



**RTO  
ERO**

**District 24**

**Scarborough and East York**

# **Beyond the Blackboard**

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## RTO 24 Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon, 2022

Thursday, May 12, 2022, at The Estate Banquet and Event Centre, 430 Nugget Ave., Scarborough, Ontario, M1S 4A4. (North side of Nugget just north of Markham and Sheppard.)

Proof of vaccination and masks are required for admittance.

**Program:** The day starts with the D24 Annual Meeting. There will be reports from our Committee Chairs followed by the election of Table Officers for 2021-2022.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Coffee and tea are available at 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Cash Bar opens at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon and entertainment, 12:20 p.m.

**Cost: \$50.00** (Members who attend the full Annual Meeting will have their \$50.00 cheque returned to them.) Note: If you are bringing a non-member guest, please submit a separate cheque for their meal, as the luncheon cost cannot be refunded to non- RTO guests.)

**Contact:** Susan Watson—18 Springbank Ave., Scarborough, ON, M1N 1G3

**Phone:** 416-698-3030    **Email:** siwatson5@bell.net

Please make cheque(s) payable to: **RTO District 24**

**Deadline:** Friday, April 29, 2022. *Please postdate your cheque to this date.*



## Coupon: Annual Meeting/Spring Luncheon

Thursday, May 12, 2022

Clip or photocopy this coupon and send it, with your cheque(s) to Susan Watson at the address above. Please make your cheque payable to RTO District 24.

Name (Print) :

Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email:

Spouse/Guest Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

No. of Tickets \_\_\_\_ @ \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_ Please submit a separate cheque for non-RTO members.

**Special Dietary Needs/Allergies:**

Would you like an email confirmation? **Yes No**

**If No**, a stamped, self addressed envelope is required for confirmation.

**DEADLINE APRIL 29, 2022. PLEASE USE THIS DATE ON YOUR CHEQUE(S).**

*Everyone attending must provide proof of vaccination for entrance and wear a mask while not eating.*

## Beyond the Blackboard

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Paula Chambers

EDITORIAL BOARD

Marilyn Tregwin

Bonnie Clarke

Annemarie McKee

Robin Bethke

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*Beyond the Blackboard* welcomes submissions from members of RTO District 24. We accept letters to the editor, article proposals, photos, and artwork. Do you have a story to tell, an experience to share, or a poem that you have written? Consider contributing your work for publication. Articles should be between 400 and 1200 words, and photographs and scanned images should be at least 300 dpi at 5" x 7" size (please send photos/images as email attachments and do not reduce size when attaching). Send submissions to:

[paula.chambers@rogers.com](mailto:paula.chambers@rogers.com)

We cannot guarantee that submissions will be published or published as received. The editors reserve the right to edit, condense, or reject letters or submissions.

**Deadline for submissions for the next edition of *Beyond the Blackboard* is April 8, 2022.**

Executive List 2021- 2022

**TABLE OFFICERS:**

<b>PAST PRESIDENT:</b>	Paula Chambers <a href="mailto:paula.chambers@rogers.com">paula.chambers@rogers.com</a>	<b>SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT:</b>	Vacant
<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Annemarie McKee <a href="mailto:president24@districts.rtoero.ca">president24@districts.rtoero.ca</a>	<b>TREASURER:</b>	Danielle Desmarais <a href="mailto:treasurer24@districts.rtoero.ca">treasurer24@districts.rtoero.ca</a>
<b>FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT:</b>	Vacant	<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Donna Weston <a href="mailto:don.wes@rogers.com">don.wes@rogers.com</a>
<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRS:</b>			
<b>ARCHIVIST:</b>	Gloria Wilson-Forbes <a href="mailto:orpahwilson@gmail.com">orpahwilson@gmail.com</a>	<b>NEWSLETTER:</b>	Paula Chambers <a href="mailto:paula.chambers@rogers.com">paula.chambers@rogers.com</a>
<b>AWARDS:</b>	Vacant	<b>NEW RETIREES BRUNCH:</b>	Wendy Hooker <a href="mailto:wendyhooker@rogers.com">wendyhooker@rogers.com</a>
<b>BRIDGE CLUB:</b>	Terry & Dale Smith <a href="mailto:chooch120@hotmail.com">chooch120@hotmail.com</a>	<b>POLITICAL ADVOCACY: Pensions/Retirement</b>	Terry Smith <a href="mailto:chooch120@hotmail.com">chooch120@hotmail.com</a>
<b>E-NEWS:</b>	Anemarie McKee <a href="mailto:amckee.rto@gmail.com">amckee.rto@gmail.com</a>	<b>POLITICAL ADVOCACY</b>	Betty Lou Reynolds <a href="mailto:bettyloureynolds@hotmail.ca">bettyloureynolds@hotmail.ca</a>
<b>FOUNDATION LIAISON:</b>	Wendy Hooker <a href="mailto:wendyhooker@rogers.com">wendyhooker@rogers.com</a>	<b>NORDIC POLE WALKING</b>	Paula Chambers <a href="mailto:paula.chambers@rogers.com">paula.chambers@rogers.com</a>
<b>GOLF CONVENER:</b>	Les Coombs <a href="mailto:lesonriviera@gmail.com">lesonriviera@gmail.com</a>	<b>RWTO REP:</b>	Linda Jarvis <a href="mailto:linjar@rogers.com">linjar@rogers.com</a>
<b>GOODWILL CARDS/PHONES</b>	Lynne Horvath <a href="mailto:lynne.horvath58@gmail.com">lynne.horvath58@gmail.com</a> (647) 483-7377	<b>CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON:</b>	Les Coombs <a href="mailto:lesonriviera@gmail.com">lesonriviera@gmail.com</a>
<b>HAVA*JAVA:</b>	Chris Elliot <a href="mailto:chris.elliott99@hotmail.com">chris.elliott99@hotmail.com</a> (416) 497-6192	<b>COMMUNITY GRANTS:</b>	Vacant
<b>HEALTH:</b>	Bonnie Clarke <a href="mailto:blblclarke@gmail.com">blblclarke@gmail.com</a>	<b>SOCIAL CONVENOR</b>	Susan Watson <a href="mailto:siwatson006@gmail.com">siwatson006@gmail.com</a>
<b>KNITTERS &amp; CRAFTERS:</b>	Chris Elliot <a href="mailto:chris.elliott99@hotmail.com">chris.elliott99@hotmail.com</a> (416) 497-6192	<b>TRIPS:</b>	Marilyn Tregwin <a href="mailto:m.tregwin@gmail.com">m.tregwin@gmail.com</a> (647) 970-0531
<b>MEMBERSHIP:</b>	Les Combs <a href="mailto:lesonriviera@gmail.com">lesonriviera@gmail.com</a>	<b>TRIVIA</b>	Paula Chambers <a href="mailto:paula.chambers@rogers.com">paula.chambers@rogers.com</a>
<b>WEBMASTER</b>	Annemarie McKee <a href="mailto:amckee.rto@gmail.com">amckee.rto@gmail.com</a>	<b>TRAVELOGUE:</b>	Gloria Wilson -Forbes <a href="mailto:glorcour91@gmail.com">glorcour91@gmail.com</a>
<b>BOOK CLUB A:</b>	Gloria Courtney June Bourdon <a href="mailto:jdBourdon@hotmail.com">jdBourdon@hotmail.com</a>	<b>BOOK CLUB B:</b>	Danielle Desmarais Connie Macdonald <a href="mailto:danielledesmarais58@gmail.com">danielledesmarais58@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:conchetta.macdonald@gmail.com">conchetta.macdonald@gmail.com</a>
<b>BOOK CLUB C:</b>	Danielle Desmarais Susan Hall <a href="mailto:danielledesmarais58@gmail.com">danielledesmarais58@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:susan.hall3@rogers.com">susan.hall3@rogers.com</a>	<b>EX OFFICIO:</b>	Gary Fick

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Annemarie McKee

*Each New Year, we have before us a brand-new book containing 365 blank pages. Let us fill them with all the forgotten things from last year—the words we forgot to say, the love we forgot to show, and the charity we forgot to offer.”*

— [Peggy Toney Horton](#)

As I write this at the beginning of December, we have a new variant to deal with. It is important to remember just how far we have since come since January 2020 in terms of understanding COVID-19. Vaccination continues to be one of the most important actions we can take and that we can encourage others to take as well.

While the pandemic has been challenging in so many ways, there have been positive outcomes to celebrate.

Some of us have mastered new/old hobbies (baking bread!). Life slowed down. I sat on my deck and watched the cardinals flitting in and out of the cedars and looked up at the vibrant blue in the sky. We found new ways to connect with friends and family. Some of us learned new skills on the computer to enhance those connections through Zoom, Skype, and Facetime. “You are muted” seemed to be a constant conversation! Who knew video chatting with your grandchildren could be so much fun! And finally, just sitting down and doing nothing, putting my feet up and not feeling guilty about it. Life can be wonderful!

The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan has allocated a 2.4% increase to maintain the cost of living for 2022. This will be reflected in your January pension deposit. Please remember that your \$70 membership in RTO will also be deducted in January. There are other insurance groups available for retired education workers. However, only RTO offers research, community services, advocacy, member services, and a variety of activities, perks, and products in addition to excellent insurance.

We are looking forward to meeting our new members as soon as restrictions are lifted. This event will be organized by Wendy Hooker and will be held at the Guild Inn. It is free of charge for new members and will include all new members who have joined in the last two years. Invitations will be sent out in the new year. This is dependent on local health guidelines at the time.

Following COVID protocols we are hoping to meet once again for our Annual Meeting and hopefully a luncheon. More information is found in this newsletter. **If this changes, we will contact you through an email blast.** Some of you have not registered your email address with the RTOERO office.

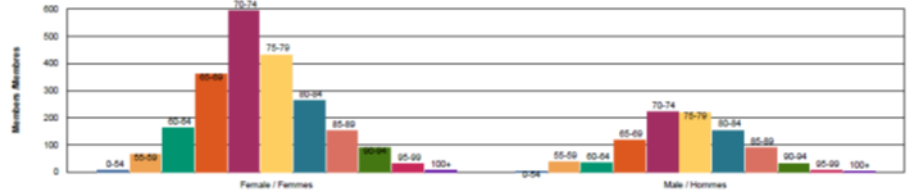
Please contact them at [www.membership@rtoero.ca](mailto:www.membership@rtoero.ca) or by phone at (416) 962-9463 in order to receive all district emails and updates including the E-News electronic newsletter.

## Age Banding Report

Each month the Membership Chair is sent an up-to-date list of all members in the district. Looking at the Age Banding Report you can see that our numbers seem to be in a holding pattern as far as the total number of members. Last December we had 3086 members. One of our members just celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday! Congratulations are extended to Hazel.

### Age Banding Report for Scarborough & East York

Membership by Age/Gender  
Membres par catégories d'âge/sexe pour



	@Gender & @Categories		
	Female / Femmes	Male / Hommes	Total
0-54	5	3	8
55-59	64	36	100
60-64	162	33	195
65-69	361	116	477
70-74	593	221	814
75-79	431	217	648
80-84	263	154	417
85-89	151	88	239
90-94	88	32	120
95-99	29	6	35
100+	5	1	6
Total	2,152	907	3,059

## Hal McCullough



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Hal McCullough of District 24.

Hal was the original editor of our newsletter “*Beyond the Blackboard*”. The newsletter grew under his leadership and over time Hal created an e-newsletter for the months when the print version was not published. Hal was a fixture at all our luncheons, wearing a large hanging sign on his chest saying “PRESS” and a happy smile as he took countless photographs of attendees.

Hal was the recipient of the June Szeman award in 2018 for outstanding leadership in furthering the goals of RTO District 24 Scarborough and East York. Our condolences go to his family and friends.

Our executive created a new practice and a donation will now be sent annually to the RTOERO Foundation in memory of our deceased members.

Of special note, I would like to thank Danielle Desmarais for accepting the position of Treasurer for District 24. She will be taking over from Gary Fick as he retires from the role.

As always, stay safe! Stay connected with family and friends.

*Annemarie*

## SAVING THE FOREST...SAVING US

RTO's *Vibrant Voices* Webinar: Report by Wendy Hooker

**Dr. Diana Beresford-Kroeger** was the speaker of October 13, 2021. This webinar was one of six provided this year in RTO's *Vibrant Voices* Series. The topic aligns beautifully with their Environmental Stewardship focus. If you missed it, I recommend that you watch it on RTO's *Vibrant Voices* Website.

Dr. Diana Beresford-Kroeger is a world-recognized bestselling author. She completed a Master of Science degree at U.C.C. in 1965 then earned a Ph.D. in both medical biochemistry and botany from the University of Carleton for her work in Forest Medicine. She also holds a Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

Diana talked about climate change as currently witnessed in the form of Covid and other natural global disasters. She possesses a combination of western scientific knowledge and ancient wisdom of the natural world; consequently, she believes that we can save the planet and ourselves with the aid of our essential Global Forests. For example, her forest research led her to discover how to create human blood. Trees, she said, are 'molecular machines' capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere via photosynthesis, sequestering the carbon in their mass and generating oxygen for species to breathe. Should temperatures continue to accelerate above 40+ C., oxygen will be depleted; consequently, a human embryo will not survive in the uterus.

Diana referred to her books, *Arboretum America* and *Arboretum Borealis* in which she outlines how trees provide 64% of our medicines and aerosol-like antiviral substances which enhance our health when we follow ancient/indigenous practices like forest bathing to combat viral infections. An environmentalist like her friend David Suzuki, she has chosen to join the world's top medical biochemists in the fight to stop climate change by sharing her research in her books *The Global Forest: Forty Ways Trees Can Save Us*, first published on May 13, 2010 and *To Speak for the Trees: My Life's Journey from Ancient Celtic Wisdom to a Healing Vision of the Forest* published on September 24, 2019. Also watch her film *Call Of The Forest* available on DVD Blu-Ray.

Critical of the inaction of our politicians to genuinely address climate change, Diana encourages grassroots activists like Greta Thunberg who perceive our daily interconnection with nature. She emphatically calls us to protect and preserve our mature trees and diverse natural forests by demanding environmental by-laws to prevent their destruction by developers for profit rather than sustainability.

Forests play a critical role in the health of our planet and the survival of humankind. (See images below)



# WILLS, POWERS OF ATTORNEY, ESTATE PLANNING

Information from the National Office of RTOERO

Shared by Gary Fick



## Background

As we age, there are many issues of which we should be aware. These include wills, Powers of Attorney, financial planning, what to do when a loved one passes, and bereavement assistance.

## Key Questions to Address These Issues

- Do I need a will?
- What is a Power of Attorney?
- What do Certified Estate Planners charge?
- Do I need a lawyer when a loved one dies?
- What does a Funeral Director provide as part of their services?

Our members are spread out across all parts of the country. As each provincial/territorial jurisdiction has its own rules and requirements dealing with legal issues such as wills and powers of attorney, it is not feasible for RTOERO to develop a single document that will address these issues for all members.

## Resources

The Federal government and each province/territory have websites which provide a variety of resources that will assist members address these issues. There are many other web resources which provide what seems to be legitimate advice which may not be fully accurate and will demand a fee be paid to provide sample documents; these should be avoided.

Chartered public accountants and certified financial planners can provide advice on various aspects of estate planning. In Ontario, for example, directories of chartered public accountants are listed by individual and by firms are found at: <https://www.cpaontario.ca/stewardship-of-the-profession/directories>. Certified financial planners in Canada may be found at: <https://www.fpcanada.ca/findaplanner>.

Seeking the advice of a lawyer who specializes in any of the areas within this paper will be of benefit for making proper decisions. There are Law Societies across the country that provide contact information for lawyers who have vast experience in areas such as wills, powers of attorney, and estate planning.

There are many groups, including clergy, who will provide assistance and comfort when a bereavement occurs. Visit [www.211.ca](http://www.211.ca), indicate the province and then search for “bereavement”, and options for counselling will be provided.

Other federal government resources providing assistance and advice include:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/life-events/what-when-someone-died.html> or <https://www.ontario.ca/page/what-do-when-someone-dies>  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/seniors/forum.html>



# OUTSTANDING MEMBER AWARD

## Eligibility Criteria District 24

### **Annemarie McKee**

An Outstanding Member Award may be presented to a person who has shown dedication and made outstanding contributions to the District. Nominees for the Award will be selected in recognition of their outstanding and/or long-term contributions to the work of RTOERO at the District level.

RTOERO members who are still serving in any capacity at the District level are normally not eligible for nomination.

The recipient:

- Must be a member of RTOERO District 24 and must be nominated by a member of District 24
- Must have provided volunteer service beyond the norm for at least five (5) years

Procedures / Application Process:

- Members are invited to submit nominations
- A nomination requires two (2) nominators (a “Nominator” and “Secunder”)
- Both the nominee and the two nominators shall be members of RTO district 24
- A full description (but brief--250 words or less) of the volunteer’s activities is to be submitted with the nomination
- Nominations must be received by the Chair of the Awards Committee **by March 1st, 2022**
- The names of the nominated candidates will be submitted to the Awards Committee for consideration and selection. A candidate for receipt of the award will be chosen by the District Executive
- Nominations are not held over from year to year but may be resubmitted
- The list of recipients will be published in the district newsletter and on the district website
- The award will be announced at RTO District 24's Annual Meeting in May
- The award will consist of a memento to be presented to the member plus a donation of \$250 to the charity of the member’s choice

Please submit nominations to Annemarie McKee, President, RTO District 24, by e-mail at: [president24@districts.rtoero.ca](mailto:president24@districts.rtoero.ca)

Please ensure that your application contains the Name of the Nominee, the Name of the Nominator, the Name of the Secunder, and the Description of the Volunteer’s Activities.

## RTO District 24 ANNUAL MEETING NOMINATIONS



**Paula Chambers** - District 24 Nominations Chair

District 24 Scarborough and East York will be holding its annual meeting on May 12, 2022. Nominations are being accepted for various positions on the district's executive.

Elections are held for the following positions:

President

1st Vice-President

2nd Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, you can nominate yourself by sending your name, phone number, email, and the position for which you are applying to Paula Chambers, Past President and Chair of the Nominations Committee, by email at:

[paula.chambers@rogers.com](mailto:paula.chambers@rogers.com)

Nominations are due by April 1, 2022.

In addition, we are always looking for volunteers to assist in the running of our many committees. A complete list of our committees can be found on page 4.

If you are interested in joining the greater Executive, please send your name and the committee(s) you are interested in to Paula Chambers at [paula.chambers@rogers.com](mailto:paula.chambers@rogers.com)



## SCAM ALERTS

### Terry Smith, Pensions (co-rep) Political Advocacy

In this series I am going to try to outline some of the new scams that have arisen in the past few years as well as revisit some of the more successful old favorites. Remember that a good scam never goes away— it just goes on vacation for a while! While numbers show that fewer Canadians were victims of fraud and scams in the past few years, unfortunately scammers are now reaching more Canadians than ever.

#### CRA Scam

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) warns you to beware of telephone calls or emails that claim to be from the CRA but are **NOT**. These are phishing and other fraudulent scams that could result in identity and financial theft.

Some recent telephone scams involve threatening or forceful language to scare you into paying fictitious debt to the CRA and may reference people you know or mention personal information. If you get such a call, hang up and report it to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

You should be especially aware of phishing scams asking for information such as credit card, bank account, and passport numbers. The CRA would never ask for this type of information. Some of these scams ask for this personal information directly, and others refer to a website resembling the CRA's, where you are asked to confirm your identity by entering personal information. You should not click on links included in these emails. Email scams may also contain embedded malicious software that can harm your computer and put your personal information at risk.

Some recent email scams involve telling you that you are entitled to a refund of a specific amount or telling you that your tax assessment has been verified and you are getting a tax refund. These emails often have CRA logos or Internet links that look official. Some contain obvious grammar or spelling mistakes.

These types of communication are not from the CRA. When the CRA calls you, it has established procedures in place to make sure your personal information is protected. If you want to confirm the authenticity of a CRA telephone number, call the CRA by using the numbers on its [Telephone numbers](#) page.

To help you identify possible scams, you can use the following guidelines:  
The CRA:

- **never** asks for information about your passport, health card, or driver's licence;
- **never** shares your taxpayer information with another person, unless you have provided the appropriate authorization; and
- **never** leaves personal information on your answering machine or asks you to leave a message containing your personal information on an answering machine.



## SCAM ALERTS, Continued



**When in doubt**, ask yourself the following:

- Am I expecting money from the CRA?
- Does this sound too good to be true?
- Is the requester asking for information I would not include with my tax return?
- Is the requester asking for information I know the CRA already has on file for me?
- How did the requester get my email address or telephone number?
- Am I confident I know who is asking for the information?

Is there a reason that the CRA may be calling? Do I have a tax balance outstanding? The CRA has strong practices to protect the confidentiality of taxpayer information. The confidence and trust that individuals and businesses have in the CRA is a cornerstone of Canada's tax system. For more information about the security of taxpayer information and other examples of fraudulent communications, go to [www.cra.gc.ca/security](http://www.cra.gc.ca/security).

## TRIPS

### Marilyn Tregwin

Since RTO has given us the “go Ahead” to plan District activities following current Covid protocols, I am excited to begin researching outings for our 2022 day trips. As I reported in the September newsletter, the time frame for me to organize itineraries, transportation, and theatre tickets, and for you to receive announcements and then register successfully, does not always fit our newsletter delivery dates. To that end, I expect that trip announcements and registration coupons will appear primarily in our E-News publications this year. So, if you have not already registered your email address with RTO's Member Services (see p. 5 for contact info), please do so now so you do not miss out on the latest excursions information.



## POLITICAL ADVOCACY

### Betty Lou Reynolds, Co Chair

On November 15, 2021, RTOERO District 24 Scarborough and East York held a Zoom meeting with the Scarborough Guildwood MPP Mitzie Hunter, called “Coffee and Conversation with Mitzie Hunter”.

Many topics of interest to our members were covered such as: the Crisis in Long Term Care, and the improvements that need to be made to make Long Term Care accessible and to improve the quality of care within these facilities. The Pandemic response and the failure of the health care system to adequately provide for seniors during this challenging time were also discussed. The discussion focussed on the need for more nurses and personal support workers, as well as the quality of their training. Home health care provisions and aging with dignity were also topics of interest.

This was a Zoom call, and participants were able to ask questions and receive answers in real time and ask for more clarification as needed. The Zoom call was high successful as based on feedback received:

“Very well moderated and lots of good questions!”

“Congratulations on today’s presentation on the care of our aging population.”

“Many thanks for organizing and leading the Zoom meeting this morning. Mitzi is an amazing person who is truly committed to her constituents well-being.”

Shortly after the Zoom meeting concluded, I received an email from Mitzi Hunter MPP regarding my comments about geriatric training for MDs. She has directed her staff to look into the course content for medical practitioners. It was an area that she had not seriously considered before our Zoom meeting today.

I want to thank all those who participated and asked such important questions. I was able to thank Mitzie Hunter in person and present her with an RTOERO mug for her efforts.

### Note the following:

“Eye exams for children, seniors and social assistance recipients are back on starting Tuesday as optometrists and the Province agree to begin formal negotiations to settle a long-standing dispute over fees paid under Ontario Health Insurance Plan. In a “sign of good faith,” the Ontario Association of Optometrists said Monday it is “pausing its job action” that began Sept. 1, resulting in cancelled exams at the rate of 15,000 a day for people entitled to coverage for them under OHIP.”



Toronto Star article posted by [Rob Ferguson](#) Queen's Park Bureau, Monday, November 22, 2021

## GOODWILL REPORT

### Lynne Horvath, Chair

As everyone knows, winters are long in Canada, and we are also nearing the end of our second year of the pandemic. Many of our members, especially our most senior members, are feeling lonely and isolated. Our new Annual Telephone Campaign for 2022 will be starting in March 2022. We will be calling over 600 members, those who are 80 and over. Some of our volunteer callers have been doing this for years and we are always in need of new volunteers to assist us with these calls. If you can spare approximately 3 to 4 hours, once a year, to speak to some of our senior members, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Please call me, Lynne, at [647-483-7377](tel:647-483-7377).

Birthday, Bereavement and Get-Well cards continue to go out every month as we try to keep in touch with our members.



## NORDIC POLE WALKING

### Paula Chambers, Chair

As of December 1, 2021, the RTO 24 Nordic Pole Walk Club has been able to resume outdoor walks on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. We meet at the fountain, just east of the roundabout at the bottom of Port Union Road, south of Lawrence Avenue, to walk on the Waterfront Trail.

If you are interested in being added to the notification email sent out on Tuesday evening, please contact me at [paula.chambers@rogers.com](mailto:paula.chambers@rogers.com)



## RTOERO SCHOLARSHIP

Every year, RTOERO offers scholarships to post-secondary students.

Over the past 16 years, RTOERO has awarded scholarships totaling over \$500,000. In 2022, RTOERO will award up to 20 scholarships, valued at \$3,000 to post-secondary (college or university) students.

- The applicant must be studying in a college or university program that leads to a career either in education, environmental stewardship or seniors' health and well-being.
- This includes fields such as: Health sciences, medicine, nursing, personal care, geriatric health care, research into healthy active living for seniors, architects, designers of age-friendly spaces, conservation sciences, natural resource protection, pollution prevention, waste management and teaching or careers in education.
- Students who are newly entering their programs are eligible, provided that they are enrolled in their programs at the time of the application deadline.
- The applicant must be recommended by an RTOERO member.
- Successful applicants may be awarded the RTOERO scholarship only once.
- RTOERO members are not themselves eligible to be awarded the scholarship.
- In addition to the completed application, the applicant must provide proof of enrolment.
- Students are to fill out the application themselves, not the RTOERO member. Please read thoroughly the following application instructions before completing your application. **Applications are due January 14, 2022.**

For more information contact [scholarship@rtoero.ca](mailto:scholarship@rtoero.ca)



## UPDATING CONTACT INFORMATION

Many RTO 24 members have indicated that they do not wish to receive emails from RTO. Are you aware that this means you will miss the electronic E-News newsletters and any important information that is time sensitive—like trip announcements?

***Please contact Membership to report any changes to your contact information.***



**RTO Membership:**

Phone: **416-962-9463**

Email: [www.membership@rtoero.ca](http://www.membership@rtoero.ca)

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

**Susan Watson, Chair**

Hello Everyone,

It is so nice to even be contemplating better times ahead!

Life in the last 18 or so months has brought with it many and various challenges that perhaps have made us look more closely at what really matters to us in our lives. We may have found a resilience that we did not know we even possessed, a strength that allowed us to go on, and a hope that things will be well. We are looking forward, with great anticipation, to our Annual Meeting and Luncheon, scheduled for May 12, 2022.

Once again, after a two-year hiatus, we will meet at The Estate Banquet and Event Centre, 30 Nugget Ave. Scarborough, ON, M1S 4A4.

I would like to thank Annemarie and Paula for pitching in and meeting with Jeet to finalize our needs and to sign the contract, on the day designated for us to meet with him. Unfortunately, at the last minute, a family emergency, made it impossible for me to attend.

We are aiming for at least *100 fully vaccinated people* to join us for our Annual Meeting, Luncheon and some pleasant entertainment. This is dependent, of course, on the current COVID protocols that are in place at the time. In the event that the luncheon must be cancelled, cheques will be returned.

Please note, that you must *bring and show proof of full vaccination and photo ID* to be allowed into the hall. Doors will open at approximately 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at about 10:15 a.m.

There will be a very short 'grace period', as the meeting gets started. Those people who attend the complete Annual Meeting will have their cheques returned at the door and their luncheon will be even more enjoyable, as they savour the fully-subsidized meal. With completion of the meeting, the cash bar will open and some socializing can begin!

The afternoon will continue, as always, with good food (lovely chicken dinner), entertainment and the happy chatter and catching up conversations that have been so eagerly anticipated for the past 18 plus months!

As we eagerly await a lovely and healthy spring, please remember to send in your coupon in a timely manner.

I can't wait to greet you on May 12, 2022.

Sue

**The coupon for the Annual Meeting and Luncheon is located on Page 2.**



## WEBMASTER

### Annemarie McKee

Our District 24 website will transition to a new website when it is our turn. *LearnDash*, a WordPress learning management system (LMS), is being considered for the learning platform. The Toronto District Webmasters have connected together to collaborate as we revise our websites. We are hoping that the new website will be easier to navigate and you will be able to find information to help you. The existing content may not be automatically migrated. A decision will have to be made as to what will be moved to the new website and what will be left behind.

There are a few data topics we should keep:

- Archives of our past Newsletters, *Beyond the Blackboard*
- Photos of past events
- Historical documents relating to the founding of the District
- A list of activities that we have and will be organizing such as Service to Others
- Our list of Scholarship names
- Breakfast for Kids Golf Tournament
- Our Constitution

The website still has back issues of *Beyond the Blackboard*. Check out the Pictures tab to see some of District 24's past events!

E-News Editor, Annemarie McKee

The latest *E-News* is always uploaded to the website by me on the first of the month. <https://district24.rto-ero.org>

We welcome submissions from members of RTO/ERO District 24. We accept letters to the editor, article proposals, photos, and artwork. Do you have a story to tell, an experience to share, or a poem that you have written? Consider contributing your work for publication.



Articles should be between 400 and 1200 words, and photographs and scanned images should be at least 300 dpi at 5"x7" size (please send photos/images as email attachments and do not reduce size when attaching). Send submissions to: [amckee.rto@gmail.com](mailto:amckee.rto@gmail.com)

We cannot guarantee that submissions will be published or published as received. The editors reserve the right to edit, condense, or reject letters or submissions.

## Book Club A

### Gloria Courtney

Our group met by ZOOM to discuss *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende. This is a historical novel that covers the Spanish Civil War, the flight of refugees to France, and the transport of some refugees to Chile where their lives unfolded under the regimes of Allende and later Pinochet. The consensus of the group was to recommend this book to those who like historical fiction. We all agreed that we learned a great deal of the politics in these countries during these times.

We meet again in January when we will review Louise Penny's mystery, *All the Devils Are Here*.

**Jan. 26, 2022**

*All the Devils are Here*— Louise Penny

**Feb. 23, 2022**

*American Dirt*—Jeanine Cummins

**Mar. 30, 2022**

*The Henna Artist*—Alka Joshi

**Apr. 27, 2022**

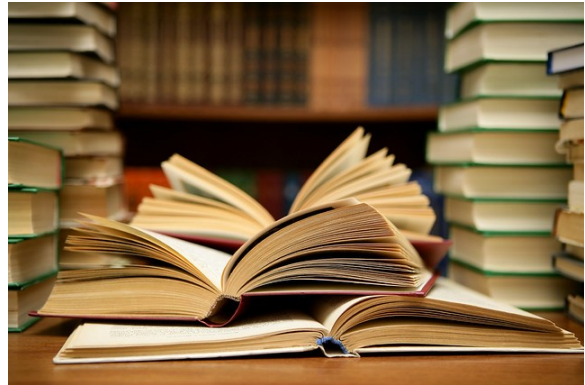
*The Forgotten Home Child*—Genevieve Graham

**May 25, 2022**

*Indians on Vacation*—Thomas King

**June 29, 2022**

*Anxious People*—Frederik Backman



**It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of the following members of District 24.**

**We extend our heartfelt sympathy. A donation to the RTOERO Foundation has been made in their memory.**

Robin Burgess	Joan Gomes	David Boorne
Margaret Currie	Harold McCullough	John Downing
Enola Czech	David Farquhar	Sheila Liddon
Gerald Fitzgerald	Robert Hunter	Varughese Mathews
Claudine Goller	Glen Ireland	Andrew Stanko
	Winnifred Stevenson	



**The Executive welcomes all new members of District 24 and invites them to become active participants in our activities.**

Brian Wayne	Aaron Calder	Roslin Sinclair
Helen Messing	Litsa Elles	Steve Demler
Peter Reilly	Julie McKay-Dunkin	Maria Scarano
	Hans Remisch	

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021:

Your Majesty, Queen Elizabeth 11:

Madam:

I am writing to express my sincere condolences on the death of your beloved husband, HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh. I am much saddened by his recent passing and regret you having to go through this hopeless time where nothing helps. Rest assured that your people loved and respected him and I am sure you are lost without your husband by your side as he has been for the many years you were together.

I am a former British Military Policeman, having served your father, George V1. I did my training at Gatton Park, Redhill in Surrey, and did my passing out ceremony in front of members of the Royal Family. At that time, I was the only "trainee" to have scored 100% in all my testing during my training at Redhill and broke the record twice in the obstacle course. They even asked if I would stay on to train other MP's but I elected to go with my colleagues and was posted to Egypt. I served under your father's Royal Crest and again under yours when you became Queen, when it became known as the "Royal Military Police". I have proudly worn both crests on my blazers for years. I enclose a copy of my MP ID card along with the crests.

I am now almost 96 years old currently living in Canada. I am still a British subject, having never taken out Canadian citizenship. I was born a Scot and will die a Scot in the service of your most gracious Majesty.

Please accept my heartfelt condolences on the loss of your husband

I have the honour of being your humble servant.

*Signed* - R - - - -

Richard Maxwell  
71 Guildwood Parkway  
Suite 319

