

OSSTF Rainbow District 3
184 9th Avenue, Lively, ON

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February 2018

**"Valentine's and
Family Times"**



The LINK



Dates of Interest:

Feb 6th: District Executive Meeting
4:00 pm

Feb 7th: Health & Safety Meeting
4:00 pm

Feb 11th:

H&S Training 4:00 pm

PSSP Meeting 4:00 pm

MPP Meet/Greet 4-7pm
@the Hourglass

Feb 13th: TBU CBC Meeting
4:00 pm

Feb 14th: Valentine's Day

Feb 18th: Family Day

*Here are some links to help you find
the perfect activity for you and your
family on Family Day.*

President's Message:

Black History in Canada

During Black History Month, Canadians celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous nation it is today.

People of African descent have been a part of shaping Canada's heritage and identity since the arrival of Mathieu Da Costa, a navigator and interpreter, whose presence in Canada dates back to the early 1600s.

The role of Blacks in Canada has not always been viewed as a key feature in Canada's historic landscape. There is little mention that some of the Loyalists who came here after the American Revolution and settled in the Maritimes were



<https://www.sudbury.com/local-news/14-cool-things-to-do-on-family-day-539641>

<https://sudburyeventscalendar.com/family/>

<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/city-hall/news-and-public-notice/2018/2018-family-day-leisure-activities/>

Feb 19th: Finance Committee Meeting 4:00 pm

Feb 20th: TBU Meeting 4:00 pm

Feb 21st: Status of Women Meeting 4:00 pm

Feb 26th OTBU Meeting 4:00 pm

March 1st: PSSP and ESSU Member's Paint Party!!
Lively Office 184 9th Avenue
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Note: Please confirm your attendance with PSSP President, Carol Fortin OR ESSU President, Phil Crowe



March 5th: Health & Safety Training 4:00 pm

March 6th: District Executive Meeting 4:00 pm

Blacks, or of the many sacrifices made in wartime by Black Canadian soldiers as far back as the War of 1812.

Few Canadians are aware of the fact that African people were once enslaved in the territory that is now Canada, or of how those who fought enslavement helped to lay the foundation of Canada's diverse and inclusive society.

In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada following a motion introduced by the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine. The motion was carried unanimously by the House of Commons.

District Officer's Message

New on the District 3 website: D3 Webmaster Kyle Craftchick has posted two videos from the OSSTF Provincial Office on the main page of the website (www.d03.osstf.ca). The first video is about the collective bargaining process. The second provides information about how to register to receive the Central Bargaining Priorities Survey (**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** Friday, February 8th).

Important dates for prospective retirees: This a reminder of some key dates* for prospective retirees. *Updated timelines for 2019-20 have been posted in First Class. Prospective June 2019 *teacher* retirees must provide notice of their intent to retire by **Friday, March 29, 2019**. Those intending to retire at the end of this school year may be interested in terminating their LTD premiums for the balance of the school year. Contact the District 3 office for information on **how to apply for LTD premium termination**.

Non-teaching members intent on retiring this year should consider providing more than the minimum two weeks' notice required to ensure that the OMERS pension plan has adequate time to ensure pension payments start on time. The RDSB confirms that although they only require two weeks' notice of intent to retire, it is in members' best interests to provide more than two weeks' notice.

OSSTF recommends that anyone planning to retire does so on the last day of the month. Both pension plans (OMERS and OTPP) begin pension payments only in the month following retirement.

Post-retirement benefits: Members of the OSSTF Benefits Plan who are planning to retire should be aware that their extended healthcare benefits cease upon retirement. There are several providers of health and dental benefits for retirees.

Walk into Retirement with a Plan (OTIP): Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 5pm at the Caruso Club. Registration is now open at www.otip.com/For-Retirees. Click on the button "Free Retirement Workshop." Workshops are listed by date. *You must register online to attend this workshop.* Even if you are still a few years away from retirement, it is worthwhile attending to start planning for your post-retirement health & dental benefits. This workshop is open to members of all bargaining units. Spots fill up quickly, as this workshop is also open to OECTA and ETFO members.



February 14th happens to be the world's greatest manufactured consumerist holiday – so, how do you celebrate?

If you are stuck for ideas, here are some unusual Valentine's Day Traditions from around the world that you may be able to implement into your Valentine's Day celebrations this year! Or not...



FRANCE

It's been said that the first Valentine's Day card originated in France when Charles, Duke of Orleans, sent love letters to his wife while imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1415. Today, Valentine's Day cards remain a popular tradition in France and around the world.

Another traditional Valentine's Day event in France was the "loterie d'amour", or "drawing for love." Men and women would fill houses that faced one another, and then take turns calling out to one another and pairing off. Men who weren't satisfied with their match could simply leave a woman for another, and the women left unmatched gathered afterward for a bonfire.

During the bonfire, women burned pictures of the men who wronged them and hurled swears and insults at the opposite sex. The event became so uncontrollable that the French government eventually banned the tradition all together. Sounds romantic!



ENGLAND

On the eve of Valentine's Day, women in England used to place five bay leaves on their pillows -- one at each corner and one in the center -- to bring dreams of their future husbands. Alternatively, they would wet bay leaves with rosewater and place them across their pillows.

In Norfolk, Jack Valentine acts as a Santa of sorts for Valentine's Day. Children anxiously wait to hear Jack Valentine knock at their doors, and although they don't catch a glimpse of Old Father Valentine, children enjoy the candies and small gifts left on their porches.





JAPAN

In Japan, it's the women who spoil the object of their affections with chocolates on the 14th of February – and it's the type of chocolate given that counts.

For husbands, boyfriends, or prospective boyfriends, high quality honmei-choco ("true feeling") chocolates are hand delivered,

while colleagues or acquaintances receive giri-choco, the cheaper "obligation chocolate".

If you are unlucky (or unlikeable?), you might even end up with a box of cho-giri choco: ultra-obligation chocolate reserved for the most unpopular of male colleagues.

When White Day comes around on March 14, those who received honmei-choco are expected to return the favour by giving their loved ones presents (often jewellery or lingerie) worth two to three times the chocolates they received.



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Japan

Valentine's Day is about pampering the guys! Women give chocolates to men, and hope they return the gesture later in the year.



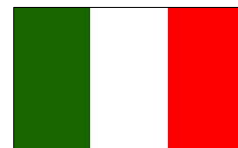
Verona's Valentine's market



ITALY

Originally, Italians celebrated Valentine's Day as the Spring Festival. The young and amorous gathered outside in gardens and such to enjoy poetry readings and music before taking a stroll with their beloved.

Another Italian Valentine's Day tradition was for young, unmarried girls to wake up before dawn to spot their future husbands. The belief was that the first man a woman saw on Valentine's Day was the man she would marry within a year – or at least strongly resemble the man she would marry. No need for Match.com in Italy!



WALES

You won't find the Welsh celebrating Saint Valentine -- instead, people in Wales celebrate Saint Dwynwen, the Welsh patron saint of lovers, on January 25th.

One traditional romantic Welsh gift is a love spoon. As early as the 17th century, Welsh men carved intricate wooden spoons as a token of affection for the women they loved. Patterns and symbols were carved into these love spoons, each signifying a different meaning. A few examples include horseshoes, which stand for good luck; wheels, which symbolize support; and keys, which symbolize the keys to a man's heart.



When in
Denmark, present
snowdrops
to your
Valentine.



DENMARK

Although Valentine's Day is a relatively new holiday in Denmark (celebrated since the early 1990s according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark), the country has embraced February 14th with a Danish twist. Rather than roses, friends and sweethearts exchange pressed white flowers called snowdrops.



SOUTH AFRICA

Like many parts of the world, South Africa celebrates Valentine's Day with festivals, flowers and other tokens of love. It's also customary for women in South Africa to wear their hearts on their sleeves on February 14th; women pin the names of their love interest on their shirtsleeves, an ancient Roman tradition known as Lupercalia.



CANADA

Valentine's Day is celebrated with much enthusiasm in Canada. Valentine's Day dances and parties are organized all over the country where people express love for their spouses and sweethearts and enjoy to the max. Roses, chocolates, candies and cards are the most popular gifts for this romantic occasion.



just like
us!
Happy
Valentine's
Day!



...That's
a lot!!
Happy
Valentine's
Day!

Take advantage of **Ed**vantage!



Don't remember your OSSTF member ID? Call Donna at the District Office 705-692-3923

As an OSSTF/FEESO member, you have ready access to a wide range of services. They span the professional and protective needs of all members. In addition, there are a number of other services and products that members may choose to access, including GoodLife Fitness.

It's fast and easy to live the GoodLife! Purchase or renew your discounted membership online.

For more information on **ed**vantage, click on the site below:

<https://www.osstf.on.ca/en-CA/askosstf/what-do-i-get-for-my-union-dues/what-other-benefits-are-there-to-being-an-osstf-feeso-member.aspx>

Please join the CPAC Committee on Monday, Feb 11th at the Hour Glass Restaurant as we meet with local MPPs for conversations on the Ford Fight Back. Learn the impact of this new government agenda on the education community.

Appetizers and beverages provided 😊



INVITATION
D3 CPAC Committee
invites you to attend
a Conversation with Sudbury
and area NDP MPPs:
RH France Gelin
RH Michael Mantha
RH Jamie West

Monday, Feb 11th 4:00pm – 7:00 pm
at the Hour Glass Restaurant
183 Cedar Street

6 Winter Activities for the Outdoor Enthusiast

One of the many things that makes Canada such a great place to live is its array of beautiful natural landscapes and the outdoor activities that they offer. Just because it's winter doesn't mean that you can't enjoy them. In fact, there are many outdoor activities that are still possible (if not better!) in the winter months. Since Canadian winters can seem to drag on forever, there's really only one thing left to do: bundle up and embrace the great outdoors.

To learn more, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article34



Keep your heart beating strong

February is heart health month, making it the perfect time to learn more about heart disease, and how you can help prevent it by living a healthier life.

What is heart disease?

Heart disease is a buildup of plaque in the heart's arteries that can lead to a heart attack, heart failure or death. Approximately 1 out of 12 (or 2.4 million) Canadians live with heart disease. However, as of 2013, the rate of Canadians diagnosed with heart disease began decreasing.

To learn more, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article33