

# CANADORE STRIKE NEWS



## **A BUSLOAD OF CANADORE OPSEU MEMBERS GO TO TORONTO**

March 17: Day 9

HELLO EVERYONE:

Yesterday was a wonderful experience. We boarded the bus at 6 a.m. and arrived in Toronto downtown at 9:15 a.m. We gathered right across from the Eaton Centre and didn't go shopping!!! It was overwhelming to see the huge number of community college teachers, counsellors, and librarians. The number was estimated at somewhere between 3500 and 5000, but knowing this doesn't come close to understanding how it feels to stand among a throng of people that span many street filled blocks. I was in awe. I was proud. I lost my fear for the future, knowing so many people were with me in our endeavour to improve education at the community college level. Before the rally started we were told that Chris Bentley was meeting with both bargaining groups today. This made for an even more positive day. We marched to the buildings housing the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, where we heard many inspiring speeches from Olivia Chow, the head of the English Catholic Teachers Association, Peter Kormos, Ted Montgomery, Student leaders, Jim Turk (CAUT), and others. I was also told that the secretaries/workers in the building (members of OPSEU) had voted 100% in our support. What brought many of us to tears was that many students from the Canadian Federation of Students marched with us, chanting, "We are the students walking with the faculty for quality education; teachers for students; students for teachers". We returned home, invigorated and ready to continue our (hopefully short) quest for Quality Education.

On the picket line, the mood was positive and upbeat, after the news that bargaining talks could now be moving forward. Yesterday, some picketers at various campuses were treated to chicken noodle and vegetable soups, plus home made cinnamon rolls and butter tarts. This morning, dean Daron Caron brought out hot chilli to the picketers at Commerce Court and management provided Danish and coffee at College Drive. A portable barbeque was set up behind a tarp so that faculty could protect themselves from the wind chill factor. Because it is St. Patrick's Day, Kim Charters wore "shamrock baubles" on a head band and Dave D wore a huge leprechaun hat which didn't match his

coveted Picket Captain's vest. The morale committee put shamrocks on the bottom of some coffee cups and those people won movie passes from the North Bay Film Club, donated by Tom (alias Terry) Hanrahan, who has recovered quite nicely from his Mack Truck incident.

I received an e-mail from Carolyn (in Business) at Cambrian College. She thanked us for our humorous newsletters, especially The Diary of a Picket Captain. She is passing these around to her picket line for morale boosting. If others of you have stories, please send them. Wayne has to sometimes shorten the newsletters for the web site, so be sure to also get hard copies.

Today, we heard that the meeting with Chris Bentley has led to an agreement by management to resume negotiations, with a mediator. Our mood is high and we hope it stays that way. It will if, this time, management is serious about negotiating.

Since our bus captain refused to allow us to stop for dinner (we had egg salad and cheese sandwiches on the bus) despite our laughter-laden pleas, we talked about a post-strike trip to the Vaughn Mall. I hope this happens, and I trust we will soon return to



work..

In solidarity, [carol@canadorerocks.ca](mailto:carol@canadorerocks.ca)