



# THE CURRENT NEWS

Edition # 6



## Upper Grand Elementary Teachers' Local

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### On The Horizon

I hope that you enjoyed your well-deserved vacation this summer. Mine was restful and I spent my time reconnecting with family and friends. It is important to take the time to refuel and recharge our batteries during breaks like these in order to best prepare ourselves for the challenges that face us in a new year. Some demands we are aware of as they happen regularly and others are new and unknown. For this reason, planning and preparation are important, as are the connections we establish and maintain with our personal and professional support networks.

There are two main events on the horizon for teachers: the Provincial election on October 6th and the next round of Collective Bargaining. The two may seem like separate issues, but the results of the election will have an impact upon bargaining in many ways. I will talk more about bargaining in future editions of The Current and will focus our attention at this time on October 6th.

Last year I asked, "How political are you?" I challenged you to seize any opportunity to influence decision-makers and to engage in the political process as a democratic citizen. I maintain that the public education system is currently imbalanced with paperwork, testing and data overshadowing the importance of teaching the whole child. Ontario educators need to take action to bring back a balanced perspective. The time for this is now.

What will drive us to impact positive change? The simple answer is passion:  
*Passion to protect public education.*

Keep in mind that the Provincial Government which is elected will set the course for education over the next four years. This includes programs, funding, curriculum, standardized testing and more. Our work and our working conditions will be impacted squarely by the direction of the next government.

You can influence change.



**WELCOME TO OUR NEW  
TREASURER  
Graham Fiddes**

This year we have another new face that we'd like to officially welcome to Orchard Park, Graham Fiddes. Graham has been appointed to fulfill the duties as our Local's new Treasurer. This is a 0.2 released position and Graham will be working at the local office each Day 4 for the 2011-2012 school year. A full-time teacher at Aberfoyle Public School, Graham is also an experienced Steward. The effective management of budgets has been of paramount importance in his personal and professional life. Graham brings related experience, knowledge and skills to this important role and he has spent much time during recent months learning all of the information and procedures necessary to his position. The transition has been smooth and we are confident that Graham will continue to provide high quality service.

Welcome Aboard!

~ Tamara Reso and Gundi Barbour ~  
President and Vice-President  
Upper Grand ETFO Teachers' Local

**Two \$500 draw prizes are being offered by Upper Grand ETFO to promote Student Vote in Upper Grand**

***Each teacher who registers for Student Vote may enter the Upper Grand Student Vote Draw and win a \$500 prize from ETFO to help fund a class trip to Queen's Park.***

Contest Rules:

- ◇ Research Student Vote online at [www.studentvote.ca](http://www.studentvote.ca) to determine suitability.
- ◇ Consult with colleagues at your school.
- ◇ Consult with your Principal.
- ◇ To participate in Student Vote register by calling 1-866-488-8775 or register online at [www.studentvote.ca](http://www.studentvote.ca)
- ◇ After you register, e-mail Amy Murray on First Class to enter our draw; copy your School Steward. There are two \$500 prizes.
- ◇ **All draw entries must be received by 4:00 p.m. September 16, 2011.**
- ◇ Winners will be notified by email on October 13, 2011 and announced on our website [www.ugetfo.org](http://www.ugetfo.org)

**For further information please contact Amy Murray via First Class**

**NEW THIS YEAR.....  
EXECUTIVE MEMBER PROFILES  
*Getting to know Upper Grand ETFO***



The following is the first in a series of profiles of your local executive members.

**Hi, I'm Heike Schiller** and I had the good fortune to attend a week-long course called *Facing Management* at the Canadian Labour Congress Summer School in Port Elgin. The course is very informative and teaches participants how to recognize and deal effectively with different management styles. We learned how to protect and advance the interests of members in the local.

Throughout the week, we studied hard and heard from a variety of speakers including Gilles Bisson, MPP Ontario - NDP, Sid Ryan, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour and Andrea Horvath, Leader Ontario - NDP.

In addition to the interesting courses, you really get a thorough education from listening to brothers and sisters from various different unions in class, at lunch or in the evening during social activities. Training like this allows me to gain a new understanding of other peoples struggles with work load, health and safety, benefits, sick days and more. As students, we acknowledged how similar our issues are, regardless of our employer or union affiliation.

I have made some fast friends over the years as I've attended various labour courses. Not only are the facility and food fantastic, but daycare is available on site and we are encourage to bring our families. Great learning, great location, great people, great fun. What more can you ask of a summer course?



**Student Vote**  
The future of Canadian Democracy



## ETFO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Yellow shirts, election speeches, August heat - that would be Annual General Meeting. August 15 - 18 saw Upper Grand delegates and alternates working hard to address resolutions aimed at improving the organization and teachers' lives. They had a lot of work to do! There were 124 resolutions to pass, an Executive to elect, motivating speakers to listen to which included Dalton McGinty, our Premier. It was a busy, inspiring time for Elementary Teachers.

ETFO President Sam Hammond was re-elected as President. Our own Chief Negotiator, Doug Cook was elected to serve on the Provincial Executive for a third consecutive term. We are all very proud of Doug's success and know that he will be bringing Upper Grand's perspective to the Executive on your behalf.

This was also a time for other election activities - ETFO's slogan for the 2011 Provincial Election campaign was unveiled "**Because Education Matters**". Imagine almost 1000 delegates, alternates, staff and guests all wearing the same yellow shirts. It was quite a spectacle! This was the sight which greeted Premier Dalton McGinty when he addressed the delegates. Hopefully we made the right impression on him - that we care about education and the importance this needs to play in the upcoming election. Your local representation were working hard in the August heat - because ETFO matters!



Upper Grand ETFO delegates debate their next move



Upper Grand ETFO Delegates Amy Murray, Amanda Clark, Tanya Hipfner, Krista Pedersen, Carrie Zamora

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING 2011/2012

A Contract Teacher may access up to **\$450.00** in PD Funding once every school year. The year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30th.

**Q. How can I get a PD Funding Application Form?**

A. Visit our website [www.etfo.org](http://www.etfo.org) - second drawer of filing cabinet - Professional Development.

**Q. Why must I apply for PD Funding before taking PD?**

A. To ensure that there is money available for you and that you qualify.

**Q. Who do I call if I have any questions about Professional Development funding.**

A. You may call Linda Barton our Office Manager at 519-837-0090, she will be able to answer your questions about funding.

**Q. How will I know if there is money for me?**

A. When your application is received at the Local's office, confirmation is faxed to you that funding has been set aside for you. At that time you will be asked to provide us with certain receipts once your course/conference/workshop is over.

**Q. If I need O.T. coverage to take my Professional Development, who pays for that?**

A. If your school is not paying for your O.T., the cost is yours and will form part of your PD Funding.

**Q. What do I say on SmartFind when booking the O.T.?**

A. Say "Union".

**Q. How does the board get paid for my O.T.?**

A. The Board sends the Local a bill.

**Q. When will I receive the money?**

A. When your course/conference/workshop is finished and the Local has received the requested receipts, a cheque (less any O.T. costs) will be sent to you via the school courier bag.



## UPPER GRAND ETFO WORKSHOPS

**PDAC Mining Matters  
Deeper & Deeper  
Discovering Rocks & Minerals (Grade 4 Science)**  
Thursday, September 29, 2011  
4:00 - 7:00 p.m. (Complimentary Dinner)  
Victoria Terrace  
Limited space available  
**Registration closing date: September 19, 2011**

**Pregnancy & Parental Leave Workshop  
Wednesday, October 12, 2011**  
4:30 - 6:00 p.m. (Snacks provided)  
Princess Elizabeth  
Limited space available  
**Registration closing date: October 7th, 2011**  
(Please note that this workshop will be offered on 4 different dates - October 12 at Princess Elizabeth, November 2 at JD Hogarth, February 8 at Paisley PS and April 4 at Drayton Heights.)



### Dates to Remember

September 14 - Upper Grand ETFO Executive Meeting  
(4:45 - 6:30) Orchard Park

September 16 - The Workplace Steward shall be elected by an in-school vote.

October 5 - Upper Grand ETFO New Steward Meeting (1:00 - 3:00)

**Did you know.....?** Over the decades, early Federation services expanded and adapted to become today's professional relations services (PRS), which now handles about 4000 calls a year from ETFO members experiencing professional difficulty.

In the early years, most teachers' calls were about dismissal or salary. PRS work evolved to reflect the increasingly complex demands of teaching.

Every day PRS staff work with the local offices to help members cope with the challenges of teaching. Emphasizing prevention through member education, your Federation offers workshops on such topics as performance appraisal, conflict resolution, harassment and human rights, parent-teacher relationships, professionalism, professional boundaries, LGBT issues, pregnancy and parental leave.

Upper Grand ETFO Teachers' Local (Orchard Park) 519-837-0090 [www.ugetfo.org](http://www.ugetfo.org)

# September 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	
4	5	6 <small>20 sick days credited to each full time Teacher's Account</small>	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 <small>UGETFO Executive Meeting (Orchard Park)</small>	15	16 <small>Staffing levels to be adjusted based on actual enrolment.</small>	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



**NEXT MONTH.....FALL ANNUAL MEETING AT MONORA PARK, OCTOBER 20TH IN ORANGEVILLE**