

Save the Date

November 3rd

ARM First Friday
Breakfast

WATCH FOR AN
EMAIL to order your
regular, vegetarian or
gluten-free meal

Free for members

\$15 for social members
or guests

December 6th

Luncheon at the
Ciociaro Club

Free for members

\$25 for social members
or guests

Details for this event will
be provided by email.

Future ARM Chapter 9
Newsletters will be
issued as Winter &
Spring Editions with
our final Annual
General Meeting
Edition being sent
before our June 21st
AGM.

Autumn carries more gold in its
pocket than all the other
seasons.

-Jim Bishop

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President's Message from Bruce Awad

Dear ARM Chapter 9 members.

I hope this message finds you all healthy and happy.

We receive our Chapter membership list from provincial OSSTF 4 times per year. The total number of members fluctuates each time. This is a reminder to those who do not belong to the RTIP benefit plan. **Please remember to pay your \$50 ARM membership fee in December, otherwise you will not remain on our list and will be ineligible to receive the perks of membership (free breakfasts, free luncheons and free workshops etc.)** If you do subscribe to the RTIP benefit plan, your ARM membership fee is added to your January premium each year, then remitted to OSSTF and a portion of the fee is rebated back to us to run the Chapter. You may receive an email soon, to confirm your membership if you belong to the RTIP benefit plan.

We are concerned that some of you may indeed be paying members and are not on our list. Please respond to the email when you receive it. Also, remember to inform us if you change your address, change your email address, or change your marital status. If you are a surviving spouse of a member who has passed away, and you never worked in education as an OSSTF member, you can remain an ARM member if you wish. You will, however, need to inform OSSTF of your status. If this applies to you, you can email us at armchapter9@outlook.com and we can assist you.

The CAFC (Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre) workshop on October 18, 2023, was a success with 24 people attending. Tom Cheel from the CAFC gave a 90-minute presentation on the latest email, telephone and internet scams targeting seniors and others. The information was valuable, and attendees were able to ask specific questions. Mr. Cheel was a member of the Toronto Police Service for 28 years as a detective and was involved in the area of financial crimes for 13 years. You can read the CAFC ant-fraud document on our website www.armchapter9.ca; it is a valuable resource.

We have four member-at-large vacancies on our Executive. We are looking for members who are willing to attend executive meetings (4 or 5 per year) and our events and participate in the work of the Chapter. If you are interested, please email us.

As you can see from this newsletter, we are very active supporting the OHC (Ontario Health Coalition), and the United Way. Please read those supporting articles on these initiatives later in this newsletter.

Finally, we are hoping to have a representative from OTIP at our winter luncheon on December 6, 2023, to speak about the RTIP benefit plan and any changes that may be happening for 2024. Mark your calendars for this event and watch for our email to register.

Yours in Federation, Bruce Awad, President

Email- armchapter9@outlook.com Website- www.armchapter9.ca

ONTARIO HEALTH COALITION

Head Office

15 Gervais Drive,
Suite 201 Toronto,
Ontario M3C 1Y8

Tel: 416-441-2502

Email:

ohc@sympatico.ca

Office hours:

09:00-17:00 Eastern
Standard Time

Windsor-Essex Chapter

Windsor Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/windsorhealthc/>

Essex Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/WEHealthCoalition/>

Patrick Hannon

519-944-9549

patrickjhannon@gmail.com

Tracey Ramsey

519-995-0239

traceryramsey200@gmail.com



Jacques Aharonian

W-E Bus Captain

The Ontario Health Coalition Action Assembly

A Report on Recent Events

OSSTF ARM Chapter 9 is a member organization of the Ontario Health Coalition (OHC). With financial support from the Federation, a bus was organized for Chapter 9 members to travel to Toronto on September 25th. Vice-president Jacques Aharonian was Bus Captain and Sandra Sahli, our Community Advocacy Officer, assisted with organizing the registrations for the Windsor-Essex Community bus.

An estimated 8,000 people converged at protests in Toronto, Thunder Bay, Dryden, and Algoma on September 25th, which was the opening day of the Legislature. The Coalition arranged a second event in Toronto on September 26th to accommodate those in the Jewish community who could not attend opening day of the Legislature as it was set on Yom Kippur.

Together, we set the tone for the opening of the Legislature and set health care privatization as a key issue for our province, showing the Ford government that the people of Ontario will not tolerate the privatization of our public hospitals and public health care. A heartfelt thank you to all of you who attended and did so much organizing work to create such a huge and powerful event.



Our assessment is that the situation is very serious and extremely urgent. Premier Doug Ford told the media that their government's estimation is that 50% of surgeries done in hospitals are "easy" (and thus could be transferred to private for-profit clinics). This fall, they intend to open the first three "day hospitals" (which they call clinics) that will start by doing 14,000 cataract surgeries, then expand to diagnostics, hip and knee surgeries and more. At the same time, they are doing substantially nothing about the repeated and ever more serious closures of local emergency departments, birthing and maternity, the severe understaffing of critical care and more.

Without question, the Ford government is closing and diminishing our local public hospital services. They are privatizing and deregulating the hospital and health care workforce. They are privatizing long-term care for the next thirty years, privatizing home care; privatizing primary care; privatizing and closing local Public Health Units, their services and local governance and much more. They are also building the infrastructure for private for-profit hospitals.

Through the winter/spring the Coalition organized and held a massive volunteer-led referendum across Ontario that garnered more than 400,000 votes against the privatization of our hospitals. As part of this campaign, we organized hundreds of workplace votes, almost a thousand community voting stations – which included one in Windsor supported by some of your ARM Executive members. During the campaign we distributed more than a million leaflets explaining the issue and giving the arguments against privatization door-to-door, in community groups, at streetside tables, and in workplaces.

Report continued on the next page



ARM Activist Sandra Marwood Pattman (purple jacket) with other concerned citizens!

This is the kind of deep community organizing that impacts public opinion significantly...and it shows in the polls. According to the Coalition, Ontario has the deepest opposition to health care privatization in the country. Polls are indicating that approximately 80% of Ontarians think the Ford government is doing a poor or very poor job on health care. The majority of Ontarians oppose privatization and, no matter their political stripe, people are deeply opposed to the closure of their local hospital services. ARM Chapter 9 will continue to support the Coalition and will keep members up to date in the coming months.

ARM Donation Update: Days for Girls – Windsor, Ontario

Submitted by: Ann Scott – Windsor Team Leader

Every Girl. Everywhere. Period.

*Every month, millions of girls and women around the world miss school and work during their periods because they don't have access to menstrual products such as pads and tampons.
(The Power of Days by Celeste Mergens)*

Days for Girls, founded by Celeste Mergens, has been striving to turn this around for the past 15 years and recently announced that the organization has reached an amazing milestone - THREE MILLION girls and women have been provided with menstrual health education and washable menstrual pad Kits.

Days for Girls Windsor just celebrated its 5th anniversary as an accredited team. Early on, we became aware of this need in our own community. The first time the team packed Kits for a Windsor distribution, they were in disbelief that this need existed so close to home.

Our Supreme Kits are constructed using Days for Girls patented designs that are completely washable and last 3 - 4 years. Windsor Youth Centre love our Hybrid Kits with a menstrual cup and a few washables that can last closer to 10 years.

We also have a Days for Girls Club at Tecumseh Vista Elementary School. They help prep work for our sewers and pack Kits for distributions. Overall, this experience provides the students with a very different perspective on the status of women and girls in our own community and worldwide.

To date, our Team has distributed Kits to Ghana, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, contributed to the Days for Girls Canada Refugee initiative and sent kits to several other countries through World Vision Canada. But all along, we have focused on our local distributions. As a Team, we are responsible for the production and distribution of the Kits, along with education, advocacy and fundraising. Therefore, thank you for your generous support that will enable us to continue our outreach, especially to our local women and girls.

ARM Donation UPDATE: Big Brothers Big Sisters – October 2023

Submitted by: Nicole Seguin, School-Based Mentoring Coordinator

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Windsor Essex is so thankful to the OSSTF ARM Chapter 9 for their generous donation towards our School-Based One-to-One Mentoring Programs.

The In-School Mentoring, Between Generations (Mentors 50+) and Teen Mentoring Programs provide youth with a role model and a friend to talk to and share the experiences of growing up with. For one hour a week, Mentors meet with their Mentee and engage in activities such as board games, crafts, reading or just hanging out and talking. Mentors are creating environments and experiences for Mentees to thrive and build new skills. Our Mentors expose, explore, inspire & empower Mentees to build various developmental assets just by spending time with them.

Our In-School Mentoring, Between Generations and Teen Mentoring programs have continued to adapt and thrive during the COVID-19 pandemic. The one-to-one matches in these programs continue to meet weekly, in a virtual setting. We know it continues to be difficult for our Mentors to come up with new and exciting activities each week, especially in an online environment.

With the help of the OSSTF ARM Chapter 9 donation, we have been able to create activity packages for our matches to utilize during their virtual meetings. Because of your generous donation, our matches have had the opportunity to play board games together that are conducive to a virtual environment as well as have access to arts and crafts materials. These supplies help to encourage our school-based matches to try new activities, develop their skills and have fun together!



We are currently accepting volunteer applications for all of our mentoring programs. Applications for those interested in our School-Based Mentoring Programs will be for the 2023-2024 school year. Please visit <https://windsor.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/volunteer/> to learn more about how to become a volunteer and help ignite the power and potential of a young person today!

Thank you OSSTF ARM Chapter 9!

ARM Donation UPDATE: Knights of Columbus Charity Golf Event

Submitted by: David Pellizzari

On Saturday, June 10th, 2023, our Knights of Columbus Council 9671 hosted their **31st** Annual Charity Golf Event at Rochester Place Golf Club & Resort. We are grateful that ARM Chapter 9 provided a donation to assist us in our efforts to raise funds for charity. ARM/OSSTF was listed in our council newsletter that was provided to all our members in order to recognize the contribution.

Note that all monies raised from this event are used to support local charities within our community and help address both children and adult needs. Some of the charities we support include the following: Autism Ontario, The Salvation Army, Make a Wish Foundation, Special Olympics, Downtown Mission, Hospice of Windsor, Arthritis Society and the Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank ARM Chapter 9 for the generous donation!

ARM Donation UPDATE: Autism Services Inc.

Submitted by: Bruce Awad

Dear Community Champion for Individuals with Autism,

On behalf of Autism Services Incorporated (ASI), our Board of Directors, and all the families whose children attend the Bruce Awad Summer Program, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your donation.

Your generous donation has been put towards our fundraising efforts and helped us raise over \$18,600! All the money will go directly to the Bruce Awad Summer Program for school-aged children with Autism in the Windsor-Essex Community. Because of your generosity, we will continue to provide a quality support program that offers children and youth with Autism a fun-filled and eventful summer while accommodating their families with much needed summertime respite.

Thank you again for your thoughtful support. You are indeed a Community Champion!

December 6, 1989...

Our county was forever changed.

Fourteen women died when a man with a rifle entered a classroom in L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal.

When we gather on Wednesday, December 6th we must remember that this year will mark the 34th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. Even though it happened decades ago, it is important to remember this day year after year. Each of us likely remembers where we were when we heard the news on the radio or the television.

This year, we can choose to honour the victims of this tragedy in the following ways:

- Wear a white ribbon
- Observe a moment of silence
- Attend a vigil in our community
- Learn about the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence from November 25th to December 10th.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

The campaign calls on citizens to show how much they care about ending violence against women and girls by sharing the actions they are taking to create a world free from violence towards women. This year's campaign also calls on governments worldwide to share how they are investing in gender-based violence prevention.



Update – United Way’s 2023 Summer Eats Program

At the ARM Annual General Meeting held in June 2023, the membership approved a \$1,000 donation to United Way to support the 2023 Summer Eats Program. This program provides children and families in Windsor-Essex County with a week of nutritious snacks, fresh fruits and vegetables. The program is provided at six locations across the community, where families can come and receive a food box. In addition to this, the program provides over 500 lunches daily during the first three weeks of July to students attending the GECDSEB’s Camp Wonder Program. In addition to our donation, ARM members volunteered their time and donated books for distribution at the Summer Eats Program.

Recently, we received the following thank-you noted from United Way which included the preliminary statistics for this year’s program.

OSSTF ARM Chapter 9, Greater Essex

We’re excited to share this year’s Summer Programs results and express our gratitude for you unwavering support.

Your donation, volunteering and contributions of books have not only met but exceeded our goals. Together we are ensuring children in our community have access to nutritious meals and the tools they need to succeed in their education.

Thank-you for creating a brighter future for our community’s children’s.

Best regards,

The United Way Team

Statistics for United Way’s Summer Eats Program 2023

- *The need is increasing. There were 40% more households served than in 2022, and 33% of the households served in 2023 were new.*
- *4,204 food bags distributed*
- *3,749 households served*
- *67% of households visited more than 1 time*
- *1 of 3 food bank users are kids*
- *550 more food bags distributed than in 2022*

ARM Chapter 9 Annual United Way Campaign

At the 2023 ARM Annual General Meeting, the membership approved running an annual donations campaign for United Way for our Chapter to encourage members to make a one-time donation or an ongoing monthly donation to United Way. This year, our campaign will run from November 1st to November 30th. In November, we will highlight the work of United Way with a weekly email, including information on how you can donate.

If you already make monthly donations to United Way, thank-you for supporting their important work. We are in the process of working with United Way to have donations made by our members credited to our ARM Chapter. If you are a monthly donor, please send an email to Sandra Sahli at srsahli@hotmail.com so an updated list of our members who are United Way donors can be maintained.



Did you know...?

First Nations people have traditionally passed down through Elders the Seven Grandfathers Teachings through stories and traditions.

Most organizations have adopted the 7 guiding principals in one form or another, as a moral stepping stone and cultural foundation. These concepts abide by a moral respect for all living things.

Humility is represented by the wolf.

Bravery is represented by the bear.

Honesty is represented by the raven.

Wisdom is represented by the beaver.

Truth is represented by the turtle.

Respect is represented by the buffalo.

Love is represented by the eagle because he has the strength to carry all the teachings.

Following the Seven Teachings leads to the "Good Way of Life".

Brick Memorial Ceremony

On Friday, September 8, 2023, ARM Chapter 9 members, along with family and friends, gathered at the Udine fountain in Dieppe Gardens. Together, we paid tribute to the individuals we have lost since we were last able to gather.

In memory of:

- Joseph Pastovich
- Herman Bruckman
- Gerald Schen
- Theodore Symonds
- Joseph Tomc
- Gregory Sovan
- William G. Van Wyck



STAYING CURRENT



ARM Chapter 9 has a number of ways you can stay informed about things that matter to our membership.

ARM Chapter 9 Website

www.armchapter9.ca

The Chapter 9 website contains information for Retired members of OSSTF. Current and previous newsletters can be found along with details about the work of your Executive.

Be sure to check the website for more pictures of ARM Chapter 9 events.

The website has been created in an easy-to-navigate format offering our membership uncomplicated access to its content.

Addressing Anti-Black Racism

A provincial OSSTF committee has been formed known as The Addressing Anti-Black Racism/Racism Committee. Their first meeting was recently held in Windsor.

Along with the OSSTF Human Rights Committee, this group participated in the Africentric/African Diaspora Fall Institute for educators. A tour of Windsor's Black Canadian historical sites was part of this event.

Members explored historical sources and museum artifacts guided by the descendants of the first enslaved Black people who lived in Windsor.

ARM members can learn more to deepen our understanding of the impact of transatlantic slavery in Windsor and throughout Canada.

To learn more, visit the **John Freeman Wall Historic Site** as well as the **Amherstburg Freedom Museum** and **Sandwich First Baptist Church**.

- <https://www.undergroundrailroadmuseum.org/>
- https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=1898
- <https://amherstburgfreedom.org>



If you have suggestions about what you might like included in the website please email

armchapter9@outlook.com

ATTENTION NEWER RETIREES

Anyone who has retired since 2019 will need to notify the board if their address or bank account information has changed; this will be important to receive any retro payments which also may result in a pension adjustment that will result from current negotiations.

First Friday Breakfasts

Have you joined us at Branch 594 for breakfast yet? We have a regular group of ARM members who gather to visit and enjoy a wholesome breakfast at the Royal Canadian Legion at 5030 Howard Avenue. Everything is free for ARM members, \$15 for guests and social members. Be sure to pay your 2024 membership fees and plan to come out in November, January, February, March, April and June. First Friday breakfast will continue in 2024-2025.



About Branch 594

The Royal Canadian Legion does more than sell poppies but as we approach November 11th, it is important to recognize the role of Branch 594 as Canadians take intense pride in this symbol of the sacrifice of the soldiers as well as the hope of peace inspired by the poem *In Flanders Fields*. This well-known work was written by Canadian Lieutenant Col. John McCrae after the 2nd battle of Ypres in 1915.

Canadians and the British feel especially strongly about the poppy as it symbolizes the colour of the blood shed by soldiers.

The Poppy should be worn with respect on the left side, over the heart. Poppies should be worn from October 27th through Remembrance Day.

If you do come for breakfast on Friday, November 3rd, please wear a poppy – or better yet, purchase one at the Legion in support of the good work done by Branch 594 – all funds raised stay in our community.

Important Information From our friends at OTIP

What life changes do I need to tell my auto and home insurer about?

Got a new job, moved into a new home or sold your car? Your insurance broker may not be the first person you think to discuss your life changes with, but in certain cases it's important to notify them as soon as possible.

This is because many life changes can impact your insurance premiums. In some cases, a failure to notify your insurance broker within the time period indicated on your policy could result in one of several penalties, including your insurer's decision not to renew your policy.

Read on for a list of ten life changes that you should tell your insurer about.

1. You moved

It's important to tell both your home and auto insurance providers about changes to your address. The neighbourhood you live in is a significant factor in the calculation of your insurance premiums. Your home insurer will need more information about your new home in order to ensure you have adequate coverage in place.

2. You have a shorter or longer commute

If the length of your commute changes due to a new job or the location of a new home, you'll want to inform your insurance broker. If your commute is shorter, you may now be eligible for a discount on your auto insurance premium.

3. You will be using your car commercially

Have you decided to earn some extra spending money doing deliveries? You'll need to let your insurance broker know that you intend to start using your vehicle commercially. They can work with you to help find the right coverage to suit your needs.

4. You started a home-based business

If you've started a home-based business, you will need to notify your home insurance provider. Otherwise, both you and your business property could be left without adequate coverage in the event that you need to file a claim.

5. Somebody else will be driving your car

If the principal driver of your vehicle has changed or somebody new will be driving your car regularly, you need to update your auto insurance broker to ensure enough coverage is in place.

6. You sold your car and/or bought a new one

If you are selling or transferring the title of your vehicle you must tell your insurance broker that you are no longer the owner. Similarly, when adding vehicles to your policy, you must ensure that you involve your insurance broker in the early stages.

7. You were involved in a car accident

If you, or a driver insured on your vehicle, were involved in a collision, you must contact your insurer right away. You will need to share all the details about the accident, including which other vehicles were involved. Remember, if the damages are over \$2,000, you must report the accident to the police as well.

8. You, or a driver insured on your vehicle, received a license suspension

If you accumulate between nine to 14 demerit points, your license can be suspended. License suspensions resulting from violation of driving laws will cause a substantial increase in your auto insurance premium, as well as limit your eligibility with many insurance carriers.

9. You renovated your home

It's important to alert your insurance broker to any major changes you make to your home—especially those that significantly change your home's value. Examples of major renovations include swimming pools, additions, alarm systems or a new roof.

10. You no longer qualify for an insurance discount you once did

Investing in certain safety measures for your home and/or vehicle—such as a centrally monitored home security system or winter tires—can sometimes qualify you for reduced home and auto premiums. If you no longer use the safety measures that once qualified you for the discount, you will need to inform your insurance broker that you are no longer eligible.

It is important to note that while you need to inform your insurer of these common life changes, this is not a complete list. If you're unsure about whether or not you need to update your insurance broker of a change, it's best to notify them just in case. Contact your OTIP insurance broker today at [1-888-892-4935](tel:1-888-892-4935).

Tips to give you peace of mind during your Snowbird vacation!

Prepare to leave your home unattended

To help conserve energy while you're away, take a minute before you leave to unplug any unnecessary appliances and electronics and turn down your thermostat to 16°C, the recommended temperature to prevent pipes from freezing while also saving energy.

To prevent possible water damage, turn off your water main and drain your faucets before leaving your home for an extended period. This will reduce the likelihood of flooding from water leaks that could develop while you're away and will help to prevent water from being able to freeze and damage your pipes.

To protect your home from potential burglars, check that all doors and windows are sealed and locked. Installing a home security system is a great idea to deter criminals. To avoid accidentally advertising your home as a target for burglary, refrain from posting photos of your vacation publicly on social media until you return.

Tell your insurer before installing a roof rack on your vehicle

A roof rack is a great way to bring your family's skis or extra luggage on a road trip, but it's important to check with your insurer before installing one. A roof rack is considered a vehicle modification and can impact your eligibility for car insurance coverage—failure to disclose a material change in risk such as a vehicle modification can result in a denied claim or a cancelled policy. By calling your insurer before you install a roof rack, you can find out how it impacts your coverage and make sure you have the protection you need.



Noteworthy Dates

Sunday November 5th

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Clocks FALL back one hour



Saturday November 11
Remembrance Day

Wednesday December 6
National Day of
Remembrance & Action
on Violence Against
Women

In Memoriam

- **Marie Wilson**

Chapter 9 ARM was saddened to learn of the passing of Marie Wilson on August 5, 2023. Marie was a teacher and coach with most of her years spent at W.D. Lowe Secondary School. She will be missed by family and friends.

- **Wayne Holmes**

Chapter 9 ARM wishes to acknowledge the October 2, 2023 passing of Wayne Holmes. Wayne was a staff member at W.D.Lowe Secondary School where he taught for 33 years.

- **Ron Malkin**

On October 3, 2023, another former teacher from W.D.Lowe passed away. Ron Malkin also taught at William Hands High School as part of his teaching career. Ron also taught at St. Clair College.

- **Jim McCoy**

Jim McCoy, remembered as a beloved teacher and guidance counsellor at Belle River, Patterson and W.D.Lowe, died on October 3, 2023. His passing is felt by his family and friends.

- **Betty Learmouth**

On October 1, 2023, former Teacher-Librarian from W.F. Herman Secondary, Betty Learmouth died. As an Active Retired Member, Betty's passing will be acknowledged by Chapter 9 with a memorial brick at our September 2024 ceremony.

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2023-2024 ARM Chapter 9 Executive Members

President

Bruce Awad

Vice President

Jacques Aharonian

Recording Secretary

Annette Nelson

Treasurer

Dan Eberwein

Communications Officer

Suzette Clark

Political Action Officer

Margaret Villamizar

Membership Officer

Brian Robinson

Member Services Officer

Rosanne Herold

Community Outreach Officer

Sandra Sahli

Program Co-Ordinator

Jacques Aharonian

Members At Large – four positions remain vacant

Patricia Morneau

MEMBERSHIP VOICE MATTERS!

This FALL edition of Chapter 9 News is the second of five planned for this year. The final edition for 2023-2024 will provide information for the Annual General Meeting.

The Newsletter Editorial Team welcomes submissions for the WINTER 2024 edition.

Contributions for the Winter edition can be forwarded to armchapter9@outlook.com by January 12, 2024.

We look forward to hearing from you!