

November 27, 2007

Sheppard elected OFL VP

Society President Rod Sheppard has been elected a Vice President of the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL).

“We were on strike for 105 days just a couple of years ago,” he said, “and I remember how much we received from the OFL in support and resources. This is all about giving something back.”

Sheppard will serve for the next two years as the Vice President representing small local affiliates. The position puts a voice on the OFL Executive Board for unions that represent fewer than 10,000 workers. He was unopposed.

He was elected Monday night, the first day of the OFL's biennial convention, marking the 50th anniversary of the organization. The election took place at the “small affiliates caucus,” which occurred just after the day's plenary session stood down. Steve Holmes, of the Amalgamated Transit Union, was elected alternate VP, and will take over should Sheppard have to step down for any reason.

Carol Baker, of the Canadian Office and Professional Employees, was “very pleased and honoured,” she said, to nominate Sheppard. The outgoing VP, she had served in the position for four years. Sheppard thanked her for her years of service. “She's done a lot of groundwork that I'll be trying to build on,” he said.

The small affiliates are a diverse group. At the Executive Board Sheppard will represent, for example,



Society President and OFL VP Rod Sheppard thanks his electors

transit workers, university faculty, plumbers, office workers, sheet metal workers, sales representatives, and energy professionals.



Earlier today, Society representatives at the OFL Convention were introduced to Leo Gerard, International President of the United Steelworkers of America. From right: Joseph Sarick (New Horizon), Dan Kellar (Society Staff Manager), Melanie Sachar (SPEA), John Cameron (Hydro One), Rod Sheppard, Leo Gerard, Leslie Forge (Executive VP), Jim Botari (Hydro One), Dennis Minello (OPG), Marius Vartolomei (SPEA), and Elizabeth Traicus (Society staff).

"I'm looking forward to working with all of you, and raising our profile in the OFL," Sheppard told those attending the caucus.

Sheppard thanked the twenty or so Society delegates who had attended the caucus meeting for their support, and all the staff who had contributed to his campaign.

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