

Superannuated Teachers of Ontario

District 16 City of Toronto

President:

Margaret Smith

Newsletter

Editor:

Phil Hornick

September 7, 1987

Greetings and best wishes to all, and a very warm welcome to our new members.

Major-General Reginald Lewis, speaking at our MAY BREAKFAST, had some excellent advice for our retirees: "Retirees should remain interested and involved in the community, and not be like Miss Helen McGladderly in Robertson Davies' WHAT'S BRED IN THE BONE, 'soldiering on through her teaching career until...she would be able to retire and, with God's help, never see any of her former pupils again'."

So much has happened since our last Newsletter that it's almost impossible to know where to begin. As a matter of fact, this Edition has been in the works for months, and this final copy is being rushed through in order to meet deadlines. Deadlines? I thought we left those at school when we retired. We can't even wait until the Provincial elections are over, in order to comment.

One of the best pieces of news to come our way was the action taken by the Government to assist teachers on low pensions, and STO can take a goodly measure of credit for this. To our friends who will gain from this "enhancement", CONGRATULATIONS! May you enjoy it for many years to come!

The "write-in" campaign is still with us, but has not, as yet, met with the same success as the "low pension" issue. But all is not lost, and we must continue our efforts. "Lobbying" now seems to be the order of the day.

The May Senate made good inroads into the Report on Future Trends, but did not have time to tackle all the recommendations. The Senate also took a good, hard look at STO's budgets, something that is sorely needed. The proposed fee increase had to be put off until the November Senate, as it had something to do with the STO Constitution, not the Meach Lake Constitution.

By now you have your Booklet on Health Services, and the inserts from the Health Services Committee. Keep these items handy for ready reference, although we would rather hope that you will never have need for them. STO will be investigating the possibility of having our premiums subsidized by the Government. Good luck!

Ministerial responsibility for the Superannuation Act has been transferred from the Treasurer to the Minister of Education.
The effect of this change remains to be seen.

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MAY BREAKFAST: HIGHLIGHTS

- * Over 200 people attended our MAY BREAKFAST on a beautiful Spring day. Margaret Smith, President, chaired the event.
- * The Honourable Lincoln Alexander, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, paid tribute to the teachers, noting:
"...You instilled in me a desire...to encourage and support the youth of Ontario...Teachers planted this seed in my mind and I must thank you for that...and praise you...I pray to God to watch over you in your retirement years and bless you for what you have done for the youth of this Province..."

- * In urging retirees "to remain interested and involved in the community", Major-General Reginald Lewis, our Guest Speaker, had these comments:

"...You accepted a responsibility that placed you in a position of trust in the community, and by accepting this responsibility, you developed a rapport, accepting the responsibility of a surrogate parent in many ways...and often playing the part of a role model, always on stage..."

Retirees are young at heart from working with young people, and providing a moderating influence to confused pupils, and by opening new doors beyond the curriculum...You share a common bond with your associates, and with the satisfaction gained from the successes with your pupils, measured in the number of lives you have affected...

Your experience and sensitivity gained from teaching is an asset to the community...You have left the classroom, but are still in a strong position in the community...You have a better understanding of the changes and proposed changes in education. No other profession has had as much impact, nor has been as much maligned by the public...

The unique character of the teaching profession must not be lost in retirement...You must look at your successes, those pupils who have gone on to greater heights...You are a disciplinary group in an intellectual form..."

- *George Hayes, in thanking the Speaker, repeated Gen. Lewis' remarks that teachers can still be a positive influence in the community.

- * Three of our members, Hilda Barry, Mary Lehane, and Bill Darbyshire were recognized and honoured for their contribution to District 16.

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Should our MAY BREAKFAST be replaced by a LUNCHEON? This item will be discussed at our GENERAL MEETING on October 14, 1987.

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FROM HERE AND THERE

- * Treasurer of Ontario, on "Recalculation", as reported in Hansard, November 17, 1986:

"...I am not sure whether it is unfair to say that the teachers' professional organizations themselves have not as yet indicated their support or otherwise in this matter..."

- * G. F. Youngman, Campaign Co-Ordinator, STO Political Action Committee, in letter to District Presidents, June 26, 1987:

"...Our campaign has the support of all OTF Affiliates, representing the active teachers of Ontario..."

- * Treasurer of Ontario, in a letter to Jim Causley, re Low Pensions and Recalculation, March 31, 1987:

"...With respect to the suggestion that pensions be recalculated on the basis of the 'best 5' years...the Public Sector Pensions Advisory Board...did not support the proposal. A retroactive benefit improvement of this nature would run counter to... pension practices. The Government concluded that the low pension enhancement was a more effective and appropriate way of using limited resources to meet needs."

- * Minister of Education, in a letter to Jim Causley, April 16, 1987, on the transfer of ministry responsibility for the Teachers' Superannuation Act:

"...In view of the pending federal and provincial pension reform, the review of all pension plan legislation will become a priority issue, and one that will require special efforts by all concerned to address emerging issues..."

I have every confidence that together, the various interested groups and the Ministry of Education will meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead to ensure that the Teachers' Superannuation Act continues to provide the teachers of the province with one of the fairest and most progressive of pension plans...

I look forward to establishing a close and effective working relationship with the Superannuated Teachers of Ontario."

- * Ministry of Treasury and Economics, FACT SHEET: LOW PENSIONS, April 2, 1987:

"...The regulation will increase the pensions of some 4,800 retired teachers and survivors. About 2000 full-service retired teachers have Teachers' Superannuation allowances below \$10,000. About 95% of this group are women and most of them began collecting pensions prior to 1976."

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FROM HERE AND THERE (Continued)

✓ Their pensions are small because the salaries were low in real terms relative to those of to-day; the ad hoc increases prior to 1976 did not fully compensate for inflation; and they receive only partial or no Canada Pension Plan Benefits (full CPP began only in 1976).

The Government concluded that the low pension enhancement was the most effective use of limited resources to address this need. The Superannuated Teachers of Ontario suggested recalculating pensions on the basis of the "best 5" years.

Examples

<u>Retired in</u>	<u>Current Pension</u>	<u>Increase due to</u>	
		<u>Low Pension</u>	<u>"Best 5"</u>
1965	\$ 4,000	\$5,330	\$ 92
1980	20,000	-	2,040

The cost will be met from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. For the first two years, it is estimated at \$4.5 million annually, including indexation, and it will gradually decline to \$3.2 million by 1995."

(Ed. Note: By including "recalculation" in the same letter announcing the allowances for low pensions, the Treasurer of Ontario did little more than mix apples and oranges. The two items were completely separate issues, both sought by OTF., STO., and the Biennial Review Committee.)

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NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT

- + Our special meeting last May on "Future Trends" was an excellent one. Unfortunately, the attendance was small, less than expected. However, those who did attend showed that they had a good knowledge of the Report, and were prepared to comment.
- + Plans are being finalized for our ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS, on October 14, 1987, and, in order to comply with the wishes of many members, the meeting will be "double-barrelled", that is, having a guest speaker first, and then a "business session" which will include the Election of Officers.
This meeting deserves your attention, and you should make every effort to attend. As members, you deserve to know what is going on. As they say, "You won't know unless you attend."
- + Please note on the enclosed membership form that our new fee for District 16 is \$5.00. It would be appreciated if your cheque could be sent to Molly Moore as soon as possible.

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DISTRICT NOTES (Continued)

+ District 16 is "big business", and continues to grow. But to keep us active and viable, we need help. Your Help!

Won't you help? Whatever area you volunteer for, you will find the work interesting and satisfying, but not onerous. Even more, you will find the people you work with a "great group".

Who better than retired Educators can serve in Public Relations, Writing, Good Will, Social and Recreational, etc? So don't be shy about filling in the Form at the bottom of the Membership Form. We'd love to hear from you!

+ You are urged to check the coding on the pre-printed address labels on the items you have received recently from the Provincial STO: Newsletter, Facts and Impressions, Travel Bulletins, etc. If the number in the upper right-hand corner reads other than "161", you are on the Membership List for some other District, and the rebate from your STO fees goes there, and not to District 16.

In order to correct this error, make sure you complete the Form in the STO Spring Newsletter, and send it to the STO Office at 1260 Bay Street, Toronto, M5R 2B5.

The bottom line should be filled in, as follows:

<u>STO District Code</u>	<u>District Number</u>	<u>District Name</u>
161	16	City of Toronto

+ Sid Coles will continue to concentrate upon recruiting members from among new retirees. However, the job of recruiting from among non-members is up to us. So let's all do our part!

+ Club 16, the "Social and Recreational Arm" of District 16, always has excellent programs and activities lined up for us. Just read their Bulletins, and you will see. You are reminded that membership fees for District 16 also include membership in Club 16.

+ If you know of any member who is ill, bereaved, a "shut-in", or in need of assistance, contact Elizabeth Fatterson, who is our Good Will Convener.

+ Mary Thomas, and several members, met during the summer with a number of MPP's, as part of our "lobbying" for recalculation.

+ Mr. Lou Wise, former Director of the Teaching Aids Department at the Toronto Board of Education, will be our Speaker at the Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 1987

Time: 1:30 p.m. (Coffee at 1:00 p.m.)

Place: Education Centre Conference Room
155 College St., Corner McCaul.

UP-COMING EVENTS

- o All Saints (Elem.): 25th Anniversary, September 27, 1987, at 1435 Royal York Road; 241-4651
- o Brebeuf College: 25th Anniversary, Fall 1987, at 211 Steeles Avenue East; 393-5508
- o Brock Avenue: 100th Anniversary, Fall 1987, at 93 Margueretta Street; 535-1115
- o Deer Park School: 100th Anniversary, May 1988, at 23 Ferndale Avenue; 924-1422
- o Dovercourt School: 100th Anniversary, May 1988, at 228 Bartlett Avenue; 535-1195
- o St. Francis Assisi: 100th Anniversary, Fall 1987, at 100 Manning Avenue; 534-6303

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ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mother: "No, Johnny's eyes were never checked. They've always been plain blue."

Dentist: "I know you paid my way through College, Mother, and helped set up my Office. But in fairness to my other patients, I must still charge you for the filling."

Ball Player: "Judge, when I said I was getting rid of the old bat, I wasn't referring to my wife. And when I said I beat her twice last week, it was at Gin Rummy."

Sufferer: "When the topic was announced as 'Advances in Floppy Discs' I rushed down, only to find that it had nothing to do with lower back pain."

Retiree: "The worst thing about being retired is missing out on all the school holidays."

Disappointed: "I paid a deposit on a trip to Europe on the basis of an expected refund from my Income Tax."

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QUIZ

What do you remember about the "Penny Bank?" "ADP Cards?"

"James' Texts?" "Cadet Parades?" "Opportunity Plans?"

IN MEMORIAM

Lloyd Hall

Morris Hughes

Margaret Ellem

George Varty

David McNaught

Mary Blessinger