

Special points of interest:

- President's Message
- H1N1 in the Schools
- Dispatch "B-L-U-E-S"
- Know Your Collective Agreement

**WELCOME BACK TO ALL
ALGOMA OCCASIONAL TEACHERS!**

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

**REMEMBER TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT
<http://www.algomaotlocal.com>**

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Edited by
Peter Mead, President
Phone 705-257-0556
meadp@yahoo.com

President's Message

With the beginning of this new school year, you have a new Algoma Occasional Teacher Executive working on your behalf. At our Local Annual Meeting in late May, the following members were elected to our Executive:

Peter Mead—President
Elsa Shelswell—Vice-President
Jeanette Cowen—Treasurer
Don Laity—Member-at-Large
Kim Turner—Member-at-Large

As a result of our first Executive Meeting in September, and a recent meeting with ADSB Personnel, we are able to provide you with the following updates on these issues of concern to members:

~EI going from 7 to 8: At present, every day that you work as an OT is credited with 7 hours of EI. We would like to get this increased to 8 in order to reflect more accurately

the real number of hours that teachers work. Durham, Lakehead and numerous other boards have already adopted the 8 hour policy, so there is plenty of precedence for our request. This issue was discussed at length with no satisfactory conclusion. As a result, this issue will once again be on the agenda for the next meeting with the ADSB.

~Keeping the OT List frozen: The OT list in Algoma is frozen until December, with the exception of the geographic areas of Elliot Lake, Spanish, Iron Bridge and Blind River, and with the exception of the French OT List for the district.

~LTO Pool: 167 people applied to be in the ADSB LTO Pool. 30 of those will be notified by letter of their acceptance into this Pool.

Peter Mead, President

How to Deal with H1N1 in the Schools

At the most recent ADSB Joint Health and Safety Committee Meeting, the possible H1N1 pandemic was a major focus of attention. The Ontario Ministry of Health has been working on protocols with the Boards of Education and Health Units across the province.

Of note is the fact that Boards of Education do not decide unilaterally to close schools if a school's population (student and staff) should be hard hit by this flu. Statistics are sent daily to the Health Unit which makes the decision.

There is great concern with women who are pregnant. Some say that there is no foundation for concern because this group may be no more or less liable to contract H1N1 than any other. If you are concerned as an Occasional Teacher, do not refuse calls. Take the initiative to ask for a leave of absence based on your concerns. It is your own personal choice as to whether you decide to put yourself or your unborn child at risk. Call the Health Unit or your personal physician as your first point of departure on your way to making an informed decision.

At the school level, children are being taught about prevention and reduction of the spread of the virus. There should also be posted signs regarding protocols such as sneeze and cough etiquette and locations for hand wash. The protocol also speaks of what to do when students or staff become ill at school. Know the symptoms and report incidents to the office!

The Ministry and Health Units advise both students and staff: *If you are sick, stay home!*

For more information, check out the Q & A document on the ETFO website at www.etfo.ca

~ Don Laity, Member-at-Large, acting as Alternate H&S Representative

**If you have questions about
H1N1 flu virus, please contact
your ETFO Local (705-257-0556)
or ETFO Professional Relations
Services staff at 1-888-838-3836
or 416-962-3836.**



DISPATCH “B-L-U-E-S”



Greetings to Occasional Teachers,

Welcome back to another school year! A special welcome to new teachers who may have joined our ranks!

We all look forward to each day of the school year as the calendar rolls by with anticipation as to when we may be called upon and where we might be placed.

At times, we may feel frustrated at the lack of call outs or at the timing of call outs. Nevertheless, we must remember that we are professionals. Our actions and words must reflect our professionalism.

In May, I had the opportunity to attend our local Annual Meeting. Previously, I was honored to be asked to participate in the negotiations of our contract with the Board of Education. In both of these instances, issues relating to our call out system were topics of discussion.

May I offer a couple of suggestions ... Some have expressed an opinion that on occasion, there seemed to be a lack of respect by the dispatcher. We must remember that this person is under much pressure in a short time period to fill the needs of the board. Frustrations may temper her call when a number of people she calls either don't answer, or decline the call.

One of the most important things we must endeavour to do is to call our dispatch line and indicate ahead of time, dates that we are not available to teach. Messages may be left at any time, even weekends! Such notices are not held against you! What may be held against you is that you don't call with an advance notice of non-availability, then you are called and you have to turn it down. Also, if you are someone who is not able to take late calls because of family responsibilities or other, feel free to indi-

cate this ahead of time.

You can imagine how much time may be saved by the dispatcher on a morning when there may be many, many calls to make. Valuable time would not be wasted calling someone who has already indicated “not available.”

Communication is a very important component in developing and maintaining a positive relationship.

At all times, please remember that the dispatcher is our connection with the board. She is the messenger, only. Do not jeopardize your relationship with the dispatcher or the board. If there are difficulties that you feel may exist, your duty is to call the executive of our local. E-mail addresses and telephone numbers are publicized on bulletin boards in each of our elementary schools.

Regards and best wishes to all !

Don Laity . OCT

Executive Member of Algoma O/T Local.

Take Notice!

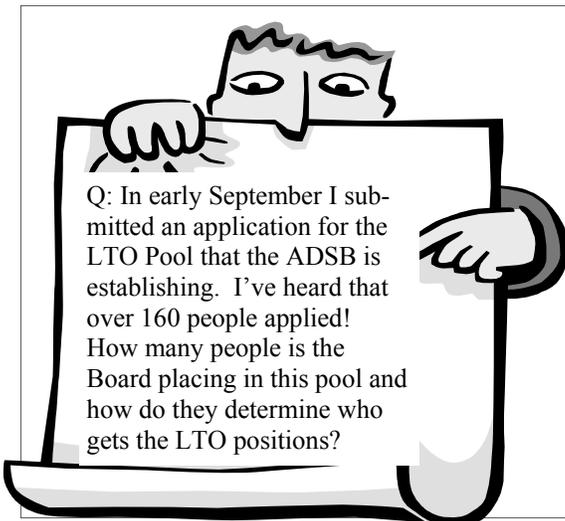
Interested in a Retirement Workshop?

The Algoma District Teacher Local is hosting Retirement Workshops on November 2nd, 3rd, and 4th throughout the district—one in the East, one in the North and one in Sault Ste. Marie. For further information, or in order to register, contact Kitty Zorzit at the ADETFO Office at 705-942-3379.

Interested in Becoming Certified in CPR or First Aid?

The Algoma OT Local pays for the costs of any member to take CPR or First Aid training. Save your receipts and contact Pres. Peter Mead at 705-257-0556 in order to be reimbursed.

*****Know Your Collective Agreement*****



- A: The ADSB has confirmed that as of the deadline of September 9th, 167 Occasional Teachers applied to be placed in the LTO Pool. The Board plans to place 30 OTs into this LTO Pool. According to Superintendent of Education Lu Reece, as LTO positions become available, members from this pool are invited to apply for them. If 4 or more people from this pool apply for an LTO position, interviews will be held. If less than 4 people from the pool apply for an LTO position, the ADSB may make the final decision on the successful applicant without an interview process.

Remember: Any Occasional Teacher position that involves more than 15 working days must be posted as an LTO position and filled with members from the LTO Pool. If you have concerns that the proper protocol has not been followed in any placement, please let me know.

Our Collective Agreement is only as strong as our willingness to enforce it!