

BEYOND THE BLACKBOARD



DISTRICT 24 – SCARBOROUGH/EAST YORK



VOLUME 25 NUMBER 1

MARCH 2006

RTO/ERO

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

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

RTO/ERO has maintained this unwavering commitment for over 30 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



~ Ken Turton
President of District 24

"Happy New Year" - District 24 Members! May all of your plans for the year be fun and rewarding and may this be a healthy year for all of us... and a special "Welcome" to our newest District 24 members.

Your Executive members have been very busy with activities working on behalf of our fellow members. Check the "news items" and photos in this copy of "Beyond the Blackboard" to see what we are doing.

Again, I send "Many Thanks" to Bob Cook for raising funds through District 24's Golf Tournament for our donations to the Nutrition Programs for children at: Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Academy, Ionview P.S., and Valley Park P.S. A cheque for \$500 was presented to each school by an Executive member, to assist their nutrition programs. District 24 members are helping others!

"Thanks" also to Marilyn Hodge who presented a cheque for \$375.00 to Mason Road P.S. for their nutrition program, on behalf of our recipients of Goodwill (Cards). This was a great gesture on the part of our "Birthday" members.

District 24 is very proud of the contribution made by our members who were on the organizing committee for the Habitat for Humanity - Educators Build. Member Sandra McNabney was the Committee Chair. "A Super Job!" committee members. District 24 donated toward the building of this home. Gary and Brenda Fick, Elaine Aprile, and I had the pleasure of meeting our "Habitat Family" at the Dedication and Presentation of the Keys ceremony on December 18 - a cold day, but one with warm hearts. "Well done, Toronto Educators and District 24!" A most deserving and appreciative family will move into their new home this spring. "Well done!" to Habitat for Humanity for having the largest dedication in Canada - thirty new homes in Scarborough for 30 families. More District 24 help for our community!

Our District has joined with the 3 other Toronto Districts to co-ordinate our member recruitment efforts and to support the active teachers in the Toronto school boards. Past President Gord Reid and I have been involved with, and presenters at, the Joint Districts Retirement Planning Workshops. Our first session, held on November 17 with just under 100 active teachers, was very well received and we will be making more

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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~ continued page 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(cont. from page 1)

presentations in February. Do you have teaching friends who are planning to retire in the near future? Speak to them about our RTO Retirement Planning Workshops, about joining RTO, and especially tell them about District 24.

Take some time to check the Social activities, listed in this newsletter, that are available to all members and their friends. Day trips, travelogues, Bridge & Euchre Club, and Luncheons are all great ways to enjoy the company of friends and former colleagues.

If you have read this message to this point then I know that you are interested in the programs and the 'health' of our District. I want you to know that your District needs your help and assistance at our Executive meetings. We need members with new and different ideas to come to our meetings, held only 5 times per year, to help design the best programs for all members. When shared, the work load is NOT heavy, and we do enjoy what we do with other RTO/ERO friends. If you are a 'people person' and if you have a few hours of free time 5 times a year - please consider joining with us to "make things happen". New faces and new ideas will help maintain RTO/ERO-District 24's motto - "Here for you Now... Here for your Future".

"The best thing about retirement is... EVERYTHING."

~ Ken Turton

IRISH FRIENDSHIP WISH



May there always be work for your hands to do;
May your purse always hold a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near you;
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

DISTRICT 24 2006 EXECUTIVE

Past President:

Gord Reid 416-282-3714 -----

President:

Ken Turton 905-666-8878 k.turton@sympatico.ca

First Vice-President:

Gary Fick 905-683-9676 gfick1@rogers.com

Second Vice-President: *Position needs to be filled*

Secretary:

Kathleen Turkington ----- kturk@idirect.com

Treasurer:

Ron Smith ----- randgsmi@enoreo.on.ca

Membership Convener:

Sharon Thurston 416-497-3338 sdthurston@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

AGM & Programme Chair:

Judy-Anne Tumber 416-264-6016 jatumber@rogers.com

Archivist:

Les Coombs 416-261-0568 lesonriviera@msn.com

Good Will (Cards):

Marilyn Hodge 416-284-9984 mjhodge@sympatico.ca

Good Will (Phone):

Brenda Fick 905-683-9676 bfick1@rogers.com

Health:

Marilyn Oelsner 416-493-3757 marilyn.oelsner@tel.tdsb.on.ca

Newsletter Editor:

Hal McCullough 905-985-8760 hal@powergate.ca

Pensions - Co-Chairs:

Carol Paabor -----

Bob Lamb 416-412-3108 boblamb@sympatico.ca

Political Action:

Position needs to be filled

Service to Others:

Eileen Higgins 416-493-8120 eileenkruzichiggins@hotmail.com

Webmaster:

Reg Walker ----- reg.walker@tel.tdsb.on.ca

Members-at-Large:

Bob Cook 416-267-0246 bob.elainecook@sympatico.ca

Jim Devine 416-751-8487 jim_is_devine@hotmail.com

Gloria Kondziolka 905-475-0055 glokon@rogers.com

Allan Mawson 416-265-5433 -----

Margaret Nicolson -----

Harolyn Panetta 416-445-0885 h_panetta@hotmail.com

We would like to have additional Members-at-Large. Would you be interested?

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE - FOR 2006

EVENT

DATE/LOCATION

FACILITATOR

SPRING AND SUMMER: *COUPONS AND DESCRIPTIONS FOR THESE ACTIVITIES WILL BE FOUND BEGINNING ON THE NEXT PAGE.*

BRIDGE & EUCHRE CLUB

ALTERNATE TUESDAYS *(see p. 19)*
Ellesmere Recreation Community Centre

Gord Reid / Judy-Anne Tumber
416-282-3714 / 416-264-6016

TRAVELOGUE

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2006
Sisters Restaurant, Scarborough

Anne-Marie Ellis-Taylor
416-267-8393

SHAW FESTIVAL *Arms and the Man*



TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

Ellen McCormick
416-284-7795

SPRING LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2006
Q-SSIS Banquet Hall

Judy-Anne Tumber
416-264-6016

STRATFORD FESTIVAL *South Pacific*

MONDAY, MAY 15, 2006
Avon Theatre, Stratford

Hal McCullough
905-985-8760

MENNONITE TRIP

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2006
Millbank, Wallenstein, St. Jacob's...

Harolyn Panetta
416-445-0885

KAWARTHA TOUR

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2006
Peterborough, Rice Lake, Serpent Mounds Park

Judy-Anne Tumber
416-264-6016



ST. JACOBS PLAYHOUSE *Cats*

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2006
St. Jacobs Country Playhouse, St. Jacobs

Judy-Anne Tumber
416-264-6016

POLAR BEAR EXPRESS



AUGUST 29-31, 2006
Toronto to Cochrane to Moosonee...

Hal McCullough
905-985-8760

FALL: *COUPONS AND DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW WILL BE FOUND IN OUR JUNE NEWSLETTER. AND... WATCH FOR ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMES TO BE ADDED.*

BREAKFAST FOR KIDS 9th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2006
Millrun Golf & Country Club, Siloam, Ontario

Bob Cook
416-267-0246



CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH *For New Retirees Only*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2006
Cathedral Bluffs Yacht Club

Sharon Thurston
416-497-3338

TRIP TO PARRY SOUND

Tuesday, October 17, 2006
Train and bus tour to Parry Sound

Ron Smith
416-431-0466

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2006
Q-SSIS Banquet Hall

Judy-Anne Tumber
416-264-6016

SHAW FESTIVAL *High Society*



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2006
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

Marilyn Oelsner
416-493-3757

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2006
Scarboro Golf & Country Club

Marilyn Hodge
416-284-9984

LUNCH & TRAVELOGUE

Monday, April 24, 2006

Time: 12 noon

Cost: \$15.00 which includes lunch, taxes, and gratuities

Location:

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

Speaker: Pam Locke

Topic: Join us to hear our own vivacious Pam Locke, and see her fascinating pictures of mysterious and ancient Timbuktu (Mali, Africa).

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: Anne-Marie Ellis-Taylor and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Anne-Marie Ellis-Taylor

71 Toynbee Trail

Scarborough, ON

M1E 1G1

Telephone: 416-267-8393



DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006

coupon on page 7

SHAW FESTIVAL "ARMS AND THE MAN"

Tuesday April 25, 2006

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Cost: \$99.00 which includes transportation, lunch (Ristorante Giardino, Gatehouse Inn), orchestra theatre tickets, and gratuities

Travel:

9:00 a.m. Depart No Frill Supercentre on the north-west corner of Pharmacy & Eglinton. Please park near the perimeter of the lot.

2:00 p.m. Show time

7:15 p.m. Approximate return time to Agincourt Mall

Programme:

In a small Bulgarian town, clutching the photograph of her fiancé in dashing military attire, a beautiful young woman sinks into her bed with a romantic novel. Suddenly, gunshots ring out, and as if from the pages of the book, a desperate soldier bursts into the room. As he lights a match, we see he is jittery, exhausted, and yes, perhaps even handsome? As we get to know Raina, her deliciously eccentric family and household, her outrageous fiancé and, of course, the runaway soon-to-be her "chocolate cream soldier," we witness Shaw's artful skewering of militarism, heroism, so-called 'higher love,' and middle-class

pretensions, all the while showing us that even the most deluded or foolish of us have honest feelings and desires.

Reservations:

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

Ellen McCormick

20 Morningside Ave.

Toronto, ON

M1E 3B9

Telephone: 416-284-7795

e-mail: ellenmccormick@sympatico.ca



DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2006

coupon on page 7

SECOND ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$18.00

Information:

Join members for this social event at the beautiful Q-SSIS Banquet Hall (Markham and Kingston Road) and enjoy a delicious 3-course luncheon while you catch up with friends, and make new acquaintances. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m.

Entertainment: Cedarbrae C.I. Steel Band

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

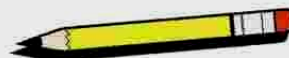


DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2006

* If you can spare the time... Judy-Anne could use some help "setting up" for the Spring Luncheon. If you could assist her, please check the line on the coupon so she can get in touch with you.

coupon on page 7

THE ORIGINAL COMPUTER!!



Print

Delete

**STRATFORD FESTIVAL
"SOUTH PACIFIC"**

Monday, May 15, 2006

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Cost: \$120.00 which includes transportation, lunch (Waterlot Inn, New Hamburg), orchestra theatre tickets at the Avon Theatre, and gratuities

Travel:

9:30 a.m. Depart Agincourt Mall on the north-west corner of Sheppard and Kennedy (meet at Wal-Mart's main entrance). Please park near the perimeter of the lot.
2:00 p.m. Show time
7:30 p.m. Approximate return time to Agincourt Mall

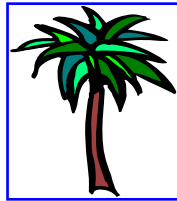
Programme:

On a Pacific island during the Second World War, nurse Nellie Forbush and Lieutenant Cable, a young Marine on a dangerous mission, both fall in love with local residents. But prejudice casts its shadow over both romances, and even these two loving hearts have lessons of tolerance and understanding to learn.

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, APRIL 7, 2006*

coupon on page 7

**MENNONITE COUNTRY
WITH A DIFFERENCE**

Tuesday, May 30, 2006

Time: 8:00 a.m.

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

Pick-up: 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. Transportation is by school bus.

Programme:

Highlights includes 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: Harolyn Panetta and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

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



DEADLINE: *FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006*

coupon on page 7

KAWARTHA TOUR

Monday, June 12, 2006

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Cost: \$60.00

Travel:

8:00 a.m. - Depart Agincourt Mall on the north-west corner of Sheppard and Kennedy (meet at Wal-Mart's main entrance). Please park near the perimeter of the lot.
7:00 p.m. - Approx return time to Sheppard and Kennedy

Programme:

- boat tour through the Peterborough Lift Lock and up the Otonabee River.
- buffet lunch at Elmhirst Resort on Rice Lake, near the village of Keene, followed by a short boat ride on the lake.
- tour of Serpent Mounds Provincial Park and Hiawatha Reserve

Reservations:

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

Judy-Anne Tumber
203 Sylvan Ave.
Scarborough, ON
M1E 1A4
Telephone: 416-264-6016
e-mail: jatumber@rogers.com



DEADLINE: *FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006*

coupon on page 7

Two Inuit sitting in a kayak were chilly; but when they lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

I went to the butcher's the other day to bet him 50 bucks that he couldn't reach the meat off the top shelf. He said, "No, the steaks are too high."

ST. JACOB'S COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE
"CATS"

Thursday, July 6, 2006

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Cost: \$103.00 which includes transportation, lunch (Verses Restaurant, Kitchener), theatre tickets, and gratuities

Travel:

8:30 a.m. Depart Agincourt Mall on the north-west corner of Sheppard and Kennedy (meet at Wal-Mart's main entrance). Please park near the perimeter of the lot.
2:00 p.m. Show time
6:30 p.m. Approximate return time to Agincourt Mall

Programme:

On this special night of the year, a group of felicitous felines meet at the Jellicle Ball where Old Deuteronomy, their wise and benevolent leader, announces which of them will go up to the heavenside layer and be reborn into a new life. Innovative choreography, poetic prose, and haunting melodies like the legendary ballad "Memory" fuse together in a breathtaking spectacle of fantasy, drama and regeneration. Exuberant and enchanting, *Cats* is truly live theatre at it's most creative and exciting.

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, MAY 26, 2006

coupon on page 9

Please remember the following info about our trips:

- ✓ Each programme has a firm deadline date and a minimum number of participants (usually 35).
- ✓ Spaces available on the trips and tours are limited - please... book early.
- ✓ You are not confirmed on your trip until your facilitator has your cheque.
- ✓ Do not be concerned if your cheque has not been cashed... all cheques are held until we know the trip is a "go". **Tip:** Postdate your cheque to the activity's deadline date.
- ✓ If you cannot make the trip, please let your facilitator know as soon as possible. Others may be waiting to take your place.

POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Tuesday, August 29, 2006 to
Thursday, August 31, 2006

Schedule:

Day 1:

Home pickup will take you to the bus pick up point for **6:30 a.m.** Then we travel from Toronto to Cochrane (with lunch and coffee stops en route). We'll stay overnight at the Westway Motel. (2 double beds per room.) Evening is yours, but we have an early departure!

Day 2:

- ◆ Hot breakfast at the Cochrane Station Inn Restaurant
- ◆ Board train at 8:00 a.m., departing about 8:30 for the ride to Moosonee; arrive about 1:00 p.m. (about a 4½ hour trip) - eating lunch on the train is suggested, leaving us the maximum amount of time in Moosonee
- ◆ Enjoy the afternoon, with shopping, in Moosonee with a guided tour of the area, including Moose Factory...
- ◆ Board train at 5:30 p.m., departing about 6:00 for the return ride to Cochrane
- ◆ Enjoy dinner in the dining car en route
- ◆ Overnight stay in Cochrane

Day 3:

After breakfast, depart Cochrane for home

Cost:

Single - \$705.00 Double - \$620.00
Triple - \$595.00 Quadruple - \$580.00

Deposit: \$150.00 per person is due with your coupon by the deadline date; with the balance, including the home pickup charge if applicable, due later in May.

This price includes:

Bus transportation to and from Cochrane; train to Moosonee; guided tour; breakfasts on Day 2 & 3; dinner on train; and home pickup (in 416/647 area codes only)

For home pickup in these areas: Mississauga, Brampton, Bramalea, Richmond Hill, Thornhill, Markham, Pickering, and Ajax: **add \$25.00 per person** round trip. For Whitby, Oshawa, Aurora, Oakville, and Newmarket: **add \$30.00 per person** round trip. Contact Hal for possible home pickup prices for communities not mentioned above. This price does not include trip cancellation insurance. All other meals and entertainment are your responsibility.

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, APRIL 21, 2006

coupon on page 9

••• COUPON •••

cut out this coupon and send it with your cheque

**LUNCH AND TRAVELOGUE
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2006**

NAME:

PHONE #:

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$15.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006

••• COUPON •••

cut out this coupon and send it with your cheque

**SHAW FESTIVAL
"ARMS AND THE MAN"
TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006**

NAME:

PHONE #:

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$99.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2006

••• COUPON •••

cut out this coupon and send it with your cheque

**SECOND ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2006**

NAME:

PHONE #:

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$18.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:

If you can help Judy-Anne set-up, please check here so that she can contact you to work out the details.

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2006

••• COUPON •••

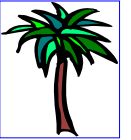
cut out this coupon and send it with your cheque

**STRATFORD FESTIVAL
"SOUTH PACIFIC"
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2006**

NAME:

PHONE #:

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$120.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2006

••• COUPON •••

cut out this coupon and send it with your cheque

**MENNONITE COUNTRY WITH A DIFFERENCE
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2006**

NAME:

PHONE #:

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$50.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006

••• COUPON •••

cut out this coupon and send it with your cheque

**KAWARTHA TOUR
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2006**

NAME:

PHONE #:

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$60.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006

D24 website: www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org/



**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
DECEMBER 18, 2005**

**HOUSE KEYS PRESENTED
TO THE GIANG FAMILY**



Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, non-government organization dedicated to improving the lives of economically disadvantaged persons through ownership. From Mississauga to Pickering, many families live in newly constructed or renovated homes. HFHT has also renovated a 10 000 square foot historic building known as Mary's Home which provides emergency shelter for 32 homeless women. This is in conjunction with the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Out of the Cold Programme.



Recipients of the homes must meet certain criteria. Since they must commit 500 hours during the construction of their home, a deep commitment and bond exists within the communities.



Along with other members of other RTO districts and other corporate sponsors, I had the pleasure of attending the Edu-Build at the Malvern site in Scarborough. It was even more meaningful because one of our fellow retirees from Toronto District actually taught members of the extended family who received their keys that day. The dignitaries who spoke also had donated hours of manual labour.



Representing District 24 were: Elaine Aprile, Ken Turton, Brenda & Gary Fick, Robyn Allin, Val Savolainen and Sandra McNabney.

If you would like to become involved with the Habitat for Humanity program, check their website at: www.torontohabitat.com or contact their Volunteer Coordinator at: 416-755-7353.

*~ photos by Gary Fick & Valerie Mah
~ additional photos on our website*

~ Elaine Aprile

OUR E-MAIL DATABASE

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

Please note:

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

If you wish to participate, and we encourage you to do so, please send your e-mail address to our Webmaster:

reg.walker@tel.tdsb.on.ca

Please use the subject: **E-mail Address**.

Messages without this heading may not be opened!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Alternate Tuesdays	Bridge & Euchre Club
March 2	Executive Meeting - Highbrook Sr
April 24	Travelogue: Sisters Restaurant
April 25	Shaw: <i>Arms and the Man</i>
April 28	Deadline for June Newsletter
May 4	Spring Luncheon: Q-SSIS Banquet...
May 15	Stratford: <i>South Pacific</i>
May 16-17	Spring Senate
May 30	Mennonite Country Trip
June 2	Executive Meeting - Highbrook Sr
June 5	Kawartha Tour
July 6	St Jacobs: <i>Cats</i>
August 29-31	Polar Bear Express
September 7	Executive Meeting - Highbrook Sr
September 12	9 th Annual Golf Tournament
September 22	Champagne Brunch
September 29	Deadline for November Newsletter
October 24-25	Fall Senate
October 26	Annual General Meeting
November 2	Executive Meeting - Highbrook Sr
November 9	Shaw: <i>High Society</i>
December 6	Christmas Luncheon: Scarboro GCC

Seasons change on: Mar 20, June 21, Sept 23, Dec 21
 Daylight Savings Time: begins April 2; ends October 28

•••COUPON•••

cut out this coupon and send it with your cheque

ST. JACOBS COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE "CATS" THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2006

NAME:

PHONE #:

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$103.00 ea. =

E-MAIL:

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2006

•••COUPON•••

cut out this coupon and send it with your cheque

POLAR BEAR EXPRESS AUGUST 29-31, 2006

NAME:

PHONE #:

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF SPACES: @ \$705.00 ea. =

..... @ \$620.00 ea. =

..... @ \$595.00 ea. =

..... @ \$580.00 ea. =

* You need only include your \$150.00 per person deposit cheque with this coupon. The balance will be due later in May.

* Home pickup charges are to be added to your cheque for the balance if you live in the 905/289 area codes.

E-MAIL:

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2006

INTERESTED IN TRAVELLING TO SICILY?

Think May 11-21, 2006...
 An island of archeology, art, history, folklore and gorgeous scenery.
 An island where the flowers will be in bloom and the temperatures are warm, but not yet hot.
 Every day includes a trip to an interesting location.
 All hotels with outdoor swimming pools.
 Breakfast and dinner included every day.
 Pick up and return to your home.
 All taxes, gratuities, accommodation, air fare and sightseeing included in the price.
 If you're interested, call Travel Guild at 905-760-9229.

GOODWILL – CARDS

District 24 members who turned 90 or 100 years old in 2005 were honoured with a donation to "Breakfast for Kids" made in their name. In December, our President Ken Turton, Vice President Gary Fick, Treasurer Ron Smith, and I presented a cheque for \$375.00 to Vice-Principal Len de Graaf of Mason Road Jr. P. S. in Scarborough for their 'Student Nutrition Programme'.

On your behalf 139 members aged 85 and over received a Christmas card this past December.

'Sympathy', 'Get Well' and 'Thinking of You' cards are sent out when we are notified.

Numerous letters and calls of appreciation for the above gestures have been received from members and their families.

If you know of anyone in District 24 who should receive one of our cards, please contact Marilyn Hodge at: 416-284-9984; or by e-mail at: mjhodge@sympatico.ca For e-mail, use subject: **RTO - Cards.**

Messages without this subject may not be opened.



~ Marilyn Hodge

We encourage you to attend our Executive Meetings. Come on out and see how we plan and deliver services and programmes for the membership of District 24.

Our meetings are always the first Thursdays of January, March, June, September, and November. Unless otherwise noted they are always held at the same location... Highbrook Sr PS (between Midland and Brimley north of Lawrence)

Upcoming meetings:

Thursday, March 2

Thursday, June 1

Thursday, September 7

Thursday, November 2

Time:

9:30 - 1:00

HEALTH SERVICES AND INSURANCE NEWS



Hello again! And although you are reading this in March, I want to wish you a Happy New Year! I hope 2006 is a safe, healthy and fulfilling year for you and your family.

If you attended District 24's AGM in October you heard me report that effective January 1, 2006 your RTO health premiums would be increasing by 10% for Semi-Private Hospital, and 15% for Extended Health Care and Dental. The following is a list of other important plan changes which you may not be aware of as yet:

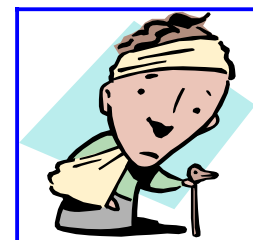
- ✓ the maximum for the Extended Health Care Plan's Prescription Drug benefit increases to \$1900
- ✓ the Aids and Appliances "Post Surgical Convenience Items" benefit increases to \$100 per insured person in any two consecutive years
- ✓ the lifetime maximum for the Out-of-Province/Canada "Emergency Medical Benefit" changes to a per-trip maximum of \$1 million
- ✓ the Out of Province/Canada "Repatriation of Remains" benefit now includes burial at place of death
- ✓ the Semi-private Hospital Plan's Convalescent Care benefit now includes non-elective day surgeries, to a maximum of one day or \$50 per calendar year
- ✓ the Dental Plan now reimburses claimants based on the 2006 fee guide
- ✓ the definition of the Extended Health Care Plan's Out-of-Province/Canada "Sudden and Unforeseen Medical Stability Clause" now includes the following parameters:

1. Any cancer, heart or lung condition for which, in the 90 days prior to your date of departure (or

date of booking for purposes of Trip Cancellation):

- ✓ you were awaiting the outcome of medical tests (except routine monitoring), the results of which show any irregularities or abnormalities
 - ✓ except routine monitoring, you require future investigation, consultation with any physician, treatment or surgery recommended by your physician or planned before your trip
 - ✓ you required hospitalization; or
2. Any condition for which you have been advised by your physician not to travel.

Transfer to the RTO/ERO Health Plans from RTIP/ARM plans requires medical evidence of insurability.



Did you know?...

The Health Canada website www.healthcanada.gc.ca offers 50,000 pages of plain language, easy-to-find facts and figures to help Canadians make more informed decisions about their health. The site is written for and by Canadians and covers hundreds of topics from diseases and conditions, to food and nutrition, to legislation and policy, all broken down by subject. All members would be well-advised to visit this website.

And while I'm referring you to web sites, please recall that there is an RTO/ERO "Members Only" website. You can access your insurance information, request changes and view other RTO/ERO voluntary insurance plans available to you via this secure website. To obtain a confidential user ID and password go to www.johnson.ca and click on "Members Only".

~ Marilyn Oelsner
HSI Rep

**HEART AND STROKE
SEMINAR
NOVEMBER 10, 2005**



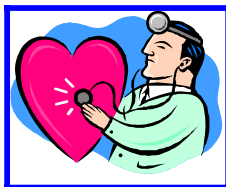
- our speaker, Tiffany Payne



I hope you were able to participate in our Heart and Stroke Seminar held last November. It was very well-received as the following comments illustrate:

Concerning our speaker:
"I personally liked the way Tiffany handled questions throughout the talk - I feel it's always much more relevant to discuss items as they occur rather than to backtrack. I was also pleased to note how she readily integrated information about related heart health items such as nutrition and exercise as the opportunities arose, rather than treating them as 'Adonis'. Her personal experiences interspersed throughout the talk encouraged group involvement, and her relaxed, friendly nature and down-to-earth sense of humor helped make the seminar entertaining as well as informative."

Dianne W.



And from another participant:
"First of all, I want to say thanks to you for arranging the 'Heart and Stroke' presentation and the refreshments. The presentation was excellent and Tiffany took lots of questions. Usually presentations are too long and most people don't get to ask questions. She had wonderful handouts. I especially liked the little red one with the title, 'Post.... Did you know in 25% of heart attacks, there is no chest pain?', as well as the handouts, 'All About Heart Valves' and 'All about Bypass Surgery'. I know several people who will need bypass surgery and it is great to have simple information to understand what will take place

and to be able to give them an idea of what happens. It was also very interesting that the Heart and Stroke Foundation has only 300 paid employees, and over 10,000 volunteers. I wonder how many other large organizations have so few volunteers. You did a great job with the folder and with what you put in it. It was nice for everyone to be permitted to pick up other pamphlets that were of interest to them."

Marilyn H.



Based on topic suggestions I received, I will be arranging yet another health seminar for November, 2006. Please check out the upcoming District 24 June edition of *Beyond the Blackboard* for all the details, sign up to attend, and then mark your calendar. It's a great opportunity to stay informed while catching up with fellow retirees!

~ Marilyn Oelsner
HSI Rep



~ photos by Hal McCullough

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.***

**May M. Bryant
A Caragata
Neil J. Flow
Janette Audrey Hass
Isobel C. Martin
Mary E. Scott
Kay D. Thiessen
Josephine H. Walker
Lennabelle A. Winn**

INCORRECT ADDRESS? CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

A request from your Newsletter Editor and Membership Chair...

If your address is incorrect, or if you have a change of address, please **DO NOT SEND** your change of information to either the Editor or the Membership Chair.

Instead... we ask you to contact Dianne Vezeau at RTO/ERO yourself. You can use any of these 3 methods:

* Phone Dianne at:
416-962-9463 or 1-800-668-0105.

* Write Dianne, and mail it to:
Dianne Vezeau
18 Spadina Road,
Toronto, ON
M5R 2S7

* e-mail Dianne at:
dvezeau@rto-ero.org

TEE FOR BREAKFAST

Tuesday, September 13, 2005 found 94 District 24 members and their friends on the Highland Course at Millrun Golf & Country Club in Uxbridge for the 8th Annual Breakfast for Kids Golf Tournament. The weather co-operated, the people were super and a great time was had by all. One participant told me that she actually met her former high school Science teacher - and she wasn't even golfing! The conversation was peppered with "You haven't changed a bit!" and "Great Shot!" I'm reminded of an old friend's comment that you should always play golf with a teacher - they're SO supportive. It's true!

Bob Annis, Lyle Ebata, George Harris and Bill Kemp once again had the lowest score for the Scramble Format tournament which stressed participation and fun. Prizes were also given to the lowest scoring Women's Team and the lowest scoring Mixed Team. The Closest to the Pin winners were Peter Smiley and Robyn Allin. But, I'm told that all who attended were winners with a bountiful prize table and a registration gift of a sleeve of golf balls. Many thanks are due to the various Executive members and others who contributed prizes and gifts. Special thanks to Susan and Peter Butler.

The real winners were the students who take part in the Nutrition Programmes at Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Academy (TCDSB), Ionview School (TDSB Scarborough) and Valley Park Middle School (TDSB East York). These schools, recommended by the Toronto Partnership for Student Success, each received cheques of \$500.00 from our Executive which took the monies left over after tournament expenses and augmented that amount to \$1500.00. Many thanks!

This year's tournament is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 12, 2006** - mark it on your calendar NOW! If you speak to any of our golfers (?) they'll tell you that this is NOT a serious event and if you don't golf often this

one's for you. Although... there is room for competition. The format eases the pressure: everyone hits the first shot each hole and from then on you pick the best shot and all hit from there.

We DO NEED HELP in creating our prize table and raffle and auction items. YOUR HELP would be appreciated. If you feel that you could help in any way please contact Bob Cook at 410-267-0246 or by e-mail: bob.elainecook@sympatico.ca Many hands make light work but it's too much work for one.

~ Bob Cook

District 24 President, Ken Turton, presents our cheque on our behalf to the principal of Ionview P.S., Marcy Palay. Also in attendance were several children from the school.



~ photo by Hal McCullough
~ additional photos on our website

THANKS, BREAKFAST FOR KIDS!

Each day, 74 student nutrition program sites in Scarborough and East York offer healthy food to 18,132 school children! Not everyone can afford to pay, so once again children are benefiting from the generosity of the District 24 membership. For the eighth year in a row, the profit from Bob Cook's amazing September golf tournament was turned over to student nutrition programs in three schools. Ionview, Valley Park and Epiphany of Our Lord were this year's choices. The money is used to support children whose families cannot afford to pay for a daily breakfast or healthy morning snack.

As you read in Marilyn Hodge's report, a bonus this year was the cheque presented to another school, >>>

Mason Road P.S. They were really struggling this year due to lack of parental donations (in an area of very low income). The donation not only kept the program open and continuing to serve the fresh food, which they know the students need, but also leveraged other local donors.

So District 24 members, even though we have left the classroom, we have not stopped having an impact!

~ Susan Butler



~ parents preparing food for the programme

~ photos on this page by Susan Butler

~ additional photos on our website

In previous years our Golf Tournament funds have gone to the following schools:

TDSB:

- 1998** St. Rose of Lima
- 1999** St. Boniface
- 2000** St. Maria Goretti
- 2001** St. Cyprian's
- 2002** St. Martin de Porres
- 2003** St. Rose of Lima
- 2004** St. Barnabas

TDSB Scarborough:

- 1998** Oakridge
- 1999** Eastview
- 2000** H.A. Halbert
- 2001** St. Margaret's
- 2002** West Hill
- 2003** Walter Perry
- 2004** Military Trail

TDSB East York:

- 1998** Victoria Park
- 1999** William Burgess
- 2000** Valley Park
- 2001** George Webster
- 2002** Secord
- 2003** SALEP-Bridges
- 2004** Parkside



Join us for our 9th Annual "Breakfast for Kids" Golf Tournament: September 12, 2006

Bob Cook (*left*), in the photo at the bottom of the page with Peter Butler, has received letters of Thank You from two of the schools regarding their receipt of a cheque for \$500.00.

Space limits the inclusion of the letters themselves; however, they are printed below, as received, for you to read.

From *Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Academy*, Scarborough:

On behalf of the school community of Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Academy, I would like to thank the Retired Teacher's of Ontario, District 24, for their generous donation of \$500.00 to our Student Nutrition Program. This extraordinary financial donation has contributed to supporting and improving the nutritional health of our students.

Your generous donation has enabled our Student Nutrition Program to provide a more abundant variety of fresh vegetable, fruit, and quality food snacks to the students of Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Academy.

Once again thank you to the Retired Teacher's of Ontario, District 24.

Warm regards,
Vernon Sweeney,
Principal

From *Valley Park Middle School*, East York:

On behalf of the Valley Park Breakfast Club, we would like to thank you and your association for its very generous donation to our Breakfast Club Programme.

These funds will be well used to feed some of our neediest students at Valley Park. Every dollar we get enables us to supply an additional breakfast to a child that might otherwise start their day without.

As you can appreciate, many of these families do not want their poverty and need known. Sometimes, we hear the stories - in September one mother told me that the family is living solely on her injured husband's ODSP supplement, and that she often has to make choices of buying food or paying a bill. For her, our breakfast and lunch program has become a dependable resource, that enables her two growing boys to be fed, whatever is left in the apartment.

Recently we began a new phase in our evolution. We no longer use the cafeteria services for breakfast. Not incurring these labour costs, enables us to serve more food and really allow the students to eat substantially. Donations such as yours are critically important as every day more students emerge who also need to eat.

So from all of us to you, thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,
J. Kuropatwa,
Principal

B. Wattie,
Coordinator of Valley Park
Breakfast Programme

WRITE ME A STORY

The gale-force wind continued to pick up the loose powdery snow from the surface of the frozen lake. It drove the ice crystals towards the barren southwest shore. The trees and cottages that ringed the small lake lay silent and still as an artist's painting. The rural community which circled the lake was always deserted at this time of the year.

A solitary figure of a man, bundled up within a red down-filled parka, broke upon this winter scene. He emerged from a group of Norway spruce and Scotch pines that bordered the edge of the lake. His name was Frank Johnson and he was a retired teacher who had come up to the lake for a few days of peace and quiet. He was alone except for Mortimer, who was his British bulldog - a retirement present from his family.

These were the words from a story I started to write while teaching in the elementary panel. It was a story that I never got to finish once I was retired. It is a story I want to finish now.

I have written the occasional piece since I have retired BUT I want more. I want to rediscover the joy of writing and sharing my thoughts, ideas and memories with others who have a similar interest. Perhaps that is you!

I want to start a writing group in District 24 and meet on a monthly basis to share successes and failures, develop some new skills and perhaps publish something interesting stories either in the newsletter or elsewhere.

Drop me a line at jim_is_devine@hotmail.com and tell me what you like to write about: journal keeping, articles, stories, poems, etc.; or send me a letter at:

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

jim_is_devine@hotmail.com
416-751-8487



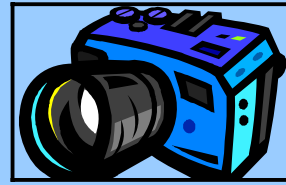
Looking forward to hearing from you!

~Jim Devine

John Jansen in de Wal, a member of District 24, is currently enjoying a new career - writing a children's picture book, entitled, *Go Billy! Go!* The rights to his book have been assigned to a charity: *Community Head Injury Resource Services*. It's available for only \$15.00 by calling Donna at: 416-240-8000.

It would be great for children ages 3-7 as a "read-to" or a reader; and would make a great gift for Christmas, Easter, birthday, or just-because-I-love-you...

ATTENTION CAMERA ENTHUSIASTS!



Smile! Say cheese! Just one more second! CLICK!

Most people have one type of camera that they use. Some people still use their 35mm camera whereas others have crossed over to digital photography.

There are several situations that arise in our lives that require the moment to be captured for future memories - birthdays, special occasions, people, pets or the splendor of nature. The list can be almost endless.

Personally, I still enjoy using my 35mm Canon Ftb, hoping to capture the ultimate sunset with a manual combination of shutter speed and aperture. Recently, I discovered the wonders of shooting scenery with APS film using the panoramic mode. For the last couple of years I have used a Nikon 2500, 2 mega pixel camera. In my opinion, I have all the equipment necessary to shoot sunsets, flowers, or objects of interest knowing that one format will provide me with the stunning results I seek.

My present problem lies with isolation. Often, the only times to shoot pictures are when I am camping, at the cottage or when I plan a specific time to go down to Bluffers Park in the fall or seek out waterfalls south of the Collingwood area.

Now, that might change.

Dust off your camera, grab your coat and come along on what will become District 24's photographic journey into spring.

Send me an e-mail indicating your interest. Tell me something about yourself and your experience with photography. When are you available during the week? How often do you want to meet?

I want to learn more, build my photo collection and have fun. Hopefully, you will too. If so, then act now.

Outings can be arranged, contests set up, exhibits displayed, pictures published in the District 24 newsletter, new memories captured and friendships developed.

Now, smile again and this time – HOLD STILL.

Contact: Jim Devine,
19 Compton Drive,
Scarborough, ON
M1R 4A5
jim_is_devine@hotmail.com
416-751-8487

~Jim Devine

**DISTRICT 24 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS
AT DECEMBER 31, 2005**



RECEIPTS:

Provincial Grant	\$22,370.90
Goodwill Grant	\$925.50
Recruitment Grant	\$740.40
Bank Interest	\$11.73
Program	\$14,980.00
Christmas Luncheon	\$4,200.00
Golf Tournament	\$7,760.00
Interest Income (GIC)	\$907.12
Return of Capital Investment	\$5,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$45.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	\$56,940.65

DISBURSEMENTS:

Goodwill, District	\$1,196.26
Recruitment, District	\$2,427.92
Newsletter (mailing, printing, postage)	\$9,989.24
Program (Day Trips, Spring Lunch, Social)	\$15,902.42
Christmas Luncheon	\$4,145.18
Executive Meetings	\$1,777.85
District A.G.M	\$2,508.41
Senate (Spring and Fall)	\$1,032.50
Political Action	\$87.41
Office Expenses	\$191.21
Toronto District Assessment	\$1,600.00
Golf Tournament	\$7,107.86
Breakfast for Kids	\$1,500.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:	\$49,466.26
RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS:	\$7,474.39

CURRENT ASSETS:

Bank Balance	\$16,687.20
GIC Face Value - Matures 15/12/06	\$5,131.72
GIC Face Value - Matures 16/01/06	\$7,705.83
GIC Face Value - Matures 08/08/06	\$7,189.12
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS:	\$36,713.87

~ Ron Smith

The Executive extends a warm welcome to 2 new Executive members: **Les Coombs**, who will be our Archivist; and **Jim Devine**, Member-at-Large.

WELCOME to District 24

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

Our District motto is:

"Where Old and New Friends Meet".

We count you among our friends.

- Steady S Blake
- Charles Bristlon
- Eunice B Chadertondownes
- Carol Currie
- Sheila D S Finlay
- Rosemarie Genova
- Joan Gray
- Donald A Harris
- Anne Jenkinson
- Elizabeth Jennings
- Terence P Kavanagh
- Margaret Lyons
- Margaret E Mark
- Barry D Neilson
- David J Nelson
- Elizabeth Nelson
- Diane M Rooney
- Florence I Smith
- Robert Van Wert



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- ◆ Would you be interested in joining the Executive of District 24. Currently, we have openings. Are you the type of person who would enjoy learning, in detail, how RTO works, and having a good time while doing so?
- ◆ The positions are not onerous and would not take up an inordinate amount of your valuable time.
- ◆ We have only 5 meetings a year: the first Thursday of January, March, June, September and November. We begin at 9:30 and go to about 12:30. And we do have some fun too!
- ◆ If you'd be interested give our Past President, Gord Reid, a call: 416-282-3714.

D24 website: www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org/



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



Our Christmas luncheon was held on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 at the Scarborough Golf and Country Club and attended by 99 members and their guests.

Some of the comments received include the following:

"I attend the luncheon at the Scarborough Golf and Country Club because of the location, the beautiful surroundings and the wonderful food."

"Each year our group looks forward to this luncheon to begin the festive season."

"Since we are not members of the Golf Club, this luncheon is the only way that we can get into such a lovely place."

"There isn't any other place in Scarborough that is as nice as 'The Scarborough Golf and Country Club'."

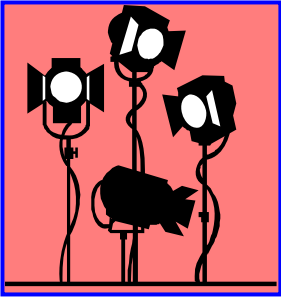
"The Christmas luncheon is a special treat at a special time of year and well worth the money."

This year's Christmas Luncheon will be held on **Wednesday, December 6** at the Scarborough Golf and Country Club. Look for the coupon in the June newsletter.

~ Marilyn Hodge



*~ photos by David Tumber & Gloria Courtney
~additional photos on our website*



With this issue we bring back articles highlighting the members of your Executive. In addition to a short bio about the Executive member, we have asked them to provide you with an overview of the responsibilities they have in their Executive position to keep you informed and up-to-date.

THIS ISSUE TURNS THE SPOTLIGHT ON:

OUR MEMBERSHIP CONVENER

The responsibilities of the Membership Convener consist of the following:

MONTHLY:

- ◆ receiving additions and deletions to the membership lists from the Provincial office; forwards these to various members of the executive
- ◆ welcoming all new members to District 24 by sending them our most recent newsletter and a brief note
- ◆ keeping an ongoing list of new members and deceased members

PERIODICALLY:

- ◆ sending lists of new and deceased members to newsletter editor for inclusion in newsletter
- ◆ checking phone numbers, addresses of members for executive
- ◆ taking occasional phone calls from members
- ◆ attending executive meetings five times a year
- ◆ reporting to executive at meetings

YEARLY:

- ◆ reporting to the Annual General Meeting
- ◆ with help of Membership Committee, arranging a Champagne Brunch to help new retirees celebrate their new status and to learn about RTO and District 24. This involves:
 - meetings/phone calls to arrange/confirm flyer, date, time, menu, costs, payment, information packages and details of Brunch
 - 1-2 meetings to organize and address envelopes to schools
 - arranging for envelopes to be delivered
 - receiving phone calls and keep lists of those wishing to attend Brunch
 - making reminder phone calls to people who signed up for Brunch
 - welcoming new retirees to the Brunch and drinking champagne

Sharon is most fortunate to have an excellent group working with her on our Membership Committee: Elaine Aprile, Donna Hubel, and Ellen McCormick.

WHO IS OUR MEMBERSHIP CONVENER?



Sharon Thurston retired from the former Scarborough Board in June 2003. Her last twelve years were spent as principal at Guildwood and then Pringdale Jr. P.S. She came to her first RTO District 24 meeting in January 2004 because she wanted to belong to an organization that would continue to give her a voice in matters that interested her, both in education and in the broader community. She became Membership Convener in October 2004. Sharon also volunteers with the Agincourt Scarborough Community Agency where she teaches ESL and the North York Dog Obedience Club with whom she visits seniors' homes. None of these positions is particularly time consuming but they do keep her involved in the community. In between gardening, walking the dog and creating imovies, Sharon works as an educational consultant. Last summer, Sharon joined Adventure Canada on a cruise in the Arctic so she could see polar bears in the wild, watch icebergs drift by and learn about the art and culture of Baffin Island. "Life is good." she says.



< l-r:
Margaret Nicolson
Donna Hubel
Sharon Thurston

l-r: >
Ron Smith
Ken Turton
Kathleen Turkington
Gary Fick



~ photos by Hal McCullough

Your Executive at work – January 12, 2006
Come on out and join us at our meetings!

Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up our life, we could simply press 'Ctrl Alt Delete' and start all over?

If raising children were going to be easy, it never would have started with something called labour!

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT UPDATERS

➤ USING THAT REMOTE TO UNLOCK YOUR CAR DOORS



Our last issue had a District Updater item on opening your car doors using your cell phone and the spare set you keep at home when you've locked your keys in your car. Oooops... it seems that information was inaccurate.

"Comforting though it may be to imagine you can unlock your car door in an emergency by receiving a distant signal from your cell phone, it can't possibly work - not with the technology as it now stands. It seems that your remote car key operates by sending a weak, encrypted radio signal to a receiver inside your car, which in turn activates the door locks.

The system works on radio waves, not sound. The only way for a signal from your spare remote to be picked up by the cell phone and relayed to your car's onboard receiver would be if both phones were capable of sending exactly the same frequency as the remote itself. This is not possible given that all remote entry devices operate at frequencies between 300 and 500 MHz, while all mobile phones, by law, operate at 800MHz and higher."

If you ever read an article and you're not sure if it's a myth or the truth, you can check it out by going on-line:

www.truthorfiction.com ; or
www.urbanlegendsabout.com

➤ MERIT TRAVEL



Merit Travel has been approved as a second travel agency to provide comprehensive travel services to RTO/ERO members.

Further information on the services offered by Merit, as well as how and when they may be accessed by members, will be forthcoming within the next few weeks following meetings between RTO/ERO's Information Officer and representatives of Merit Travel. When we receive this information we will pass it on to you.

Have you given your e-mail address to our webmaster? ~ Ed.

➤ 2005 RECRUITMENT COMPETITION

The 2005 Recruitment Competition is now over, as it ran from January 2005 to December 2006. The winner is... District 11, Waterloo, with a 7.7% increase during 2005. The other top districts were: District 43, Nipissing 7.1%; District 39, Peel 6.6%; District 31, Wellington 5.8%; and District 4, Sudbury-Manitoulin/North Shore 5.7%.

In 2006, there will be two competitions - one as in the past to recognize the District with the largest percentage increase; and a new one to recognize actual increase in numbers.

District 24 membership (as of December 31, 2005):
Full members - 1840
Associate members - 122
Total membership - 1966

ITEMS OF INTEREST

SERVICE TO OTHERS

Do you know of a group or individual that is providing a service to a community that could benefit from some additional funding? Check out www.rto-ero.org/, the RTO website, and log on to STO.



Need more information?

Contact our Service to Others chair, Eileen Higgins at: 416-493-8120.

This year, District 24 has applied for funding for the **Muki Baum Association** - a group that aids in the rehabilitation of the multi-handicapped. If you'd like more information about this organization, check their website: www.mukibaum.com

SCHOOL RE-UNIONS

Terry Fox P.S., Scarborough - 25th Anniversary

Date: Saturday, October 21, 2006

Time: 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

All former staff members are invited to attend, meet with alumni, as well as students, and share stories, laughs, and good wishes.

In the evening there will be a dinner for the teachers only. All teachers who have been (or are currently) on staff over the 25 years are invited and will be most welcome to attend.

James Robinson P.S., Markham - 50th Anniversary

Date: Oct. 13 & 14, 2006.

Current and alumni staff and students are invited.

Details and updates available at:

www.jamesrobinson.ps.yrdsb.ed.on.ca

Phone contact: Call 905-294-3484 to receive a return call.

Further details concerning these anniversaries will appear in our June *Beyond the Blackboard*.

TAX TIPS

Tax Tips for 2005 can be found on the Toronto Districts website: www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org

These tips will remain on the site until the end of tax season - approximately mid-May.

➤➤➤➤

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

DISTRICT 24 BRIDGE & EUCHRE CLUB

Want to play Bridge or Euchre?
Then come on out and join us! The more we have the merrier!!



District 24 has its Bridge sessions on a bi-weekly basis!

Players meet at the Ellesmere Community Recreation Centre in the Ellesmere and Warden area for a 3-hour session. Your cost... **\$1.00**
Sessions will be held on these Tuesdays:

March 7	March 21
April 4	April 18
May 2	May 16

If you are interested, call:

Judy-Anne Tumber 416-264-6016 or
Gord Reid 416-282-3714

and let them know you'd like to come out and participate in this enjoyable activity.

RTO-ERO FUNDRAISER



On display at the Fall 2005 Senate was an original signed and framed print by Canadian artist Douglas Laird numbered "2/10". Worth over \$600, the print was donated by Harmony Printing, the graphic design company that prints our newsletter, your Renaissance magazine and other RTO/ERO publications, on the understanding that proceeds from its sale would go to a designated charity.

Based on suggestions received at the Fall Senate, the Provincial Executive decided to offer the print to members through the purchase of raffle tickets at **\$2 each**, or **3 for \$5**. District 24 will receive, initially, up to four books of 15 tickets to sell to our members at any of our District meetings such as our March 2 Executive meeting, and social events such as our Bridge & Euchre Club and our Spring Luncheon.

We must have all the ticket stubs with your name and contact information, any unsold tickets and all monies back to Spadina no later than May 5 in order for them to be included in the draw at the 2006 Spring Senate.

Proceeds from the sale of the Douglas Laird print will go to the *Nelson Mandela Children's Foundation*.

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

The Scarborough Gilbert and Sullivan Society 2006 production is *The Yeoman of the Guard*. This is perhaps the closest of any of their works to opera and has a different sort of ending, but nevertheless abounds with much of the typical Gilbert and Sullivan flair. Many of last year's leads are again featured along with some new young voices and an added part written to help the audience grasp the rather complicated-at-times plot more easily.

Debbie Yuen and Brian Farrow are the director/conductor team once more. Many of the cast are teachers and their retired colleagues. Visit our web site:

www.gilbertandsullivan.ca for a look at the group.

Dates: Fri. Sat. Sun. April 21, 22, 23
Fri. Sat. Sun. April 28, 29, 30

Prices: Ages 17-59: \$15.00
All others: \$12.00
Group rates: \$10.00

Location: David and Mary Thomson Collegiate (north side of Lawrence Ave., between Midland and Brimley)

Tickets: Cledith Craddock
5 Lankin Blvd., Toronto ON M4J 4W7
416- 424-1850
e-mail: tickets@gilbertandsullivan.ca

Friday and Saturday are evening performances at 8.p.m.
Sundays are matinees at 2.p.m.

There are group rates (20 and over) and **any combinations of age groups** (child, adult, senior) and **dates** are possible as long as tickets are booked at the same time.

~ Gwen Farrow

D24 website: www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org/



DISTRICT 24

THE RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO
LES ENSEIGNANTES ET ENSEIGNANTS RETRAITÉS DE L'ONTARIO

Scarborough/East York

Newsletter

“Where
old and new
friends
meet!”



~a summer sunset on the St. Lawrence River



*~ winter on a back road in Muskoka
~ photos by Hal McCullough*

IF YOU ARE YOU MOVING...

IF YOUR ADDRESS INFORMATION IS INCORRECT...

Please contact Dianne Vezeau at RTO/ERO:

In writing: 18 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON M5R 2S7

Or by phone: 416-962-9463 or 1-800-668-0105

Or by e-mail: dvezeau@rto-ero.org

Other RTO/ERO Districts are welcome to use any of the material contained in this newsletter providing appropriate attribution is made regarding source.

RTO/ERO DISTRICT 24
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Port Perry, ON
L9L 1K8

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The deadline for submissions for our June issue is Friday, April 28, 2006.

