

BEYOND THE BLACKBOARD



DISTRICT 24 – SCARBOROUGH AND EAST YORK



VOLUME 26 NUMBER 3

NOVEMBER 2007

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 39 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

The School Year 2007 - 2008 has just begun as I sit here musing on what to write for my message this time. The temperature has just returned to the scorching 30's with the humidex in the 40's.

A provincial election is looming on the horizon with all parties actively campaigning to get elected or re-elected. Once again education is in the forefront of the campaigning followed closely by health issues.

By the time you read this it will be decided. Four more years or a new deal? Majority or minority? A new electoral system or status quo? These questions will be answered.

RTO/ERO is an active non-partisan player in the issues which affect their members. We have several Provincial Committees which monitor and examine the issues of the day and make proposals and strike Provincial RTO/ERO positions on these issues. Many times

these are published and distributed to you in our provincial news magazine "Renaissance".

All members are encouraged to take an active role in the activities of RTO/ERO. If you see something which you take issue with, contact the Provincial Office and tell the President of your concerns and opinions. Contact your local Executive and let them know how you feel. Come to an Executive Meeting and express your opinion. You'll find the meeting dates listed on page 2.

We are always prepared to listen to you, the membership of RTO/ERO District 24 Scarborough and East York.

Schools are facing many more challenges than even those we faced in our days in the classrooms and offices. New acronyms are spoken amongst teachers on a regular basis. To me it is like an entirely different language. "Lockdown drills" have joined fire drills as a fact of life, visitors wear special identification badges when they visit a school and finding the "open" door to enter are just a few of the new challenges faced.

On behalf of the entire local Executive, I wish you all a happy and safe holiday season ahead and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at RTO/ERO sponsored events throughout the upcoming year.

~ Gary Fick

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Executive	2	Service to Others	8-9	FYI	18-19
In Memoriam	3	Liberia	10	Senate Information	19
Health	4-5	Programme	11-16	District Activities	20-22
District Activities	6-7	Spotlight	17	Editor's Report	23

DISTRICT 24 2007-2008 EXECUTIVE



Past President:

Gord Reid 416.282.3714 ----

President:

Gary Fick 905.683.9676 gfick1@rogers.com

First Vice-President:

Bill Sparks 416.293.7477 wgasparks@sympatico.ca

Second Vice-President:

Frank Saliani 416.281.3542 frank.elaine@primus.ca

Secretary:

Gloria Courtney 416.291.1721 gcourt@rogers.com

Treasurer:

Ron Smith 416.431.0466 randgsmi@ca.inter.net

Chairs:

AGM & Programme:

Judy-Anne Tumber 416.264.6016 jatumber@rogers.com

Archivist:

Les Coombs 416.261.0568 lesonriviera@msn.com

Communications: Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

Hal McCullough 905.985.8760 hal@powergate.ca

Good Will (Cards):

Marilyn Hodge 416.284.9984 mjhodge@sympatico.ca

Good Will (Phone):

Brenda Fick 905.683.9676 bfick1@rogers.com

District Health Representative:

Marilyn Tregwin 416.493.3757 marilyn.tregwin@tel.tdsb.on.ca

Membership Convener:

Sharon Thurston 416.497.3338 sthurston@rogers.com

Membership Committee:

Elaine Aprile 416.267.2670 elaineaprile@sympatico.ca

Donna Hubel 416.490.1861 dhub@sympatico.ca

Ellen McCormick 416.284.7795 ellenmccormick@sympatico.ca

Pension & Retirement Concerns:

Frank Saliani 416.281.3542 frank.elaine@primus.ca

Political Action (Interim):

Frank Saliani 416.281.3542 frank.elaine@primus.ca

Service to Others:

Kathleen Turkington ---- kturk@idirect.com

Members-at-Large:

Bob Cook 416.267.0246 bob.elainecook@sympatico.ca

Jim Devine 416.751.8487 jim_is_devine@hotmail.com

David Higgins 416.493.8120 davidmhiggins@rogers.com

Eileen Higgins 416.493.8120 eileenkruzichiggins@hotmail.com

Linda Jarvis 416.293.8689 linjar@rogers.com

Gloria Kondziolka 416.293.8689 glokon@rogers.com

Allan Mawson 905.475.0055 ----

Margaret Nicolson 416.265.5433 ----

Harolyn Panetta 416.759.5560 h_panetta@hotmail.com

Are you interested in serving on the Executive? Contact an Executive member.

REMEMBRANCE DAY, NOVEMBER 11

Always
&
Forever



UPCOMING EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Executive Meetings are currently held at the Kingsway Arms, located at the south-west corner of McCowan Road and Eglinton Avenue. The dates are:

Thursday, January 10, 2008

Thursday, March 27, 2008

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Parking and entrance are at the back of the building.

Our meetings begin with refreshments at 9:00 A.M.; our business meeting at 9:30 A.M. We finish no later than 1:00 P.M.

All members are welcome to attend. Please sign in and out at the desk where you enter the facility – it is a requirement of the retirement residence.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Special birthday wishes go out to 3 of our members who will be celebrating a special birthday between July and December of this year. Turning 90 we have:

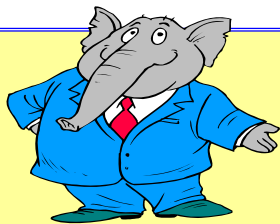
**GERTRUDE MOYER
KENNETH HALL**

And a special Happy Birthday to one District 24 member who will be turning 102:

HARRY GANNON



These members have given their signed permission to have their names published in this newsletter.



DATES TO REMEMBER

1st and 3rd Tuesdays
December 4, 6, 11

Bridge & Euchre Club (12:30 P.M.)
Port Dover: *Christmas Carol* and
Simcoe's *Light Tour*
Christmas Luncheon (SG&CC)
(Sorry... SOLD OUT!)

December 5

2008:

January 10
January 25
February 6

Executive Meeting: Kingsway Arms
Deadline: *March newsletter*
Elgin Theatre: *The 25th Annual
Putnam County Spelling Bee*

February 23

Speaker/Luncheon: *Ron Brown*

March 13

St. Jacob's Playhouse: *Swing*

March 27

Executive Meeting: Kingsway Arms

April 2

Shaw Festival: *Wonderful Town*

April 24

Travelogue & Luncheon: *Fred Moss*

May 13-14

Spring Senate

May 20

Deadline: *June Newsletter*

May 21

Toronto Centre for the Arts:

My Fair lady

May 22

Annual General Meeting: *Q-SSIS*

May 27

Mennonite Country

June 2

Niagara River Tour

June 5

Executive Meeting: Kingsway Arms

June 11

Stratford: *Music Man*

July 22

Capitol Theatre: *Same Time Next*

Year

August 15

Seniors' Jubilee

August 23 (tentative)

Blue Jays vs. Boston Red Sox

September 4

Executive Meeting: Kingsway Arms

September 9

11th Annual Golf Tournament

September 18

Stratford: *Cabaret*

October 11

Niagara Wine Tour

October 17

Deadline: *November Newsletter*

October 23

2nd Annual Fall Luncheon: *Q-SSIS*

October 24

Stratford: *Caesar & Cleopatra*

October 28-29

Fall Senate

October

Health Seminar: *Date & Topic TBA*


Seasons change on:

Dec 22; Mar 20; June 20; Sept 22

Daylight Saving Time:

begins Mar 9, '08; ends Nov 1, '08

PENSION AND RETIREMENT CONCERNS

- ❖ Members are reminded of the RTO/ERO Fact Sheets, available at www.rto-ero.org, and are encouraged to make use of them. 
- ❖ A new Fact Sheet on Home Security (H7) is now available on the website in the "members only" site. A hard copy can be obtained from Liz Timms in the RTO/ERO office. (Phone: 416.962.9463).
- ❖ The *Safe Living Guide*, a guide to home safety for seniors, is available free of charge (in limited quantities) from the Public Health Agency of Canada. Their website is www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/seniors/aines.
- ❖ The OTPP has a new CEO. Jim Leech, formerly Senior VP, Private Capital, replaces Claude Lamoureux who is retiring at the end of September. Mr. Leech has been with the OTPP since 2001.
- ❖ OTF has released the results of a survey done by POLLARA, an independent research firm. This survey of 2500 **working members of the OTPP** (active Teachers) was conducted in preparation for the 2008 funding evaluation. It was designed to:
 - find out what members know about their pension;
 - determine how much members are willing to pay to preserve their existing pension package; and
 - identify preferences for possible changes in pension benefits to be earned in future years if such action is required down the road.
- ❖ On June 22, 2007 OTF released the results. "The results clearly show that the membership supports the position of OTF and the Affiliates that members' benefits should **not** be reduced; and that members are willing to increase contributions to keep the current level of pension benefits."

These changes do not affect Plan members who are already receiving a pension.

~ Frank Saliani, P.A.C. (Interim)

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.*

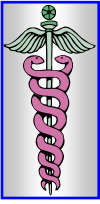
Annie Grace Allin
Evelyn Beerepoot
Betty Davidson
Gertrude M. Ferris
Iris L. Grabb
Leonard Hudyma
Muriel K. Jobb
Fritz Mann
Louise A. March

Albert L. Mason
Frank S. Nichol
Dorothy A. Nicholls
Margaret A. Nickols
Lois F. Reesor
Madeline Sweeney
Anson S. Taylor
Jessie F. Watson

MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Hello again! I hope you enjoyed a healthy and active summer. As you know, RTO's Wellness initiative, 'Walking - the Activity of a Lifetime', encourages all of us to get moving - an easy way to achieve an improved quality of life. In previous issues of *Beyond the Blackboard* I have presented to you the comments and personal experiences of members concerning the many benefits they have realized from a walking program. Read what Lillian Mahaffy has to say...

"Don't underestimate the power of walking. Walking is good for you. Cardiologist James Rippe states that walking is not only good for your cardiovascular system, but it also decreases the likelihood of falling because it helps to maintain the musculoskeletal and nervous systems. It stimulates the immune system and it enables you to cope with stress. This rewarding activity gives you a sense of self-esteem and control over your own life. Moreover, it helps you 'hear' your body and its needs while shutting out your worries. It offers you a chance to meditate because you don't have to think about what you're doing. I view walking as a journey. When I start out I ask myself, 'What discoveries will I make today?'"

RTO has provided deluxe Minder 31 pedometers for Lillian, Roz Lee, Thelma Line, and Gwen Farrow for their encouraging words. If you are new to RTO and reading this newsletter for the first time, I invite you to check out the Ministry of Health website www.active2010.ca. It is a great resource for both beginning and experienced walkers.

This year is the 25th anniversary of RTO/ERO providing group health insurance plans for retired teachers and their families. Our health plans have grown to be not only the best available to retired educators, but also a big business. Approximately 40,000 members and their dependents will pay almost \$80 million in premiums this year. After receiving legal advice, changes in the governance of our health plans were proposed to the spring Senate in order to protect the health insurance coverage of those members and to protect the assets of RTO/ERO. Accordingly, authority for deciding on plan design and premium levels has been transferred from the Senate to the HS&IC.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the annual conference for District Health Reps held this past June, but District 24 was indeed represented. I wish to thank Frank Saliani, a member of our executive, for volunteering his personal time to attend the conference on my behalf. And, as promised, I now have many items to share with you.

Over 2300 of our members, or just under 4%, participate in the RTO/ERO sponsored Long Term Care plans offered by Johnson Insurance. Renewal rate information will be sent to all plan participants 60 days before the policy expires.

There are two new enhancements to Johnson's Members Only website for you to check out. One change involves Plan Benefits claim information, where members can now view their remaining limit on eyeglasses or paramedical claims, and the other allows you to generate an Income Tax letter, mid-year, for information purposes.

Statistics Canada recently released figures that for the first time show a combined male/female life expectancy of 80.2 years. Between 1979 and 2004 both sexes showed increases in life expectancy, but the growth was stronger among men. In 2004 life expectancy for men increased by 0.4 years to 77.8, while for women it went up only 0.2 years to 82.6. Females born in 2004 are expected to live about 4.8 years longer than their male counterparts.

Cancer Care Ontario: The provincial New Drug Funding Program (NDFP) pays for 75% of intravenous cancer drugs (chemotherapy). Hospital budgets pay for up to the remaining 25%. Some new and expensive drugs that are not funded through the NDFP are available for private payment at private clinics. Some patients are also beginning to have these unfunded drugs administered at Ontario hospitals under the care of their own oncologists for private payment, at the discretion of individual hospitals. One of the private clinics noted on CCO's website is Provis Infusion Clinic, in Toronto. Provis provides patients with access to chemotherapy treatments that have not been approved by CCO for the patient's particular condition, at their own cost.

Effective June 1, 2007 Johnson Inc. partnered with the AIR MILES Reward Program. This affiliation provides the home and auto policy holders with added value and further differentiates Johnson from other insurance providers. Johnson policy holders who are Air Miles collectors can earn 1 reward mile for every \$20 in premium paid, including taxes, for their Home and Auto insurance (in 6 provinces including Ontario).



We have become aware that some U.S. medical facilities are trying to bill participants for claims incurred even though World Access (WAC) has already paid the bill. In some cases the facilities have even turned the demand for payment over to a collections agency. This can be most disturbing to the individual. If you are contacted for payment of a travel claim that you've made under the RTO/ERO Health Plans, you are to contact WAC immediately.

And lastly, please take time to read the separate articles I've included about Digestive Health, and Food Preparation Safety. (See page 5)

Our next newsletter does not arrive until March. If you have e-mail, I recommend you contact our newsletter editor and webmaster Hal McCullough to have him add you to the list of members who receive e-mail updates and reminders of upcoming events. Until then, please strive for a healthy and active winter.

~ Marilyn Tregwin
DHR

DIGESTIVE HEALTH – DON'T SUFFER IN SILENCE

Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) is one of the most common health disorders in Canada. The good news is there are always ways to manage IBS symptoms through a healthy lifestyle or medication.

IBS occurs more often in women than in men – usually first seen around the age of 20. IBS occurs when the bowel doesn't function properly. Because the colon is partially controlled by the nervous system, it reacts to stress. So people who feel a lot of stress are susceptible to IBS. Those who suffer from IBS can also be sensitive to certain foods and large meals, gas, medications, caffeine, and/or alcohol. Symptoms include cramping, extreme abdominal pain, bloating, constipation, or diarrhea. Without treatment a person with IBS cannot only experience considerable physical discomfort, but his/her emotional well-being can be compromised by the emotional stress and embarrassment of dealing with the condition.

Adopting a healthy food plan and lifestyle are not the only key ingredients to alleviating symptoms of IBS, but they are proven components of any plan to ensure physical and emotional health. They include relaxing, healthy eating, drinking water, and regular exercise.

Treatment options might include fibre supplements or medications to normalize bowel habits and alleviate abdominal pain, and if necessary, tranquilizers or anti-depressants. The important point is that effective treatments exist, so there's no need for anyone to suffer.

FOOD SAFETY HAZARDS – COMMON MYTHS

If you think that you are doing a good job of avoiding food safety hazards in your kitchen, think again. The Canadian Partnership for Consumer Food Safety reports that only 50% of Canadians follow safe cleaning practices in their kitchens.



Have you heard?...

"It's safest to rinse chicken and meat before cooking it."
Incorrect. This is not recommended. Rinsing raw meat prior to cooking may actually increase your risk of food poisoning by scattering bacteria to the countertop and other ready-to-eat foods.

"Raw cookie dough is safe to eat."

Incorrect. If the cookie dough contains eggs, you run the risk of salmonella food poisoning. Recipes containing eggs should be cooked to a temperature of at least 71C (160F) to kill the bacteria; refrigeration does not.

"It's best to cool the leftovers on the counter before storing."

Incorrect. Allowing hot foods to sit at room temperatures creates a breeding ground for germs. Refrigerate or freeze leftovers within two hours. To ensure safe, rapid cooling, put containers of hot food into cold water or ice baths to drop their temperatures.

Some simple ways to avoid food safety hazards in the kitchen include:

- * check expiry dates on packages
- * avoid controversial additives
- * use separate cutting boards for raw meat and for vegetables
- * always wash your hands before handling food



WELCOME TO DISTRICT 24

To all our new members for 2007, 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.

Giovanna Andrews	Manuel M. Lopez
Gerald L. Armstrong	Anne T. MacKinnon
Sharon Belfry	Catherine Macdrum
Marion Borosa	K. Patricia Martingale
Valerie Bower	Judith McCullough
Jeffrey Bradford	Meridel McDougall
Vera O. M. Bratten	Laura McLean-Cairns
Gary Bray	Judith J. Meingast
Judith Bromley	Edward Moran
Sandra J. Campbell	Margaret Murdoch-Morris
Josette E. Cassell	Joy Parker
Donna Daley	Robert R. Parry
Virginia Dawson	Ron Pella
E. Joan Day	D. Lynn Pentz
Brian Dorward	Branka Pintaric
Angela D'Souza	Cecilia Plut
Barbara Dymond	Hazel Quan
Christine Elliot	Gerald Roche
Anthony Ellis	Elnora L. Romeo
John Eisel	Marilyn Savage
Sharon Fein	Patricia A. Schultz
Donato Fiorella	Kenneth H. Stamp
Timothy Fitzpatrick	Andrew M. Stanko
Fernando J. B. Goncalves	Trudy Sutton
William M. Graham	George Suyama
Lola Gray	Allan Swartz
Patricia Hembruff	Stephen J. Titchener
Dolores Henry	Michele Trantau
Donald Hibbert	Mary Veitch
Helen Huggett	S. Heather Wallace
Raymond Kennedy	Garth D. Ward
Joan Kerr	Joan T. Watson
John Ketelaars	Joanne Williams
Yvan Laniel	Deborah Yelland

As of August 31, 2007, District 24 had **2,093** members!

And as new members, we would encourage you to participate in our monthly E-Mail Updates. See Page 23 for details!

**KAWARTHA TOUR
JUNE 11, 2007**

Clear blue skies with the odd wisp of white cloud were the order of day as the group of 28 left Agincourt Mall to travel to the Kawarthas for the day. Upon arrival in Peterborough, the group boarded the boat at the dock on Little lake and headed for Lock #20 at Ashburnham and the short trip to Lock #21 – the famous Peterborough Lift Lock on the Ontonabee River.

At the time of its construction in 1904, this lift lock was the highest concrete structure ever built in the world. It is a hydraulic lift lock which lifts a boat 65 feet up in the air. At the top of the lock, we were above the tree level when we looked back to where we had entered the lock.

Upon our return to the dock, we boarded the bus and drove to Elmhirst's Resort on Rice Lake in Keene. What a beautiful site – water, flower gardens, a float plane flying overhead and boats on the lake.

We had a delicious buffet lunch (with lots of desserts!) in the dining room. Then some went out for a tour of the lake on the pontoon boat. Most of the group then boarded the covered wagon pulled by the John Deere tractor and headed out for a trip through the property belonging to the resort. Along the route we saw the Black Angus cattle, free-range chickens, Clydesdale horses, riding horses, hay being cut, an osprey nest and the garden where the fresh vegetables and herbs are grown that are used in the dining room. The resort grows as much of its own food as it can. However, the highlight of the wagon ride was the view of Rice Lake – WOW! On a clear day we could see forever.

From Keene, we went back to Peterborough to The Canadian Canoe Museum, where there are 600 canoes and kayaks and thousands of artifacts related to the canoe. This museum is the only canoe museum in the world and celebrates the canoe as one of the greatest gifts from the Aboriginal

culture to all those who came after. We could truly appreciate that the canoe has just been selected as one of the Seven Wonders of Canada after seeing how it has served its people for work and pleasure over the years.

Thank you to Judy-Anne Tumber for planning this great day – perfect weather, great company and wonderful sites in the Kawartha area.



View of Rice Lake from the Drumlins. Drumlins are compact elongated oval hills formed of glacial drift and shaped by a former ice sheet. Drumlins often occur in groups.



~ Carol Nelson

~ photos by Bob Cook

~additional photos on our website

**30,000 ISLANDS CRUISE
JUNE 20, 2007**

It was a dark and stormy night... but when we awoke, it was an absolutely beautiful, sunny day – and it was just in time for our departure for our 30,000 Islands cruise.

We were a very small group of only 21, but it was day full of laughs and good fun. After a delicious luncheon buffet at the *Log Cabin Inn*, we set sail from Parry Sound on the *Island Queen* for "a three hour cruise, a three hour cruise...". We often take the beauty of our province for granted, but we won't now – not after our leisurely cruise in and around many of the 30,000 islands of Georgian Bay. We discovered the natural beauty of this region, recently designated by the United Nations as a "Biosphere Reserve". Where else could you see a chipmunk browsing through a gift shop, and have two deer escort you down the highway?

The two busloads of school children who joined us for their year-end trip, and one of their teachers who was editing report cards, reminded us why retirement is so great!

Thanks to our facilitator, Hal, and our skilled driver, Doug, for a thoroughly enjoyable day.

~ Brenda Fick





**SEGWUN CRUISE AND
CRANBERRY MARSH
SEPTEMBER 26, 2007**

We left Agincourt under overcast, drizzly skies but when we arrived in the Farmer's Market in Gravenhurst, the sun was shining and many of us were in shirt sleeves. We had a chance to look around and purchase fresh produce.



~ approaching "Hole in the Wall"

We then boarded the Segwun for our cruise on Lake Muskoka. We were served a delicious full course turkey dinner finishing with carrot cake and tea or coffee. As we were eating, and later when we were up on deck, we learned the history of the ship. The Segwun was built in 1887 and is a "one-of-a-kind" ship. It began as a paddlewheeler carrying passengers, mail and freight. It is the oldest operating steamship in North America.



~Rose Point swing bridge

We boarded the bus and headed to Bala to Johnston's Cranberry Marsh. The Johnston family has been growing cranberries for over 50 years. In 2001, they started their winery. As we had our wagon ride around the fields, we learned how cranberries are harvested. To dry harvest, a mechanical picker is used. It combs the berries off the vines. For wet harvesting, the bog is flooded and the cranberries are loosened from the vines by water reels, like egg beaters. They then float to the surface and are collected.



Our bus driver was very accommodating and stopped at Tim Horton's in Barrie so we could enjoy a treat on the way home. Thanks to Hal and Judy-Anne for another great RTO trip!

~ Linda Jarvis



*~ photos by Hal McCullough
additional photos on our website*



*~photos by Silvia Basedau
additional photos on our website*



SERVICE TO OTHERS SUPPORTS NOBLE DEEDS

When Bob Kalisz, a retired educator and member of District 24 RTO, visited Togo, West Africa, his destination was the village of Keve where a school was being built to house 300 students, replacing a 'hangar' school that consisted of four sticks in the ground supporting a grass roof. Bob had brought with him from Scarborough the support of his school community which had worked diligently to raise \$70,000.00 to build the school in this small community on the other side of the world. The project started while Bob was still working, but once he retired, he threw his energies full time into the Togo Project.



One day, during a visit to another remote village where Bob was delivering medical and school supplies, the chief and villagers brought a young boy to meet Bob. The boy's name was Koku, and he had been born with a rare condition that caused enormous disfigurement and pain to his face. The impact of this meeting on Bob was such that, not only did he continue to work for the building of the Keve school, he also set about to improve the life of young Koku and his family in a most profound way. Since that first meeting, and with the help of Canadian contacts, Koku and his family have come to Canada where Koku, with the support of the Herbie Fund at Sick Children's Hospital, has had several surgeries to remove disfiguring tumours from his face. If this were not achievement enough, the school in Keve has also been built, complete with washrooms, and a water cistern on its roof that collects rain water to supply the school. Koku's story, intertwined with the Keve school project, serves to demonstrate how one opportunity to help often opens the door to yet another.



Enter into this story RTO/ERO District 24, whose 2007 Service to Others application supported a request from Bob to help supply library books for the new Keve village school. Our application for a provincial Service to Others grant was accepted by a provincial committee and Bob returned to Togo with \$4000.00 and the news that retired Scarborough and East York educators supported the work of this Togolese village to educate its children and encourage literacy development. Books created by African teachers for African children and produced by the Pan-African Teachers' Centre- a group supported by the Canadian Teachers' Federation- were purchased for approximately \$1.70 Canadian each.

Other former Scarborough educators besides Bob have worked for the success of this project as well. It has become a family affair for Bob, whose wife and father-in-law, also retired educators, have contributed in many ways. Another former colleague has helped with French translation, which is the first language of those who live in the village. And personally, I am grateful for the

opportunity to be the Service to Others Chair for District 24 and to have played a very small part in this success story.

This is the most recent of District 24's successful applications for funding. Some will recall support for the Muki Baum Children's Treatment Centre as well as an Agincourt Community Centre program to support homeless people. There have been others as well with the common interest in helping those both locally and globally who need a hand up to help themselves to a better life.

This work on the Service to Others Committee is new to me and I have learned much since taking on this new challenge. First and foremost, I have become aware of the value and impact of this RTO initiative of educators giving back to the community. I have grown in respect for the numerous volunteers in our midst who work diligently and humbly on behalf of others both close to home and farther afield.

GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

If you or someone you know is involved with an organization volunteering to help others, your group may be eligible for a grant of as much as \$4000 under the Service to Others initiative. A few guidelines follow:

- ❖ District 24 applications are considered and completed at the district executive level.
- ❖ All applicants that meet the grant criteria will be seriously considered by the executive. One application will be selected to be sent to the provincial selection committee.
- ❖ Applications must be received at the district level by December 31 in order to be considered by the District Executive at the January executive meeting.
- ❖ Final submissions to the provincial committee will be accepted no later than March 1.

Please contact me by e-mail at kathturk@gmail.com. Include a contact phone number so that we can discuss eligibility and process or to answer any questions about Service to Others. Information about the Provincial Service to Others Grant can also be found on the RTO/ERO website: www.rto-ero.org

HAPPY ENDINGS

Service to Others grants help to bring about happy endings such as the one below. When I tried to reach Bob to share the news that our application had been accepted, his wife gave me his cell phone number to reach him in his car. For the fourth time that week, he was on his way back to Whitby from Sick Kids' Hospital where Koku was undergoing his last round of surgery. The huge sigh of relief and the gratitude expressed by Bob when I shared news of the grant was reward enough for our part in this miracle of giving. Following Bob's last visit to Keve in July, he returned home with photographs of happy children in the school library in Keve enjoying the gifts of literacy brought to them through RTO/ERO's Service to Others Funding.

~ Kathleen Turkington, Committee Chair, Service to Others



~ Bob Kailisz making the presentation at the school



~ Children at the new Primary School of Keve in Togo, West Africa. The new school was built with funds raised by the Friends of Togo, a Toronto committee of educators and community members supporting education projects in Africa.



~ Students are holding a few of the books purchased with the RTO grant of \$4000.00. The books were written by teachers in West Africa with the support of the Pan African Teachers Association who are partly funded by the Canadian Teachers Federation.

~photos by Bob Kailisz

REMEMBERING LIBERIA

In December of 1989, under the auspices of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, through Project Overseas, seven retired teachers left Canada to work with the local teachers and principals in Liberia, West Africa. Five members of that group (four from various places in Ontario and one from Alberta) and their spouses have met each year for the past eighteen years, to socialize and to recall their wonderful adventures.

On arrival, we were relocated from a promised dormitory and teaching facility in Monrovia to a campus well outside this capital city. The people who met us said this was for our safety because of political unrest. In reality, the unrest was the beginning of one of Africa's bloodiest civil wars, which raged from 1989 until 1996. Each year we discuss the grim realities of that war which claimed the lives of over 200,000 civilians and displaced a million others to refugee camps in neighbouring countries. Over the course of this war, two opposing rebel factors were fighting President Doe's army as well as fighting each other. This resulted in social, financial, and educational chaos and uncounted human atrocities.

We discovered the campus was, in reality, a deserted highway construction camp with a small palm court and some derelict buildings. These cabins were occupied by the seven of us, our pupils (teachers and principals on summer holiday) and support staff from a nearby village. The supply of electricity was intermittent and unreliable; running water was non-existent. Travel was difficult and dangerous; our pupils worried constantly about their families' safety from marauding rebels.



We left in February of 1990, feeling that our work had just begun and wishing we could remain longer. We left feeling great admiration and respect for our pupils working in their schools under such adverse conditions. We found out later that the group of Canadians chosen for the following year had had their stint cancelled due to worsening conditions.

President Doe was captured and executed in September of 1990; after much more political upheaval, with further devastating effects on the economy and the entire education system, some semblance of order was restored. With the help of a strong, multi-country peace-keeping mission and security forces of the United Nations, in October of 2005 the most free and fair elections ever held in this country declared Ellen Johnson Sirleaf the first democratically elected woman president of any African country! It is our hope that this country will eventually reconstruct its shattered economy and its badly neglected educational system.

Our luncheon discussions often bring forth one more time, amusing or memorable happenings from our time in Liberia:

- ☺ One of our group loved to stand on top of her desk (she always had their attention anyway) and make announcements prefaced by, "Now, this is very important."
- ☺ One of us (who always encouraged her pupils to disagree if they had reason to) stated, "Don't you agree that the most important thing you can wear is a smile?"
- ☺ One of us noticed one of his pupils was not doing well in any phase of his studies. When he gave Dr. Doe (as we nicknamed him) his spare pair of glasses, this man's smile and the marvelous change in his behaviour was like the sun shining.



- ☺ One of us regretted the absence of a decent globe for his lessons. His painstaking drawing a very accurate world globe on a gourd gave new meaning to the word improvisation.
- ☺ At our final assembly, one of our pupils spoke glowingly of one of us, "He makes us think. He says if you can state your problem, then you don't have a problem."
- ☺ One teacher invited one of his pupils to come with us to lunch in Monrovia one weekend. We discovered this was the first time this young man had ever eaten in a restaurant.
- ☺ One of us was tired of showering by dousing himself with water, soaping himself and then rinsing himself off by having someone pour a pail of water (carried from the river by our houseboy and stored in a drum) over his head. One of the others managed to snap a photo of him luxuriating in a bathtub in a hotel in Monrovia.



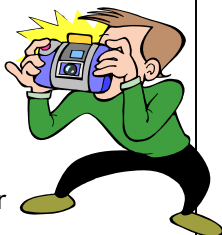
~ Harolyn Panetta & Glenn Webb



l-r: Bob Crawford, D10; Glenn Webb, D24; Harolyn Panetta D24; Dr. Art Jorgensen, Alberta Teachers Association; Gary Jewitt, D9

**SNAP, SNAP, CLICK, CLICK,
OH WHAT FUN IT IS**

During the past couple of months, the Photo Club has gone on two outings: one to the Toronto Islands for a day of sunshine, and one downtown to photograph various buildings.



Although we now have 11 members, we never have more than 5 who are able to attend at any one outing. To help with this, we have made a tentative schedule from now until next June 2008. We will attempt to go on every second Tuesday with the exception of October (Thanksgiving) and November (Royal Winter Fair). There are no rain dates; we have included an alternative activity if weather conditions are a problem. For a copy please e-mail me at jim_is_devine@hotmail.com.

In November we are off to the Royal Winter Fair to capture the sights and smells while December will have us exploring Casa Loma.

It was interesting to discover that the Lighthouse on the Island is actually haunted. I was also surprised to discover the wide variety of objects to photograph while over there (trees, flowers, a moose, rocks, bikes in trees, etc.). There were a few animals at the zoo and we took advantage of photographing as many of the objects we could find without the crowds of people usually present.

Going downtown, I never realized the diversity of shapes, lines, curves, etc. that we could find as we walked along Front Street. It was interesting to see how the old blended in with the new. I look forward to discovering more on our May trip next year.

New members are always welcome.



~ story and photos by Jim Devine
Photography and Story Writing Chair
additional photos on our website

- ☺ Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- ☺ Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- ☺ The most powerful force in the universe is gossip.
- ☺ Great minds discuss ideas - average minds discuss events - small minds discuss people.
- ☺ He or she who laughs... lasts.
- ☺ Life is a journey... not a destination. Enjoy the trip!



PROGRAMME SCHEDULE: 2007-2008



<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE/LOCATION</u>	<u>FACILITATOR</u>
<u>WINTER/SPRING:</u> COUPONS AND DESCRIPTIONS FOR THESE ACTIVITIES BEGIN ON THE NEXT PAGE.		
BRIDGE & EUCHRE CLUB	1 st & 3 rd TUESDAYS @ 12:30 P.M. Ellesmere Recreation Community Centre	Gord Reid / Judy-Anne Tumber 416.282.3714 / 416.264.6016
ELGIN THEATRE <i>25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i>	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2008 Toronto	Marilyn Hodge 416.284.9984
SPEAKER LUNCHEON <i>Speaker: Historian Ron Brown</i>	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2008 Toronto	Judy-Anne Tumber 416.264.6016
SAINT JACOB'S COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE <i>Swing: A Tribute to the Big Band Era</i>	THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008 St. Jacob's, Ontario	Judy-Anne Tumber 416.264.6016
SHAW FESTIVAL <i>Wonderful Town</i>	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008 Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario	Marilyn Tregwin 416.493.3757
TRAVELOGUE & LUNCHEON <i>Speaker: Fred Moss</i>	THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2008 Sisters Restaurant, Scarborough	Anne-Marie Ellis-Taylor 416.261.5190
TORONTO CENTRE FOR THE ARTS <i>My Fair Lady</i>	WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2008 Toronto	Judy-Anne Tumber 416.264.6016
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) <i>Details on page 16</i>	THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2008 Q-SSIS Restaurant, Scarborough	Judy-Anne Tumber 416.264.6016
MENNONITE COUNTRY <i>With a difference</i>	TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2008 St. Jacob's, Ontario	Harolyn Panetta 416.445.0885
NIAGARA RIVER TOUR <i>Winery, Cruise, Browsing</i>	MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008 Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario	Hal McCullough 905.985.8760
STRATFORD FESTIVAL <i>Music Man</i>	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2008 Stratford, Ontario	Marg Daw 416.438.8652
<u>SUMMER/FALL:</u> DESCRIPTIONS FOR THESE ACTIVITIES WILL APPEAR IN OUR MARCH NEWSLETTER. SEE OUR "FRONT OF THE LINE" PROGRAMME FOR ADVANCE BOOKING. DETAILS ON PAGE 12.		
CAPITOL THEATRE <i>Same Time Next Year</i>	TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2008 Port Hope, Ontario	Judy-Anne Tumber 416.264.6016
BLUE JAYS BASEBALL <i>vs. Boston Red Sox</i>	AUGUST 23 or 24, 2008 Rogers Centre, Toronto	Les Coombs 416.261.0568
SENIORS' JUBILEE	FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2008 Roy Thomson Hall, Toronto	Harolyn Panetta 416.445.0885
BREAKFAST FOR KIDS 11TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2008 Mill Run Golf & Country Club, Siloam, Ontario	Ken Drope 416.485.9538
STRATFORD FESTIVAL <i>Cabaret</i>	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008 Stratford, Ontario	Hal McCullough 905.985.8760
WINE TOUR	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2008 Niagara Region	Judy-Anne Tumber 416.264.6016
FALL LUNCHEON	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2008 Q-SSIS Restaurant, Scarborough	Judy-Anne Tumber 416.264.6016
STRATFORD <i>Caesar and Cleopatra</i>	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2008 Stratford, Ontario	Ellen McCormick 416.284.7795
HEALTH SEMINAR <i>Topic & Date TBA</i>	OCTOBER, 2008 Scarborough	Marilyn Tregwin 416.493.3757

Did you miss an Activity's Deadline? Contact Judy-Anne Tumber by phone or e-mail. She will help you.

TRIP TIPS:

- ☺ **UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE, ALL OUR BUS TRIPS WILL DEPART FROM AGINCOURT MALL AT THE NORTH-WEST CORNER OF SHEPPARD AND KENNEDY.**
- ☺ **MEET BY THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO WAL-MART.**
- ☺ **WE ASK THAT YOU PARK NEAR THE PERIMETER OF THE LOT.**
- ☺ **ARRIVE 5-10 MINUTES AHEAD OF DEPARTURE TIME.**
- ☺ **POST-DATE YOUR CHEQUE TO THE DEADLINE DATE OF THE ACTIVITY.**

"FRONT OF THE LINE"...



For 2008, we are continuing 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 or phone Judy-Anne. As soon as the dates and information for the shows are released, she will e-mail or call 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.

Phone: 416.264.6016

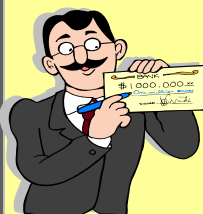
E-mail: jatumber@rogers.com

Use subject: **RTO Front of the Line**

Messages without this subject will not be opened.

~ Judy-Anne Tumber
Programme Chair

REMINDERS...



1. Cheques for our events are not usually deposited until the trip is confirmed. Don't despair if we hold your cheque.

2. In order to save money and make the process easier, we would like to offer a new on-line opportunity for sending and receiving confirmation letters. If the facilitator has e-mail you may request to have your confirmation sent my e-mail. If you do not have e-mail, please send in a stamped, self-addressed envelope as usual. You will be able to indicate your choice on the coupon.

3. If the facilitator does not have e-mail, that will be indicated on the coupon and everyone will need to send in a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

☺ Sign at an Optometrist's Office:
"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

ELGIN THEATRE

25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Time: 10:30 A.M.

Cost: \$105.00 which includes lunch at the Town & Country Buffet at Harbourfront, theatre tickets, transportation, all taxes and gratuities.

Travel:

Depart Agincourt Mall. See note at left.

5:00 P.M. Approximate return time.

Programme:

In this Tony Award©-winning musical comedy, six young people in the throes of puberty, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves, learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser.

Reservations:

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

Marilyn Hodge

48 Langevin Crescent

Scarborough, ON M1C 2B6

Telephone: 416.284.9984

E-Mail: mjhodge@sympatico.ca



DEADLINE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2007

coupon on page 14

SPEAKER AND LUNCHEON

HISTORIAN — RON BROWN

Saturday, February 23, 2008

Time: 12:30 P.M.

Cost: \$50.00-60.00 which includes lunch, speaker, taxes and gratuities. Judy-Anne will contact you by phone or e-mail when she has the exact price.

Travel:

You must arrange your own transportation for this activity. Suggestion: Car-pooling or TTC.

Programme:

Lunch is in the main dining room at the Old Mill Restaurant at 21 Old Mill Road. Choose from grilled chicken breast, roast loin of pork, or fillet of salmon. After lunch, join the Mary Morton staff for a slide show presentation by historian Ron Brown. Entertainment: TBA

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: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2008

coupon on page 15

ST. JACOB'S COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE
SWING: A TRIBUTE TO THE BIG BAND ERA

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Cost: \$82.00 which includes lunch at the Crossroads Buffet, tickets, transportation, taxes and gratuities.

Travel:

Depart Agincourt Mall. See *Travel Tips* on page 12.

7:00 P.M. Approximate return time.

Programme:

Jump and jive through the golden age of swing with this delightful tribute to the music of the '30s and '40s. This was a time when big bands like Count Basie, Glenn Miller and Duke Ellington ruled the charts, songs were full of snap and zip, Fred Astaire tapped, and everyone danced to the Lindy Hop. So, put on that "String of Pearls", grab your "Little Brown Jug" or "Cocktails For Two", and get "In The Mood"! Time to browse at the Outlet Mall or the Market.

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: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2008

coupon on page 15

SHAW FESTIVAL
WONDERFUL TOWN

Wednesday April 2, 2008

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Cost: \$106.00 which includes lunch at the Prince of Wales, tickets, transportation, taxes and gratuities.

Travel:

Depart Agincourt Mall. See *Travel Tips* on page 12.

5:00 P.M. Approximate return time.

Programme:

The story is based on My Sister Eileen, about two Ohio sisters settling into Greenwich Village in the 1930s.

Reservations:

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

Marilyn Tregwin
41 Ravenclyff Cres.,
Toronto, ON M1T 1R7
Telephone: 416.493.3757
E-Mail: marilyn.tregwin@tel.tdsb.on.ca



DEADLINE: MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008

coupon on page 15

LUNCH AND TRAVELOGUE

Thursday, April 24, 2008

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

Programme: Guest speaker: Fred Moss. Topic: TBA

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
One Guildcrest Dr.
Scarborough, ON M1E 1E2
Telephone: 416.261.5190

NO E-mail: Return envelope required



DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008

coupon on page 15

TORONTO CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
MY FAIR LADY

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Cost: \$125.00 which includes lunch at the David Duncan House, tickets, transportation, taxes and gratuities.

Travel:

Depart Agincourt Mall. See *Travel Tips* on page 12.

5:00 P.M. Approximate return time.

Programme:

Lerner & Loewe's legendary musical premieres in North America direct from its 50th Anniversary London production and U.K. national tour. This glorious new production features one of Broadway's most beloved scores including "The Rain in Spain", "I Could Have Danced All Night" and "Get Me to the Church on Time".

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: FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2008

coupon on page 15

☺ For every action, there is an equal and opposite government programme.

MENNONITE COUNTRY
With A Difference

Tuesday, May 27, 2008

Time: 8:00 A.M.

Cost: \$50.00 which includes transportation, lunch, taxes and gratuities

Travel:

Meet at the York Mills stop on the Yonge subway line - in front of the subway exit which is just south of the south-east corner of Yonge and York Mills, behind the Shell gas station. Note: transportation is by school bus.

6:30 P.M. Approx return time to Yonge & York Mills

Programme:

Highlights include a visit to a Mennonite school while it is in session, a chat with a Mennonite farm family with an opportunity to buy some home made crafts and preserves, the viewing of a film on the Mennonite life style, and lunch at a Mennonite restaurant.

Reservations:

Please send the coupon with your cheque made payable to the Retired Teachers of Ontario - District 24:

Harolyn Panetta
38 Castlegrove Blvd.
Don Mills, ON M3A 1L2
Telephone: 416.445.0885
E-mail: h_panetta@hotmail.com



DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2008

coupon on page 15

NIAGARA RIVER TOUR
NIAGARA RIVER CRUISE

Monday, June 2, 2008

Time: 8:30 A.M.

Cost: \$94.00 which includes transportation, boat cruise, lunch, taxes and gratuities

Travel: Depart Agincourt Mall. See note on page 12.

6:00 P.M. Approximate return time.

Programme:

Tour a winery, browse and shop Niagara-on-the-Lake, have lunch at Giardino's and then top the day off with a cruise on the Niagara River from 2:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Reservations:

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

Hal McCullough
62 Chester Cres.
Port Perry, ON L9L 1K8
Telephone: 905.985.8760
E-Mail: hal@powergate.ca



DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008

coupon on page 16

STRATFORD FESTIVAL
MUSIC MAN

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Cost: \$137.00 which includes transportation, lunch, taxes and gratuities

Travel: Depart Agincourt Mall. See note on page 12.
7:00 P.M. Approximate return time.

Programme:

We will enjoy lunch at Pazzo's Restaurant, and then proceed to our orchestra seats in the Festival Theatre to see *Music Man*.

Reservations:

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

Marg Daw
2 Verlaire Place
Toronto, ON M1P 3X3
Telephone: 416.438.8652
No E-Mail: Return envelope required



DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008

coupon on page 15

SENIORS JUBILEE

Friday, August 15, 2008

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Cost: \$40.00 this is for your tickets only

Travel: You must arrange your own transportation for this activity. Suggestion: Car-pooling or TTC.

Programme:

This is North America's largest variety show featuring some 1300 seniors in ballroom, vaudeville, comedy and cabaret acts.

Reservations:

Please see Harolyn's information in the left column.

DEADLINE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2008

coupon on page 16



PK ... COUPON ...

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque.

ELGIN THEATRE
25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2008

NAME:

PHONE #:

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:

OF TICKETS: @ \$105.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:

Would you like an E-mail confirmation? YES NO
If NO, please remember to include your return envelope!

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2007



✂... COUPON ...

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque.

**ST. JACOB'S COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE
SWING
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008**

NAME:
PHONE #:
SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$82.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:
Would you like an E-mail confirmation? YES NO
If NO, please remember to include your return envelope!

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2008

✂... COUPON ...

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque.

**SPEAKER AND LUNCHEON
RON BROWN
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2008**

NAME:
PHONE #:
SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$60.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:
Would you like an E-mail confirmation? YES NO
If NO, please remember to include your return envelope!

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2008

✂... COUPON ...

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque.

**SHAW FESTIVAL
WONDERFUL TOWN
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008**

NAME:
PHONE #:
SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$106.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:
Would you like an E-mail confirmation? YES NO
If NO, please remember to include your return envelope!

DEADLINE: MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008

✂... COUPON ...

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque.

**LUNCHEON AND TRAVELOGUE
FRED MOSS
THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2008**

NAME:
PHONE #:
SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$16.00 ea. =

A stamped, self-addressed envelope is required!

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008

✂... COUPON ...

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque.

**TORONTO CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
MY FAIR LADY
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2008**

NAME:
PHONE #:
SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$125.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:
Would you like an E-mail confirmation? YES NO
If NO, please remember to include your return envelope!

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2008

✂... COUPON ...

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque.

**MENNONITE COUNTRY
WITH A DIFFERENCE
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2008**

NAME:
PHONE #:
SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$50.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:
Would you like an E-mail confirmation? YES NO
NO return envelope required for this activity.

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2008

- ☺ Friends may come and go, but enemies accumulate.
- ☺ One-seventh of your life is spent on Monday.

✂... COUPON ...

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque.

**NIAGARA RIVER TOUR
NIAGARA RIVER CRUISE
WINERY TOUR
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008**

NAME:
PHONE #:
SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$94.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:
E-mail confirmation: YES NO
If NO, have you remembered to include your return envelope?

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008

✂... COUPON ...

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque.

**STRATFORD FESTIVAL
MUSIC MAN
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2008**

NAME:
PHONE #:
SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$137.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:
E-mail confirmation: YES NO
If NO, have you remembered to include your return envelope?

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008

✂... COUPON ...

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque.

**SENIORS' JUBLIEE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2008**

NAME:
PHONE #:
SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



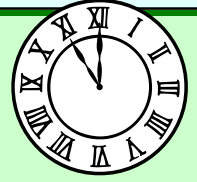
OF TICKETS: @ \$40.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:
E-mail confirmation: YES NO
NO return envelope required for this activity.

DEADLINE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2008

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2008**

COFFEE: 10:30 A.M.
MEETING: 11 A.M.
PLACE: Q-SSIS Banquet Hall
3474 Kingston Road
Scarborough
north-west corner Markham & Kingston Rd



PARKING: Free: behind the facility

PROGRAMME:

- 11:00** Business Meeting - second floor - there is an elevator available
- 12:00** Cash Bar
- 12:30** Lunch: a delicious, full-course meal, plus tea or coffee - on the main floor

ENTERTAINMENT: TBA



COST: \$15.00

- ☺ Again in 2008, District 24 will subsidize the full amount of \$15.00 per member. When you come to the AGM, members will have their cheques returned to them at the door.
- ☺ Non members/guests must remit their own cheque for the full \$15.00, with no re-imburement.
- ☺ There will be no re-imburement for "no-shows".
- ☺ You *must* reserve for the AGM.
- ☺ Please note: our AGM luncheon is limited to 250.

Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, May 9, 2008.

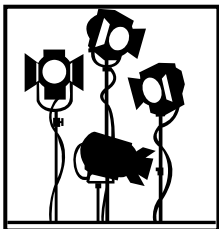


Clip (or photocopy) and mail

Name:
Phone:
E-Mail:
Number of members: @ \$15.00 =
Number of non-members: @ \$15.00 =
Total =

Make cheques payable to: **RTO — District 24**
Send your cheque to:
Judy-Anne Tumber
203 Sylvan Ave
Scarborough, ON M1E 1A4

☺ If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.



THIS ISSUE TURNS THE SPOTLIGHT ON:

BOB COOK: MEMBER-AT-LARGE



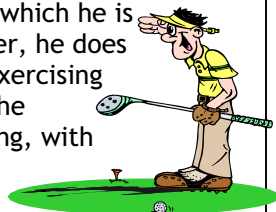
~ Bob Cook

in the schools of the legacy boards of Scarborough and East York.

Bob retired in 1996 after teaching for 37 years. He began his teaching career in Hamilton, then moved to teach in East York in 1960. At Westwood Junior High he met Elaine. He says that after much "chasing" on his part, she finally agreed to marry him! Along the way, he moved to Bessborough Drive as V.P., and then as principal to Rolph Road, Parkside, Chester, Cosburn, and finished his career at Gordon A. Brown. When asked if he had a soft spot for any particular grade or division, he admitted to a preference for the intermediate grades.

Because of previous involvement with Federation activities both locally and provincially, Bob found joining RTO to be a logical "next step" in an evolutionary process. His friend, Bob Duncan, encouraged him to attend an executive meeting, and he has never looked back. In his view, RTO must continue to advocate for retired teachers, as it is the only organization which reflects the needs and wishes of former teachers from all parts of the Ontario educational system. "In our retirement, we must not forget what got us here and we must continue to support and promote the schools, and those teachers who serve in them. Our vision needs to extend beyond our local schools and reach provincially, nationally and internationally in the service of education in its most universal sense. We taught because education mattered. It still does and so do we!"

Grandpa Bob says that being a grandfather to Ava and Grace is the most important activity in which he is involved now that he is retired. However, he does keep himself busy doing other things: exercising at Variety Village; being a member of the Scarborough Choral Society; participating, with Elaine, in many of the trips District 24 organizes; and, of course, playing golf! When asked if he had one particular interest, he replied, "Musical theatre".



A CAMPING WE WILL GO

For some people, packing to go away on holidays can be either the easiest or the most difficult aspect of the trip. For me, packing to go away on a camping trip is always a task I never look forward to. There seems to be so many little things to do.



Although I have a 17 foot Hybrid trailer, it always has to be checked for missing items such as food, bedding, DVDs, etc. A quick inventory and that's one job complete. Next, it's the van that has to be packed: firewood, clothes, personal items, cooler, laptop, etc.

Then, once the house is locked and everything has been hooked up, we are off to the country.

Two of my favourite campgrounds are Darlington and McCrae Point Provincial Parks.

Darlington Provincial Park is 52 km from my front door in Scarborough and lies immediately south of Hwy 401 in Bowmanville. The Park covers 208 hectares of land with a tiny cemetery and log cabin dating from the 1830s. At the west end of the Park is McLaughlin Bay where you can observe and capture some wonderful sunset shots. The campsites near the water are radio free making your visit a quiet, reflective experience. At night you sleep in peaceful slumber until the train whistle is heard in the distance.

McCrae Point Provincial Park is located at the north-east corner of Lake Simcoe, south of Hwy 12. It is 149 km from my driveway. This park lies nestled at the end of a small peninsula, 18 km east of Orillia and is slightly smaller than Darlington with 138 hectares of land. The hiking here takes you along a boardwalk towards the shores of the lake itself.

When the kids were small the whole day was busy with various activities. Now that they are older and have found other interests, we enjoy camping more because it allows the some well deserved respite. It's a wonderful time to lounge in the hammock, read a good book, go for a hike or sit in front of a lovely fire as the sun sets and night approaches.



One of the highlights of our camping experience is to walk around to view the neighbourhood. Some people still like the tent while others come prepared with a fifth-wheel or motor home. There is such a diversity of equipment and it is a way to get some ideas for improvements of our own.

Once while camping at Darlington, one family arrived and set up next to us. He was pulling a large closed-in utility trailer behind his motor home. My curiosity was aroused and after waiting for what seemed like a lifetime, he dropped the rear door of the utility trailer and seconds later drove his Smart car out and proceeded to drive away into town. What a surprise!

You never know what new and interesting experiences will arrive during your stay. The time, the memories and the photos are always treasured from one visit to the next. If you are visiting either McCrae Point or Darlington Provincial Parks, walk around, keep an eye open for me and stay for a cup of tea and a chat.

~ Jim Devine,

Photography and Story Writing Chair

~ additional photos on our website

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

WANTED / NEEDED - VOLUNTEERS

"DesignAbility" is a committee of volunteers sponsored by Ontario March of Dimes.

- We build special, but usually simple and low-tech, devices for persons with physical disabilities when there is nothing commercially available to suit their particular requirements.
- We give them the capability to do normal everyday tasks more easily and safely than before. They smile and they say "thank you".
- It could be as simple as a wooden wedge ramp to help their scooter wheels over the threshold and into their apartment, a frame to raise their sofa so they can more easily get on and off, a handle to help them plug in the charger for their electric wheelchair, or a special adjustable book holder.
- Our clients pay only for the cost of materials - we visit them (and discuss requirements with their Occupational Therapist), design, build and deliver a solution.
- We need volunteers with a capability and interest to design, work with wood, metal, plastics, fabric, etc.
- Time spent can be anything from a few hours to a few days a month.
- It's a great excuse to spend time enjoying your hobby type activities – and you really make a difference and help others. You feel good too.

For more information please contact:
John Hodge - Toronto Committee Chair:
416.284.9984 or mjhodge@sympatico.ca

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



SCARBOROUGH CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS 2007

Saturday, December 6 at 2:30 P.M. and 8:00 P.M.
Sunday, December 7 at 2:00 P.M.
Markham Theatre (Hwy 7 and Warden Ave.)
Tickets available from the Markham Theatre Box Office
Adults \$25. Seniors \$22. Students \$18

OAKWOOD COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE 100TH ANNIVERSARY - MAY 1 TO 4, 2008



Events/Venues:

- May 1 - Music Night, Toronto Centre for the Arts
- May 2 - Golf Tournament, Maples of Ballantrae
- May 2 - Pub Night, OCI
- May 3 - School Events, OCI
- May 3 - Gala Dinner, Presidente Banquet Hall
- May 4 - Memorial Wrap-up, OCI

Info/tickets: www.oakwoodalumni.ca

To contact us about the OCAA or the OCI 100th Anniversary Reunion events, please e-mail us at:

oakwoodalumni@rogers.com ; or write us at:
OCAA, 600 The East Mall, PO Box 11544,
Toronto ON M9B 6L1

IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS

The Sony Centre (formerly the Hummingbird Centre) is presenting Irving Berlin's White Christmas from November 20, 2007 to January 5, 2008. RTO/ERO has been offered a special group rate for White Christmas. The discounted rate of 10% applies to groups of 20 and more.



If you are interested, please speak with Diana at the Hummingbird in Group Sales:
Diana Horvat
Group Sales Associate
Hummingbird Centre
One Front St. East
Toronto, ON M5E-1B2
Direct Line: 416.393.6214

Group Sales Toll-free: 1.866.737.0805
Group Sales Line: 416.393.7463
Fax Line: 416.393.7459
E-mail: groupstm1@hummingbirdcentre.com

- ☺ The only reason I would take up exercising is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.
- ☺ I joined a health club last year. Spent about 400 bucks. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to go there.
- ☺ My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. Now she's 97 years old and we don't know where she is.
- ☺ I have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them.
- ☺ I have to exercise early in the morning before my brain figures out what I'm doing.
- ☺ I like long walks... especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.



Volunteer opportunities exist in supporting children with Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Disease (SCID)

commonly referred to as "the Bubble Boy Disease". Children diagnosed with SCID are placed in isolation for periods of six months to a year while they undergo treatment.

The Canadian Immunodeficiency Society (CI Society) is seeking volunteers for a special "buddy" program operated within the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children. Potential Volunteers will be required to complete a comprehensive application, orientation, and training process.

This is an opportunity to establish a very special one-to-one relationship with a child in need. Your time will brighten a child's day.

For further information contact us at 416.964.3434; or by e-mail at contactus@cisociety.com. The CI Society is a national registered charity: #87276 0897 RR001 www.cisociety.com.

REMINDER

If you and your spouse both worked for the Scarborough and East York legacy boards and currently receive two copies of our newsletter, you can have that reduced to just one.

Simply contact the Editor at hal@powergate.ca. Use subject: **RTO One Copy**.

Messages without this subject will not be opened.

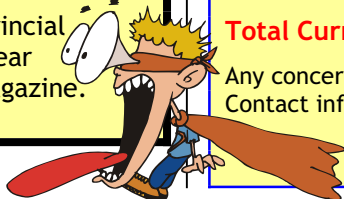
Contact information for the Editor will be found on page 2 or on the back cover. Further details can be found in my report on page 23.



LAST MINUTE SENATE NEWS

- ✦ The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP) has announced a **1.8%** increase in your pension, beginning in January 2008.
- ✦ If you started your pension this year, your inflation increase will be pro-rated - e.g. - if you retired in June, 2007 your increase will be 0.9%.
- ✦ Full RTO membership rate will increase by 10 cents per \$1000 of pension - from \$1.10 to \$1.20. Rates for associate and other RTO members will also increase.
- ✦ Health Plans: Semi-Private: no change; Extended Health Care up **2%**; Dental Plan up **3%**.

Further details can be found on the Provincial Website, www.rto-ero.org and will appear in the next issue of your Renaissance magazine.

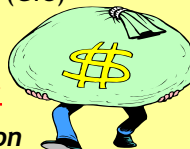


BUDGET AND STATEMENT OF EXPENSES



Bank balance January 1, 2007... \$18,347.00

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u> as at Aug 31, 2007
Anticipated receipts:		
Provincial grant	\$23,504.54	\$24,850.13
Bank interest/charges	\$10.00	\$5.43
Golf Tournament	\$1,200.00	-\$1,000.00
Interest income (GIC)	\$764.93	\$571.40
Total receipts	\$25,479.47	\$24,479.96
Disbursements:		
Administration		
Executive expenses	\$1,200.00	\$1,017.28
District A.G.M.	\$4,000.00	\$74.53
Office expenses	\$300.00	\$229.36
Spring Senate	\$2,400.00	
Archives	\$400.00	
Member Services Communications		
Goodwill, District	\$1,500.00	\$462.84
Membership	\$1,800.00	\$68.39
Recruitment, District	\$500.00	\$580.63
Newsletter (mailing, printing, postage)	\$12,000.00	\$8,469.39
Toronto District Assessment	\$1,400.00	
Health (seminars, etc.)	\$300.00	
Political Action	\$500.00	
Member Activities Programme		
Day trips	\$1,000.00	\$3,344.12
Luncheon	\$300.00	\$1,632.71
New initiatives	\$1,000.00	
Bridge Club	\$200.00	\$109.85
Blue Jays game		\$24.18
Christmas Luncheon	\$1,000.00	
Service to Others		
Breakfast for Kids	\$1,500.00	
Library Books for Africa		-\$4,000.00
Total disbursements	\$31,300.00	\$16,783.03
Receipts over disbursements	-\$5,820.53	\$7,643.93
Current Assets		
Anticipated bank balance	\$12,526.87	\$25,991.33
Investments:		
GIC Face Value - matures 15/12/07	\$5,131.72	\$5,131.72
GIC Face Value - matures 16/01/07	\$8,096.49	\$8,096.49
GIC Face Value - matures 08/08/07	\$7,189.12	\$7,189.12
Total Current Assets	\$32,944.20	\$46,408.66



Any concerns and/or questions should be directed to the treasurer. Contact information for Ron will be found on page 2.

~ Ron Smith,
Treasurer



**CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH
SEPTEMBER 19, 2007**



~ Cathedral Bluffs Yacht Club



Once again this year, District 24 held its 5th annual Champagne Brunch to honour newly retired teachers and invited them to join us!

The weather on September 19 was absolutely perfect – as was the setting... Cathedral Bluffs Yacht Club in Bluffers' Park.

Sharon Thurston, our Membership Convener welcomed everyone to the gathering – 47 retirees and 16 Executive members. She took the opportunity to thank her committee Elaine April, Ellen McCormick, Donna Hubel, and Margaret Nicolson for all the work they did in preparing for the day.

Sharon introduced Gary Fick, our president, who took a few moments to quickly outline some of the benefits of belonging to RTO and to mention how little it costs to become a member!

Judy-Anne Tumber spoke briefly about the programmes we offer our members and encouraged those present to take advantage of some of the upcoming activities – family and friends are welcome to join them.

Many of our guests and Executive members lingered after brunch to relax and chat over coffee, enjoying the company and the beautiful day.

Special thanks to Carol Ann Paabor for arranging the use of Cathedral Bluffs for our brunch!



~ photos by Hal McCullough
~ additional photos on our website

BLUE JAYS BASEBALL AUGUST 19, 2007



~ Ron Poste, Harold Brathwaite and Margaret Couture present RTO's cheque for \$11,000 to Ismail Barmania, Vice-Chair of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (Canada)



If you attended the Blue Jays game on August 19 as part of the RTO/ERO group, then you recall it was an exciting game (3-2 for the Jays) – and the weather was absolutely perfect. A cheque in the amount \$11,000 was presented to Ismail Barmania, Vice-President of the Nelson Mandela Foundation (Canada) on behalf of RTO/ERO!

Plans are well underway for the next RTO/ERO baseball day August 23 or 24, 2008 – against the Boston Red Sox. We hope you will plan to attend.

~ Les Coombs
Archivist

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

SHAW FESTIVAL

Thirty-five RTO members and friends enjoyed the annual excursion to Niagara-on-the-Lake earlier this year with an elegant lunch at Giardino's Gatehouse Restaurant and a wonderful play at the Festival Theatre.



The play this year was George Bernard Shaw's *Saint Joan*. This was truly the Festival's centerpiece as the Toronto theatre critic, Richard Ouzounian, wrote in his column G.B. Shaw used the story of a mediaeval peasant girl to present his own modern political philosophy and Jackie Maxwell, the producer, did precisely this without losing any of the excitement and fervour of Saint Joan's mission to save France for God and Frenchmen.

Tara Rosling as Saint Joan was sweet, courageous and saintly as the seventeen year old peasant girl just as G.B.S. intended her to be and she undoubtedly was. Given the response to this play from audience and the media, the recent announcement from the theatre company is not a surprise. The Shaw Festival's production of *Saint Joan* will be part of the programme presented this fall at Philadelphia's Annenberg Center and also in Chicago at the Shakespeare Theatre in 2008.

~ Ellen McCormick

BREAKFAST FOR KIDS PRESENTATION

The school chosen as the recipient of this year's donation was the Nutrition Programme at St. Martin de Porres, a TCDSB school in Scarborough. On Thursday, October 25th a cheque for \$410.00 was presented to the principal, Gretchen Schuler, and to Snack Programme Co-ordinator, Lesley Ritchi, who is responsible for the programme at the school.



l-r: Marilyn Hodge, Gretchen Schuler, Lesley Ritchi, Gary Fick



10TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



~ fearsome foursome

~ Bob Cook being presented with a plaque by Fiona Bowser honouring him for all the work he has done for the Breakfast for Kids Programme



~ bidding- Silent Auction



~ Dave & Lynne Hampton, Carol Fyfle, Bill Giffen
Mixed Gender Team Prize Winners

Tuesday, September 11th dawned threateningly with storm clouds and rain as I set out for the Highland Course at Mill Run for our 10th Annual Golf Tournament in support of the Nutrition Programmes in the schools of Scarborough and East York. Upon arrival at Mill Run, the rain abated and the skies brightened – it's true it never rains on a golf course! 96 golfers, which included members of District 24 and their friends, had a great day although my group felt that the most fun was had by the female participants whose laughter and friendly banter could be heard all over the course. By the way, a record number of females took part in the tournament - 46; quite a change from our lone female in the first tournament.

The lowest Team Score went to Chester Pollon's team of Harry Brennan, Mike Scott and Norm Macfarlane which won out by retrogression (an archaic term used by golf pros to break ties). Taking highest honors for Lowest Female Team Score was Jane Robert's team including Angela Rishworth, Joanne Alkerton and Rhoda Potter. The best score for the Mixed Team went to Carole Fyfle's team of Bill Giffen, Lynne and David Hampton.

Closest to the Rope prizes went to Angela Rishworth and Ron Turner; Closest to the Pin honors went to Angela Rishworth and John Rieder while the recipient of the Putting Contest prize was Bob Ireland after a tie-breaking decision.

Lunch was highlighted by our first Silent Auction organized by Ken Drope who solicited, along with others, a varied selection of items donated by individuals and businesses and which provided almost \$1100.00. Many thanks, Ken, for both your initiative and your hard work. Special thanks are due to Elaine Cook for running the putting contest and successfully keeping the rain at bay until lunch. Thanks also to Kathleen Turkington who not only assisted in the ongoing rain-prevention programme, but also found time to take groups photos of each team during the tournament. Then printed them during lunch so that each golfer received a photo reminder! In addition each golfer received a sleeve of balls and a trip to the prize table.

Thank you to all who answered the call for help in procuring items for the Prize Table and the Silent Auction. It really helped us to keep costs down and, therefore, our donation to the Nutrition Programmes up. This year we were able to provide \$800.00 cheques to St. Dunstan Catholic, Cliffside Junior and Thorncliffe Park Junior Schools as we raised a total of just over \$2000.00. The title said we had a TEN!

At the luncheon, Fiona Bowser, of the Toronto Partnership for Student Nutrition, told us just how important our involvement in supporting nutrition programmes has been in the schools of Scarborough and East York over the past 10 years. I was honoured to receive a plaque from Fiona and Susan Butler marking our tenth year of supporting this cause.

Ken Drope, who will be chairing the tournament for 2008, was introduced and he requested support from all, and welcomed ideas and assistance. The tournament is certainly in good hands.

Our 11th Annual Breakfast for Kids Golf Tournament will be held on Tuesday, September 9th. Mark it now in your new RTO Pocket Calendar. Details in the next newsletter.

TEN was a definitely a 10.

~ Bob Cook

GOODWILL ~ CARDS

Every year each 90th, 100th and older birthday celebrant is honoured with a special card and a donation to Breakfast for Kids given in his or her name.

When I am notified, Get Well, Thinking of You or Sympathy cards are sent to members or their families.

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

Marilyn Hodge
416.284.9984
E-mail: mjhodge@sympatico.ca
Use the subject: **RTO Goodwill**

Messages without this heading will not be opened.



~ Marilyn Hodge
Goodwill (Cards)

COMMUNICATIONS' REPORT NEWSLETTER EDITOR AND WEBMASTER



There have been changes this year. Our AGM (Annual General Meeting) has moved to the Spring. Our Spring Luncheon has moved to the Fall. And this newsletter is coming to you on white stock instead of our usual buff which should make reading our newsletter a little easier.

And... we are going to experiment with the addition of colour to several pages of our March 2008 issue. This is the issue that will go out to our working colleagues in Scarborough and East York schools as well. It should be noted that the use of colour will be for this one issue. We will evaluate the effectiveness of, and your response to it, as it does add to the cost of our newsletter. We will certainly be seeking your feedback on both the change to white paper, and the use of colour.

I must apologize for a recurring error that I have made over the past several issues. We provided you with an 800 number on the back page for contacting Dianne Vezeau at RTO/ERO regarding changes of address. That number was wrong! Somehow, I put in the number for our Pension Board. Please note, that when you contact Dianne to let her know that you are moving, or that your address information is incorrect, her correct 800 number is **1.800.361.9888**. Her extension number is **223** for both it, and the local Toronto number. Effective this issue, the back cover has been corrected.

As well, I have to backtrack on another issue. We have been asking you to let us know if you would like to receive the newsletter on-line only – that is, you would not get a paper copy, but log onto our website to read it. As Spadina's database is currently set up, if they remove your name from the mailing list that goes to our printer Harmony, then they remove you entirely from the RTO/ERO database! We certainly do not want this to happen! I've been told by Dianne Vezeau at RTO/ERO that they are trying to adjust the database to make this possible. And she has kept the list I sent her of members who wished to do this, rather than discard it, so it may yet be possible. So, in the meantime, you will have to continue to receive a paper copy.

We also had requests from some members that they receive only one copy instead of two (where both spouses worked for Scarborough or East York). This they are able to do, but with this proviso: the recipient of the newsletter must be the member that carries the health insurance. However, if both of you have Johnson coverage, or neither of you use Johnson insurance, then you can let me know which one would like to receive the newsletter. If you have sent me your names, I will get in touch with you to clarify. Use subject: **RTO One Copy**.

Messages without this subject will not be opened!

I would like to thank those of you who contact Executive members by e-mail and preface it with RTO. It certainly does make it much easier for us to identify your

message. Of course, any message we send you will also begin with RTO.

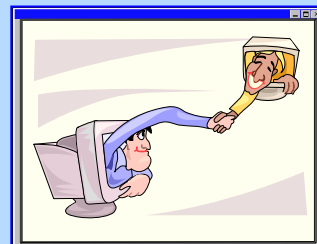
I have deleted a large number of e-mail addresses recently because the messages were being returned to me as "undeliverable". If you have not been getting messages and think you should be, please let me know. (Contact information is in the box below.) I also have messages bounce back to me because member in-boxes are full. Sorry, but I do not re-send messages when that happens.

WE'RE CONTINUING TO BUILD OUR E-MAIL DATABASE

Thank you to those who have forwarded their e-mail addresses to our Webmaster. With our newsletters coming out only 3 times a year, your e-mail address allows us to contact you with any important information that comes our way. With your address, we will be able to inform you about, among other things, the latest information in the health field, remind you about upcoming day trips and let you know when new information has been posted to the Toronto Districts' website.

Please note:

- ▶ Providing your e-mail address is purely voluntary.
- ▶ Your e-mail information will be held in the strictest confidence and **will not be shared** with any other organization.
- ▶ E-mails are sent to you as Bcc (Blind carbon copies). You don't get to see the e-mail addresses of the other recipients, and they don't get to see yours. The message should appear in your in-box as "undisclosed recipients" and will be prefaced with **RTO**.
- ▶ Your address will 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, sending you reminders of upcoming activities, or making you aware of special events.
- ▶ E-mail updates are regularly sent out in the first week of the month (except for months when our newsletter is delivered: March, June, and November). However, to keep you fully informed, we do, occasionally, send special mailings.



If you wish to participate, and we encourage you to do so, please send your e-mail address to our Webmaster: hal@powergate.ca. Use subject: **RTO E-Mail Address**.

Messages without this subject will not be opened!

We currently have some 350 members participating in our monthly updates. We look forward to adding your name to the list!

~ Hal McCullough Communications: Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

OUR FIRST FALL LUNCHEON ~ OCTOBER 25, 2007



~ D24 President Gary Fick with incoming Provincial RTO President Brian Kenny



~ President Gary Fick presents Bob Kailisz with the \$4000 Service to Others cheque for the purchase of library books for a school in Keve, Togo
~ Story and pictures on pages 9 and 10



**IF YOU ARE YOU MOVING...
IF YOUR ADDRESS INFORMATION IS INCORRECT...**

**PLEASE CONTACT DIANNE VEZEAU YOURSELF AT RTO/ERO:
IN WRITING: 18 SPADINA ROAD, TORONTO, ON M5R 2S7
BY PHONE: 416.962.9463 EXT 223 OR 1.800.361.9888 EXT 223
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.

**RTO/ERO DISTRICT 24
c/o Hal McCullough,
62 Chester Cres.,
Port Perry, ON
L9L 1K8**

**Publications Mail Agreement
No. 40881027**



The deadline for submissions for March's *Beyond the Blackboard* is Friday, January 25, 2008.

