

OPSEU

April 15, 2004, Issue 3



No bull bulletin

SEFPO

News for OPSEU members at the Niagara Parks Commission

It's time to get prepared

The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) has triggered the legal countdown to a strike or lockout on May 1.

We can't understand why they want to jeopardize the busy summer tourism season, but they do.

This was the NPC's doing. Now we've got to prepare for a lockout or strike.

Strength through solidarity

We hope to negotiate a settlement in the seven days of bargaining we've got scheduled.

That's our commitment to you.

However, we can't speak for management.

If the NPC does force strike action, we want it to be as short and effective as possible.

This takes organization, preparation, and most of all, the participation of our members.

Your elected strike committee and bargaining team will ask you in the coming days to show the NPC you support the team and the demands you voted on.

NPC in \$100,000 club

We're not sure the NPC understands the concept of "share the pain".

There have been layoffs of full-time staff. The threat of

further cutbacks continues.

We believe the NPC triggered the legal countdown to a lockout or strike as a pressure tactic.

They want to scare us into taking concessions when we return to the bargaining table next week.

They expect the workers to sacrifice while seven senior managers earn over \$100,000, including General Manager John Kernahan who earned \$137,748.53 in 2003.

Check the government website for the list: <http://www.gov.on.ca/FIN/english/salarydisclosure/2004/crown04.pdf>

Don't believe the rumours

Whenever bargaining gets serious, rumours start circulating.

Managers spread rumours to divide and scare us.

Don't believe the rumours. When you hear something, check with your steward or a bargaining team member.

If you don't hear it from the team, it's not true.

Bargaining to resume

We bargain April 19 - 22 and 28 - 30 with the assistance of a mediator from the Ministry of Labour.

You vote on a strike

Bargaining is about democracy. You vote on the demands we take to the table. You elect the team. You vote on the offer we bring to you.

For a legal strike, the bargaining unit must hold a secret ballot vote and members must approve strike action by more than 50 per cent.

Your team will schedule a strike vote if talks break off.

Watch for a general membership meeting

We'll schedule a general membership meeting in the near future. As soon as we have a date confirmed, we'll let you know.

Thanks for your continued support.

In solidarity,

Your Local 217 bargaining team,

Shelley Reed, *Chair*
Rob Atkin, *Co-chair*
Desiree Constantinides
Colleen McComb-Page
Dino McDonnell
Colin MacKenzie

Authorized for distribution:

Leah Casselman, President