



Simcoe Newsletter

Winter 2023

Welcome!

If you have ideas FOR OUR NEWSLETTER or would like to share exciting news with the chapter (e.g., engagements, weddings, births, team news), please email Michelle Beatty, VP Public Relations at michelle.beatty@apssp.org. All previous editions of the newsletter can be viewed in the member's section of the APSSP website at <https://apssp.org/member-login/>

President's Message:

Hello and I hope everyone is doing well. :)

Your executive has had a rocky start to the school year. With two surprise resignations we had to make some pretty big shifts, but I feel like we have all settled into our new roles. A big thank you to Anne Miller for stepping up to be our VP of Grievance and Member Concerns, as well as our Health and Safety Rep. I have taken on Negotiations, and thank you to Stephanie Lavega for joining me at the bargaining table. Given the short notice we felt as though this was the best decision for this year, but we really want to return to an Executive with 6 members next year.

If you have ever flirted with the idea of joining us, but just didn't want to jump in when you weren't too sure what you were committing yourself to, please reach out to me! We have some opportunities this year to help orient you to our executive. No pressure at all! Just opportunities. :)

As for me, all is well! I just love the winter. The snow is so pretty, making it look all new and fresh outside. Most of the animals are resting and the snow must dampen the noise, because in the forest I mostly only hear the crunch of my own boots. The fresh, chilly air just fills me with joy. This is how I feel every December. Usually by March I am sick of the winter, but for now I am soaking it in.

I hope all of you are finding things to love about the season shift and have rejuvenating and joyful plans for your two weeks off!

In Solidarity,

Cathy

Your Simcoe Chapter Executive:

Please note our new email addresses and add these to your safe emails. Please delete any old email addresses that you had for us.

Our chapter saw the departure of Colleen Rutledge (former VP of Negotiations) who has joined SCDSB management, and Virginia Cooper (former VP of Grievance and Member Concerns) who accepted a job with CTN. We wish both former executives all the best in their new roles and want to thank them for their work with the union.

Anne Miller has assumed the role of VP Grievance and Member Concerns and Stephanie Lavega has been working with Cathy Bidwell on negotiations.

Elections will be held at our June AGM so if Union work is something that interests you the following positions will be open; President, VP Grievance, VP Negotiations and VP Public Relations so please reach out to one of your executives to learn more about this opportunity.

If you have any interest in joining our Executive or have questions about the roles and responsibilities, please reach out to Cathy Bidwell (President). There are opportunities this year to help you gain some insight into our Executive and help you determine if this is something you would like to pursue.

President and VP of Negotiations

Cathy Bidwell
cathy.bidwell@apssp.org
705-229-4357

Secretary and VP Grievance and Member Concerns:

Anne Miller
anne.miller@apssp.org

Treasurer:

Stephanie Lavega
stephanie.lavega @apssp.org

Vice President Public Relations:

Michelle Beatty
michelle.beatty@apssp.org

Executive Spotlight:

My name is Michelle Beatty and I am the current VP of Public Relations for Simcoe APSSP. I have been employed as a social worker with the board for the past 3 years. I joined the executive 15 months ago when another executive reached out to me and asked if I would be interested in joining. I enjoy my union position as I find that my work can be somewhat isolating and the newsletter allows me to connect with our members and to learn about them and to share their stories, and good news.

For fun (my mid-life crisis) we bought 10 acres where we tap over 300 maples and produce maple syrup. We also raise chickens and ducks and rescued some older horses who needed a new home.

We also have dogs and cats. I volunteer for the Barrie Film Festival and am a big lover of film and cinematography. More recently I started volunteering at the Midland Cultural Centre which allows me to see some great talent and to give back to my community. I love to travel and we have been on some very exciting motorcycle trips to Alaska, New Mexico, Colorado and Seattle Washington. I am obsessed with US National Parks, and have travelled to many including Yellowstone and Yosemite. The animals make it a little more difficult to travel at this time but I hope to get back to it...maybe when I retire.



Michelle photographed at Walters Falls this summer on a road trip to Keady Market. Haven't been? It's a must do! Add it to your list.

Meet some of our chapter members:



Aaniin, my name is Bridget Foley, I am Anishinaabe from Beausoleil First Nation. I am one of Simcoe County District School Boards Indigenous Social Workers. I started Beading 7 years ago as a way to reconnect to my culture. I always saw the most beautiful pieces of jewellery at cultural events and wanted some for myself. I wasn't sure if I could ever wear them as I struggled with being so disconnected from my culture. As I reconnected to my Indigenous roots, I learned the importance of loving yourself, and part of loving yourself is to invest in yourself and decorating yourself. I quickly found beading as a source of calmness to my soul. I found a sense of peace in sitting in my thoughts, constructing each piece. Each piece tells a story and carries a bit of the energy I put into it. As I started to gift my creations to people, I saw the joy it brought. Eventually people started to request to buy some of my pieces, but I struggled with this as I was taught that beading is a gift and we do not monetarily profit from our gifts, we share our gifts. To this day, what ever I sell is not for my own financial gain. I always share by giving to the youth and community that I support from the profits of my creations. Recently I was asked for one of my creations to be shared with the people in Kenya. I created a beaded medallion that told the story of the creation of Turtle Island (North America). In return I was gifted a traditional piece of regalia made by the people in Kenya. I also create symbols to raise awareness of Indigenous matters, such as Red dress pins and earring and orange shirt pins. There are so many valuable teachings that come with the gift of beading, teachings of humility and patience.





My name is Sundown (Frazer Phillips), and I come from the Oneida Nation of the Turtle Clan. Throughout my entire life I've been immersed in my Indigenous Culture. I dance and sing for my culture aside from being a Grad Coach with SCDSB, I've travelled across seas and all over Turtle Island to present and share my Indigenous Culture proudly. I have also created arts and crafts in various forms and have been given opportunities to have my work on display in many venues as well. I love being an ambassador of my Indigenous Nation and Indigenous Artist.



Here is a picture of our President Cathy and her son Max on vacation this past summer at Disney World. They also visited Universal Studios.

Information Sharing: All Permanent Members of APSSP are given an EDvantage number which gives them access to great discounts. If you did not receive your number by EMAIL AFTER you started your employment, but feel that you should have, please let Michelle Beatty OR Anne Miller know and we will check your eligibility.

Here are ways in which you can use your EDvantage

- Bell-Exclusive discounts including internet, TV and Home phone
- DeerhurstResort-Save 20% off regular room rates
- Dulux Paints-Save 25 % off regular retail price paints
- GoodLife Fitness-35 % discount off any membership, waived enrollment fees, corporate rate may be extended to TWO family members
- Great Wolf Lodge-save up to 25%
- Other discounts-Java Works, Marks, Medieval Times, Motel 6,Soft Moc, The Brick, Staples, VIA Rail Canada and MORE!

Recipe:

Hersey Sugar Cookies

INGREDIENTS

½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
1 cup powdered sugar
1 large egg
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon kosher salt
18 Hershey Kisses

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees F and line two large baking sheets with parchment paper.

Add the softened butter to the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. With the mixer on low speed, slowly add the powdered sugar.

Once all of the powdered sugar has been added, turn the mixer to medium speed and beat until the mixture becomes light and fluffy – about 1 minute.

Reduce the speed to low and add the egg and vanilla extract. Scrape down the sides of the bowl, if needed.

In a small bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, and kosher salt. With the mixer still on low speed, slowly add the dry ingredients to the butter mixture.

Mix just until the cookie dough begins to clump together. You don't want to overmix! Scrape down the sides of the bowl and mix for another few seconds – just to incorporate any remaining flour and butter.

Scoop out 18 portions (about 2 tablespoons) and roll them into smooth balls. Place them at least 2 inches apart on the prepared baking sheets.

Press the cookies down slightly to form a disc that is about ¼ inch tall.

Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, or until the cookies are just beginning to brown around the edges.

Remove the cookies from the oven and press a Hershey Kiss into the top of each one.

Allow the cookies to cool completely on the tray before storing in an airtight container at room temperature. Cookies will keep for up to 4 days.