



## Convention Report

By Ayla Umac

This year's convention experience was my first but hopefully not my last. Convention took place at the Sheraton Centre on April 19 – 21, 2007 in Toronto, Ontario. It was an eye-opening experience for me as a new alternate. I didn't know exactly what to expect but it certainly was not what I had

imagined. There were so many people and so much going on. Each day over 1500 individuals converged into the grand ballroom to deal with the issues of the day. They included budgets, elections, labour laws, the environment, OPSEU constitution and much more. They not only affect OPSEU members but

everyday working class people. It was sort of like a United Nations meeting with people from all facets of life, various jobs and different working environments but all together in one room for one cause- the labour movement and the business of running OPSEU.

Being an active local

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Inside this issue:

<i>Convention Report</i>	2
<i>Logo</i>	2
<i>A.I.R. - Product Recall</i>	3
<i>3 Questions</i>	3
<i>When I am gone?</i>	4
<i>Thanks!</i>	4



By OPSEU staff

Our brand embodies our identity and philosophy. It reflects who we are, what we do, and how we want to be seen. It is more than just a logo: it represents the strength of OPSEU as a growing progressive force for positive change in Ontario. The strategic direction of our union revolves around three interdependent pillars: organizing, negotiating and public policy.

Changing the brand is a sign of strength and growth. Signaling the

changes in our organization, it makes the image contemporary, responsive to the demands of new technologies, and competitive with like organizations. Our time has come. The idea of OPSEU has changed. Thirty-five years ago, when the union was first branded, OPSEU was primarily a union of direct government employees. The union, like our workplaces and the province, is now much more diverse. It is more politically engaged. Minor changes have been made to our brand, but we are still basically using variants of the 1970s design. It is time for the changes in the union to become part of our identity, and for a new brand to be adopted. It is time for OPSEU

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Points of Interest

- Stewards Meeting  
June 21, 2007

# Convention

(Continued from page 1)

member I had some exposure to various meetings and groups such as London District Area Council and the Regional OPSEU meeting but nothing to this extreme. Convention includes OPSEU members from each of the 7 regions. I was lucky enough to attend during an election year to see first hand what these delegates and alternates experience year after year. It was such a great opportunity to meet new people from various regions.

I attended the awards banquet which this year honored outgoing OPSEU President Leah Caselman, The Provincial Woman's Committee (PWC) breakfast which recognized aboriginal women and the disadvantages the aboriginal people face. Hospitality suites, information sessions for new convention attendees and various caucus meetings, I tried to fit it all in. I had the opportunity to see individuals who I had met previously at regional educational weekends but I was also exposed to a whole new group of faces and



people. The first day of convention I attended a CAAT- Support Staff Caucus meeting with members from all the other colleges. It was interesting to hear the issues regarding the new PDF system.

The best description I can give someone about convention is that it comprises interesting concepts together in one total democratic process and forum. You have various inspirational characters within the organization. Each individual has a story, an experience, that they can tell and willingly share their wealth of knowledge with anyone who asks.

The elections were intense and in the end a new President Warren "Smokey" Thomas took over the reins of OPSEU.

Patty Rout was elected to the position of 1st VP \ Treasurer. I am looking forward to the convention experience again next year. It is not an election year and I understand that this is when most of the business of OPSEU gets done.

I feel that just by being a little interested in things going on around you, like the union, you can gain a vast amount of knowledge and experience and maybe later it can help with the challenges that we face in our everyday life.

# Logo

(Continued from page 1)

to move forward with a visual identity that accurately reflects its growth and strength. There are many compelling reasons to make this change. The new brand represents a contemporary image for the union, moving forward. OPSEU's French and English members are equally represented. The three lines evoke the history of the major original components of the union: OPS, BPS and CAAT. The three lines shelter the trillium, symbolizing the protections members gain as part of OPSEU, as well as how OPSEU

members are the first line of defense for Ontarians.

The new logo has continuity with the old logo including the lines, trillium and triangular shape, while embodying OPSEU's growth and evolution. This is an opportunity to create a strong public image through consistent application of a new OPSEU brand.

A new brand for a growing, evolving OPSEU!

## Smoke Detectors Recalled

This item would be of interest to members who lived in apartment buildings where the fire alarms are wired directly into the building power supply.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with Digital Security

Controls announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product.

**Name of product:** Digital Security Controls FSA and FSB Series Smoke Detectors  
**Units:** About 32,000

**Distributor:** Digital Security Controls, of Toronto, Canada

**Hazard:** These smoke de-

tectors could fail to reliably detect smoke during a fire.

**Incidents/Injuries:** None reported.

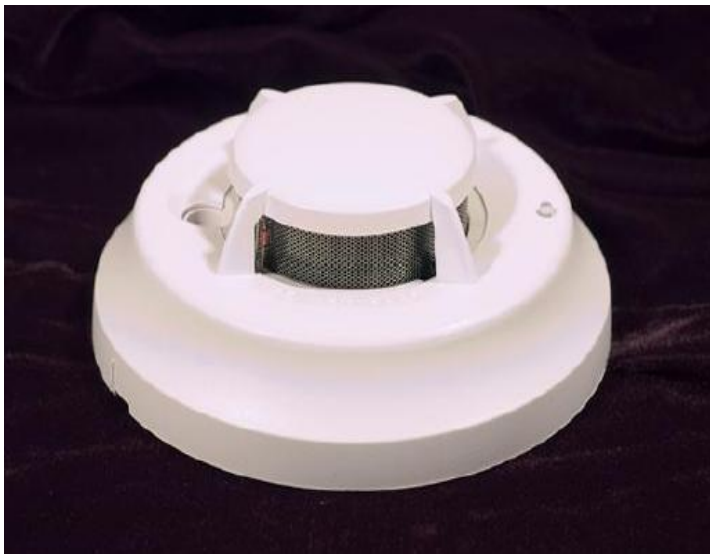
**Description:** The recall involves Digital Security Controls FSA and FSB series photo-electric smoke detectors. They are wired directly into the building circuitry, and do not use a battery. The dome shaped units have a metal mesh covering around the smoke sensor.

**Sold by:** Commercial and residential installers nationwide from October 2006 through December 2006 for between \$60 and \$70 per unit.

**Manufactured in:** Canada

**Remedy:** Customers should immediately contact their installer to receive a free inspection to determine if their units are included in the recall. If so, they will receive free replacement smoke detectors with installation. Customers also can contact Digital Security Controls for additional information on how to receive free replacement smoke detectors. Only professional installers should remove and replace these units.

**Consumer Contact:** For additional information, contact Digital Security Controls toll-free at (877) 666-1250 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at [www.dsc.com](http://www.dsc.com)



## 3 Little Questions

You may be able to save someone's life!

Some times symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking

3 simple questions:

- 1) Ask the individual to SMILE.
- 2) Ask them to RAISE BOTH ARMS.
- 3) Ask the person to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE.

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 911 immediate and describes the symptoms to the dispatcher.

After discovering that a group of non medical volunteers could iden-

tify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the 3 questions. They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. Wide spread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

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is our Business!

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web visit us at  
[opseulocal137.org](http://opseulocal137.org)

The **Support Report** is published bi-monthly.

Submissions are encouraged and will be checked for accuracy and content to ensure that they comply with the policies of OPSEU. Submissions may be edited for length and content. The Support Report is not responsible for any errors or omissions. Send all questions, comments or submissions to: Support Report - Local 137 Box 7

## Remember

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Remember me when I am gone away,  
Gone far away into the silent land;  
When you can no more hold me by the  
hand,  
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.  
Remember me when no more day by day.  
You tell me of our future that you plann'd:  
Only remember me; you understand  
It will be late to counsel then or pray.  
Yet if you should forget me for a while  
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:  
For if the darkness and corruption leave  
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,  
Better by far you should forget and smile



This is a charcoal sketch of Christina done by her brother.

## The Boy's of Summer

What is the origin of the hand signals used in baseball?

In the early 1900s, the New York Giants baseball team had a pitcher named Luther H. Taylor. He was a deaf mute who was, in an era of insensitivity, nick-

named "Dummy." Taylor lost a lot of games due to his inability to communicate with his team mates. John McGraw, the manager of the Giants, was under enormous pressure from the team's owner, the fans and the sportswriters to

trade Taylor. Instead, McGraw (who seems to have been a giant of a man) required the entire Giant team to learn America Sign Language. Once that was accomplished, McGraw used hand signals to lead his team.

## Thank-you!

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