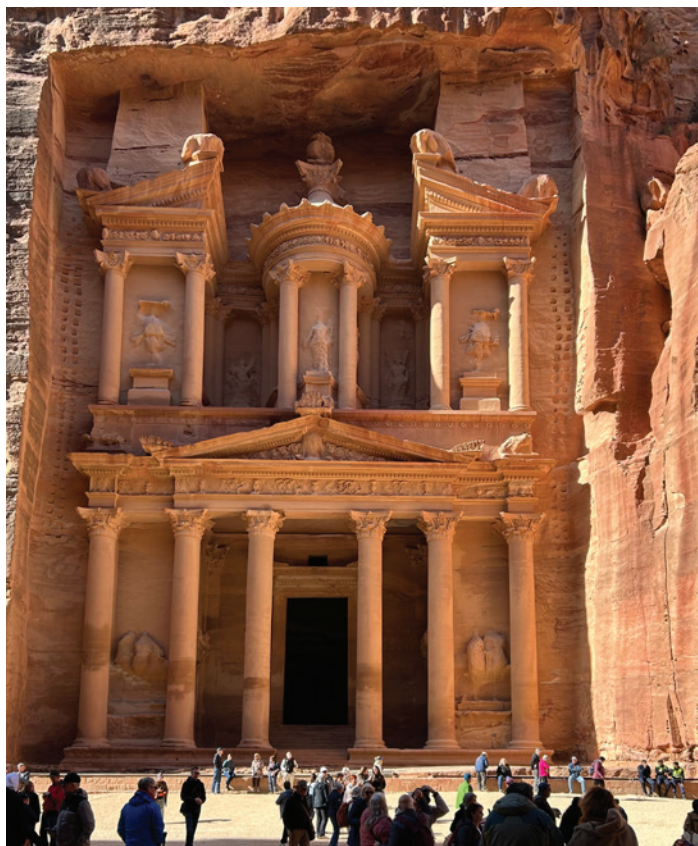
Although the territory of modern-day Jordan has had a rich history for over 3,000 years during which time it was occupied by Syrians, Nabateans, Persians, Greeks, Romans and eventually by the British and French until World War I. When the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire was dissolved after the War some 20 countries were created in the Eastern Mediterranean and Gulf regions, one of which was the Kingdom

of Jordan. The current King Abdullah II and royal family belong to the Hashemite dynasty which was a tribe with a lineage recognized as a direct descendent of the Prophet Mohammad. The Royal Family has ruled Jordan since 1921 and has seen a mixture of Western and Arab familial relationships. The King’s mother Queen Noor is of American birth and education while the current Queen Rania was born in Kuwait of Palestinian parents.

The most recent population census of Jordan shows a total of 11.5 million people, and the capital of Amman has approximately 3.1 million and another 2 million including the suburbs. Instability and conflicts in neighbouring countries have resulted in an influx of 1.4 million Syrian refugees, as well as a growing Palestinian population. In

fact, 60–70 per cent of Jordan’s people are of Palestinian origin. In addition, between 400,000 to 1.3 million people are of Bedouin ancestry. These “desert dwellers,” mostly Sunni Muslims with a small number being Christian, continue to live in more remote rural environments in southern and eastern deserts. This population includes two per cent who continue to live in traditional black goat-hair tents and cave dwellings; these tribal people continue to use camels as a main source of transportation. However, most have transitioned to semi-nomadic or fully urbanized lifestyles while retaining their tribal identities, language, and culture.

The region has been used for numerous film sets such as—Lawrence of Arabia, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Star Wars, The Martian, and Dune.



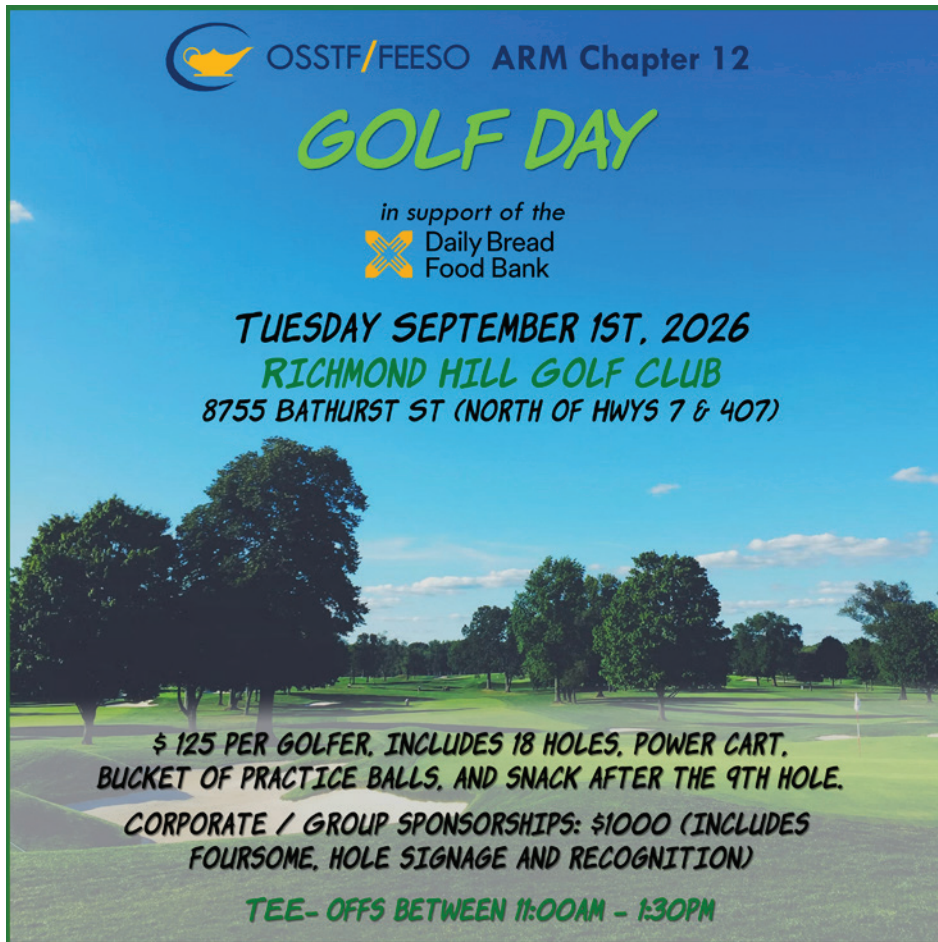


Page 10 and top left page 11: From Petra—the famous Treasury at Petra, homes built into the rocks and a magnificent rock formation  
 Page 11, two above: Wadi Rum region from the Bedouin desert region of southern Jordan  
 Page 11, right column: the Dead Sea area and an example of Dead Sea Salt.  
 Page 11, direct right: Jordy the guide pointing to the sign about the Dead Sea.



Photos: Manfred Netzel and Cindy Belman

# ARM EVENTS



OSSTF/FESO ARM Chapter 12  
**GOLF DAY**  
in support of the  
Daily Bread Food Bank

**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2026**  
**RICHMOND HILL GOLF CLUB**  
**8755 BATHURST ST (NORTH OF HWYS 7 & 407)**

**\$ 125 PER GOLFER. INCLUDES 18 HOLES, POWER CART,  
BUCKET OF PRACTICE BALLS, AND SNACK AFTER THE 9TH HOLE.**  
**CORPORATE / GROUP SPONSORSHIPS: \$1000 (INCLUDES  
FOURSOME, HOLE SIGNAGE AND RECOGNITION)**  
**TEE-OFFS BETWEEN 11:00AM - 1:30PM**

One of our most important community organizations in our City is the Daily Bread Food Bank. With food insecurity on the rise, it's important that we do more to help our fellow Toronto residents. With that in mind, this year's Golf Day will be in support of the Daily Bread Food Bank.

We hope to be able to attract our golfing Chapter 12 members to come out on Tuesday September 1. Individual golfers may join for \$125 and foursomes are \$500 and include 18 holes, a power cart, practice balls and a snack. As well, if you know of any organizations that would like to join us in support of the Daily Bread Food Bank, we have sponsorships available for \$1,000 which include the same privileges as all our golfers including recognition and signage at the course.

Please contact us at:  
[armchapter12@gmail.com](mailto:armchapter12@gmail.com)  
for more information. You may also  
direct your payment(s) to  
[armchapter12@gmail.com](mailto:armchapter12@gmail.com)

♪♪ LET'S GO BLUE JAYS!!!! ♪♪



## OLIVE OIL TASTING BY JIM MILE

### Drizzle, Sizzle, Slurp.

Olive oil can do all that; drizzle on fruit, vegetables, dessert; sizzle, fry with it rather than some vegetable oils; slurp, dip, dunk just about anything in it, even drink it straight from a shot glass. All these uses plus it's very healthy for you. The ancient Greeks and Romans knew it for thousands of years. Today millions love it and buy it. That popularity invites corruption in the form of adulteration, rancidity and false labelling.

Sandy has a place called MyOlive PremiumOlive Oil & Balsamic Tasting Bar on 151Roncesvalles where you can see, sip and learn a lot about olive oil. On April 29 ARM welcomed Sandy to a gathering where she led the group on an olive oil taste trip.

First, there is a procedure to warm and sniff the sample before slurping or tasting it. Each of us were provided with a small cup and plenty of bread, apple slices and water. She began by pouring a sample of quality light olive oil for each of us, then directed us to warm it, sniff it, and describe the fragrance. Slow sipping and discussion followed and then we experienced five more samples of increasingly heavier body oil.

Sandy pointed out typical uses and tips for each but stressed that each person should feel free to decide the purpose based on their tastes.

In the end, it is quality that is paramount. Drizzle, sizzle, slurp only the best.



Photos: Domenic Bellissimo

# ARM EVENTS

## ARM 2026 AGM



Our sincere thank you to Michelle Barraclough for her 10 years of dedication and hard work as ARM Chapter 12 Treasurer. Enjoy your free time Michelle!





Photos: Michelle Barracough and Domenic Bellissimo