

Beyond the Blackboard



District 24 – Scarborough/East York



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www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org

RTO/ERO

The Retired teachers of Ontario/les enseignantes et enseignants retraités de l'Ontario — commonly referred to as RTO/ERO — is a provincial organization of retired teachers, administrators and others receiving pensions and allowances under the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board.

RTO/ERO is the best organizational friend a retired teacher can have. Formed in 1968, RTO/ERO is dedicated to the needs of Ontario's retired educators and is their official voice, promoting and protecting their interests, particularly in the area of pensions, health care and insurance.

RTO/ERO has maintained this unwavering commitment for over 35 years.



Here for you Now...
Here for your Future
À votre service...
pour le soin de votre avenir

www.rto-ero.org

President's Message



~ Gary Fick
President of District 24

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership of RTO District 24 for their endorsement of myself as District President for the coming year.

Thank you to all of the newly elected and appointed Executive officers for their offers of service.

In my tenure on the Executive it has been my pleasure to work with a great group of dedicated individuals who have opted to devote some of their time to assist the membership of RTO/ERO District 24 - Scarborough and East York.

In particular I would like to thank Ken Turton who many of you will know is leaving the Executive after over 10 years service in many capacities, most recently as our District President. Ken, you will be missed at the executive table, and on behalf of the Executive we wish you all the best as you continue your world travels and many happy days at your cottage. Ken is an accomplished

painter, both the artistic and wall covering kind, and I know he has many projects of both kinds he is looking forward to finishing.

The job of District President is an interesting one. You represent a very diverse group of some 2000 retired teachers from the Scarborough and East York areas of Toronto from Kindergarten to Grade 13 (now, of course, Grade 12). Our focus locally spans social activities such as the spring and Christmas socials, and the fall Golf Tournament, as well as being aware and advising members on issues which affect seniors from the National and Provincial scene.

One of these issues which is currently being studied and monitored is the Fair Vote Canada/Electoral Reform Issue. In Ontario, the Citizen's Assembly, comprised of 52 men and 52 women from every region of the Province, age and cultural background, has been constituted. The Assembly will identify what principles Ontarians value most in their electoral system. Public consultations to hear what other citizens value will be held. Based on what the Assembly learns, if a change is recommended, a referendum will be held by October 2007 so all voters can have their say.

The public is invited to the Plenary sessions which are held at Osgoode Hall-York University. The agenda for each session is posted at www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca. You may browse the site and join a mailing list for regular updates.

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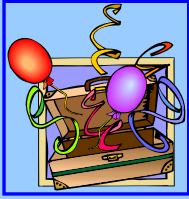
Have you heard?

The Teachers' pension plan announced a **2.3%** before-tax increase in your pension, beginning January, 2007.

If you started your pension this year, your inflation increase will be pro-rated. Details will be forthcoming.

WOW!!!

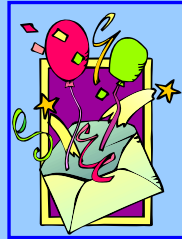
Each of the following members of District 24 will have reached their 90th birthday between July and December 2006! We would like to wish each of them the very best on achieving this milestone.



George Barrett
Rachel Bradley
Newell Lawson
Doris McLean
Thelma Walker
Orma West

AND, the following member has now exceeded the century mark!
On September 9, 2006 he turned 101 years young!!

Harry Gannon



To each of you...
Our heartiest congratulations!!!

All of the above birthday celebrants have given us permission to have their names published in the District 24 newsletter

~ Marilyn Hodge
Goodwill – Cards

GOODWILL -- CARDS

This year District 24 honoured fifteen members who have celebrated a 90th birthday, one who has celebrated her 100th birthday, and one who has celebrated his 101st birthday, with a donation to RTO/ERO's Scarborough/East York school initiative, "Breakfast for Kids". This year, Crescent Town P.S., a T.D.S.B. East York school, has been selected to receive the donation. Crescent Town P.S. began a snack programme last year and provides snacks for 13 Kindergarten classes. It is an amazing programme in which the Office Administrator and all of the Kindergarten teachers are involved. Special thanks are extended to Susan Butler for making special birthday cards and to Fiona Bowser for identifying the school.

When I am notified, Get Well, Thinking of You, or Sympathy cards are sent to members or their families. In December approximately 150 Christmas cards will be sent to District 24 members who are 85 years and older. During the past year, several phone calls and cards of

appreciation have been received from members and their families.

Please inform me if you know of anyone who should receive a card...

Marilyn Hodge

Phone: 416.284.9984

E-mail: mjhodge@sympatico.ca

Please use the subject: RTO - Goodwill

Submissions without this heading may not be opened.



~ Gary Fick, Ron Smith, principal Tammy Ross, Marilyn Hodge, Fiona Bowser, ed. assistant Joann Knox, teacher Mary Langdon, and the primary HSP class of Crescent Town P.S.



~ presenting the cheque



~ Tammy Ross holding the cheque, V-P Pat Foreman
~ photos by Hal McCullough
~ additional photos will be found on our website

News from the District Updaters

➤ 2006 Recruitment Competition

At the end of June, the following Districts had the highest percentage increase:

1. District 45, EstaRiO	2.9%
2. District 34, York Region	2.0%
3. District 42, British Columbia	1.7%
4. District 20, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington, Leeds & Grenville	1.6%
5. District 18, Victoria-Haliburton	1.3%



At the end of June, the following Districts had the largest increase in actual numbers:

1. District 34, York Region	39
2. District 16, Toronto	31
3. District 39, Peel	27
4. District 20, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington, Leeds & Grenville	25
5. District 27, Ottawa-Carleton	23

➤ New Website For Seniors

The provincial government, in cooperation with federal and municipal partners, has launched SeniorsInfo.ca, making it easier for seniors to access information, programmes, and services from all levels of government. SeniorsInfo.ca (www.seniorsinfo.ca) is a new and exciting website that provides a single source of information about programmes and services for seniors offered by the federal, provincial and municipal governments and local community agencies.

➤ Free Resource Booklet - Prostate Cancer

In recognition of Prostate Cancer Awareness Week, September 18-24, the Canadian Prostate Cancer Network is providing a complimentary copy of the book, *Understanding Prostate Cancer*, as well as *Living with Prostate Cancer*, a 12-page booklet. The first is an extensive and easy-to-read book that provides answers to questions about the prostate and prostate cancer. The booklet addresses common questions and concerns for those men living with a later stage of the disease. To be sent a copy of these educational resources, e-mail your name and mailing address to prostatebooks@gmail.com.

The Canadian Prostate Cancer Network (CPCN) is the national association of prostate cancer support groups, active in creating and maintaining these groups and in promoting early detection testing as the only cure, presently, for prostate cancer. For more information about CPCN, visit www.cpcn.org.

➤ Courtyard Marriott Hotel Agreement

The Provincial Office is pleased to announce that its agreement with the Courtyard Marriott in downtown Toronto for special rates for RTO/ERO members has been renewed for 2007. The hotel is located at 475 Yonge Street, one block north of College Avenue.



The Preferred Corporate Rate applies to a standard guest room, single/double occupancy, based on availability. Depending on the time of year, the rates are as follows:

January 1 - April 8	\$121
April 9 - October 31	\$153
November 1 - December 31	\$125

Please note these rates are NOT available on the following dates: May 20-24; June 2-5; June 22-23; June 24-28; August 3-5; September 8-15; October 13-18; and December 31.

Guests enjoy complimentary high speed internet access in all guestrooms, wired and wireless. The Health Club is complimentary to all guests from 6AM to 11PM and includes an exercise room, lap and wading pools, and whirlpool.

Reservations for this preferred rate can be made through the Hotel's Reservation Office at 1.800.847.5075.

NB: You must mention you are an RTO/ERO member, and when you arrive for your stay, supply some form of identification that indicates you are a member.

➤ Pension Income-Splitting Conference

RTO/ERO had a presence at the special nation conference on Pension Income Splitting that took place in Ottawa on October 3, 2006. The conference was organized by Garth Turner and several individuals, including provincial Political Action Committee member Gary Zinck. In addition to Gary, RTO/ERO was represented by provincial First Vice-President Ron Poste.

The focus of the conference was to persuade the government to allow senior couples to split pension benefits in general, not just Canada Pension Plan benefits as is currently the case, for the purpose of lowering their income tax. The CPP and spousal RRSPs are precedents for this in that they allow senior couples with unequal spousal retirement incomes to lower their income tax.

➤ RTO/ERO Blue Jays Baseball

Over 450 RTO/ERO members, family, and friends attended the August 27 Blue Jays game against Kansas City, which the Blue Jays won 10-6, backed by Molitor's grand slam! Extremely favourable comments were received from several districts attending the game, and plans are underway to repeat this event next season. The Blue Jays' organization was very pleased with this year's turnout, and we are both looking to increase the numbers next year.

Prior to the game, Provincial President Arnold Hull, Executive Member Clarice West-Hobbs and Executive Director Harold Brathwaite presented a cheque for \$5,308.20 to Ismail Barmania, Vice-Chair of the *Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (Canada)*. This represents approximately \$3,800.00 raised through the sale of tickets for the hockey print donated by Harmony Printing and the balance from a portion of the ticket price to the Blue Jays game, donated by the Jays' organization.



Arnold Hull, Clarice West-Hobbs, Harold Brathwaite, Ismail Barmania

District 24 was represented by a small and "Well Behaved" contingent of members at RTO, *Day at the Ballpark*, held at the Roger's Centre, on Sunday August 27th. The field level seats provided an excellent view of the field, the players and of the plays. Despite the somewhat foggy weather at "Game Time" the crowd enjoyed a well-played and, at times, exciting game between the Toronto Blue Jays, and the Kansas City Royals.

A portion of the substantially discounted ticket price was donated to the *Nelson Mandela Children's Fund* on behalf of RTO/ERO.

With earlier notification next year, perhaps we can improve the size of the contingent from District 24 - Scarborough and East York.



~ Les Coombs
Member-at-Large & Archivist

Editor's Note: It was announced at Spring Senate that:

- ☉ another Blue Jays Day will be held in August 2007
- ☉ Harmony Printing (printers of our newsletter) will be donating another framed print that ETO/ERO can auction off in further support of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund.

PLAYING FOR BREAKFAST



For the 9th consecutive year members of District 24 and their guests played in support of the Nutrition Programmes in the schools of Scarborough and East York. While the cause is a good one, the main emphasis was on playing and having fun. But as one golfer said, "I

haven't seen shots like this except on television." A former teacher, she was very kind.

The weather on September 12 co-operated. No one was sun-burned, no one was wet, and we had a chance to wear long sleeves for the first time in September. 117 golfers (a record for us!) had a great day of golf and fellowship and as one player remarked to me, "and I got a sleeve of balls just for showing up". Some of us needed the extra balls even though the Mill Run Highlands course is very friendly.

Over lunch (an all-you-can-eat burger and salads plus dessert and coffee spread) and prize-giving, most of the folks took the opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new friends. We teachers really are a social bunch! Competition was in evidence, though, not only on the course but in the bidding at our 6-item auction. (Who knew that a Ladies' 400cc Driver was in such demand?)

Kudos go to our Lowest Scoring Teams:

Women's: Robyn Allin, Jane Gow, Judy Jimenez, Gail Miles

Men's: Derek Arbuckle, Bill Kemp, George Harris,

Geoff Gray

Mixed: Tricia Thomas, Dave Thomas, Dilys Whitehead, Barbara DeFrance

Closest to the Pin Challenge: Ann Pflanzner

Closest to the Pin Competition: Kathy Walsh (Women's) and Wayne Crossley (Men's)

Putting Contest: Dixie Robbie in a draw after tying with

3 Bobs: Annis, Peavoy and Sweetman

50-50 Winner: Carol O'Reilly

We had fun. What a way to spend the second Tuesday in September - out-of-doors, with friends, playing - and helping

kids. The students in the Nutrition Programmes at St. Boniface (TCDSB), Highcastle (TDSB Scarborough) and George Webster (TDSB East York) Schools will benefit from the proceeds of the day (over \$1,100). Many thanks to Susan Butler for coordinating with the Toronto Partnership for Student Success and helping us select these schools.

Tournament number 9 was a great success in many ways and our appreciation goes to several persons and corporations who helped. Please say a personal thank-you to: *Liz Gjerek* of Harmony Printing Inc., *Stu Funnell* of The Keg, *Sue Melko* of Mill Run G and CC, *Carol Fyfle* and Meadowbrook Golf Club, *Les and Noreen Coombs* of Home Meals Services, *Joan Raper* and *Sylvia MacMillan* for cash donation, and to *Ken Drope*, *Sharon Thurston*, *Marilyn Hodge*, *Bob Ireland*, *Hal McCullough*, *Bill Jones*, *Donna Hubel*, *Ron Smith*, *Gloria Kondziolka*, *Elaine Cook*, *Lorraine Peppin*, *Jim Long*, *Rob Cook*, *Irene* and *Don Murphy*, *Susan* and *Peter Butler* and to all those other people who donated time and items to our tournament. As in all attempts of this kind, I am sure that I have missed thanking some individuals, but please know that my oversight in no way diminishes your contribution and our thanks.

Next year marks our 10th Annual Breakfast for Kids Golf Tournament and Fun Day. I know that each of you recently received a new RTO Planner, so mark Tuesday, September 11, 2007 and join us for a great day of fun and fellowship - all in a great cause. Ask any of this year's attendees and they'll tell you that they had FUN and next year promises to be even better.

We do need HELP in creating our prize table, raffle and auction items. YOUR HELP would be appreciated.

If you feel that you could help in any way please contact Bob Cook at 416.267.0246; or by e-mail:

bob.elainecook@sympatico.ca

Please use the subject: **B4K Golf**

Submissions without this heading may not be opened.



~ Bob Cook

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (con't. from p.1)

In Toronto, there is a joint group, known as the Toronto Districts, which meets to co-ordinate some activities involving the areas which now make up the amalgamated boards of Education. Your President is the Chair of this group for this year. Currently we are involved with two main areas which include the recruitment of new members, and providing Retirement Planning Workshops which is an addition to the recruitment work. This group meets bi-monthly.

Currently we are the only District in the Toronto Districts which elects its Executive in October and serves from November 1 through October 31. I would like to see us shift our elections to the spring and have the executive term of office commence June 1. I will keep you advised of this process as it moves forward. It may necessitate a second election during the spring of 2007 in order for this to occur so watch your newsletters carefully for this possibility.

Please try to take an active role in Scarborough and East York - District 24 events. I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible.

~ Gary Fick
President, District 24

FACT SHEET: DOWNSIZING

Retirees sometimes find themselves deciding to move to accommodation that is more suitable to their current lifestyle. This fact sheet is presented to facilitate that move and make it less stressful.

1. CHOOSING YOUR NEW LIVING SPACE

Ask yourself the following questions:

- ❖ How much space do I require?
- ❖ What sort of access (ramp, elevator, stairs) does my new home need?
- ❖ Is there parking or a public transit stop nearby?
- ❖ How far will I be from services such as shopping?
- ❖ Will I be near a church, seniors' centre or fitness centre?
- ❖ What can I afford? What will my monthly costs be?



2. PURCHASING OR RENTING?

Now that you have chosen your new location, verify the following:

If purchasing:

- ❖ What stays with the house or condominium? Have all included items listed separately and identified by serial numbers or photos. (A digital camera is useful here.)
- ❖ Are there rentals such as a hot water tank?
- ❖ Is there a furnace contract?
- ❖ Are contracts available for snow removal, lawn and garden care, etc.?
- ❖ If rural, what is the condition of the water supply and septic system?



If renting or moving into a retirement home:

- ❖ What present possessions do I need to move with me?
- ❖ What possessions stay with my new unit?

Have all included items listed separately and identified by serial numbers or photos. (A digital camera is useful here.)

3. YOUR NEW HOME

- ❖ Draw a floor plan of your new living space and sketch in the furniture you wish to take with you. Measure each item to see if it will fit or is suitable for your new life style.
- ❖ Take pictures of your present home before you start dismantling it so that you will have memories to look at in your new home. You will be able to remember more clearly a favourite chair or lamp and where it was located.
- ❖ What do you have in your present home that will need to be sold, given away or disposed of? If you intend to bequeath certain items to friends or family that cannot be accommodated in your new home, make these gifts now.
- ❖ Do you need to purchase any items for your new home? Unless it is something essential such as a bed, it may be prudent to live for a while in your new home so that you can make choices based on your new lifestyle or tastes.

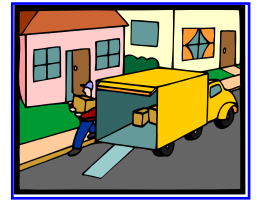
4. THE MOVE

- ❖ **Make decisions about the large furniture:** Often, if moving long distances, it is easier and less expensive to get rid of some furniture that is not an antique or family heirloom and buy new furniture at your new location.
- ❖ **Make decisions about the small items:** Box up everything you will need. Arrange to sell everything else on consignment (usually better than a garage sale) or donate it to a charity (often with tax benefits). Possibly distribute some

items to family members or friends. Move important documents (records, deeds, jewellery) yourself if at all possible.

❖ **Call the movers:**

Check first on their availability for your specific moving date. Usually it is best to have three or more estimates done at your residence (never over the phone). Don't sign a contract on the spot. Compare the estimates making sure you understand the details fully such as extra services and exclusions. Avoid paying large deposits in advance. Check with your insurance company and the movers about coverage for damage or loss.



❖ **Before the actual move:**

Mail, phone or e-mail a change of address to family, friends, subscriptions, financial institutions, credit card companies, insurance agent, Ontario Teacher's Pension Plan, RTO/ERO, government agencies such as Revenue Canada, CPP, OAS, driver's licence, health card, etc. Arrange with Canada Post to have your mail forwarded. This rerouted mail will give you further contacts to notify with your new address. Reroute your newspaper delivery. Arrange for telephone transfer and gas/hydro/cable hook-up, if applicable.

❖ **The actual move:**

If possible, meet the movers at your new residence to have the movers arrange the furniture according to your plan. This is much easier than shuffling heavy items around later. Put kitchen supplies away first, especially perishable goods. Then hang curtains and pictures. Hook up stereo, TV, computer and telephone, reprogramming where necessary.

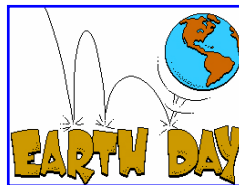
ENJOY YOUR NEW HOME!



Other RTO/ERO Fact Sheets are available to you in the Members Only section of the website: www.rto-ero.org
They are also available in .pdf format if you wish to print them at home.
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POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

- * Concerned with the current Toronto garbage crisis?
- * Lots of questions and few answers?



A joint political action committee for the Toronto Districts has been planning a symposium for RTO members to be held at the North York Civic Centre during Earth Week in April, 2007. It will be an education and discussion format attempting to address waste management, alternatives and prevention. Watch for further notices about speakers, exact date and time.

Remember to get out and vote in the Municipal elections in November!



~ Bill Sparks

The Togo Project

It started with a conversation in a Principal's office during the summer of 2002 and ended with the construction of a school in a small village in Africa during the summer of 2006. Two priests from Togo, a small impoverished country in West Africa, came to Toronto during World Youth Day to kindle a spark of love within the hearts of our community. That spark became a flame that has spread from school to parish to the business world itself. Through faith and dedication, the dreams of some have become a reality through the efforts of others.

Father Thomas and Father Nestor sat down with Principal Bob Kalisz (*right*) one summer day in 2002 to express their desire to establish a partnership with a school in Canada. They came away with a promise that their message and concerns would be passed on to others. Over time, the Prayer Group of Prince of Peace Parish made a commitment to assist the school with such a partnership. "Free the Children", the youth organization started by Toronto's Craig Kielburger, also gave their support by providing tax receipts for money collected through the school or parish. The word has spread and thousands of students in over fifty Toronto schools have now been involved in different aspects of the Togo partnership. To date, over \$200,000 has gone into The Togo Project.



Last year, a program was established through "Free the Children" called "Life in Action" whereby villages in developing countries are selected and schools built with funds raised here in Canada. Inspired by this program, the grass-hut school in the village of Keve in Togo was selected by the Prince of Peace family of schools as a project site. With a population of over 300 students, an 8-room school would be required. Although the present school is Catholic, individuals from all backgrounds are accepted at the school.

The school was completed this past August by workers from the community around the village of Keve. To date, \$64,000 has been spent on construction with final donations being dedicated to building washrooms and assisting with tuition for the students. A "Book of Life" is being prepared for the school outlining the background story of involvement, letters and mementos from children here in Canada and an opportunity for others to help maintain the school through donations in memory of loved ones.

Here is another example of "Good News" that is having a tremendous impact on so many people. Students in Toronto have become "empowered" to help those beyond their local schools through the assistance of their teachers and so many other members of the community at large. The Togo Project demonstrates how words can be transformed into action and actions can transform the lives of children, not only in Africa but here at home as well.

To find out more about the many activities of the Togo project please contact Bob Kalisz at rkalisz@rogers.com. A special thanks to Bob Lamb for making RTO District 24 aware of this project.

On your behalf, District 24 has made a contribution of \$1000 to help further the cause of this worthy project.

~ Jim Devine

Member-at-Large – Story Writing & Photography Clubs



- assembling bricks for the school



~ the walls go up



~ nearing completion



~ nearing completion



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dates to Remember



1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays	Bridge & Euchre Club
November 2	Executive Meeting: Kingsway Arms
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 9	Shaw Festival: <i>High Society</i>
November 15	Health Seminar: <i>The Liver</i>
December 6	Christmas Luncheon: S.G.C.C.
December 15	<i>Lowe Family Christmas</i>

2007:

January 11	Executive Meeting: Kingsway Arms
January 26	Deadline: <i>March Newsletter</i>
February 14	Valentine's Day
March 1	Executive Meeting: Kingsway Arms
April 4	<i>Guys and Dolls</i>
April 26	Travelogue
April	Shaw Festival (TBA)
May 3	Spring Luncheon
May 4	Deadline: <i>June Newsletter</i>
May 13	Mother's Day
May 21	Victoria Day
May 29-30	Spring Senate
May	Stratford Festival (TBA)
May 30	<i>Mennonite Country Excursion</i>
June 7	Executive Meeting: Kingsway Arms
June 11	Kawartha Tour
June 20	30 000 Islands Tour
June 17	Father's Day
September 11	Breakfast for Kids Golf Tourney
September 19	Champagne Brunch
September	Shaw or Stratford (TBA)
October 4	Cranberry Tour and Cruise
October 25	Annual General Meeting
November	Ron Brown Tour (TBA)
November	Theatre Trip (TBA)

Seasons change on: Dec 22; Mar 21; June 21; Dec 22
Daylight Saving Time: ends October 28; begins Mar 11/07*

* Beginning in 2007, Ontario will follow the U.S. lead to change to D.S.T. 3 weeks earlier in the spring; and 1 week later in the fall.

2 Trips of Interest from Travel Guild

ARIZONA:

February 15 - March 1, 2007
Stay at the Hospitality Resort in Scottsdale. Full, hot breakfast every morning, complimentary happy hour, and snacks every evening. One-room or two-room suites available, each with a kitchen.

Price for each of two sharing:
1-room: \$1,902.00 2-room: \$2,117.00
includes air fare, taxes, gratuities, and pick-up from your Southern Ontario home and return.

WATERWAYS OF UKRAINE:

June 8 - June 20, 2007

Fly to Kiev, spend each night on the ship. (Only unpack once!). All cabins are outside so each has either a window or a porthole. Each day visit a village, town, or city (Yalta, Sevastopol, Odessa) to enjoy Ukrainian cooking and entertainment. Price for each of two sharing, depending on your cabin selection:

\$4,080.00 to \$4,480.00

includes accommodation, air transportation, sightseeing, all meals, gratuities, taxes, and pick-up from your Southern Ontario home and return.

For more information, contact Travel Guild: 905.760.9229

RTO/ERO EMERGENCY FUNDS

- ❖ The programme is designed to provide assistance in an emergency situation.
- ❖ Assistance is not always monetary. A member may be directed toward a financial planning/counselling service or other resources, depending on the circumstances.
- ❖ Monetary grants are recommended on the basis of need and are related to the total income of the member or household.
- ❖ Financial assistance, if recommended, is provided on a **one-time only basis**. It is not to provide long-term solutions to financial difficulties.
- ❖ Assistance in completing the application form can be provided by contacting a member of our District Executive, or the Coordinator, Provincial Office at:
 - ❖ 416.962.9463, extension 226
 - ❖ 1.800.361.9888, extension 226
 - ❖ www.rto-ero.org
- ❖ Applicants are encouraged to provide as much information as possible and a complete statement of annual income and expenses (if financial assistance is requested) to assist in consideration of the application.
- ❖ Applications are reviewed **in strictest confidence** by the members of the Emergency Assistance Programme (EAP) Work Group, a sub-committee of the Member Services Committee, who will NOT be informed of the identity of the applicant. This EAP Work Group will recommend the type of assistance to be granted and the amount of financial assistance (if any) to be awarded.
- ❖ **Every effort is made to ensure the anonymity of the member applicant.**
- ❖ Any financial assistance received by a member through this Emergency Assistance Programme **need not be declared** as income to Canada Revenue Agency during the taxation year in which it was received.

~ Gloria Kondziolka

On the Lighter Side:

- ☺ I don't suffer from insanity, I enjoy every minute of it.
- ☺ I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.

Breast Cancer Support Group Meeting

The Scarborough Breast Cancer Support Group meeting is held the last Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Canadian Cancer Society, Scarborough Unit, 525 Markham Road, Unit 4. Free parking is available south of the building.

Come and share with us your concerns, and gain courage and strength through mutual support of other women who have breast cancer.

For more information call:
Marilyn: 416.284.9984
Peggy: 416.269.7575

EQAO seeking Scorers

EQAO is seeking retired teachers to score the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) for two weeks in April 2007. If you would like more information, call 1.888.327.7377. Apply on-line at www.eqao.com under Educator Opportunities. Selection will begin in early 2007.

The University of Toronto Scarborough College SENIOR ALUMNI is sponsoring a series of Canadian Perspective Lectures which are open to Alumni and friends.

Lectures cover a variety of topics and feature outstanding speakers from the university. The next series will begin March 8, 2007 and will consist of 5 consecutive Thursday morning sessions from 9:30 to 12:30. Included is a lively question period.

Call Reagan at UTSC Office of Advancement at 416.287.7115 for further information.

Club 48

You are invited to join Club 48, an association of retired teachers. We meet to hear interesting and informative speakers and to enjoy plays, day trips, musicals, luncheons and tours of landmarks in and around Toronto. Generally our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month, October to June. Please phone Christine Newhouse at 416.924.5226 to learn about our next exciting adventure.

~ Harolyn Panetta

Looking for Volunteers

The International Reading Association Conference coming in May 2007 is looking for volunteers who would assist in directing people at registration time (www.reading.org). If you think you'd be interested in helping out, please contact Marjorie Leslie at White Haven Jr. P.S.: 416.396.6645 or by e-mail: marjorie.leslie@tdsb.on.ca

Please use the Subject: IRA Conference
Submissions without this heading may not be opened.

RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

The Hummingbird Centre in Toronto is offering a discount to RTO/ERO members who attend their holiday season special - A Radio City Christmas Spectacular. The show has been on Broadway every holiday season for the past seventy years and Hummingbird is very excited to have it in Toronto this year for the first time. The show stars the world famous Rockettes whose precision dancing and impressive chorus line work has been wowing audiences for generations.

RTO/ERO members will receive their seats at a 10% discount for the following performances:



Tuesday November 21	7:30pm
Sunday December 3	7:00pm
Thursday December 14	2:00pm
Wednesday December 20	7:30pm

Individual members interested in this offer, should contact Ticketmaster by phone at 416.872.2262 or by e-mail

at: www.ticketmaster.ca and quote the promotional code: SGRTON.

The Radio City Christmas Spectacular features a cast of over 100 people, glamorous costumes, and holiday music written exclusively for the show. The Radio City Rockettes will dazzle audiences with their world-famous eye-high kicks. Santa Claus will make a special appearance from the North Pole and you will be amazed by the show-stopping "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers".



Free Lessons in Bridge

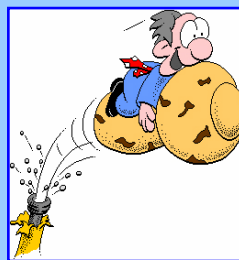
RTO D24 members wishing to learn how to play Bridge should contact Frank Saliani at 416.281.3542 or e-mail at: frank.elaine@primus.ca.

Please use the subject: Learning Bridge

Submissions without this heading may not be opened



PLEASE WELCOME TWO NEW RTO/ERO DISTRICTS



District 46 - Muskoka

Has been created from District 6 Parry Sound/Muskoka. District 6 will now be known as Parry Sound.

District 47 - Vancouver Island

Has been created from District 42 - British Columbia.

District 42 will now be known as District 42 - Vancouver - Mainland.

CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH
September 20, 2006



Wednesday, September 20th, the day of our Champagne Brunch for newly retired teachers, dawned rainy, cold, and windy. But although the day began as inclement, by the time the new retirees arrived, the rain had stopped and the sun was breaking through to illuminate a picturesque setting of boats, cliffs, and lake, at Cathedral Bluffs Yacht Club.



Ken Turton, president, welcomed all to the brunch. As he reminisced about teaching, he seemed sincere about not missing yard duty - except for the time he'd visited a school in Greece, where, on a beautiful sunny day, yard duty was accompanied by a cigarette, a glass of ouzo, and children performing folk dances. Ken also discussed the services to members offered by RTO, referring to the package of information each new retiree received, and invited them to join us in RTO/ERO District 24, Scarborough and East York.



Sharon Thurston, membership convener, thanked her committee, Bo Peep Catering, and our servers for helping to make the day run smoothly and enjoyably for all.



Judy-Anne Tumber, AGM and programme chair, invited everyone to attend our Annual General Meeting; to take part in upcoming trips and activities; and to bring a friend. She referred the new retirees to the newsletter in their packages for lists and dates of scheduled activities, and welcomed everyone to share ideas and suggestions for future events.



After a delicious meal, attendees relaxed with old friends and new, over coffee, as another successful brunch drew to a close.



~Carol Paabor

~ photos by Hal McCullough

~ additional photos on our website



Editor's Note:

We would like to thank Carol Paabor for making the arrangements with the Cathedral Bluffs Yacht Club.



In Memoriam

In understanding that each life is a miracle that changes the world, we remember and honour the lives of our departed colleagues and friends.

**Jacqueline Albani
Doreen M. Brown
Evelyn G. Clark
Arthur Farintosh
Elsie French
Peter M. Fleming
Yvonne M Hearst
Ray Higgins
Marjorie Kaye
John Reed
Joseph A. Ryan
Agnes Scott
Pauline G. Smith
James Stark
James Sterling
Walter Stuart
Lorraine H. Valleau**

Roberta Langtry

Roberta, a well-known and respected East York teacher for many years, passed away last year.

Little did her many friends, neighbours and colleagues know that this quiet, witty and brilliant teacher kept a significant secret! Roberta was a multi-millionaire! Known for her frugal ways, Roberta had amassed her fortune through careful investing and an unprepossessing lifestyle.

On October 12th of this year the Nature Conservancy of Canada dedicated the Langtry Nature Reserve, a 150 acre tract of forest on the Oak Ridges Moraine, as a result of a donation of over \$4.3 million from Roberta's estate. Miss Langtry was an avid supporter of environmental causes but this bequest was a surprise to all. Other charities also benefited from Roberta's generosity but this was the largest donation known.

Roberta worked for many years as a Speech Correction teacher and as such came to influence many young teachers and administrators. She was known as a person who always found something good to say about every child - on one occasion while discussing a particularly difficult child, she offered, "but he does pronounce his "S" beautifully".

Brilliant, witty, kind and memorable, this lady left much for all of us - before her financial contributions.

~Bob Cook

OUR FIRST STORY...

Jim Devine, Member-at-Large on our Executive has been working to set up a Story Writing Group in District 24. In order to encourage others to meet with him, Jim has submitted this story for publication in our newsletter.

Now... how about you? Do you have the urge to write or to share ideas, thoughts, feelings etc.? If so, please contact Jim at:

Jim Devine
19 Compton Drive
Scarborough, ON
M1R 4A5
416.751.8487

jim_is_devine@hotmail.com

Please use the subject: Story Writing

Submissions without this heading may not be opened!



The alarm clock, next to my bed, went off at 6:30 a.m. Elvis Presley with "A Whole Lot of Shaking Going On" woke me from an undisturbed sleep. I took me a couple of minutes to rub my eyes, stretch myself and climb out of bed. This was a special morning so I forced a smile, got dressed and made my way to the kitchen.

I was getting used to making her breakfast these past couple of weeks and the process was almost automatic. The kettle went on first, and then all the necessary items were obtained from the cupboards and drawers - plates, coffee cup, fork, spoon and knife. There was margarine for the muffin as well as honey and cottage cheese on separate plates. She liked cream in her morning coffee. When everything was laid out on the table I called to her that breakfast was ready. While I waited for Terry to come, I made the coffee and placed the carafe on the table.

While she ate her breakfast and glanced at the morning newspaper, I made sure her backpack was ready for the busy day ahead. I discovered that as Terry became older she had a tendency to forget "little things" so I checked her bag one last time. Her sandwiches were missing so I got them from the fridge as well as a couple of bottles of water. I threw in a package of Rice Krispies squares for a snack plus a small Lindt chocolate bar. She was all set.

Once everything was complete - the dishes piled next to the sink, a last minute use of the washroom and with backpack on my shoulder, we were off to the bus stop. I held her hand as we walked the three blocks in silence. We listened to the sounds of birds, the smells of cooking coming from a kitchen window and watched the grass being watered by an oscillating sprinkler.

Once in a while I would squeeze her hand ever so gently and look at her face to see the response. She returned my gaze with a smile that told me she was pleased. The bus was coming. I could see it in the distance. It was time to leave her and return home to the household chores that awaited me. It seemed a long time until dinner when I would see her again. I kissed her lightly on the lips and smiled once again as the bus pulled up to the stop. I saw her find a seat and waved one final time as the bus pulled away.

This morning had been fun. It was not a typical morning for either of us but one we both enjoyed none-the-less. I just hoped she has as much fun at jury duty.



Programme Schedule for 2006 – 2007



These 5 programmes are taking place this fall:

BRIDGE & EUCHRE CLUB

First & third Tuesdays of the month
Ellesmere Recreation Community Centre
Contact: Gord Reid / Judy-Anne Tumber
416.282.3714 / 416.264.6016



SHAW FESTIVAL - High Society

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2006

Contact: Marilyn Tregwin

416.493.3757

* sold out



HEALTH SEMINAR - The Liver

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2006

Highbrook Sr (SCAS)

Contact: Marilyn Tregwin

416.493.3757

* space still available



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2006

Scarboro Golf and Country Club

Contact: Marilyn Hodge

416.284.9984

* space still available



LOWE FAMILY CHRISTMAS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2006

Contact: Judy-Anne Tumber

416.264.6016

* space still available



We have the following programmes scheduled for 2007.

Coupons and further details for these events will appear in our March newsletter.

April

Guys and Dolls	StageWest	April 4 ^①
Travelogue	Millie's Restaurant	April 26 ^②
Shaw Festival		TBA

May

Spring Luncheon	Q-SSIS	May 3
Stratford		TBA
Mennonite Tour	St. Jacob's	May 30

June

Kawartha Tour		June 11
30 000 Islands Tour		June 20

September

Shaw or Stratford Festival		TBA
Golf Tournament		Sept. 11
Champagne Brunch (for new retirees only)		Sept. 19

October

Cranberry Tour and Cruise		Oct. 4
AGM		Oct. 25

November

Theatre Trip		TBA
Ron Brown Tour		TBA

- ① *Guys and Dolls* information and coupon are on page 13.
- ② *Travelogue* information and coupon are on page 13. Please note their deadlines.

"Front of the Line"...



Beginning in 2007 we will be introducing our "Front of the Line" programme. Anyone who is interested in hearing about the shows that will be planned or are currently marked TBA, should e-mail Judy-Anne. As soon as the dates and information for the shows are released, she will e-mail you back with all the details and she will put you on the list. Then, when you receive your newsletter, you would send your programme coupon

and cheque to Judy-Anne, knowing that you are already on her list.

E-mail: jatumber@rogers.com

Please use the subject: **Front of the Line**

Submissions without this heading may not be opened!

~ Judy-Anne Tumber
Programme Chair

Merry Christmas

And

Happy New Year



STAGEWEST
"Guys and Dolls"

Wednesday, April 4, 2007

Time: 10 A.M.

Cost: \$84.00 which includes buffet lunch, taxes, bus and gratuities

Travel: Depart Agincourt Mall on the north-west corner of Sheppard and Kennedy (meet at Wal-Mart's main entrance). Please park near the perimeter of the lot. 4:00 p.m. Approximate return time to Agincourt Mall

Reservations:

Please send the coupon with your cheque made payable to: Retired Teachers of Ontario - District 24 and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Judy-Anne Tumber

203 Sylvan Ave.

Scarborough, ON

M1E 1A4

Telephone: 416.264.6016

e-mail: jatumber@rogers.com



Deadline: *Wednesday, February 28, 2007*

... COUPON ...

cut out this coupon and send it with your cheque

"Guys and Dolls"
Wednesday, April 4, 2007

NAME:

PHONE #:

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:

OF TICKETS: @ \$84.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:

Deadline: *Wednesday, February 28, 2007*

On the Lighter Side:

- ☺ Quoting one is plagiarism. Quoting many is research.
- ☺ My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God and I didn't!
- ☺ If it weren't for the last minute, nothing would get done.
- ☺ The real reason you can't take it with you is that it goes before you do.
- ☺ The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
- ☺ Two boll weevils grew up in South Carolina. One went to Hollywood and became a famous actor. The other stayed behind in the cotton fields and never amounted to much. The second one, naturally, became known as the lesser of two weevils.

Lunch & Travelogue

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Time: 12 noon

Cost: \$16.00 which includes lunch, taxes, and gratuities

Location:

Sister's Restaurant - north side of Kingston Road at Fairwood Cres; 1st light east of Morningside

Topic: **Joan Dewar**, who rented cottages in Yorkshire, Devon and Wales, and bicycled through East Anglia and the Cotswold Hills, will bring us the highlights of her time there at our annual Travelogue Luncheon.

This is a sell-out every year, so register with Anne-Marie as soon as possible.

Reservations:

Please send the coupon with your cheque made payable to: Retired Teachers of Ontario - District 24 and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Anne-Marie Ellis-Taylor

71 Toynbee Trail

Scarborough, ON

M1E 1G1

Telephone: 416.267.8393



Deadline: *Friday, April 6, 2007*

... COUPON ...

cut out this coupon and send it with your cheque

LUNCH AND TRAVELOGUE
Thursday, April 26, 2007

NAME:

PHONE #:

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:

OF TICKETS: @ \$16.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:

Deadline: *Friday, April 6, 2007*

At our AGM:



~ Ken Turton passes the gavel to incoming President, Gary Fick

UPDATE ON MY NEW KIDNEY

~ Phyllis Webb

In December 2004, *Beyond the Blackboard* published an article written by my husband Glenn and myself. In the article, A PRECIOUS GIFT OF LOVE, we recounted the miraculous act of our daughter donating a kidney to me. Two years on, your editor has asked for an update on how our wonderful daughter and I are doing since this procedure took place two and a half years ago.

I still find it hard to articulate the sense of relief and freedom I feel every single day! I was on dialysis for almost three years before the transplant took place. For three days each week I arrived at the Dialysis Clinic before 7:30 A.M. By the time I was hooked up to the dialysis machine, had been given three and a half hours of blood cleansing and then unhooked from the machine, it was well after noon by the time I was back home. I was usually tired and often slept most of the afternoon. I always felt during this time that I was one of the lucky ones. The nurses kept warning me that dialysis patients almost always eventually were subject to high blood pressure, heart problems, asthma, and, at some point, diabetes. Luckily for me, this never happened.

I still cannot believe the change in my health and my general outlook on life. When we wrote the 2004 article, I was giving blood for testing each week and visiting the Transplant Center once a month. Right now I visit the Transplant Center at St. Michael's Hospital every nine months and have my blood tested every three months. My medication dosage (mostly anti-rejection drugs) has been reduced but I still take a lot of pills daily. My nephrologists are very pleased with my progress and I have had no problems with rejection of my new kidney; the first year seems to be the crucial one for rejection of transplanted organs. Of course, my immune system has been seriously compromised. I am not able to look after any type of pet because of possible bacterial reaction. I am allowed to eat any foods except sushi and grapefruit products. Previously I was on a tightly restricted diet: no bananas, oranges, tomatoes, nuts or peanut butter. I could have boiled potatoes if they had been soaked in water for at least four hours.

Glenn and I worry terribly if Stephanie has a day off work due to illness or even if she seems to have a cold. However, she is very healthy and active and is totally involved with her career and her family: husband Dave, daughter Melissa, a Great Dane, a Miniature Dachshund, two puppies, a cat, plus one or more house guests most of the time.



~ Phyllis Webb, Glenn Webb and their daughter Stephanie MacMurray

All three of us have become very involved in promoting awareness of the great need for people to sign donor cards. On several occasions we are asked to speak about my transplant. Our latest talk was at the University Women's Club of Toronto; we found these retired women expressed much interest in signing donor cards. I had invited the Information Officer from the Trillium Gift of Life Network and the four of us fielded many questions. A very articulate retired judge (she later told me she was 92) asked pointedly whether a kidney from a person her age would ever be transplanted into another person. Callie carefully replied that, yes, a healthy kidney from an older person might well be used to help save an older person's life. She, as well as all three of us, tried to convey the following idea: everyone, no matter their age, should consider themselves a potential donor, but, ultimately, the ability to donate depends on the health of the organ(s) at the time of death of the donor. Our audience was amazed to hear that one donor could save 7 lives (organs) and enhance the lives of 77 people (tissue)! We told them that the oldest Canadian organ donor was 90 years old and the oldest tissue donor was 102!

We stress the fact that donor cards are available at provincial driving license offices or one can register his/her intentions at The Ministry of Health. Donor cards are also available at Trillium Gift of Life: 1.800.263.2833. The TGOL Network delivered 100 cards to me the day after I phoned them. We always take a lot of donor cards with us and are surprised at how many people say they have always intended to sign cards but have never done so but now they will.

Our daughter is very forceful in getting her point across to people about signing donor cards. Her father teases that he expects to soon see her down at Dundas Square exhorting people to sign donor cards! She has been contacted several times by people who are contemplating donating a kidney to a relative or friend and they want to discuss it with someone who has done this. She is so very positive about this that it seems to be contagious. She points out that her parents can once again take long trips whenever they wish. I have heard her conclude her remarks on a panel by saying, "Hey, guys, you need only one kidney. Why not consider donating one to a friend or relative or someone else who needs one?"

Exciting things are happening with transplants. A case of an anonymous donor made the news this year. The term "paired donors" is now getting a lot of attention. Recently two couples (previously unknown to each other) participated in the pairing of donors and recipients. The donor of each couple was compatible with the recipient of the other couple but not with their own spouses. Renowned transplant hospitals, such as Toronto General and St. Michael's, are interested in promoting this idea and enlarging the scope to include many couples.

Legislation is now pending in Ontario which might well help increase the number of people who sign donor cards. One such bill (by a Conservative MPP), called Mandatory Declaration, would require a person, when renewing a driving license, to state Yes or No to signing an organ donor card.

The Trillium Gift of Life Network has been given the mandate of establishing and managing waiting lists for recipients of organs and tissue and to maintain a fair system of allocation. I quote their advice: "Sign a donor card and keep it with you. Talk to your loved ones about this as they will be the ones asked for final consent in the event of your death".

Glenn and I work as volunteers for the Patient Services Committee of the Kidney Foundation of Canada. Last year we worked at organizing and helping run the Kidney Symposium held

in Whitby where over 150 renal patients and caregivers were in attendance. We attend meetings, write articles, work on their Bursary Program and, in general, try to help kidney donors and recipients.

As I look back on my lifestyle and general health since my transplant, I marvel at the many changes that have happened in our lives. Glenn and I can once again travel. I am no longer tired all the time. In my mind, I thank my brave and loving daughter Stephanie every morning when I awaken to the new day.

IRELAND IN THE SPRING

The best thing about going on a trip abroad is discovering something unexpected. That's what happened to my wife and I when we visited Ireland in April this year.

We were driving around the country exploring the history, looking for some connection with our cultural roots and enjoying a carefree holiday. We had landed in Dublin and wandered across the country to Donegal in our Toyota rental car. We had no specific destination, no schedule and so, when we stopped for directions and a man told us about Slieve League (Grey Mountain), the sound of high cliffs aroused my curiosity and we were off.



~ cliffs of Slieve League above Donegal Bay

They are said to be the highest and one of the finest marine cliffs in all of Europe at 1,972 feet. He gave us the directions and we made our way to the first of two parking lots. The leisurely walk along the narrow road towards the top had several twists and turns and we were glad we had not driven up to the top. The solitude of such a place caused me to reflect about the past and the isolation that local individuals must have experienced living in such a desolate area. The scenery as well became more and more incredible - especially the views over Donegal Bay. Once we reached the top, and passed the second parking lot, we had a breathtaking, but extremely scary view, of the wild Atlantic waves that were a three hundred metre drop straight down below us.

Unlike the Cliffs of Mohr in County Clare which are absolutely gorgeous, Slieve League does not have the crowds or the commercial overtones attached to it. This was definitely a part of Ireland that is well worth the visit.

Next, while driving north-east and trying to avoid going through the town of Letterkenny we ended up in the middle of it. We

pulled into the Shopping Centre parking lot to have some lunch and get our bearings. Having a brief discussion with some people in the parking lot, we discovered we were still in Donegal and should see Glenveagh National Park which was 24km north-west of Letterkenny. There was a unique castle on the grounds. We thanked them, and having checked our map, were off again on another unexpected adventure.

Having spent part of our stay at the Visitor Centre to get some background history, we took the shuttle bus to Glenveagh Castle which was built between the years 1870-1873. Surrounding the Castle there are 10 hectares of exotic gardens. This estate has been referred to as "Europe's most enchanting setting in a place of solitude"... considering the entire estate covered almost 20,000 hectares of mountain, lakes, glens and woods.

We spent a wonderful afternoon wandering around the grounds taking in the contrast of the wild and rugged landscape that surrounded the castle grounds and the carefully nurtured gardens within. This was another isolated wonder that we found off the beaten track in Ireland and must not be missed by any visitor with time on their hands.

While staying at a B&B near Dunlewy we went off looking for a place to have dinner. We found a pub. They no longer served food - only drinks - due to the late hour. They did, however, provide us with directions to Leo's Tavern which was nearby. We had a lovely supper around 7:00 p.m. and enjoyed the cozy atmosphere thinking how unfortunate it was that the band area was empty. Behind me was a full size poster of Enya. We didn't realize at the time that Leo was Enya's dad and this was the home of Clannad. The lady at the B&B told us that Enya played there during the Christmas holidays for the locals. We came back the next morning to photograph the place, still excited about another unexpected experience.

A lot of people would not drive in Ireland but I found the experience exhilarating. An adventure by car and staying at B&B's is well worth the time and effort. It's fun getting lost and then finding the place you wanted to stay at or the castle you wanted to visit. I look forward to another visit to Ireland and more unexpected adventures.

"Slainte" - cheers!

~ Jim Devine
Member-at-Large



~ Terry & Jim Devine

☺ If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.

COME TO AN EXECUTIVE MEETING AT OUR NEW LOCATION

All members of District 24 are welcome to attend any of our Executive Meetings. Come on out and join us! For the next year our meetings will be held at:

**Kingsway Arms Retirement Residence - McCowan
2881 Eglinton Avenue East
Scarborough**

To get to the *Kingsway Arms* from the east:

Take Eglinton Avenue East to McCowan Rd. Turn left on to McCowan and turn into the first driveway on the right. Go straight through, passing the building on the right and go to the second building which is Kingsway Arms. Enter the building via the doors from the parking lot.

OR

You can also enter the building by going past McCowan Rd. and turning into Kingsway Arms at the driveway just before the Tim Horton's sign. There is handicapped parking at the side and the back of the building.

Suggestion: The 401 westbound is usually stop and go from Meadowvale Road west from 8:00 AM until 9:30 AM. You could exit at Kingston Road and follow it to Eglinton.

To get to the *Kingsway Arms* from the west:

Take Eglinton Avenue East and go east of Danforth Rd. Turn right into the Kingsway Arms at the driveway just past the Tim Horton's sign.

OR

Go to McCowan Road, turn right on to McCowan and turn into the first driveway on the right. Go straight through, passing the building on the right and go to the second building which is Kingsway Arms. Enter the building via the doors from the parking lot.

If you are on the 401, exit at McCowan Road. Just south of Lawrence, McCowan Road veers to the right a little and becomes Danforth Rd. Follow the directions from the west above.

Our meetings are always on the first Thursdays of: January, March, June, September, and November. The meetings for the balance of the upcoming year will be held:

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Refreshments are available beginning at 9:00AM. Our meetings begin about 9:30AM, and end about 12:30PM.

We will be meeting in the **Oak Ridges Room** beside the Theatre/Chapel room. There are 2 elevators that will take you to the Oak Ridges room which is in the basement. One of our Executive members will be at the door to meet and direct you.

There will be a clipboard for you to sign in and out. This is a requirement of the Residence.

SHUTTERBUG ALERT!



All members of District 24 are welcome to attend a **Photo Club Meeting** at Guildwood Park on Monday, November 27, 2006 at 10:30 a.m. Bring along any type of camera - this is for the sheer enjoyment of taking pictures.

Look for the midnight red Windstar in the parking lot.

The park surrounding the old Guild Inn has a variety of objects that may prove challenging and should provide excellent photo opportunities - weather permitting. Should the weather turn inclement, we'll retire to the nearest Tim Horton's!

To get to Guildwood Park, take Kingston Road either west from Lawrence Ave or east from Markham Road to the Guildwood Parkway and proceed through the gates. Follow the Parkway. The entrance is on the south side immediately past Sir Wilfred Laurier Collegiate on the right hand side of the street. Drive into the parking lot that is in front of the Guild Inn. We'll meet there and then proceed into the park.

Perhaps we will see your photo in the next issue of *Beyond the Blackboard*.

~ Jim Devine
Photography Club

PRESIDENTS OF DISTRICT 24

Over the years we have had requests for the names of the presidents of our district. In answer to those requests:

1972-73	Jim Wilkinson
1973-74	Jack Henderson
1974-75	Foster Jeavons
1975	Stan Seal
1976-77	Josie Clement
1977-78	Art Cantrel
1978-80	Gordon Brown
1980-81	Ken Hall
1981-82	Howard Eubank
1982-83	Mel Holmes
1983-84	Mary Mitchell
1984-85	Herb Stevenson
1985-86	Margaret Huckins
1986-88	Frank Gould
1988-90	Bill Parish
1990-91	George Cridland
1991-92	Ellen McCormick
1992-94	Ken Webster
1994-95	Gladys Heintz
1995-96	Allan Mawson
1996-97	Bernie Chalmers (acting)
1996-2000	Bob Duncan
2000-02	Harolyn Panetta
2002-04	Gloria Kondziolka
2004-05	Gordon Reid
2005-06	Ken Turton
2006-	Gary Fick

☺ Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, but when they lit a fire in the craft, it sank - proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too.



WELCOME to DISTRICT 24

To all our new members for 2006, we offer you a warm welcome! Whether you are a new retiree or have moved from another district, we hope that you find District 24 ~ Scarborough and East York a comfortable and happy fit.

Our District motto is: "Where Old and New Friends Meet". We count you among our friends.

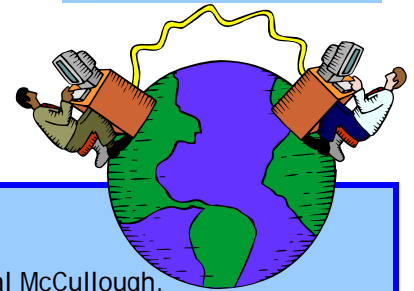
Sylvia Anderson
Josephine Badali
Renford Bailey
Jothy Balachandra
Betty S. Berner
Christopher Beserve
Dianne Birrell
Theresa Bowins
Carol Burke
Mary Carmichael
Kerry Comiskey
Gilbert R. J. Dalgleish
Sharon Davidson
Robin Daw
Morag Edmonstone
Alexis A. Fentie

Jeannette Ferrara
Louise Folks
Lancelot W. Fowler
Martha Gottschling
Pamela Hanson
Terry Harding
Jacqueline E. Hunter
Eileen Kamps
Maria Klos
Peter M. Knowles
Helen Koccoris
Albert G. Lamont
Jennifer Lanyon
Linda E. Leybourne-
MacDonald
Sheila Martin

Penelope L. McArthur
Yvonne McDonald
Georgia Morris
Nora Mular-Richards
Carol Nelson
Irene Nissen
Janice Noonan
Mary I. Phoenix
Francis Pickard
Christine Pilotte-
Rutland
Elizabeth Pump
Nancy E. Purvis
John Rhamey
Carmille Reed
M Sharon Robinson

Ann Samson
Catherine M. Scott
Sandra Scott
Maria Thorpe
Anne Thususka
Donna E. Trought
Erica M. Van Loon
Susan J. Underhay
Ann Vanstone
Edith Vicuna
Shirley A. Ward
June J. Weind
Hilary R. Windover
Rosanne S. Young
Suzanne Zakis

As of September 30th, District 24 had 2,026 Members.



We're building Our E-mail Database

Thank you to those of you who have forwarded their e-mail addresses to our webmaster, Hal McCullough. With our newsletters only coming out 3 times a year, your e-mail address allows us to contact you with any important information that comes our way: for example: the latest information in the health field; reminders about upcoming day trips; to let you know of new information that has been posted to the Toronto Districts website, etc.

Please note:

- ♥ Providing your e-mail address is purely voluntary.
- ♥ Your e-mail information will not be shared with any other organization.
- ♥ Information gathered for this database will be held in the strictest confidence.
- ♥ It would be used solely by the Webmaster or Executive of District 24 for such purposes as e-mailing you current or late-breaking information, advising you that new information has been posted to the website, or making you aware of special events.

If you wish to participate, and we encourage you to do so, please send your e-mail address to our Webmaster: hal@powergate.ca Please use the subject: *E-mail Address*. *Submissions without this heading may not be opened!*

~Hal McCullough
Webmaster

REPORTS FROM FALL SENATE *October 16-18, 2006*

Twice a year we designate two of our Executive members Senators to attend Senate in Toronto, which is a meeting of RTO delegates from every District. Up to 2 Observers from each District may also attend. Provincial RTO/ERO pays costs for Senators; the District picks up the costs for the Observers. As with any organization, there is a constitution which regulates its operation. Senators vote on motions in order to make any necessary changes or amendments to the way in which things are done. Observers do not vote, although they may speak with their Senator's approval. Motions for changes come from the Executive at Provincial Office, or from the Senators, and are not in effect until they have been voted on.

Attending Senate on your behalf were Gary Fick and Ken Turton as Senators 1 and 2; and Hal McCullough and Brenda Fick as Observers 1 and 2.

There were two guest speakers at this Senate:



~ Hilda Watkins
OTF President



~ John Tory
Leader of the Opposition

~ photos courtesy Simon Leibovitz, Information Officer, RTO/ERO

More complete information concerning Fall Senate, 2006 will be found in the upcoming *Renaissance* Magazine.

Communication:

This committee has set its priorities for 2007:

- ✧ conducting a workshop for webmasters
- ✧ providing support for newsletter editors
- ✧ promoting the use of the provincial website
- ✧ implementing Re-Net as a communications tool

Political Action:

The P.A.C. has been very busy this year working on such issues as mortgage fraud, child care, the electoral process, pension income splitting, market value assessment, and increasing member participation in municipal elections through an extensive set of strategies and guidelines.

A Fact Sheet on mortgage fraud will be prepared, and an article concerning this form of fraud will be written for *Renaissance*.

RTO/ERO Goals:

The provincial Executive remains committed to the following five goals:

- ✧ Service to Members
- ✧ Marketing RTO/ERO
- ✧ Expanding Relationships
- ✧ Corporate Structure
- ✧ Financial Accountability

The Provincial Executive has continued to deal with the implementation of provincial priorities especially in the areas of governance and risk management and political advocacy.

On the political front the Provincial Executive met with the Minister Responsible for Seniors' Affairs, and reviewed some

issues such as the impact of Property Assessment, Housing and Long term Care.

Areas in the ongoing management of the organization include:

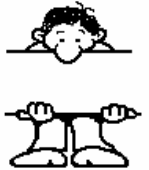
- ✧ Setting parameters for the membership survey
- ✧ Overseeing the RTO investment portfolio
- ✧ Development of a building maintenance plan to replace the aging heating and cooling systems
- ✧ Donation to the South East Asia disaster relief fund through the Red Cross and a \$3,500 donation to the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (Canada) funded by a donated picture raffle and a rebate from the RTO Blue Jay Game receipts.

Health Services and Insurance:

Resolutions passed included:

- ✧ premium changes will begin February 1, 2007 (will save RTO/ERO \$40,000 on postage)
- ✧ no change for Semi-Private, 9% increase for Extended Health, 3% increase for Dental:

Semi-Private	2007*
Single	\$18.07
Couple	\$36.10
Family	\$42.42
Extended Health	2007*
Single	\$64.84
Couple	\$129.70
Family	\$155.65
Dental	2007*
Single	\$48.03
Couple	\$94.71
Family	\$118.11
* plus tax	



- ✧ laser eye surgery included as covered expense subject to the \$225 two consecutive calendar year maximum (Jan. 1/07)
- ✧ eye exams every two years up to \$50 maximum (will include Heidelberg Retina Tomography [HRT]) (Jan. 1/07)
- ✧ dental claims based on 2007 Fee Schedule (Jan. 1/07)



Observers: Hal McCullough and Brenda Fick

Pension and Retirement Concerns:

The 2005 Funding Valuation was filed with the Financial Commission of Ontario. The terms of agreement:

- ✧ members' contribution rates will increase 2% Jan. 1/07 and 0.3% Jan. 1/08
- ✧ the government partner to contribute 2% more Jan. 1/07; a further 1.1% on Jan. 1/08
- ✧ for 2008 only, OTF will offset members' contributions by the use of the remaining \$76 million credit from the 1998 negotiations. A further 0.8% increase effective Jan. 1/09
- ✧ total contributions for teachers and other contributors to the fund will not exceed 15% (should future increases be necessary)
- ✧ there will be no impact on members receiving pensions

95 Day Rule:

- ✧ retirees will be able to work for a school board in any capacity for no more than 95 days in each of the first three years in which they return to work
- ✧ they need not be consecutive years nor must they begin immediately after retirement
- ✧ they do not include any years taught during the 5 year window (2001-2006)
- ✧ be aware that even a half day worked counts as one of "the first three" years after retirement
- ✧ after studying the Bigsby Case from Alberta, which contested a similar rule for returning to teaching after retirement, the committee and executive decided it was not in the best interest of RTO/ERO and its members to pursue this path



Senators: Gary Fick and Ken Turton
~Senate photos by Hal McCullough
~ additional photos on our website

Member Services Report:

Recruitment

The main target audience is retired teachers presently not RTO/ERO members and active teachers planning retirement. Present members can assist non-member friends and former colleagues by describing the goals of RTO/ERO to them. We are much more than an insurance plan!

Retirement Planning Workshops

These are sponsored by RTO/ERO have been well-attended and well-received by interested, active teachers. Member Services assists the Districts presenting R.P. workshops with some financing and provides materials at cost. RTO/ERO (and the Toronto Districts) continue to offer these introductory workshops that are a most important recruitment tool as they increase the visibility of the work of Districts with local active teachers. (See back cover)

Travel

RTO/ERO has decided to terminate the business relationship of Travel Guild effective April 2007. Merit Travel's strategy and plans in offering RTO/ERO members a broad travel program is being formulated and monitored.

Project - Service to Others:

The new Scholarship Awards programme has been welcomed by our members. In this first year, 210 applications were received and 25 \$1000 awards were granted. "Step children" and sons and daughters-in-law are now eligible to apply.

District 24 was successful in presenting a motion to "offer the scholarships to worthy candidates pursuing a career in teaching from an accredited teacher training facility". *Teachers are supporting teachers!*

Our District had 2 applicants but neither was successful this year. Try again!

AGM REPORTS *October 26, 2006*

Membership

There are 2026 members in District 24. The two times when members are most likely to join are:

- immediately after retiring; and
- when they are no longer allowed to continue with Board of Education benefits programmes

When a new member joins District 24, he or she receives a welcome letter and a copy of the most recent newsletter. Names of recently new members and recently deceased members are included in our newsletter, *Beyond the Blackboard*.

Once again this year, under the guidance of Elaine Aprile, Ellen McCormick, Donna Hubel, and Sharon Thurston, District 24 held a Champagne Brunch for new retirees at the Cathedral Bluffs Yacht Club. 51 retirees toasted the day with "Morning Glories" and celebrated with a delicious brunch put on by the Yacht Club caterer, the Bo Peep Restaurant.

If you know of anyone retiring between now and next August, be sure to let them know about RTO/ERO and this event. It is a wonderful way to begin a new life.

~ Sharon Thurston
Membership Convener

HSI Report

The role of the District Health Representative (DHR) is to assist the membership by providing information and advice regarding the RTO/ERO Group Benefits Programmes. In addition, I am to pass on new information regarding car insurance, long term care, seniors' issues, etc., as they may affect or be of interest to District members.

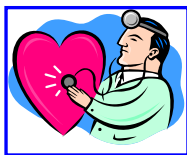
I write articles in each of our District's newsletter to keep you informed of information as it is sent to me from the Provincial Committee. Once a year I attend a one day conference in Toronto where all RTO's HSRs are invited to meet, learn about the latest issues and the Provincial Committees new initiatives, and to share member concerns. In the past year I received only a dozen or so requests for assistance. However, in all cases, if I didn't know the answer immediately, I sought it out and then called or e-mailed the member with the required information, usually the same day.

Since I assumed this role three years ago I have offered the membership the opportunity to attend a health seminar featuring knowledgeable speakers on a variety of topics. This year's seminar is a talk by a professional from the Liver Foundation which, I'm told, is highly educational. It is being held on November 15 at the old Highbrook Sr. P.S., and it's not too late to register to attend. The attendance has varied greatly at these events - if you wish them to continue, please let us know by supporting them. (See back cover)

You are invited to provide feedback to me about the newsletter articles, your queries, as well as ideas or topics you'd like to hear more about. As you know, the Executive is always reaching out to the membership to encourage your involvement. Perhaps you'll choose to attend our meetings in the future as a Member-at-Large where you will have the opportunity to observe, learn more about our organization, and assist us in whatever area suits your interest. I look forward to meeting you.

~ Marilyn Tregwin, HSR

Health Services and Insurance



Hello again! I have several pieces of information and reminders to share in this issue, as well as a new initiative being put forth by your Provincial

Health Services Committee. Check our June newsletter for RTO's helpful new fact sheet entitled "Vacation Checklist". Also, you have a short time left to register for our fall health seminar presented by the Canadian Liver Foundation. See page 9.

The first item concerns our Travel Plan. It would be prudent to review your small Out-of-Province/Canada booklet and make note of the following statements that, when not followed, have created problems for some of our members:

"Trip cancellation claims must be reported to Johnson Inc. Plan Benefit Claims before the scheduled departure date from your province of residence". And, "If World Access Canada is not contacted within 48 hours of the emergency, payments will be limited to \$2000 per insured person per trip." Regarding claims of \$500 or less: at present you pay directly and then contact Johnson for reimbursement. This money is not a deductible. The HS&I Committee recommends that plan participants always contact World Access Canada Inc. within 48 hours of all medical emergencies. **Please note: Effective January 1, 2007, ALL claims will be paid by WAC.** E-mail me if you would like a list of documents that could be required in connection with a Trip Cancellation claim.

The government has launched a new website that provides a single source of information about programs and services for seniors offered by all levels of government and local community agencies. The address is www.seniorsinfo.ca.

A recent study has found that people could adjust their body clocks when travelling to different time zones by altering their light patterns. This can be done by wearing sunglasses or seeking natural or artificial light. To help combat the effects of jet lag, British Airways has added a jet lag calculator to their website at: www.britishairways.com/travel/drsleep/public/en.ca. Answer a few simple questions and the calculator will provide you with a personalized schedule to help you alter your light pattern.

In February 2006, 39,135 RTO members were covered for at least one of our health plans. Of these members, about 25% have their drug claims submitted electronically by their pharmacist vs. mailing a paper claim for reimbursement. The cost of the

former is less than half the cost of the latter! Help keep your premiums down and save yourself some paper work at the same time by asking your pharmacist to e-file for you.

I had planned making RTO's new Wellness Initiative: "Walking - the Activity of a Lifetime" a focus of this article, but you are already informed, having read page 22 of the fall issue of Renaissance. The government's website www.active2010.ca is a great resource! It tells you the physical and mental benefits of walking, safety concerns, important stretches to incorporate into your walk, daily and weekly goals, a sample walking program for those just beginning, and a chart to log your progress. If you are unable to obtain a print-out of these pages from a friend or the public library, you may request a booklet from Ontario's Queen's Printer. RTO is making available deluxe "Minder" pedometers with panic alarm for \$21 (delivered to your home) for a fraction of the retail price. Contact Melanie Johnson at RTO to order them for your family. (Psst! They'd be a useful stocking stuffer.)



Suggestions were provided in Renaissance to get you started on your walk to health. Some people lose interest after repeatedly walking the same path, so try to vary routine. I recently discovered that Toronto's Mount Pleasant Cemetery is an interesting place to be active. Pick up from the office its "Historical Walking Tour" brochure and learn while you walk and get healthier! Toronto City Hall has available free booklets entitled "Discovery Walks". Each provides a map and little bit of background on a variety of cultural districts in the city. Other pleasant places to walk are the old Guild Inn land in south Scarborough, Edwards Gardens at Leslie and Lawrence, or Toogood Pond in Unionville.



Now it's your turn. E-mail me about your experiences, whether you are trying this program for the first time, or you are a seasoned walker. Let us know how this program works for you. Sharing your experiences, as well as routes and locations you enjoy, will benefit us all. I'll publish some of your comments in our next newsletter, and you may be one of the lucky four who will win your own pedometer!

~ Marilyn Tregwin
DHR

Goodwill – Telephone



District 24 attempts to make annual contact with all of its members who retired before 1992. With the assistance of 22 volunteer callers, we called 385 members this year.

Those whom we were unable to contact by phone or who live outside the province or country, were mailed a greeting card. This year I mailed 206 cards.

On your behalf I would like to extend a thank you to this dedicated group of callers without whom this service would not be possible: *Sue Ackerman, Gill Uddenberg, Bill Jones, Margaret Nicolson, Marjorie McGinty, Lucille Ferguson, Mary Hunt, Louise Henderson, Helen Nolan, Shelly Balmer, Janette McClure, Joan Taylor, Margaret Park, Ann Smola, Anne Storrison, Olivia Gibbons, Helen Lavender, Liz Cartier, Helen Sharpe, Lucille Parrish, Allan Leighton, and Marilyn Hodge.* We are always looking for volunteers to assist us with the phoning. If anyone else is able to take a few hours, once a year, please contact Brenda Fick at: 905.683.9676 or by e-mail at:

bfick1@rogers.com.

Please use the subject **Goodwill-Phone**.

Submissions without this heading may not be opened.

~ Brenda Fick

Goodwill – Telephone Committee Chair



~ all AGM photos by Hal McCullough
Additional photos will be found on our website

Pensions

On September 26, I attended the Pension and Retirement Concerns Representatives Workshop in downtown Toronto. Representatives from the RTO and Ontario Teachers Pension Plan presented information and took our questions.

We were asked to draw your attention to the fact that:

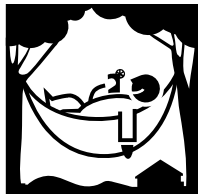
- ✧ you must apply for your Old Age Security in order to receive it. (6 months in advance of your 65th birthday is recommended)
- ✧ for OAS recipients who have low incomes, there is an Income Supplement available for which you must apply.
- ✧ RTO has a library of Fact Sheets, available free of charge, to help with these and a number of other topics. The list of topics was printed in our June 2006 *Beyond the Blackboard* and is available on RTO's members only website www.rto-ero.org or by calling Liz Timms at 416.962.9463 x221 or 1.800.361.9888 x221 with a request.
- ✧ clawbacks of OAS begin at incomes of \$62 144 or more

There are about 163,000 active and 101,000 retired members in the OTPP, which has about \$96 billion in assets.

Working After Retiring

The rules that follow apply only to positions with employers who are members of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan. (For all other employers, there are no limiting factors.)

- ✧ see page 19 for information regarding the 95 days of work in a year.
- ✧ after age 68 there are no rules limiting the number of days you may work.
- ✧ if you exceed the number of days that you are allowed to work, your pension will stop and you will have to reapply.



For more information read Pension News at www.otpp.com

Dealing With the Valuation Shortfall

When teachers retire, their present and future pensions are determined by the terms governing that pension on the date they retired. Any changes to the Ontario Teachers Pension Plan to deal with a valuation shortfall apply to active teachers, and are presented here only for your information.

Every three years the Teachers' Pension Plan Board must create a valuation to

determine if there are enough monies in the plan to pay current and future pensions. For a number of reasons, such as low interest rates, new and expensive improvements to the plan, increasing longevity of pensioners, earlier age of retirement and so on, the valuation has described a future shortfall, even though there is about \$96 billion worth of assets in the plan.

To resolve the shortfall, the partners, the Ontario Government and the Ontario Teachers Federation, decided to phase in over the next three years, an increased payment into the plan by active members with matching funds from the government.

Our plan is not allowed to have an actuarial deficit nor surplus. During the valuations of the 90's when large surpluses were found, they were used, first to fund the unfunded liability against the plan created by our cost of living benefit during the years of high inflation, and second, to increase benefits to plan members such as a permanent 85 factor, the best 5 years for all, and greater separation from the CPP. We used up all of the actuarial surpluses. Then interest rates fell, many teachers retired, and the valuation showed a deficit, which, it is hoped, the increases in contributions will alleviate.

In addition, a revised method of defining surplus in the plan has been agreed upon for future valuations. This is to provide a cushion, preventing the use of all of an actuarial surplus, as currently defined, being used, and to make less likely a deficit requiring an increase to contributions or reduction of future benefits. The new definition of full funding was made allowable by the passage of new provincial legislation governing pensions such as ours.

The decision to increase contributions was made by the partners. The OTF is planning to survey current active members to see what they want to have happen if there is another deficit in the plan.

~ Carol Paabor
Pension Co- Chair

Ed. Note: There is some further information on Valuation on page 18 under Pension and Retirement Concerns.



Treasurer

Financial Statement - October 5, 2006

Receipts:

Provincial Grant	\$23,504.54
Goodwill Grant	\$0.00
Recruitment Grant	\$0.00
Bank Interest/Charges	-\$1.26
Programme	-\$535.17
Christmas Luncheon	\$0.00
Golf Tournament	\$1,139.87
Interest Income (GIC)	\$686.48
Return of Capital Investment	-----
Miscellaneous	-----
Total Receipts	\$24,794.46

Disbursements:

Goodwill, District	\$452.52
Recruitment, District	\$1,606.96
Newsletter	
(mailing, printing, postage)	\$7,195.72
Christmas Luncheon	\$0.00
Executive Meetings	\$341.96
District AGM	\$500.00
Senate Meeting	\$674.00
Political Action	\$55.08
Office Expenses	\$148.48
Toronto Districts Assessment	\$1,216.44
Breakfast for Kids	\$0.00
Total Disbursements	\$12,191.16

Receipts over Disbursements **\$12,603.30**

Current Assets

Bank balance	\$29,290.50
GIC face value - matures 12/06	\$5,131.72
GIC face value - matures 01/07	\$8,096.49
GIC face value - matures 08/07	\$7,189.12
Total Current Assets	<u>\$49,707.83</u>

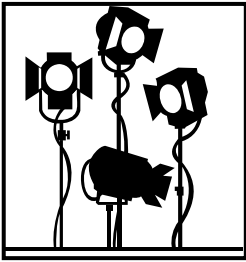


<<< Ron Smith
Treasurer

On the Lighter Side:

These were actual headlines...

- ☺ Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says
- ☺ Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
- ☺ Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
- ☺ Teacher Strikes Idle Kids
- ☺ Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures
- ☺ Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors
- ☺ Miners Refuse to Work after Death
- ☺ Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
- ☺ War Dims Hope for Peace
- ☺ Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
- ☺ New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
- ☺ Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half



THIS ISSUE TURNS THE SPOTLIGHT ON:

Our Membership Committee



ELAINE APRILE

Elaine retired from the Toronto District Catholic School Board in 2002, having taught in St. Leonard, St. Joachim, St. Nicholas, St. Theresa Shrine - working primarily in Primary and Junior Special Ed. She says that she enjoyed her years in MH programmes the best.

When asked what prompted her to become involved with RTO/ERO, she replied that it felt natural to extend her membership during retirement; it also allowed her to renew old acquaintances and meet new people. Becoming a member of the Executive followed when another member of the Executive asked her to come out and volunteer her time. On the Executive, Elaine has been involved with Membership and helping out with other activities such as the AGM and the Champagne Brunch. When not involved with RTO, Elaine keeps herself busy with swimming, walking, playing cards, going to the theatre and volunteering with the Golden Years Group (for the blind), and visiting seniors.

When asked if there were one thing she would like to see for RTO she told us that she would like to see more of the membership become involved in more activities.



DONNA HUBEL

Donna Hubel began her teaching career in a one-room school with eight grades in Simcoe County. Then she taught twenty children in grades one to four in Haliburton County. Next she went to Scarborough where she taught grades four and five, followed by twenty-five years as a Speech and Language Teacher.

Many years before retiring, summer and evening programs in Computers and Math Enrichment occupied her time as teacher and later as Supervising Principal. Following teaching, Donna became an Educational Consultant for 'Developmental Learning Materials'. During that time she met with people in education throughout Southern Ontario.

After leaving DLM, Donna became involved with RTO as chairperson of the Social Committee for three years. Since leaving that position, she has been a Member-at-Large, currently assisting Sharon Thurston on the Membership Committee.

Donna believes life is good as she enjoys entertaining, dining with friends over long lunches, quilting, crafts, Tai Chi and Scottish Country Dancing. She is always busy and looking forward to new adventures.



ELLEN McCORMICK

Ellen McCormick retired from the Speech Department at the Separate School Board in Scarborough in 1989.

She became involved with RTO after talking to Bill Parish, President of District 24 at that time, who thought it important to include representatives of all three boards both men and woman on the District 24 Executive.

She remains involved because it is a unique organization based on sound principles and seems to attract the most interesting people.

Her other time is spent working on a genealogy project, doing some volunteer work, gardening, and an exercise program. She enjoys travel, theatre (Ellen organizes our Shaw Festival trips) and reading.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE...

Our March 2006 issue detailed the many responsibilities of our Membership Committee, among them being:

- receiving additions and deletions to the membership lists from the Provincial office; forwards these to various members of the executive
- welcoming all new members to District 24 by sending them our most recent newsletter and a brief note
- checking phone numbers, addresses of members for executive
- taking occasional phone calls from members
- attending executive meetings five times a year
- reporting to executive at meetings
- arranging a Champagne Brunch to help new retirees celebrate their new status and to learn about RTO and District 24.

On the Lighter Side:

- ☺ I'm lost. I've gone out to find me. If I come back before I return, please ask me to wait.
- ☺ I live in my own little world!!! But that's okay, cause they know me there.

EDITOR'S REPORT



This has been a quiet year for the newsletter after all the changes we have made over the past couple of years.

We continue to print 3 newsletters, which are delivered to you around mid-March, mid-June, and mid-November. The deadline for submissions for articles for an issue is approximately 6 weeks prior to delivery -

approximately February 1, May 1 and October 1. A line has been added to the back cover that lets you know the exact deadline for the next issue.

The costs for the newsletter have remained relatively stable, although there has been a slight increase in postal rates. A single copy costs us approximately \$1.35 for printer, Harmony, to do the set-up, printing, folding, stapling, and mailing.

I would like to thank Marilyn Tregwin for agreeing to act as my proof-reader. Her help has been invaluable.

At our June Executive meeting the editor brought up the idea of putting copies of *Beyond the Blackboard* into all of the Scarborough/East York schools (elementary and high schools, public and Catholic - some 450 schools) as a way of:

- ☺ advertising District 24, and RTO/ERO, to our working colleagues
- ☺ letting them know what RTO/ERO has to offer
- ☺ letting them know which district they should join

A committee was formed (Marilyn Hodge, Gloria Kondziolka, and myself) to check into the feasibility of such a move. The committee will make its report to the Executive at our November meeting and a decision will be made at that time. We will inform you of our decision in the next newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you happiness for the holiday season and all the very best for the New Year.

~ Hal McCullough
Newsletter Editor

At our AGM:



MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO... BEYOND THE BLACKBOARD

The next issue of *Beyond the Blackboard* will be coming your way in mid-March, 2007. Why not:

- ♥ Send a line to share with our readers and let former colleagues know what you are up to.
- ♥ Write a *Letter to the Editor!*
- ♥ Write a short article on any matter that may be of interest to our retired colleagues.
- ♥ Share a funny story, a poem, or some other piece of prose with our many readers.

Send your submission, or other correspondence to the editor: hal@powergate.ca

Use the subject: Newsletter submission

Submissions without this heading may not be opened!

Or by Canada Post - my address is on the back cover.

Deadline: Friday, January 26, 2007.



Moving?? Please! Help us reduce our newsletter costs! Each time an issue is mailed out, we have a number of them that get returned to the Editor (but only their back covers) because members have moved without notifying the Provincial RTO/ERO Office. When the Provincial Office provides us with your new address, we have to pay again to mail you a replacement copy (that's additional newsletters, envelopes and postage).

We would ask that you take a moment to get in touch with Dianne Vezeau at RTO/ERO and provide her with your new address before you move. There are three methods of contacting Dianne indicated on the back cover of this issue.



~ Hal McCullough
Newsletter Editor

On the Lighter Side...

- ☺ A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
- ☺ A flashlight is a case for holding dead batteries.
- ☺ Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- ☺ If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in the fog.
- ☺ Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.
- ☺ If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.
- ☺ My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use mine.
- ☺ I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.



Health Seminar:

The ABC's of Liver Disease
Wednesday, November 15, 2006
Scarborough Centre for Alternative Studies
Room 312 at 10:00 a.m.

Refreshments will be provided at 9:30 a.m., allowing you time to peruse your folder of brochures, or to meet and socialize with colleagues old and new.

This seminar is limited to 70 participants and is provided for you at no cost, but you must pre-register by leaving a phone message for Marilyn at: 416.493.3757, giving her your name and phone number; or by e-mail at:

marilyn.oelsner@tel.tdsb.on.ca

For e-mails, please use the subject: Health Seminar

Submissions without this heading may not be opened!

~ Marilyn Tregwin (Oelsner)

DHR

*Do You Have
Teaching Friends who are
Preparing to Retire?*



Then tell them that
the four Toronto Districts of RTO/ERO are presenting
Retirement Planning Workshops

Thursday, November 16, 2006: 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
(at York Mills C.I.)

Saturday, February 24, 2007: 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
(at Blue Danube Restaurant)

Wednesday, April 18, 2007: 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
(at Don Bosco C.S.S.)

Cost: \$10.00

These Workshops are open to all Toronto Teachers

Contact:

Ken Turton at: 905.666.8878 / k.turton@sympatico.ca

or

Tom Caster at: 416.751.9629 / tacaster@rogers.com

Please use the Subject: Retirement Planning Workshops

Submissions without this heading may not be opened.



*If you are you moving...
If your address information is incorrect...*

Please contact Dianne Vezeau at RTO/ERO:
In writing: 18 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON M5R 2S7
Or by phone: 416-962-9463 or 1-800-668-0105
Or by e-mail: dvezeau@rto-ero.org



Other RTO/ERO Districts are welcome to use any of the material contained in this newsletter providing appropriate attribution is made regarding source. Any and all submissions are subject to editing for content and space limitations.

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The deadline for submissions for November's *Beyond the Blackboard* is Friday, January 26, 2007.

