

PPAO Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 2011
Oakville Holiday Inn, Argus Rd.
Hosted by Police Retirees Association of Halton (PRAH)

Colin Vrooman, Secretary of PRAH opened the meeting at 9:00 am with introductions and a moment of silence for the retirees who have passed away since the last meeting

Al McWhirter, President of PRAH, Duncan Foot President of HRP, and Chief Crowell, Halton Chief of Police, followed with welcoming addresses

Chief Crowell, who has been chief since 2006 having come from York Regional Police, spoke about his affiliation with the HRP and PRAH.

- he hosts a retirees' breakfast 2-3 times a year to update them on the police service
- asks retirees to help set up their police museum
- retirees have offered to maintain the Service's memorial garden
- helped to partner Halton Regional Senior Association with PRAH
- allows police retirees to keep one dress uniform (with "Retired" labels added under both shoulder flashers) when leaving Service to use in parades, etc.

OMERS

Michael Robinson – head of Omers Training Div. - provided some stats:

- 400,000 active/retired members in plan
- includes 113,000 retirees/spouses
- largest provincial payroll with \$2 billion payouts per yr
- 900 employers involved in plan
- 500 of those employers have less than 50 employees
- deficit sits at 4.5 billion
- plan has 9% funding from its members rest is from investments
- to deal with the deficit, increases to active members contributions and in 2013 benefits to be reduced for new retirees – no change for present retirees

Additional Voluntary Contributions

- started Jan 1, 2011
- contribute to plan to age 71 yrs
- have to be OMERS member to contribute (does not include spouse/widow(er) unless she/he is a member)
- transfer of RRSP lump funds to the plan can only be made Jan 1 – April 30
- 5000 members in plan so far -> ½ are retirees

Talked about OMERS Investments (Public and Private)

- some companies are owned/partly owned by OMERS
- Golf Town (100%)
- Association British Ports

- Bruce Power
- Hudson Yards (prime NYC property along East River) preparing to redevelop
- HighSpeed 1 (Rail System) – England (Chunnel Link)
- Fairmont Resorts (Banff, Lake Louise, etc.)
- Yorkdale Mall and Scarborough Town Centre - 50% interest
- Confederation Bridge (PEI)
- Enwave Energy Corp – heating/cooling system for Toronto downtown buildings using lake water – 53% interest
- Give and Go confectionaries

Further Re:AVCs

- 7-11% average returns on investments
- no fee to take money out
- take only from March 1 – April 30
- at 71 yrs must take out or transfer to a RIFF plan at another financial institute
- OMERS may create RIFFs but unlikely to allow transfers to those funds from other RIFFs

OMVIC (Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council)

Director of Investigations – Carey Smith, former police officer

- has 16 former police officer investigators
- regulates the Ontario car industry
- monitors dealer ads and investigate complaints against car dealers
- do background checks on car dealer applicants
- charge dealers for infractions under Consumer Protection Act and Motor Vehicle Dealers Act

Talked about “Curbsiders” who prey on people that need cheap cars. Curbsiders are imposters who pose as private individuals, but are actually in the business of selling stolen, rebuilt or odometer-tampered vehicles. These fraud artists sell damaged or defective cars to unsuspecting consumers. Previous industry studies estimate 25% of vehicles classified ads are placed by curbsiders. If you buy from a private seller you forfeit the protection of OMVIC and the Motor Vehicle Dealers Compensation Fund.

Individuals or dealers involved in these practises are prosecuted under the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act as unregistered dealers.

See the OMVIC website omvic.on.ca for further details.

OMERS

Plan Changes (Active members)

- communicators and paramedics, due to job stress level, trying to change NRA (normal

- retirement age) from 65 to 60 yrs
- temporary contributions increases 2011 – 1%
2012 – 1%
2013 - .9%

Toronto Hydro sues OMERS

- launched lawsuit against OMERS for placing a new cap in contributory earnings starting Jan 1-11
- Toronto Hydro feels the cap unfair for employees who receive large bonuses as part of their pay
- Hydro wants all pay included
- eg If executive earns \$200,000 plus \$175,000 bonus, only \$100,000 of the bonus counts towards pensionable earnings
- defence by OMERS prepared and now working through court system

PAO funding denial (\$6000) to PPAO

- decided not to pursue this issue until after new PAO board in place in August
- PAO disagreed with PPAO position/rally against HST in Toronto last year – embarrassed PAO
- PAO disagree with having retiree on OMERS Sponsorship Corporation Board (Paul Bailey)
- PPAO asks sister retiree associations to bring this matter to their local police association presidents' attention in hope that we get support from them to have funding returned

Organ DONATION

The numbers are shocking - there are nearly 1,500 Ontarians waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. Every three days, one of those on the waiting list dies simply because there aren't enough registered organ and tissue donors. For more information <http://www.giftoflife.on.ca/> to register on line for organ donation.

PPAO recommends supporting this very good cause

Drive Clean Program

- 89% cars pass and 11% fail (some for minor reasons like a faulty gas cap)
- big money maker for province
- Conservatives if elected say they will scrap it

PPAO recommends the province use this money collected to assist seniors and to return the Ontario Safety lanes in Ontario – carried

Frank KLEES – Conservative MPP – New Market Aurora

- spoke about the E-Health scandal and the Hydro issues

E-Health announcement this date in the Legislature that wage increases and bonuses for 617 E-Health employees were approved by Liberal government amid the \$1+ billion scandal

Ontario Debt Retirement

- \$7.8 billion still outstanding after collecting \$7.8 billion from tax payers over last 8 yrs
- government refuses to bring in forensic account after all Liberal members voted against it

Green Energy Act

Liberals have introduced the feed-in-tariff where they will pay, up to 20yrs, to have hydro produced from wind/solar energy at a cost of 80 cents/kilowatt/hr (traditional hydro production can do it at 4-5 cents/kilowatt/hr). Any extra power will be sold to the US for considerably less than what they paid for it. A \$7 billion contract was signed with South Korean, Samsung to build the wind power infrastructure.

If Conservatives are elected this fall, they say they will scrap the plan.

Resiliency in Retirement (Power Point Presentation)

- Dick O'Brien
- Former HRP EAP
- Consultant in Human Relations and Wellness
- a former monk, beer truck driver, school teacher, director of a heroin treatment centre, an alcoholism counsellor, a university instructor, a marriage counsellor and deputy superintendent of a juvenile corrections centre.

Dick provided a humorous and informative presentation about resiliency in life. The message of the presentation was "We are less victims of life and more victims of our own thinking." His deepest belief is that "It is far better to develop the wisdom to handle life's problems than to hope you never have any problems."

More information on this topic and other subjects is available at Dick's website

<http://www.theresilientjourney.com/>

PPAO 2009-2010 Financial Audit Report and Sept.30, 2010 to April30, 2011 Financial Report

Discussion about Audit Report findings

Financial Report Balances

- Total Income = \$14,269.37
- Total Expenses = \$7,986.31

Total Assets \$22,764.03

Motion to accept – Carried

Meeting concluded 4pm

****NEXT PPAO Annual General Meeting is being hosted by The Metropolitan Toronto Police Pensioners' Association on Wednesday **October 19, 2011** at the Radisson Hotel Toronto East, 55 Hallcrown Place (Victoria & HWY 401)

Website: mtpa.com