

## Jim Spence: retired supervisor of staff reps

Jim Spence, whose active involvement in OPSEU included the transition from the Civil Service Association of Ontario, died July 27.



Spence served on the union's board before moving to a full-time job as a staff representative.

"He was part of the transition from CSAO to OPSEU," said chief negotiator Andy Todd. "He was one of those who wanted to move to a stronger union model, and brought effective leadership to that endeavour."

## Bob Pick: medical division activist

Bob Pick, former president of Local 235 and an active member of the Medical Division, died this summer. He had been diagnosed with a brain tumour about two months earlier.

Bob was on the central hospital bargaining team between 1985 and 1991, where his insight was an asset for thousands of OPSEU members who work in technical jobs in hospitals.

"He was devoted to his family, his profession as a medical laboratory technologist and his union," said staff negotiator Janet Wright.

## Paul Hatala: former Region 6 EBM

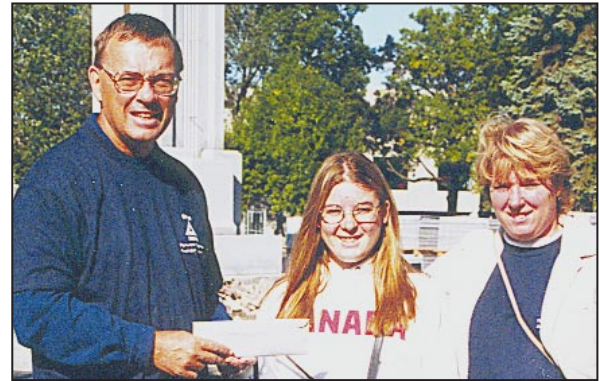
Paul Hatala, a retiree and former member of the OPSEU Executive Board from Region 6 died Aug. 28. Paul was a long-time president of Local 622 and served on the ministry employee relations team for the Ministry of Transportation.

## NUPGE grows by 6,500

The National Union of Public and General Employees has just grown by 6,500 members.

The New Brunswick Public Employees Association, OPSEU's counterpart in N.B., has voted to affiliate with the national union.

The decision brings NUPGE's total membership to more than 325,000 members, making it the second largest public sector union in Canada.



Region 6 vice president Bill Kuehnbaum presents Jennifer Breault with NUPGE's \$1,000 Terry Fox scholarship. Jennifer, daughter of Local 618's Cindy Loach, is attending Laurentian University.

## Youthful group makes big gains

Part-time staff at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto ratified a first contract Aug. 9 more than doubling the pay for some.

The 162 workers, members of Local 543, also won sick leave and more control over scheduling, a key issue for part-time workers.

"It's a wonderful feeling that a group of young people, mostly students, could have a landmark accomplishment," bargaining team chair Patrick Simon told the *Toronto Star*. Simon and co-workers Frances Giampapa, Liz McArthur and Claire Mummé worked with OPSEU negotiator Rob Field, staff representative Mary Ellen Cassey, and pay equity specialist Janet Wright to wrap up the deal.

"By the end of the contract, they will have wage parity with full-time staff [also part of Local 543]," said Field.

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## 1999 OPS bargaining is over

The 1999 round of OPS talks is finally over, with new class standards and salaries for 12 designated inspector/investigator classes.

Implementation is retroactive to Jan. 1, 1999.

During OPS bargaining, the employer agreed to review the 12 classes and set up a new pay framework. The revisions, completed in June, were the final step in the bargaining process.

## Pension trustee vacancies

OPSEU will have openings in January for a trustee for the OPSEU pension plan and an alternate for the Hospitals of Ontario Pension Plan. Candidates must be active members of the plan concerned.

Details and deadlines are available from the Membership Benefits Department at OPSEU, 100 Lesmill Road, Toronto, Ontario M3B 3P8 or on the website [www.opseu.org](http://www.opseu.org).

## Local 500 signs first contract

Negotiators for Local 500, the Centre for Addition and Mental Health in Toronto, reached a tentative agreement for a first contract June 2. The centre was created by combining the Clarke Institute for Psychiatry, Queen Street Mental Health Centre, Donwoods Institute and Addiction Research Foundation.

The nearly 1,600 employees had been covered by six different collective agreements. There were also two non-union groups.

All staff receive a retroactive payment equal to 8.09 per cent of their December, 1998, wages to cover the period from December, 1998 to March 31, 2001. At that point a new wage and classification system narrows 270 classifications to about 70 in 31 pay bands. Some wages increase by as much as 30 per cent. Anyone whose pay declines is red circled.

The Centre joins the OPSEU Benefit Trust. Members already in the OPSEU Pension Trust will stay there. New hires and others go into the Hospitals of Ontario Pension Plan.

The contract also covers time off for union business, and good job security language.

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