

BEYOND THE BLACKBOARD



DISTRICT 24 – SCARBOROUGH AND EAST YORK



VOLUME 27 NUMBER 1

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www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org

RTO/ERO 1968 - 2008

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 40 years.



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

www.rto-ero.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



~ Gary Fick
President of District 24

January 1, 2008 begins the 40th Anniversary of RTO/ERO or, as it was known in 1968, The Superannuated Teachers of Ontario STO/ERO. The Provincial Office has struck a committee to plan special events throughout the year to celebrate this milestone. Members should look closely in our District newsletter and in the Provincial Newsletter, Renaissance, for events planned to celebrate this anniversary. District 24 has allocated a sum of \$4000 in our budget to celebrate this special year in RTO/ERO.

During the early part of this year the 60,000th member will join RTO/ERO. From its humble beginnings this organization has slowly grown to be a powerful force for retired Teachers from the Province of Ontario. Each year we lobby the Provincial and Federal Governments to provide enhanced circumstances for all seniors. Lately



we have achieved some success in the areas of Income Splitting for Teacher Pensions and the inclusion of PSA testing for Prostate Cancer as a covered benefit in Ontario.

RTO/ERO is the owner of one of the largest retired Teacher Insurance plans in Canada. Developed in 1981, the Group Health, Dental and Semi-Private Hospital plans provide coverage for RTO/ERO members. The buying power of over 65,000 participants (which includes family members covered) gives our plans leverage to obtain enhanced benefits at reduced prices.

We all know that medical costs of all types are skyrocketing. RTO/ERO takes an active role to ensure that the Group Benefits program meets the needs of the majority of members at an affordable price. The plans are well established, financially stable and are continually evolving to meet the changing health concerns of our members. RTO/ERO uses the assets of the plan to insure the continuation of the benefits even in the face of unforeseen circumstances such as government downloading or sudden spikes in health costs.

You should all be proud to be members of an organization which does matter and is at the forefront of issues which matter to all Senior Canadians.

~ continued on page 5

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~ photos by Hal McCullough

If you would be interested in serving on our Executive, contact one of our Executive members.

Teachers plant seeds of knowledge that bloom forever.

**ALZHEIMER SOCIETY SEMINAR
OCTOBER 30, 2007**

Kari Quinn-Humphrey, Public Education Coordinator for the Alzheimer Society of Toronto, presented an informative and interesting session in late October. As the session ended it was evident from the comments overheard that it had been well worth everyone's time. A brief description of the disease process linked to the functioning of the normal brain gave us a better understanding of why persons suffering from the disease appear as they do.

What's good for your heart is also good for your brain! Feed it well. Challenge your brain. Don't get in a rut. Socializing keeps the brain cells firing. Lifestyle factors can well stave off the disease.

Through personal anecdotes from her experiences Kari gave answers to the many questions participants raised. It would seem that almost everyone attending had some personal connection to the disease, either assisting a family member as a caregiver or knowing someone else who is in that position. (This is a disease that strikes 1 in 20 people 65 or older.)

The Alzheimer Society provides many excellent resources for the community. The pamphlets prepared by them and distributed at the session contain a wealth of information. They are a valuable resource for anyone who is dealing with this illness.

Many thanks to RTO for providing the opportunity to learn more about this very common disease.

~Joan Varley



~ guest speaker: Kari Quinn-Humphrey



~ Kari speaking with the organizer of our Health Seminars, Marilyn Tregwin



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

☺ If quitters never win, and winners never quit, then who is the fool who said, "Quit while you're ahead?"

**CHALLENGE YOURSELF:
WITHOUT LOOKING UP
THE ANSWERS, HOW MANY
OF THESE CAN YOU ANSWER?**



1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them.
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
9. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S.'

*The answers will be found elsewhere
in this newsletter...*



☺ If you want your spouse to listen and pay strict attention to every word you say, talk in your sleep.



President Gary Fick welcomed everyone to our Christmas Luncheon at the Scarborough Golf and Country Club



~ photos by Hal McCullough
additional photos on our back page & website

<< CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON DECEMBER 12, 2007

On Wednesday, December 5, 2007 many of us enjoyed a lovely, festive luncheon at the Scarborough Golf and Country Club. Members, spouses, friends and family shared in the wonderful, seasonal atmosphere provided by the beautiful decorations, a glorious Christmas tree and a musician entertaining us with his songs and instruments. Smiles and laughter were abundant! Old friends and new acquaintances chatted while savouring the most sumptuous selections of food prepared for us.

Thanks are extended to Marilyn Hodge for arranging this most enjoyable celebration of the season as well as to Judy-Anne and David Tumber for making the name tags and place cards, Elaine Aprile for showing us where to go, President Gary Fick for welcoming us, Bob Cook for saying the Grace, and Ron Smith for paying the bill.

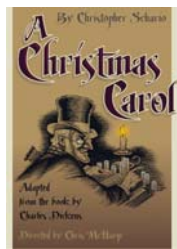
~ Elaine Apted



~ Harolyn Panetta



DICKENS' CHRISTMAS CAROL & "THE LIGHTS" >> DECEMBER 4, 2007



During the first week of December many District 24 members spent a most pleasant day in Simcoe. We had TWO all-you-care-to eat meals and

saw a fantastic production of Dickens' *Christmas Carol* in Port Dover. The cast was all-Canadian and the acting was superb. As it became dusk we drove along the river to view a gorgeous display of Christmas lights and ended the day with hot cider and cookies before we boarded the bus and nodded off for the return home. Several of us had to be wakened and told we had arrived in Toronto.

We already have a tentative date booked for this year:
Thursday, December 4, 2008.

~ Harolyn Panetta



~ photos by Glenn Webb & David Higgins
additional photos on our website

☺ Stress is when you wake up screaming, then realize you haven't gone to sleep yet.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE... CON'T.

Please take a look at all of the Program Activities arranged for our members as found in this newsletter and plan to attend as many as you can. They are all fun and entertaining.

As this is my last newsletter report as President, I would like to thank the membership of District 24 for their expression of confidence in electing me as President for the past year and a half. I have enjoyed meeting so many of you and look forward to continuing to do so in the future.

I am hoping to see as many of you as possible on Thursday, May 22 at the Annual Meeting at Q'SSIS Banquet Hall.

~ Gary Fick
President, D24



LOOKING FOR HELP...

District 24 (legacy boards of East York and Scarborough) will be holding its 11th ANNUAL BREAKFAST FOR KIDS GOLF TOURNAMENT on Tuesday, September 9, 2008.

During the past ten years we have donated over \$12,000 in support of nutrition programmes in the schools of our legacy Boards of Education. Each year three schools are selected by the Toronto Partnership for Student Nutrition to receive the proceeds from our tournament.

Last year's recipients were: Cliffside School (TDSB Scarborough), Thorncliffe Park School (TDSB East York), St. Dunstan's School (TCDSB). Since 1998, 30 different schools have been supported in this way.

Funds are generated from the players' fees, raffles and a silent auction. This year cash donations exceeding \$10.00 will receive a tax receipt. Golfers and non-golfers are welcome to donate. Details will be forthcoming in our June newsletter.

We have had tremendous support from players and other RTO members in donating items for the prize table and silent auction. Donations would be appreciated again this year. They can be dropped off at:

Ken Drope, 604-1750 Bayview Avenue (at Eglinton),
416.485.9538, kendrope@rogers.com ; or

Bob Cook, 23 Nuffield Crescent, Scarborough (Guildwood)
416.267.0246, bob.elainecook@sympatico.ca

or we can arrange for items to be picked up.

Use the subject: RTO - B4K Donations

Messages without this heading will not be opened.



~ Ken Drope
Chair, B4K Golf Tournament

GOODWILL (CARDS)

Every year each 90th, 100th and 100+ birthday celebrant is honoured with a special card and a donation to Breakfast for Kids, given in his or her name. In 2007 there were ten members who celebrated a 90th birthday, one who celebrated a 101st birthday, and one who celebrated a 102nd birthday. The school chosen as the recipient of the 2007 donation to honour the birthday celebrants was St. Martin de Porres, a TCDSB school in Scarborough, where the funds will benefit their Snack Programme.

In 2008 there are 14 members who will be celebrating a 90th birthday, one who will celebrate a 102nd birthday and one who will celebrate a 103rd birthday.

When I am notified, Get Well, Thinking of You or Sympathy cards are sent to members or their families. During 2007 twenty Thinking of You/Get Well cards and fifty-two Sympathy cards were sent out.

One hundred sixty Christmas cards were sent out to each District 24 member who was 85 years of age and over. Several phone calls and cards of thanks were received.

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

Marilyn Hodge

416.284.9984

E-mail: mjhodge@sympatico.ca

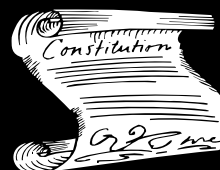
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~ Marilyn Hodge
Goodwill (Cards)

DISTRICT 24'S CONSTITUTION



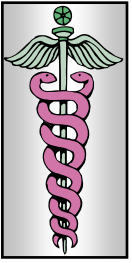
The Executive of RTO Scarborough & East York appointed a committee to review our local Constitution. The Provincial RTO mandates that such a review occur every four years. Since I am one of those rare, strange, people who actually like to read Constitutions and Bylaws, I volunteered to act as chair, and happily accepted the input of Executive members Gloria Kondziolka, Frank Saliani and Gary Fick.

We went over the old document and are recommending a few minor 'housekeeping' changes to clarify the roles of several Executive offices, to align ours with the Provincial recommendations and to repair a few typographical errors.

You will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed changes at our Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 22. Have fun reading the new version! It can be found on the four green pages in the centre of this newsletter.

~ Bill Sparks
1st VP and Constitution nut

HEALTH REPORT

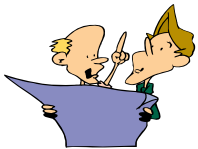


If you haven't already, you should be receiving shortly your new RTO/ERO Health Plans Booklet (the 'blue book'). Please read the material carefully to understand the benefits you are entitled to receive. Place your copy in a safe and known place as it will be three years until the next printing. Updates over this period should be placed in the booklets when received and read.

Members are encouraged to recycle the old booklet to have only current information available.

RTO has now produced a salmon-coloured *Health Plans Enhancement Submission* form to be used by members requesting any changes. It may be obtained by calling Melanie Johnson in Member Services at the provincial office. Your submissions should clearly state 'your case', keeping in mind RTO's Mission Statement: "The Health Services and Insurance Committee of the Retired Teachers of Ontario will provide a most cost effective, high quality and competitive Group Health Insurance Plan that meets the needs of the majority of the membership".

Last fall Senate declined a member request that dental implants be covered. At the recent January meeting of your District 24 executive, we voted to submit our District's request to the HS&IC that dental implants be partially covered in lieu of bridge work, at that same rate. If this is an issue important to you, you are welcome to make a personal submission to that end. Keep in mind that the initial screening of requests for 2009 will be in April of this year.



You will have noted that the approved changes to the Health Plans for 2008 have been printed in the winter issue of *Renaissance*, along with other items of interest to you that have not been

included in this article. Please take note of changes effective January '08 to the definition of the Extended Health Care Plan's Out-of-Province/Canada 'Sudden and Unforeseen Medical Stability Clause'. It has been revised to include the following: "Any condition for which you are admitted to the hospital for a period of at least 24 hours in the 90 days prior to the date of departure (or date of booking for the purpose of Trip Cancellation)". The key wording here is that you must actually be admitted into the hospital for at least 24 hours for this clause to take effect. The industry standard is such that if you are treated even at a doctor's office for an ailment which causes you problems three months later, you are not covered for that problem. Our plan is, therefore, much less limiting.

Have you heard that if you are over age 65 and require three or more prescription drugs, that a personal, confidential interview is available from your pharmacist by request? Discussion will concern the correct use and cautions to be aware of in the use of the drugs prescribed. There is no financial charge for this service.

In the last issue of *Beyond the Blackboard* I included an article that RTO sent me concerning Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). One of our members contacted me concerning his negative experiences over the years with a variety of treatments and dismissive attitudes from doctors. He commented that he discovered a Doctor of Naturopathy who has given him "a new lease on life, with great freedom from former symptoms". The relief he now experiences is "dramatic and the treatment approach is not complicated". He would be pleased to share information with anyone who is experiencing the burden of IBS. If you are interested, please e-mail or phone me for his contact info.

I am in the process of lining up a guest speaker for another interesting Health Seminar which will take place on October 15. Look in the June issue of *Beyond the Blackboard* for all the details and plan on attending.

And just a reminder... Hopefully we'll soon we'll be seeing the greening grass and experiencing the warmth of some spring-like breezes. If winter has confined you for the last several months, now is the time to get back to your healthy living plan including lots of walking, which is at the centre of RTO's Wellness Initiative, 'Walking: The Activity of a Lifetime'. If you are reading this newsletter for the first time, you are invited to check out the Ministry of Health Website www.active2010.ca — a great resource for both beginning and experienced walkers.

~Marilyn Tregwin, DHR

RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF A STROKE...

WEAKNESS: Sudden loss of strength or sudden numbness in the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body, even if temporary.



TROUBLE SPEAKING: Sudden difficulty speaking or understanding or sudden confusion, even if temporary.

VISION PROBLEMS: Sudden trouble with vision in one or both eyes, even if temporary.



HEADACHE: Sudden severe and unusual headache.

DIZZINESS: Sudden loss of balance, especially with any of the above signs.



If you believe someone is having a stroke — if he or she suddenly loses the ability to speak, or move an arm or leg on one side, or experiences facial paralysis on one side, call 911 immediately

Ischemic strokes, the most common type of strokes, can be treated with a drug called t-PA, that dissolves blood clots obstructing blood flow to the brain. The window of opportunity to start treating stroke patients is three hours, but to be evaluated and receive treatment, patients need to get to the hospital within 60 minutes. "Time lost is brain lost."



~ Websites: [Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation](http://CanadianHeartandStrokeFoundation.org) & [National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke](http://NationalInstituteofNeurologicalDisordersandStroke.org)

BUILDING OUR E-MAIL DATABASE

Thank you to those who have forwarded your e-mail addresses to our Webmaster. With only three newsletters a year, your e-mail address allows us to send you our monthly E-Mail Update with current District 24 events and happenings. It also allows us to provide you with any important information that comes our way in the health field, or when new information has been posted to the Toronto Districts' website, or remind you about upcoming day trips and other activities.

PLEASE NOTE:

- ☒ Providing your e-mail address is voluntary. It is not provided to us by RTO.
- ☒ Your e-mail information will be held in the strictest confidence and will not be shared with any other organization.
- ☒ E-mails are sent to you as Bcc (Blind carbon copies). You don't get to see the e-mail addresses of the other recipients, and they don't get to see yours. The message should appear in your in-box titled as "undisclosed recipients".
- ☒ E-mails are always prefaced with RTO.
- ☒ E-mail updates are regularly sent out in the first week of the month (except for newsletter months: March, June, and November). However, to keep you fully informed, we do, occasionally, send special mailings.
- ☒ Updates that are returned to the Webmaster because your inbox is full, or classed as "spam" by your server, will not be re-sent.



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

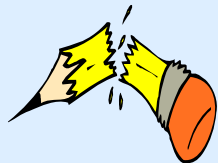
Messages without this subject will not be opened!

We currently have some 360 members participating in our monthly updates. We look forward to adding your name to the list!

~ Hal McCullough

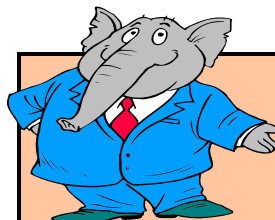
Communications Chair, Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

WRITING CLUB

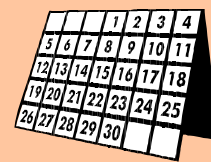


The Writing Club has been struggling for the past year but alas, the pens and pencils have been set aside for the time being. Perhaps, we are ahead of our time. Perhaps, we have written so much over the years while teaching that it's time for a rest. I just wanted to share the joy of being inspired to write a story or share an event and, I thought others might like to do the same.

~ Jim Devine, *Photography Chair*



DATES TO REMEMBER



1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays	Bridge Club (12:30 P.M.)
2 nd Tuesdays of month	Photography Club
March 13	St. Jacob's Playhouse: <i>SWING!</i>
March 27	Executive Meeting: <i>KINGSWAY ARMS</i>
April 2	Shaw Festival: <i>WONDERFUL TOWN</i>
April 24	Travelogue & Luncheon: <i>FRED MOSS</i>
May 13-14	Spring Senate
May 16	Deadline: <i>JUNE NEWSLETTER</i>
May 21	Toronto Centre for the Arts: <i>MY FAIR LADY</i>
May 22	Annual General Meeting: <i>Q-SSIS</i>
May 27	Mennonite Country: <i>...A DIFFERENCE</i>
June 2	Niagara: <i>WINERY, BROWSING, CRUISE</i>
June 5	Executive Meeting: <i>KINGSWAY ARMS</i>
June 11	Stratford Festival: <i>MUSIC MAN</i>
July 22	Capitol Theatre: <i>SAME TIME NEXT YEAR</i>
August 15	Seniors' Jubilee
August 23	Blue Jays vs. Boston Red Sox
September 4	Executive Meeting: <i>KINGSWAY ARMS</i>
September 9	11 th Annual Golf Tournament
September 18	Stratford Festival: <i>CABARET</i>
October 11	Niagara: <i>WINE TOUR</i>
October 15	Health Seminar: <i>TOPIC TBA</i>
October 17	Deadline: <i>NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER</i>
October 23	2 nd Annual Fall Luncheon: <i>Q-SSIS</i>
October 24	Stratford: <i>CAESAR & CLEOPATRA</i>
October 28-29	Fall Senate
November 6	Executive Meeting: <i>KINGSWAY ARMS</i>
November 19	<i>JERSEY BOYS</i>
December 3	Christmas Luncheon: <i>S.G. & C.C.</i>
Seasons change on:	Mar 20; June 20; Sept 22; Dec 21
Daylight Saving Time:	begins Mar 9, '08; ends Nov 1, '08

AND THE WINNER IS...

These are the final results for the 2007 RTO/ERO Recruitment Competition:

HIGHEST PERCENTAGE INCREASE:

1. District 35, Dryden	11.1%
2. District 17, Barrie-Orillia-Alliston-Collingwood	6.6%
3. District 47, Vancouver Island	6.5%
4. District 39, Peel	6.2%
5. District 34, York Region	5.7%

LARGEST INCREASE IN ACTUAL NUMBERS:

1. District 29, Peel	156
2. District 16, Toronto	146
3. District 17, Barrie-Orillia-Alliston-Collingwood	125
4. District 34 York Region	120
5. District 27, Ottawa-Carleton	107



FACT SHEET: HOME SECURITY

PRECAUTIONS TO INCREASE THE SECURITY OF YOUR HOME

When it comes to the protection of your family and the security of your property there are some simple steps you can take to increase both. Sometimes knowing what to do and what not to do can help increase the protection of your family and home. The following are but a few ways you can make your home a safer place and safeguard your loved ones.

- Never leave a message on your answering machine or door advertising you're away.
- If you're a female, and have an answering machine, use a male pre-recorded message.
- Don't give any personal information out to strangers including service providers.
- Invest in keys that can't be easily duplicated at a hardware store.



PRETENDING TO BE THE CRIMINAL

One of the best ways to increase the security of your home is to pretend to be "the criminal". Walk out to the street and study your own property all the while asking yourself how you would defeat the home security of this home. A few tips to increase your home security are:

- Provide sufficient lighting around the home and near entrances.
- Ensure all doors and locks are secured strongly to avoid them being entered easily.
- If you have a security system, post signs indicating its presence.
- Minimize places criminals could hide if they were trying to gain unseen entrance to the home.

DOORS, WINDOWS AND LIGHTING



- Locking doors and closing windows are just two of the many precautions to take to safeguard your home against potential break-ins. In addition, fences, motion detection lighting and other deterrents to keep away would-be thieves are effective.
- Are the doorframes strong enough to withstand a kick or pry bar?
- Are the exterior doors made of solid wood or of metal construction?
- Is there glass in the door or windows on the side within three feet of the inside lock?
- Is there a deadbolt lock that extends a minimum of 1 inch into the doorframe?
- Is the area where the lock goes into the doorframe reinforced with long metal or steel?
- Can the lock be reached from the outside with a hanger through the mail slot or pet door?
- Is there a peephole to identify who is at the door?
- Is there landscaping obscuring the sight of anyone at the door?

- Is the door and surrounding area well lit so you can identify who is at the door?



BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

- Establish trust with your neighbour on either side and two or three across the street.
- Leave spare house keys with a neighbour. Never hide a key outside.
- Educate a neighbour on the operation of your security system.
- Ask a neighbour to look after your home when you are away.
- Join a neighbourhood watch. It's a great way to provide some peace of mind.

HOME SAFES, OPERATION IDENTIFICATION AND HOME INVENTORY

- Home safes offer you both burglary and fire protection. Safes need to be anchored.
- Maintain a detailed household inventory of all your valuables.
- Identify your valuables by engraving your drivers' licence on them.
- Photograph and record the serial numbers of all valuables.
- Photocopy the contents of your wallet and other documents.
- Store the copies of your inventory in a safety deposit box or with a relative.



PROTECTING AGAINST MORE THAN JUST BREAK-INS

When most people think of monitoring their home security system they think primarily about its ability to alert police of a break-in. What they aren't aware of is the lesser-known capabilities of the modern alarm system, which is environmental monitoring. The amount of carbon monoxide present in your home, smoke detectors, water level sensors and low temperature devices can also be monitored by home security systems.

GOING AWAY? GO FOR THE "LIVED-IN" LOOK

Create the illusion someone's at home. Many people use the holiday season as a chance to take extended vacations to travel or visit with family members across the country, leaving their homes susceptible to break-ins and their possessions available for theft. Here are a few things to consider before you head out for the holidays:

1. BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR AN EXTENDED HOLIDAY:

- Minimize the number of people who know you will be away.
- In summer, have grass mowing and landscaping current.
- In winter, arrange for regular snow shovelling.
- Put timers on lights and certain appliances in various rooms.
- Check batteries in smoke detectors/alarms.
- Suspend mail and newspaper delivery if away for more than two days.
- Lock up your ladders and tools, preferably right inside the house.



- Turn down the ringer on your telephones; leave your answering machine on.
- Advise your alarm system monitoring provider and update your authorized roster.
- Tell a neighbour your travel schedule and contact information and leave them keys.
- Check your home insurance policy or contact your agent to find out specifics about coverage when you are away on holidays or extended vacations.

2. WHEN YOU ARE AWAY, ASK NEIGHBOURS TO:



- Open and close your drapes and blinds in the morning and evening, respectively.
- Collect any flyers that are left at your door.
- Park a spare car in your driveway.
- Put a bag of their garbage at your curb on garbage day.
- Re-fill bird feeders as required.
- Water the lawn, planters and hanging baskets in the summer.
- Clear snow off any cars left outside in the winter.
- Watch your home for any unusual activity, unplanned deliveries, etc.

With some timers, the lights go on and off at different times each day, which means a burglar can't pick up on a pattern. Motion sensor lights outside can startle burglars and make them flee. Consider installing these lights in the front and back of your home.

SOURCE:

www.chubb.com/international/Canada/englishnf/protecting/going_away.html

OTHER RTO/ERO FACT SHEETS ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU IN THE MEMBERS ONLY SECTION OF THE WEBSITE: www.rto-ero.org
 THEY ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN .PDF FORMAT IF YOU WISH TO PRINT THEM AT HOME.
 HOME SECURITY IS REPRINTED, WITH PERMISSION.

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ ON PAGE 4:



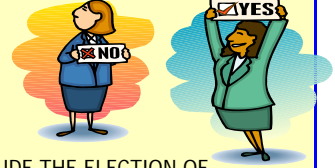
1. BOXING
2. NIAGARA FALLS. THE RIM IS WORN DOWN ABOUT 75 CENTIMETRES EACH YEAR BECAUSE OF THE MILLIONS OF LITRES OF WATER THAT RUSH OVER IT EVERY MINUTE.
3. ASPARAGUS AND RHUBARB
4. STRAWBERRY
5. IT GREW INSIDE THE BOTTLE. THE BOTTLES ARE PLACED OVER PEAR BUDS WHEN THEY ARE SMALL, AND ARE WIRED IN PLACE ON THE TREE. THE BOTTLE IS LEFT IN PLACE FOR THE ENTIRE GROWING SEASON. WHEN THE PEARS ARE RIPE, THEY ARE SNIPPED OFF AT THE STEMS.
6. DWARF, DWELL AND DWINDLE
7. PERIOD, COMMA, COLON, SEMICOLON, DASH, HYPHEN, APOSTROPHE, QUESTION MARK, EXCLAMATION POINT, BRACKETS, QUOTATION MARKS, PARENTHESIS, BRACES, AND ELLIPSES.
8. LETTUCE
9. SHOES, SOCKS, SANDALS, SNEAKERS, SLIPPERS, SKIS, SKATES, SNOWSHOES, STOCKINGS, STILTS

RTO/ERO DISTRICT 24 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: THURSDAY MAY 22, 2008
TIME: 11:30 A.M.
PLACE: Q-SSIS BANQUET HALL
 3474 KINGSTON ROAD
 SCARBOROUGH
 (NORTH-WEST CORNER KINGSTON & MARKHAM ROADS)



FREE PARKING — BEHIND THE FACILITY



PROGRAMME:

- 10:30 **COFFEE AND TEA**
- 11:00 **BUSINESS MEETING:** WILL INCLUDE THE ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE FOR 2008-2009 AND A DISCUSSION/RATIFICATION OF DISTRICT 24'S CONSTITUTION — ON 2ND FLOOR — USE ELEVATOR
- 12:00 **CASH BAR OPENS**
- 12:30 **LUNCH:** DELICIOUS, FULL COURSE MEAL WITH TEA AND COFFEE (ON MAIN FLOOR)
- 1:30 **ENTERTAINMENT:** T.B.A.



COST: \$15.00

- ☒ DISTRICT 24 WILL SUBSIDIZE THE COST OF \$15.00 PER MEMBER.
- ☒ MEMBERS WILL HAVE THEIR CHEQUE RETURNED TO THEM AT THE DOOR; NON-MEMBERS WILL NOT.
- ☒ NO RE-IMBURSEMENT FOR "NO-SHOWS".
- ☒ WE ARE LIMITED TO 250.
- ☒ IF THE DEADLINE HAS PASSED AND YOU FIND THAT YOU ARE NOW ABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE CALL JUDY-ANNE TUMBER. SHE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU.

PLEASE... R.S.V.P. BY FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2008

... COUPON ...

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

NAME:

PHONE #:

OF D24 MEMBERS @ \$15.00 EA. =

OF NON-D24 MEMBERS @ \$15.00 EA. =

TOTAL =



FACILITATOR: JUDY-ANNE TUMBER. (ADDRESS ON p12)
MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO:
RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO - DISTRICT 24

- ☺ Out of my mind. Back in five minutes.
- ☺ Sometimes I wake up grumpy. Other times I let her sleep.
- ☺ Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.
- ☺ What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?



PROGRAMME SCHEDULE FOR 2008



EVENT

DATE/LOCATION

FACILITATOR

SPRING/SUMMER: COUPONS AND DESCRIPTIONS FOR THESE ACTIVITIES BEGIN ON THE PAGE 13.

BRIDGE CLUB	1 ST & 3 RD TUESDAYS @ 12:30 P.M. ELLESMERE RECREATION COMMUNITY CENTRE	GORD REID / JUDY-ANNE TUMBER 416.282.3714 / 416.264.6016
SHAW FESTIVAL ☎ Call Marilyn A.S.A.P. re: tickets	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008 NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ONTARIO	MARILYN TREGWIN 416.493.3757
TRAVELOGUE & LUNCHEON Speaker: Fred Moss: Egypt & Kenya	THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2008 SISTERS RESTAURANT, SCARBOROUGH	ANNE-MARIE ELLIS-TAYLOR 416.261.5190
TORONTO CENTRE FOR THE ARTS My Fair Lady	WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2008 TORONTO	JUDY-ANNE TUMBER 416.264.6016
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) Details on page 9	THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2008 Q-SSIS BANQUET HALL, SCARBOROUGH	JUDY-ANNE TUMBER 416.264.6016
MENNONITE COUNTRY With a difference	TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2008 ST. JACOB'S, ONTARIO	HAROLYN PANETTA 416.445.0885
NIAGARA RIVER TOUR Winery, Cruise, Browsing/Shopping	MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008 NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ONTARIO	HAL McCULLOUGH 905.985.8760
STRATFORD FESTIVAL Music Man	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2008 STRATFORD, ONTARIO	MARG DAW 416.438.8652
CAPITOL THEATRE Same Time Next Year	TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2008 PORT HOPE, ONTARIO	JUDY-ANNE TUMBER 416.264.6016
SENIORS' JUBILEE ☎ Call Harolyn A.S.A.P. re: tickets	FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2008 ROY THOMSON HALL, TORONTO	HAROLYN PANETTA 416.445.0885
BLUE JAYS BASEBALL vs. Boston Red Sox	SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2008 ROGERS CENTRE, TORONTO	LES COOMBS 416.261.0568

FALL: COUPONS AND DESCRIPTIONS FOR THESE ACTIVITIES WILL BE FOUND IN OUR JUNE NEWSLETTER. USE OUR "FRONT OF THE LINE" PROGRAMME TO REGISTER NOW FOR THESE FALL EVENTS. (SEE PAGE 11)

BRIDGE CLUB	RESUMES FOR THE FALL - SEE INFORMATION ABOVE	
BREAKFAST FOR KIDS	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2008	KEN DROPE 416.485.9538
11TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT	MILL RUN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, SILOAM, ONTARIO	
STRATFORD FESTIVAL Cabaret	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008 STRATFORD, ONTARIO	HAL McCULLOUGH 905.985.8760
WINE TOUR	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2008 NIAGARA REGION, ONTARIO	JUDY-ANNE TUMBER 416.264.6016
HEALTH SEMINAR Topic will be announced in June's Newsletter	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2008 HIGHBROOK LEARNING CENTRE, SCARBOROUGH	MARILYN TREGWIN 416.493.3757
2ND ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2008 Q-SSIS BANQUET HALL, SCARBOROUGH	JUDY-ANNE TUMBER 416.264.6016
STRATFORD FESTIVAL Caesar and Cleopatra	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2008 STRATFORD, ONTARIO	ELLEN McCORMICK 416.284.7795
JERSEY BOYS	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2008	RON SMITH 416.431.0466
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2008 SCARBORO GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	MARILYN HODGE 416.284.9984



DID YOU MISS AN ACTIVITY'S DEADLINE? CONTACT JUDY-ANNE TUMBER BY PHONE OR E-MAIL. SHE WILL HELP YOU.

WE HAVE RE-VAMPED THE LOOK OF OUR PROGRAMME PAGES. WE HOPE THIS MAKES THE PAGES CLEARER AND EASIER TO READ. IT ALSO ELIMINATES THE NEEDLESS REPETITION OF THE SAME INFORMATION. WE HOPE YOU LIKE OUR RE-DESIGN! PLEASE LET US KNOW!

TRIP TIPS:

- ♥ UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE, ALL OF OUR BUS TRIPS DEPART FROM AGINCOURT MALL AT THE NORTH-WEST CORNER OF SHEPPARD AVE. AND KENNEDY RD.
- ♥ OUT OF DEFERENCE TO THE MALL OWNERS, WE ASK THAT YOU PARK TOWARD THE PERIMETER OF THE LOT.
- ♥ MEET BY THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF WAL-MART.
- ♥ PLEASE ARRIVE 10-15 MINUTES AHEAD OF DEPARTURE TIME.
- ♥ FOR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE SEND THE PROGRAMME COUPON WITH YOUR CHEQUE MADE PAYABLE TO:
RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO - DISTRICT 24.
- ♥ IF BOTH YOU AND THE FACILITATOR HAVE E-MAIL, YOU CAN CHOOSE TO HAVE YOUR CONFIRMATION E-MAILED TO YOU, SAVING YOU TIME AND THE COST OF AN ENVELOPE AND POSTAGE. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE LINE ON THE COUPON. SIMPLY MAIL THE COUPON WITH YOUR CHEQUE.
IF THE FACILITATOR HAS NO E-MAIL, YOU WILL NEED TO ENCLOSE A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.
- ♥ CHEQUES FOR OUR EVENTS ARE NOT USUALLY DEPOSITED UNTIL THE TRIP IS CONFIRMED. DON'T DESPAIR IF WE HOLD YOUR CHEQUE.
SUGGESTION: POST-DATE YOUR CHEQUE TO THE DEADLINE DATE OF THE ACTIVITY.
- ♥ UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE, OUR TRIPS ARE "ALL INCLUSIVE": LUNCH, BUS TRANSPORTATION, TICKETS (WHERE APPLICABLE), TAXES AND GRATUITIES.

"FRONT OF THE LINE"...



FOR 2008, WE ARE CONTINUING OUR "FRONT OF THE LINE" PROGRAMME. ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN HEARING ABOUT THE SHOWS THAT WILL BE PLANNED OR ARE CURRENTLY MARKED TBA, SHOULD E-MAIL OR PHONE JUDY-ANNE. AS SOON AS THE DATES AND INFORMATION FOR THE SHOWS ARE RELEASED, SHE WILL E-MAIL OR CALL YOU BACK WITH ALL THE DETAILS AND SHE

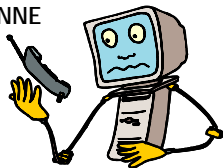
WILL PUT YOU ON THE LIST. THEN, WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER, YOU WOULD SEND YOUR PROGRAMME COUPON AND CHEQUE TO THE FACILITATOR — JUDY-ANNE WILL HAVE PASSED ON YOUR NAME.

PHONE: 416.264.6016

E-MAIL: jatumber@rogers.com

USE SUBJECT: RTO - Front of the Line

Messages without this subject will not be opened.

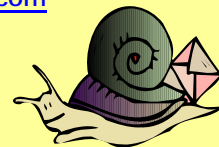


*~ Judy-Anne Tumber
Programme Chair*

FACILITATOR INFORMATION:

LES COOMBS:

7 RIVIERA DR
SCARBOROUGH, ON M1N 1J9
TELEPHONE: 416.261.0568
E-MAIL: lesonriviera@msn.com



MARG DAW:

2 VERLAINE PLACE
TORONTO, ON M1P 3X3
TELEPHONE: 416.438.8652
NO E-MAIL: RETURN ENVELOPE REQUIRED!

KEN DROPE:

604 - 1750 BAYVIEW AVE
TORONTO, ON M4G 4H6
TELEPHONE: 416.485.9538
E-MAIL: kendrope@rogers.com

ANNE-MARIE ELLIS-TAYLOR:

ONE GUILDCREST DR
SCARBOROUGH, ON M1E 1E2
TELEPHONE: 416.261.5190
NO E-MAIL: RETURN ENVELOPE REQUIRED!

ELLEN MCCORMICK:

29 MORNINGSIDE AVE
SCARBOROUGH, ON M1E 3B9
TELEPHONE: 416.284.7795
E-MAIL: ellenmccormick@sympatico.ca



HAL MCCULLOUGH:

62 CHESTER CRES
PORT PERRY, ON L9L 1K8
TELEPHONE: 905.985.8760
E-MAIL: hal@powergate.ca

HAROLYN PANETTA:

38 CASTLEGROVE BLVD
DON MILLS, ON M3A 1L2
TELEPHONE: 416.445.0885
E-MAIL: h_panetta@hotmail.com

RON SMITH:

220 CONFEDERATION DR
SCARBOROUGH, ON M1G 1B1
TELEPHONE: 416.431.0466
E-MAIL: randqsmi@ca.inter.net



MARILYN TREGWIN:

41 RAVENCLIFF CRES
TORONTO, ON M1T 1R7
TELEPHONE: 416.493.3757
E-MAIL: marilyn.tregwin@tel.tdsb.on.ca

JUDY-ANNE TUMBER:

203 SYLVAN AVE
SCARBOROUGH, ON M1E 1A4
TELEPHONE: 416.264.6016
E-MAIL: jatumber@rogers.com

SHAW FESTIVAL
Wonderful Town



DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008
DEPARTURE: 9:00 A.M.
RETURN: 7:15 P.M.
COST: \$107.00
TRAVEL: DEPART AGINCOURT MALL. *SEE TRIP TIPS, p11*
PROGRAMME: THIS IS A MUSICAL ADVENTURE ABOUT BEING YOUNG AND PURSUING A DREAM, BASED ON THE DELIGHTFUL NOVEL AND MOVIE *MY SISTER EILEEN*. TWO SISTERS ARRIVE IN NEW YORK TO FIND FAME, FORTUNE AND LOVE. WITH THE HELP OF SOME COLOURFUL CHARACTERS FROM GREENWICH VILLAGE THEY FIND EVEN MORE THAN THEY BARGAINED FOR.
FACILITATOR: *MARILYN TREGWIN — INFORMATION ON p11*
DEADLINE: MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008
COUPON ON PAGE 13

MENNONITE COUNTRY
With a Difference



DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2008
DEPARTURE: 8:00 A.M.
RETURN: 6:00 P.M.
COST: \$50.00
TRAVEL: MEET AT THE YORK MILLS STOP ON THE YONGE SUBWAY LINE IN FRONT OF THE SUBWAY EXIT WHICH IS JUST SOUTH OF THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF YONGE AND YORK MILLS, BEHIND THE SHELL GAS STATION. TRANSPORTATION IS BY SCHOOL BUS.
PROGRAMME: HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE A VISIT TO A MENNONITE SCHOOL WHILE IT IS IN SESSION, A CHAT WITH A MENNONITE FARM FAMILY WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUY SOME HOME MADE CRAFTS AND PRESERVES, THE VIEWING OF A FILM ON THE MENNONITE LIFE STYLE, AND LUNCH AT A MENNONITE RESTAURANT.
FACILITATOR: *HAROLYN PANETTA — INFORMATION ON p11*
DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2008
COUPON ON PAGE 13

LUNCH AND TRAVELOGUE
GUEST SPEAKER: FRED MOSS



DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2008
TIME: 12:00 NOON
COST: \$16.00
PROGRAMME: EGYPT & KENYA. FRED AND DOROTHY MOSS ARE WORLD TRAVELLERS. YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS HIS BEAUTIFUL PICTURES OF THE MAGNIFICENT MONUMENTS OF EGYPT; AND RARE CLOSE-UP PHOTOS OF EXOTIC ANIMALS OF KENYA.
FACILITATOR: *ANNE-MARIE ELLIS-TAYLOR — INFO ON p11*
DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008
COUPON ON PAGE 13

NIAGARA RIVER TOUR
WINERY, CRUISE AND BROWSING



DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008
DEPARTURE: 8:30 A.M.
RETURN: 6:00 P.M.
COST: \$95.00
TRAVEL: DEPART AGINCOURT MALL. *SEE TRIP TIPS, p11*
PROGRAMME: TOUR A WINERY, BROWSE AND SHOP NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, HAVE LUNCH AT GIARDINO'S AND THEN TOP THE DAY OFF WITH A CRUISE ON THE NIAGARA RIVER FROM 2:30 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
FACILITATOR: *HAL McCULLOUGH — INFORMATION ON p11*
DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008
COUPON ON PAGE 14

TORONTO CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
My Fair Lady



DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2008
DEPARTURE: 11:00 A.M.
RETURN: 5:00 P.M.
COST: \$125.00
TRAVEL: DEPART AGINCOURT MALL. *SEE TRIP TIPS, p11*
PROGRAMME: LERNER & LOEWE'S LEGENDARY MUSICAL PREMIERES IN NORTH AMERICA DIRECT FROM ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY LONDON PRODUCTION AND U.K. NATIONAL TOUR. THIS GLORIOUS NEW PRODUCTION FEATURES ONE OF BROADWAY'S MOST BELOVED SCORES INCLUDING "THE RAIN IN SPAIN", "I COULD HAVE DANCED ALL NIGHT" AND "GET ME TO THE CHURCH ON TIME".
FACILITATOR: *JUDY-ANNE TUMBER — INFORMATION ON p11*
DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2008
COUPON ON PAGE 13

STRATFORD FESTIVAL
MUSIC MAN

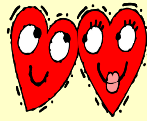


DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2008
DEPARTURE: 9:30 A.M.
RETURN: 7:30 P.M.
COST: \$138.00
TRAVEL: DEPART AGINCOURT MALL. *SEE TRIP TIPS, p11*
PROGRAMME: WHEN CHARMING HUCKSTER HAROLD HILL ARRIVES IN RIVER CITY, IOWA, WITH A PROMISE TO TEACH THE TOWN'S YOUTH TO PLAY IN A MARCHING BAND, MARION THE LIBRARIAN RIGHTLY SUSPECTS THAT HE'S A FRAUD. BUT HAROLD'S SILVER-TONGUED GIFT MAY BE MORE POTENT THAN HE REALIZES. ENJOY YOUR CHICKEN LUNCH AT PAZZO'S RISTORANTE.
FACILITATOR: *MARG DAW — INFORMATION ON p11*
DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008
COUPON ON PAGE 14

☺ Last Will and Testament: Being of sound mind, I spent all my money.

PORT HOPE'S CAPITOL THEATRE

SAME TIME NEXT YEAR



DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2008
 DEPARTURE: 9:00 A.M.
 RETURN: 5:30 P.M.
 COST: \$92.00
 TRAVEL: DEPART AGINCOURT MALL. SEE TRIP TIPS, p11
 PROGRAMME: ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR ROMANTIC COMEDIES OF THE CENTURY, *SAME TIME NEXT YEAR* RAN FOUR YEARS ON BROADWAY, WAS A SUCCESSFUL MOTION PICTURE, AND REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST WIDELY PRODUCED PLAYS IN HISTORY. IT FOLLOWS A LOVE AFFAIR OF PEOPLE WHO RENDEZVOUS ONCE A YEAR. TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF MORALS, MANNERS AND ATTITUDES ARE HILARIOUSLY MIRRORED BY THE LOVERS. LUNCH IS AT DR. CORBETT'S INN.
 FACILITATOR: *JUDY-ANNE TUMBER* — INFORMATION ON p11
 DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2008
 COUPON ON PAGE 14

**BLUE JAYS BASEBALL
 VS. BOSTON RED SOX**



DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2008
 GAME TIME: 1:05 P.M.
 COST: \$40.00 THIS PRICE IS AVAILABLE TO RTO MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
 THIS IS CONSIDERED A "PREMIUM GAME" SINCE THEY ARE PLAYING THE 2007 WORLD SERIES WINNER. TICKETS ARE REGULARLY \$49.00. NOTE: \$5.00 OF OUR \$40.00 TICKET PRICE IS BEING DONATED TO CHARITY.
 TRAVEL: NOTE: TRANSPORTATION IS NOT INCLUDED.
 SEATS: FIELD LEVEL, 3RD BASE SIDE
 FACILITATOR: *LES COOMBS* — INFORMATION ON p11
 DEADLINE: THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2008
 COUPON ON PAGE 14



✂ ... COUPON ...

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

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



NAME:
 PHONE #:
 SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:
 # OF TICKETS: @ \$107.00 EA. =
 E-MAIL:
 WOULD YOU LIKE AN E-MAIL CONFIRMATION? YES NO
 IF NO, A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS REQUIRED!
 FOR LUNCH, PLEASE CHOOSE: CHICKEN ATLANTIC SALMON
DEADLINE: MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008 MT

✂ ... COUPON ...

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

**LUNCH & TRAVELOGUE
 GUEST SPEAKER: FRED MOSS
 THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2008**



NAME:
 PHONE #:
 SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:
 # OF TICKETS: @ \$16.00 EA. =
 NO E-MAIL CONFIRMATION!
 A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED RETURN ENVELOPE IS REQUIRED.
DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008 AE

✂ ... COUPON ...

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

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



NAME:
 PHONE #:
 SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:
 # OF TICKETS: @ \$125.00 EA. =
 E-MAIL:
 WOULD YOU LIKE AN E-MAIL CONFIRMATION? YES NO
 IF NO, A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS REQUIRED!
DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2008 JT

✂ ... COUPON ...

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

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



NAME:
 PHONE #:
 SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:
 # OF TICKETS: @ \$50.00 EA. =
 E-MAIL:
 WOULD YOU LIKE AN E-MAIL CONFIRMATION? YES NO
 NO STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS REQUIRED!
DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2008 HP

- ☺ My wife and I had words. I didn't get to use mine.
- ☺ Every morning is the dawn of a new error.

✂ ... COUPON ...

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

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

NAME:
PHONE #:
SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$95.00 EA. =

E-MAIL:

WOULD YOU LIKE AN E-MAIL CONFIRMATION? YES NO

IF NO, A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS REQUIRED!

FOR LUNCH, PLEASE CHOOSE: CHICKEN PORK LOIN

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008

HM

✂ ... COUPON ...

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

**BLUE JAYS BASEBALL
vs BOSTON RED SOX
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2008**

NAME:
PHONE #:
SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$40.00 EA. =

E-MAIL:

WOULD YOU LIKE AN E-MAIL CONFIRMATION? YES NO

IF NO, A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS REQUIRED!

DEADLINE: THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2008

LC

✂ ... COUPON ...

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

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

NAME:
PHONE #:
SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$138.00 EA. =

NO E-MAIL CONFIRMATION!

A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED RETURN ENVELOPE IS REQUIRED.

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008

MD

✂ ... COUPON ...

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

**CAPITOL THEATRE
SAME TIME NEXT YEAR
TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2008**

NAME:
PHONE #:
SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:



OF TICKETS: @ \$92.00 EA. =

E-MAIL:

WOULD YOU LIKE AN E-MAIL CONFIRMATION? YES NO

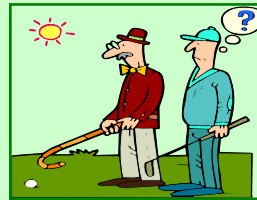
IF NO, A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS REQUIRED!

FOR LUNCH, PLEASE CHOOSE: CHICKEN SALMON

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2008

JT

**DISTRICT 24 ~ SCARBOROUGH AND EAST YORK
11TH ANNUAL
BREAKFAST FOR KIDS
GOLF TOURNAMENT**



Join colleagues, spouses and friends at the Retired Teachers' **11th Annual Golf Tournament**. A Scramble format will be used. You are encouraged to bring your own foursome but individuals are welcome. Proceeds will be donated to the BREAKFAST FOR KIDS programme.

MILL RUN HIGHLAND EXECUTIVE COURSE
in Siloam (Durham Road 8, west of Uxbridge)
September 9th, 2008
9:00 A.M.
Shotgun Start



CONTACT: Ken Drope
604 - 1750 Bayview Ave
Toronto, ON
416.485.9538
kendrope@rogers.com

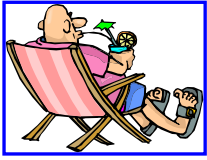
Use Subject: **RTO - B4K Golf**
Messages without this heading will not be opened.

COST: \$80.00 which includes your greens fees, power cart, lunch and prizes!

EQUIPMENT: Bring your own or rent at the Pro Shop

Register with Ken first by phone or e-mail, then send your cheque made payable to:
Retired Teachers of Ontario - District 24

TO THOSE WHO ARE ABOUT TO RETIRE... WELCOME

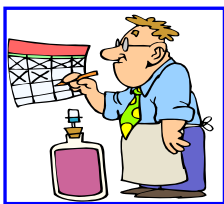
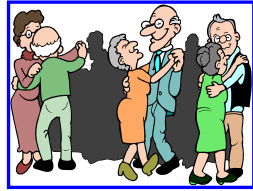


When you are just starting your career in teaching you never give retirement much thought. When you have achieved ten years or more of professional service you look at retirement with respect and some reflection. When you are within that final year of your retirement you become happy, anxious, and eager to experience that monumental event.

Retirement is defined as the "giving up" of one's work, withdrawing from the stress of a productive career. Perhaps that is the reason why we never give it much thought in our youth, contemplate on it during our middle years or fervently wish to grasp it as we reach that 85 or 90 factor. It is a time to withdraw from the hectic pace of teaching so that you can focus on the things that interest you. It is not something to fear.

During the coming year another group of teachers will, at various times, be able to withdraw from teaching and begin a new life of renewal and discovery. They will approach a doorway in their lives which, for some, will be hard to pass through. Be patient, pray and prepare yourself for a new adventure.

There seems to be three different groups of retirees. The first cannot stop working. As soon as their career finishes, they go back to teaching immediately – if only for half the year. The second group is those who go back to supplying for one or two days a week. They miss the kids, the social life or just want some additional pocket money. The third group is those who walk through the door and move on with their life and never look back. They involve themselves with volunteer work, travel, or playing sports. Their time is their own and they move from day-to-day with a confidence in their own future.



As teachers you have been trained to meet a variety of expectations, become part of a strong team and work well beyond the required employee's time. You have made a large effort to plan, implement, assess, and evaluate the children in your care. Once this process has

been completed with one group of children you proceed to start it all over again in the autumn with a new group of children. As the years go by, you find that the children remain the same age but you, however, have grown older, attempt to make shortcuts and know too much about the strengths and weaknesses of the system to remain quiet. The only course available is to retire – to make the decision to leave the team, withdraw from the

stressful atmosphere of programming and reports and spend more time on you.

Although your love for the challenge that teaching brought to your life on a daily basis will soon come to an end, there is a new challenge waiting you. The trouble is that you have become comfortable with the present and find change hard to accept. The years have passed too quickly.

Enjoy your remaining days in the classroom. Look forward to whatever type of celebration that will satisfy you. We will be waiting for you on the other side of that retirement door to welcome you.



~ Jim Devine
Photography Chair

HINTS FOR TAKING PICTURES



We love to get pictures from our members for use in the newsletter. If you go on one of our trips or take part in any of our other activities, take your camera with you: digital or print.

Digital copies can be e-mailed to the editor; prints can be mailed to the editor – the prints can be scanned and then returned to you.

If you are taking pictures for your own use, or for our newsletter, please keep a few things in mind:

- ★ Take a few seconds to 'compose' your shot.
- ★ Be aware of what is in the background.
- ★ If you can set the resolution in your camera, use as high a resolution as possible. This will result in better quality pictures in the newsletter – especially if we are able to print them in colour!
- ★ Watch for backlighting - areas behind the subject that are too bright. It makes people and objects in the foreground that you are trying to include in your shot look too dark. You wouldn't shoot pictures toward the sun, so avoid shooting subjects where there are things such as windows or glass doors in the background.
- ★ Keep your hand as steady as possible – especially if you are using your zoom. Great pictures can be spoiled by a blurred image.
- ★ Try to centre the people or the feature you want in the picture.
- ★ Often 'candid' shots can be far more interesting than 'posed' pictures which can often look 'stilted'. (Try to avoid the "19th century" photo!)
- ★ You don't always want people saying, "Cheese".
- ★ Be sure you use a flash indoors. You don't want pictures that are too dark or ones where the colour values are changed due to insufficient light.

~ Hal McCullough
Communications Chair

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

50TH ANNIVERSARY

John G. Althouse Middle School
130 Lloyd Manor Road
Etobicoke, ON M9B 5K1



We are hoping to attract many former teachers from Althouse to the event. We will be having an Open House on May 3, 2008 – from 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

We also will have a website available to the public with registration information: www.JohnGAlthousereunion.ca

Further information can be had by calling the principal, Greg Freeman, at 416.394.7580

We look forward to seeing as many former John G. Althouse teachers as possible at the reunion.

YOUR "SECOND CAREER" CAN BE YOUR MOST REWARDING

Retired volunteers play an important role at *Habitat for Humanity Toronto*. Many are available during the week, and their skills and experience are critical to our organization. Whether in the office, on a build site, in the Restores/Salvage area or by promoting *Habitat for Humanity* through speaking engagements – we welcome and appreciate retired volunteers!

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills and contribute to a great cause. NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY!!

Call Monica Kronfli at 416.755.7353 ext. 240 for more information.



Habitat for Humanity Toronto is a non-profit, non-denominational organization that is transforming lives by uniting Torontonians around the goal of eliminating poverty housing.

Habitat for Humanity Toronto believes in:

- ☞ offering a hand up, not a hand out
- ☞ empowering low-income families
- ☞ the volunteer spirit
- ☞ diversity and inclusiveness

We help families who:

- ☞ currently live in substandard housing
- ☞ are willing to volunteer 500 hours of "sweat equity"
- ☞ will repay a zero-down payment, interest free mortgage over 25 years

Mortgage payments from Habitat homeowners go directly into a trust to build more Habitat homes.

Every donated dollar goes directly towards building homes with families in need. Profits from the Restores cover 100% of our administrative costs.



☺ As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in public schools.

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



MEMORABILIA WANTED

ETT, the Teacher Union representing Elementary Teachers employed by the Toronto District School Board, wants to build its archives. We are interested in memorabilia from any of the legacy Federations: East York, Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, Toronto, City of York (OPSTF/OPSMTF, WTA, TTF).

Logos, flags, pins, collective agreements, milestone documents, etc., are being sought.

Former officers of these organizations may be particularly helpful.

Contact: Terry White at twhite@ett.on.ca
Or 416.393.9930 ext. 238

Or send to:

ETT, 300-4211 Yonge St. Toronto, ON M2P 2A9



GILBERT AND SULLIVAN

This year, the Scarborough Gilbert and Sullivan Society is presenting *Iolanthe*, the operetta that spoofs the British peerage, and tosses in a few fairies to put things to rights.

There are 6 performances on the last two weekends in April: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday – April 18, 19, 20 and April 25, 26, 27.

Friday and Saturday are 8 P.M. evening performances; Sundays are 2 P.M. performances.

All performances take place at David and Mary Thomson Collegiate, 2740 Lawrence Ave E., Scarborough

Prices are \$18 for ages 17-59. All other ages are \$15.00. Groups of 20 or more are \$13.00 and can be ordered for any combination of dates, *if* orders are received before Thursday, April 10.

Tickets may be ordered from:
Cledith Craddock

5 Lankin Blvd., Toronto, ON M4J 4W7

Phone: 416.424.1850

E-mail: tickets@gilbertandsullivan.ca



VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD



We are pleased to announce that RTO District 24 member, Gloria Kondziolka was recognized by the Provincial Government, receiving a Voluntary Service Award for 10 years of service.

Gloria was presented with her award on April 24, 2007.

CLUB 48

CLUB 48 is an association of retired teachers. We meet socially nine times a year to enjoy an outing, a play, a lecture or lunch. Through Club 48 many of us have taken day trips, heard lectures, seen a play, or eaten at restaurants we would not otherwise have experienced.

We invite you to join us at our next social event.

For details call:

Christine Newhouse at 416.924.5226; or
Gwen Smith at 905.426.1553



LOOKING FOR HELP

This school year Danforth Gardens P. S. has implemented a "new and improved" Nutrition Program. Each morning all students in grades one to eight receive a nutritional snack such as veggies and dip, fruit with crackers and cheese, or yogurt and fruit.

The preparation of the snacks is labour intensive, thus "many hands make light work". Anyone who would like to help for about an hour would be welcomed with open arms any morning.

We are located in Scarborough, just west of Birchmount Road between St. Clair Avenue and Danforth Road. Or, if you would be interested in helping organize the orders, do community outreach for food, or make a financial donation, please contact the school at 416.396.6190.

~ Marcy Palay

Principal, Danforth Gardens P.S.



- ☺ Middle age: when it takes longer to rest than to get tired.
- ☺ Middle age: when you have stopped growing at both ends, and have begun to grow in the middle.
- ☺ Middle age: having a choice of two temptations and choosing the one that will get you home earlier.
- ☺ Middle age: when you realize that caution is the only thing you care to exercise.
- ☺ Middle age: when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.
- ☺ Middle age: when work is a lot less fun and fun a lot more work.

Scarborough Choral Society's
Onstage Productions
Presents ~ The New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical

BRIGADOON

Featuring the hit song:
Almost Like Being In Love

Book and Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner

Music by Frederick Loewe

Original dances created by Agnes de Mille

Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc.

March 28, 29, April 4, 5 at 8:00 P.M.

March 29, 30, April 5, 6 at 2:00 P.M.

Bayview Glen Upper School Theatre

85 Moatfield Road, Toronto (near Don Mills and York Mills)

Tickets: \$25 (Adult) \$18 (Children) \$23 (Seniors)

Phone: 416.293.3981

VISA ticket orders: scs_tickets@rogers.com

Onstage Productions is the theatre arm of Scarborough Choral Society and includes several active and retired teachers, some of whom are members of District 24.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

The Photo Club has always been at the mercy of the weather. Our last two scheduled outings were both cancelled due to inclement weather. Hopefully, February 12th will be a nice day so that we can visit the Metro Zoo. Casa Loma has also been re-scheduled in the hopes to a time of nicer weather and when the gardens are likely to be open with a palette of colour.



I recently purchased a portable DVD player and will be sharing my photos with the group on each of our future outings. Members need only save their photos to a CD and bring it with them on any of our outings.

Come out and share an adventure, see some great photos and have a coffee with us. We meet every 2nd Tuesday, and confirmation is given ahead of time by e-mail.

Some final thoughts...

- ♥ Membership has grown gradually over the past year.
- ♥ Suggestions for future trips are always appreciated.
- ♥ Any good photo websites will be posted in future issues of the newsletter.
- ♥ Send me any ideas or comments that you might have about photography that would be of interest to the members.

~ Jim Devine
Photography Chair



WELCOME TO DISTRICT 24

To all our new members for 2007, we offer you a warm welcome! Whether you are a new retiree or have moved from another district, we hope that you find District 24 ~ Scarborough and East York a comfortable and happy fit.

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

Ken Barichello
Brian Blakey
Donald Bremner
David W. Brown
John Caulfield
Anne Campbell
Anne Coombs
Beverly Cowan
F. Marian Daley
Mary Donnelly
John Feddema
Lynda Gilmour
Deborah Herridge
William Hindle
Virginia D. Hoevelmann
John M. James
Heather Laderman
John Lang
Marvin J. Lichtenfeld
Janis E. Lynn
Nancy R. Macdonald
Gwen McGivray
Cathy MacLennan

Donald MacLeod
William March
Barbara Mercer
Sheila Meyer
Mary E. Morris
John R. McNeil
Rosetta Naccarato
E. Helena Olorenshaw
Lois Parker
Fred Peach
Julia Peck
Kathryn Posluns
Annette Potter
Jill Richardson
Fred I. Sandford
Francoise Savage
David Schad
Heather Shoniker
Robert O. Sidsworth
William Swerdfeger
Marie S. Tamburro
Angela Wright

As of December 31, 2007, District 24 had...

2,106 members.

And as new members, we would encourage you to participate in our monthly E-Mail Updates. See Page 7 for details!

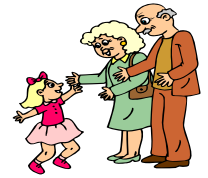
TO 31/12/07



- ☺ What was the best thing before sliced bread?
- ☺ One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people.
- ☺ How is it possible to have a civil war?
- ☺ If you ate pasta and antipasta, would you still be hungry?
- ☺ If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?

LEGACY... A FAMILY RECORD

Forty years ago a cousin of mine went to incredible lengths to research and record the descendants of a common ancestor who immigrated to Canada about 1825. I can barely imagine the labour required to find and verify the information for a thousand relatives, record it on file cards, prepare printing masters, collate and bind the printed pages by hand, collect money and mail the finished product. What a legacy for the family!



About ten years ago I decided to try to collect data for the three generations of descendants for my paternal and maternal grandparents who had been born since the last Family Record was published in 1968. Fortunately, most of my first cousins were still alive so that I was able to get first hand the basic data such as births, marriages, deaths, etc., plus pictures and a short biography for each descendant.

As I worked on this project I slowly entered the data for all the family from my cousin's Family Record. Along the way I've met distant relatives and new friends on the internet who generously shared information. I've researched the ancestry of my children's spouses and plan to publish custom books for each grandchild.

So far I have published a limited edition of the Family Record for all the descendants of both my maternal and paternal grandparents. This naturally led me to my great grandparents. Now I have nearly completed all the descendants of the direct line on my father's side. Along the way I have gathered much information about many other ancestors. The Record now has over 4600 individuals!



Have a look at the software program from Broderbund called Family Tree Maker. You can check out the 2008 version at www.ancestry.com. I recently upgraded to the basic program for about \$30 US. You can spend a lot on peripheral software but I wouldn't recommend it unless you have a lot of U.S. relatives. If you want to obtain a free, basic family tree program try:

www.familysearch.org. Another free site at www.rootsweb.com revealed a whole branch of my family that I could not have obtained otherwise. You can upload your research and make it available to others on all of these sites.

Another useful resource is the Ontario Genealogical Society www.ogs.on.ca. If you are starting from scratch, it's worth taking a course or two. I made a few major errors originally that took countless hours to undo. Once you start you will discover lost relatives and make new friends. Why not take some time and leave your legacy of a Family Record?



~ Ken Drope, B4K Golf Chair



FINANCIAL STATEMENT As At 31/12/07

ACTUAL 2007

Bank balance, January 1, 2007 \$18,347.40

ANTICIPATED RECEIPTS:

Provincial Grant	\$24,850.13
Bank interest/charges	-\$14.63
Golf tournament	\$1,000.00
Interest income (GICs)	\$764.93

Total Receipts \$26,600.43

DISBURSEMENTS:

Administration

Executive expenses	\$1,993.88
District A.G.M.	\$74.53
Office expenses	\$333.86
Senate	\$2,259.72
Archives	



Member Services

Communications

Goodwill, District	\$1,213.42
Membership	\$68.39
Recruitment, District	\$1,922.14
Newsletter (mailing, printing, postage)	\$12,705.76
Toronto District Assessment	\$1,115.90
Political Action	-\$300.00

Programme

Day trips	\$4,192.52
Spring Lunch	\$2,132.71
Fall Luncheon	\$279.08
Christmas Luncheon	\$821.26
Health Seminar	\$118.56
Bridge Club	\$179.10
Blue Jay Game	\$24.18
Camera Club	---
District RTO 40 th Year Celebration	\$59.00



Service to Others

Breakfast for Kids	\$2,400.00
Provincially Approved Project	---
District 24 Projects	---

Total Disbursements \$31,594.01

Receipts over disbursements -\$4,993.58

Current Assets

Anticipated/Current Bank Balance \$13,353.82

Investments

GIC – matures 15/12/08	\$5,131.72
GIC – matures 16/01/08	\$8,096.49
GIC – matures 08/08/08	\$7,189.12

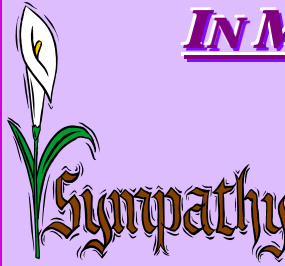
Invoices not received - not paid (Amount not known):

- Apple Café – Executive Meeting 2006
- Apple Café – Health Seminar 2007

Please direct any questions or concerns to the treasurer.

Contact information for Ron will be found on page 11.

~ Ron Smith, Treasurer



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.

Barbara Allmond Lillian Bolger Frank A. Daley Gladys Rose Mary I. Farber Wilhelmine Grant Lois M. Harper Richard A. Kormos John R. K. Moore Michael Roberts Margaret J. Sidsworth	R. Banks Jane Hart Brodie Alan J. Fontana Ruth I. Butt George J. Farrell Kurt Gross Margaret E. Holland Augustin Kuk Earl D. Payne A. H. Bud Walker
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31/12/07

ST. JACOB'S PLAYHOUSE CRAZY FOR YOU

On November 1, 2007 thirty theatre-goers boarded the comfortable bus at 8:30 A.M. for a smooth, worry-free ride to St. Jacobs. A mainly bright day afforded beautiful views of picture perfect farms and farm buildings. Several old order Mennonite horse-drawn buggies were spotted along the way.

On the outskirts of the village, a stop at Pickard Peanuts allowed us to enjoy and purchase an amazing assortment of nuts, candies, chocolates and preserves.

The quaint, well maintained, tourist-friendly village boasts a variety of shopping experiences that we all enjoyed. A delicious buffet lunch was provided at the Stone Crock Restaurant. Not to be missed was the dessert table with five choices of delicious home-made pies.

The 385 seat St Jacob's Playhouse theatre was near capacity for the Gershwin musical *Crazy for You*. The raked layout ensures every patron had an optimal view of the stage. The energetic, humorous and enjoyable performance was a delight from beginning to end. The audience enjoyed many of the hit tunes such as *I Got Rhythm*, *Embraceable You*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, and *Someone to Watch over Me*. The standing ovation at the conclusion totally embraced the cast.

Boarding the bus at 5 P.M. for the return trip, everyone was in a happy, "crazy"-for-the-day mood.

For all members who thought about joining the trip and just quite didn't get around to it, you missed a great day and a wonderful theatre production. Many thanks to our bus driver, Gary, and our guide, Marilyn Tregwin, for making the well-paced day so enjoyable. We would love to do another theatre trip in the near future.

~ Faye Griffiths, Kay Sheridan, Sue Wayne



'THANK YOU' LETTERS

ST. MARTIN DE PORRES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Dear Ms. Hodge:

On behalf of St. Martin de Porres Catholic Elementary School, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere and heartfelt appreciation for your generous donation to our Nutritious Snack Program.

The \$411.00 will enable the school to continue this important and vital program for the remainder of the 2007 school year.

This program always adheres to the guiding principals of nutritious, cultural, educations and non-stigmatizing. (sic)

The snack program has been in operation for ten years now, and we have a close parent and community involvement along with a good standing relationship with Public Health.

The students are the benefactors of your generosity. We appreciate the efforts taken to ensure the well being of our students and the program that is so greatly needed, as we are deemed a high needs school and community.

Your participation in our community positively affects the children in the West Hill community.

We look forward to our continued commitment together.

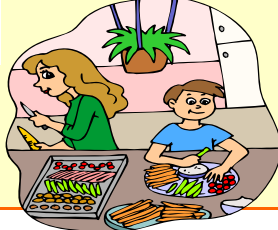
Once again a heartfelt THANK YOU!



l-r: Gretchen Schuler, principal and Lesley Ritchi, Snack Co-ordinator



Sincerely
Lesley Ritchi
Snack Co-ordinator



DANFORTH GARDENS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Thanks for your financial donation to the Danforth Gardens Snack Program.

~ Marcy Palay, Principal
Danforth Gardens PS

Bedankt

Thanks

Vieten
Dank

תודה

Grazie

Obrigado!

ขอบคุณ

Teşekkürler

Gracias

Merci

شكراً

Köszönettel

TORONTO PARTNERS FOR STUDENT NUTRITION



~ Fiona Bowser

I am part of the community outreach team of the Toronto Partners for Student Nutrition. The partnership also includes Toronto Public Health, the TDSB, TCDSB and their respective Foundations. Our role is to help facilitate over 500 programs across Toronto, serving 84,000 students each day.

For the past 10 years the "Breakfast for Kids" Golf Tournament has helped support programs in the East York and Scarborough areas. East York includes 3 city wards, supports 24 programs in 15 different sites and serves 3300 students daily. Scarborough covers 10 city wards and supports 71 programs in 59 different sites, serving 15,000 students daily.

Although these programmes are partially funded by the city and provincial governments, the bulk of the money comes from parental donations, school and community fundraising efforts and from the generosity of groups such as yours. As you are all aware there are many, many families in our city where making a donation or contributing to fundraising is just an impossibility. Many barely meet their expenses. For a parent to know that their child is receiving at least one healthy meal at school can be a huge relief. In many cases your donation has ensured the survival of a programme through to the end of the year.

To understand the impact these programs make, a grade five student made this statement to me, "I come from an area where other people think I am not as smart as them because I am poor. Feeling full makes me learn better and I know I can grow up and be as smart as anyone else."

I am sure as former teachers you have seen for yourselves the amazing difference a healthy start to the day makes to a child. It allows them to concentrate and learn better and helps with so many behavioural issues.

Most of the programs are run by fantastic volunteers who work daily to deliver a healthy breakfast, snack or lunch to their students. This also helps to build a healthier, happier school community.

The tremendous effort made by each of you is certainly appreciated by every student and teacher in each of the programmes you have supported over the past ten years. Each of you deserves a heart felt pat on the back.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

~ Fiona Bowser

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Currently we are meeting at the *Kingsway Arms* located at the south-west corner of McCowan and Eglinton.

Our next two Executive Meeting dates are:

Thursday, March 27, 2008

Thursday, June 5, 2008

- ☺ Parking and entrance are at the back of the building.
- ☺ Refreshments at 9:00 A.M.
- ☺ Business meeting at 9:30 A.M.
- ☺ We finish no later than 1:00 P.M.
- ☺ All members are welcome to attend.



HOT AIR AND BLUE YONDER



I'd just been appointed principal at a wonderful school in a rough neighbourhood. I spent the morning with my predecessor, and then over lunch, he filled me in on a variety of issues that I'd have to deal with.

"The staff and kids are great," he told me, "but we have one or two parents

who can get carried away with their own agenda. Don't worry about it, though; it's just a lot of hot air really."

It must have stuck with me. That summer on a trip to England, I noticed a newspaper ad offering "Hot Air Balloon Flights" over the Yorkshire Dales. I couldn't resist, and I had one of the most exhilarating experiences of my life, observing nature and wildlife from a whole new perspective, and flying in unimaginable peace and tranquility.

I was so taken by my experience, that on my return to Canada, I embarked on a balloon pilot training program, and after an incredible, event-filled period of instruction, I wrote the exams, obtained my licence, and bought a brand new hot air balloon.



It was all terribly expensive, and I had to somehow recover my investment. I offered "Romantic Flights for Two", and before I knew it, I was presiding over engagements, anniversaries, and birthdays — all celebrated with champagne in some remote meadow as

the sun was coming up. I heard more marriage proposals than Elizabeth Taylor! I had to contend with some rather bizarre requests, too, like scattering ashes over the fall colours and dropping parachutists out of the sky.

My staff started to grill me each Monday morning about the latest escapades, and inevitably they eventually came up with the idea of a staff balloon flight. Through my ballooning colleagues I made arrangements for three or four big balloons, and we all took off on a beautiful evening in June from a site near Stouffville. It was absolutely incredible. I'd never seen the teachers so elated and they babbled on over champagne and strawberries, late into the evening, by the headlights of the four chase vehicles. They talked about it for weeks.



Over my ten years as a balloonist, I experienced some of the most hilarious and incredible happenings imaginable. Teachers started to see me as the "balloon principal" and they expected to hear the latest stories — short-horned bulls, pot-bellied pigs, and preposterous proposals. "You should write a book." one teacher told me. And so I did.

Anyone interested in seeing some pictures and reading some extracts can visit the website:

www.askylarkinblueyonder.com

~ John Brownridge

- ☺ Why does a round pizza come in a square box?
- ☺ If you send someone 'Styrofoam', how do you pack it?
- ☺ Why doesn't glue stick to its bottle?
- ☺ Whose idea was it to put an "S" in the word "lisp"?

JOINT DISTRICT'S EXECUTIVES MEETING

After a two year hiatus, the Executive members from the four Toronto Districts met on November 21 for the morning. District 24, Scarborough and East York, hosted the groups at the Q-SSIS Banquet Hall. A brief history of the Joint Districts by moderator, President Gary Fick, was followed by reports from: RTO provincial President, Brian Kenny; a health plan report from Lori MacDonald-Blundon of Johnson's Insurance; a pension update from RTO staff member, Tony Sawinski; and travel opportunities news from Lori Copeland of Merit Travel.

The sixty participants then broke into study groups led by various Executive facilitators to discuss a variety of questions aimed at improving local services and member participation in RTO. The focus groups included Newsletters, Health, Political Action, Seniors' Issues, Social, Travel, and Recruitment. Working notes from each group will be collated and shared with each of the four Toronto Districts.

RTO President Kenny (bottom right photo, with Frank Saliani) commented at the close of the meeting that this joint activity was unique in the province and that he had requested copies of the worksheets to share with his Provincial Executive members.

The meeting finished with a lunch.

~ Bill Sparks, 1st Vice-President

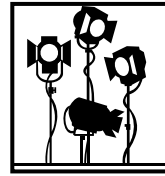
~photos by Hal McCullough



DISTRICT 24'S EXECUTIVE AT WORK



~ photos by Hal McCullough



THIS ISSUE TURNS THE SPOTLIGHT ON:

JUDY-ANNE TUMBER: PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR



Our Programme Chair works very hard on your behalf, organizing our day trips for the year. Sometimes she works in co-ordination with an agent such as Mary Morton or Seniors' Carefree and sometimes by organizing the trips from "scratch" – doing all the "leg work" on her own which includes such things as hiring a bus, calling restaurants, resorts, wineries, etc. When she's not doing that, she's working with trip facilitators, or providing information to members on our *Front of the Line* feature either by phone or e-mail. Judy-Anne also plans two luncheons a year: our Fall Luncheon and our Spring AGM – arranging for the restaurant, booking the entertainment, selecting a menu... And when she's not doing these few things, she is being harassed to provide yet more information to the Editor for her portion of your newsletter. Or she's on the phone. Or she's facilitating the Bridge Club with Gord Reid.

Judy-Anne is an East Yorker, having attended R.H. McGregor P.S., Cosburn Jr. High, and East York Collegiate. She started her teaching career in East York at Rolph Road (with Bob Cook as her principal - Bob was in November's 'Spotlight') before moving on to Thorncliffe Park. Then she joined the Scarborough Board teaching in G.P. Mackie, William G. Davis, Charlottetown, Churchill Heights, Poplar Road, and Elizabeth Simcoe. She spent most of her career in the primary grades, with a preference for Grade 2. And through all this, she enjoyed directing primary choirs!

She joined RTO as soon as she retired as she wanted to support a group that had the best interests of teachers at heart. She originally came to an Executive meeting out of curiosity, and soon after filled a space in Programme – and she's still there!

Judy-Anne keeps herself busy elsewhere as well – as the Membership Co-ordinator of her local community association, working on church activities, reading, going to theatre and musical events, travelling, and doing some occasional teaching. She especially enjoys family time and being with her 6-year-old grandson! She makes regular visits to Keene to visit her father and play Scrabble with her stepmother. And she looks after Rickard, her 10½ year old lab mix dog. She also appreciates all the help she gets from her husband David, who helps her with computer "issues", making name tags for RTO activities and accompanying her on her many RTO trips.

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.

FROM YOUR COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR



Welcome to our first issue with colour! We hope that you enjoy seeing events and activities in the way they were intended to be enjoyed... in colour. This is an experiment for this issue and judging by your reaction to it, we will decide if we will continue its use. And yes, the use of colour does add to the cost of the newsletter.

This makes three major changes in the look of our newsletter over these past two issues: the switch to white paper instead of our usual buff, a re-design of our programme pages, and the use of colour! Now we need feedback – please take a moment to contact either me, or a member of the Executive, and let us know what you think of the changes. We have broad shoulders – we can take constructive criticism. I have had a half-dozen e-mail responses to our use of white paper and all have been positive!



Every four years, Provincial RTO/ERO requires that Districts review their Constitution. This is our year. You'll find our Constitution on the green pages in the centre of this newsletter. Our Constitution must be ratified by you, the members. When you come to our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 22, we would ask that you bring the Constitution insert with you. At that time you will have the opportunity to vote on the changes that have been made to our Constitution – as well as your Executive for 2008-2009.

Our next issue of *Beyond the Blackboard* should be delivered to your home during the last week of June.

CONCERNING OUR E-MAIL UPDATE...



1. Our E-Mail updates are always sent out within 2-3 days of the beginning of the month.
2. When I send out your E-mail update, your name has been one of 30 in an address book. However,

some servers interpreted our December e-mail as spam since it was being sent out to more than 25 people. I have now re-organized the address books to contain no more than 24 names in the hope that would help with this problem. This seems to have made a difference as I've had no "spam" returns of our January or February updates!

Please make sure that any filters you have on your e-mail will allow our RTO e-mails to come through as I will not be sending these e-mails out individually!

If you have not received your e-mail update, contact me: hal@powergate.ca. Use Subject: RTO - E-Mail Update.

Messages without this heading will not be opened.

3. Your E-mail Update will not be re-sent if it bounces back to me because your in-box is full.

~ Hal McCullough

Communications Chair: Newsletter and Webmaster

MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO... BEYOND THE BLACKBOARD

Since the next issue of *Beyond the Blackboard* will be coming your way around the end of June 2008, why not:

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

Submissions may be sent in AppleWorks (.cwk), Word Perfect (.wpd), MSWord (.doc), or text (.txt). Please do not format. Or send it via Canada Post – handwritten or typed. My address is on page 11.

Send your submission to the editor: hal@powergate.ca

Use the subject: RTO - Newsletter submission

Submissions without this heading will not be opened!

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008



CALLING ALL BRIDGE PLAYERS

Look at the fun they're having... Come on out and join in! Participants have said: "great cards", "good laughs", "good people", "friendly bridge" and "good cookies"...

Contact the facilitators: Judy-Anne Tumber (*see page 11*) or Gord Reid (*see page 2*).



**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
DECEMBER 5, 2007**



~ photos by Hal McCullough



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

YOU SHOULD CONTACT DIANNE VEZEAU AT RTO/ERO:
IN WRITING: 18 SPADINA ROAD, TORONTO, ON M5R 2S7
BY PHONE: 416.962.9463 EXT 223 OR 1.800.361.9888 EXT 223
BY E-MAIL: dvezeau@rto-ero.org



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

RTO/ERO DISTRICT 24
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PORT PERRY, ON L9L 1K8



**PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT
No. 40881027**



The deadline for submissions for June's *Beyond the Blackboard* is Friday, May 16, 2008.

