

Ontario's Watchdog Chien de garde de l'Ontario

BACKGROUNDER - A Game of Trust Key Dates

July 17, 1993	Paul Rutherford shares a \$400,000 winning ticket with a retailer who collects the prize claiming to be the sole owner.
July 17, 2001	Ontario Superior Court of Justice finds in the case of <i>Rutherford v</i> . <i>Ontario Lottery Corporation</i> that the OLG has a duty of care to protect the ticket-buying public from unscrupulous retailers.
July 27, 2001	Bob Edmonds checks his tickets in the variety store in Coboconk, hears the machine jingle twice, but receives only a free ticket. He is suspicious, but walks away.
July 30, 2001	The clerk from the Coboconk store and her husband go to Toronto to collect a \$250,000 prize. She could not remember where the ticket was bought or the numbers which had generated the winning free ticket.
August 24, 2001	The store clerk is presented with a cheque for \$250,000.
August 26, 2001	Bob Edmonds reads about the win in the local paper and realizes that the store clerk had deceived him.
September 8, 2001	Bob Edmonds contacts the OLG to tell his story.
March 1, 2002	OPP charges and arrests the husband and wife team. The OLG suspends the store's right to sell lottery tickets.
March 8, 2002	After being brushed off by the OLG, Mr. Edmonds files a civil suit.
2003 - 2004	OLG identifies five suspicious major wins by insiders.
January 21, 2005	Charges against the store clerk and her husband are stayed.
January 25, 2005	Bob Edmonds reaches a settlement with the store clerk and her husband for \$150,000.
March 15, 2005	Judge confirms that the OLG owed a duty of care.
March 17, 2005	OLG settles with Bob Edmonds for \$200,000.



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August 2005 – April 2006	OLG discusses changing its Insider Win Policy to exclude retailers, contemplating a new policy – paying whoever presents a winning ticket. Discussions end when a Corporation employee wins a huge jackpot and <i>fifth estate</i> starts inquiries.
October 25, 2006	<i>The fifth estate</i> airs a documentary on OLG insider wins and Bob Edmonds' case.
October 26, 2006	Ombudsman launches his first "own motion" investigation – that is, he launches the investigation without a formal complaint. After the announcement the Office is flooded with calls from the public with complaints about the OLG. The investigation is to take 90 days.
October 29, 2006	KPMG engaged by OLG at the direction of the Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal. They make several recommendations.
November 9, 2006	OLG announces implementation of a Seven-Point Trust and Security Action Plan.
November 2006	OLG launches public education campaign to encourage consumers to sign their tickets.
January 24, 2006	Ombudsman's investigation completed.
March 7, 2007	Ombudsman delivers preliminary report to the OLG and the Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal.
March 16, 2007	Ombudsman receives responses from the OLG and the Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal committing to the implementation of all recommendations.