

BEYOND THE BLACKBOARD



DISTRICT 24 – SCARBOROUGH AND EAST YORK



Volume 33 Number 3 Winter 2014/15

President's Message by Donna Hubel

Our Heroes - Past and Present

*Corporal Nathan Frank Cirillo
Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders*

*Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent
438 Tactical Helicopter Squadron*

*And the other Fallen Soldiers
Honoured on the Highway of Heroes*

*Sergeant-at-Arms Kevin Vickers
Canadian Veterans*

*Men and Women of our
Military, Police, Security & Fire
Services*

&

*First Responders to Victims
We Give Thanks and Remember*

NEW MEMBERS' BRUNCH



Man Of LaMancha In Stratford



DISTRICT 24 EXECUTIVE 2014-2015

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EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

All District 24 members are welcome to attend Executive Meetings. We will be meeting on these **Thursdays, January 8, 2015, March 5, 2015.**

Refreshments are from 9 to 9:30 with our meeting beginning at 9:30 AM and ending around 12 noon.

We meet at the **McCOWAN RETIREMENT RESIDENCE** on the south west corner of Eglinton and McCowan. Go south on McCowan and turn right on Landmark Blvd. Go straight across to the McCowan Retirement Residence, the 2nd red brick building on your right. Parking is available, in designated areas at the back of the building.

NOTE: Signing **IN** and **OUT** is a requirement of the residence.

RTO/ERO www.rto-ero.org

Since 1968, The Retired Teachers of Ontario/les enseignantes et enseignants retraités de l'Ontario — commonly referred to as RTO/ERO — has been a full-service voluntary organization, providing a strong voice for retired teachers, principals, vice-principals, education support staff and college and university faculty. RTO/ERO is the best organizational friend you can have... dedicated to the needs of Ontario's retirees in the educational field, promoting and protecting your interests, particularly in the area of pensions, health care and insurance. RTO/ERO has maintained this unwavering commitment for over 45years.



IN MEMORIAM

Robert J. Ballen
Mary H. Billinghamurst
Irene Bowie
Albert Clayton

Mildred A. Fortune
Shirley Frame
Margaret J. Graham
Margaret J. Hayes
Edith Komisar
Marv Lichtenfeld

Lorenzo Liscio
S. M. MacKenzie
Charles R. Mason
Lawrence A. Murphy
Patricia Normandeau
Margaret E. Shapiro
Stanley Taggart
David M. Thomas
Joseph James Watt

Breast Cancer Support Group Meeting

The meetings are held the last Wednesday of every month except December, at 7:30 pm at the McCowan Retirement Centre (formerly the Kingsway Arms) 2881 Eglinton Ave. East at McCowan Road in Scarborough. There is a bus stop at the corner of Eglinton and McCowan. Free parking is available on the south side of the building. For more information call Marilyn 416-284-9984 or Peggy 416-269-7525.

WOODWORKING ENTHUSIASTS

Victoria Park C.I. (Scarborough) has a full wood shop available from 9:30 to 12 noon on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There is cost of \$20.00 to cover the cost of insurance. For further information contact Terry Smith by telephone at 416-438-0430 or by email: chooch120@hotmail.com.

WELCOME TO DISTRICT 24

To all our new members, we offer you a warm welcome! Whether you are new retiree or have moved from another district, we hope that you enjoy District 24.

Margaret Abbot
Kathy Adamson
Catherine Baker
Peter Barrans
Brenda Berry
Linda Bleskie
Robert Bray
Michael E. Brown
Harry Brown
Helen Bullen
Patricia Cacao
Barbara Clifford
Maria Crocco
Teresa Csenge
Paul D. Cummings
Barbara Cutts
Ann da Mota
Deborah N.L. Davidson
Liliana Decuseara
Doreen Dickson
Axel P. Dudezki
Isabella Edgcumbe
R. Sarina Essner
Judith Fineberg
Mary Jane Flann
Sheila Flood
Elizabeth Fyfle
Sharon Galiffi
Sylvie Geller
Pratibha Gokhale
Nicole Haines
Susan Hall
Helen Hochberger
Jelena Holy
Fred Huggett

David Hull
Nancy Hutchings
Brian Johnston
Patricia Juhasz
Kathleen Katsuras
Maureen Kaukinen
Barbara Kenny
S. Lynn Kerrison
Brigitte Kolozsvary Bryan
Timothy Lee
Janice Leibovitch
Donna Lewis
Eleanor Lynch
Wayne Mann
Ann Marley
Anne Mason
Marianne Massey
Dale Maxwell
Sheila McCann
Catherine McCarthy
Sarah McKitrick
Theresa McNulty-James
Wendy F. Miller
Sandra Nandlal-Sheehan
Gordon Newman
Judy Newman
Judy Omelan
Martha Patterson
Sheila Patterson
Barbara Payne
Carolyn Pedersen
Jean Pinto
Mary Ellen Plimbett
Dianne Lynne Pollard
H. Elizabeth Prociw

Paula Rokitnicki-Wojcik
Frances Rose
Lynne Said
Irene Sakata
Yannis Sarris
Cheryl Sibley
Allison Smith
Sandra Steven
Brenda Stewart
Leonard H. Stidolph
Kimberly Stone
Susan Szobel
Barbara H. Taggart
Tricia Thomas
A. Rodney Thompson
Eva Thompson
Joan Treacy
Karen Volk
Garnet Ward
Paulette Weiss
Elizabeth Jane West
Omette Willis
Leigh Wilson
David Wright

SIGN UP FOR OUR ENEWS

It is roughly 4 months between newsletters. A lot can happen in that time. Keep informed! Keep yourself up-to date with what is happening in District 24! It is easy do. Just sign up to get our E-NEWS.

Would you like to contribute to E-NEWS? Share a line to let our readers know what you are doing? Maybe write an article that may be of interest to your retired colleagues? Provide us with pictures to share perhaps? We currently have over 700 members receiving our E-NEWS! If you have friends who have just retired or who taught in the legacy boards of Scarborough or East York that do not currently receive our E-NEWS, please encourage them to do so.

Remember, all retired educational workers may join RTO and receive our E-NEWS. All you have to do is send me your name and your email address, with a short line saying you would like our E-NEWS. That's all there is to do. It is really that simple. Contact Annemarie by email: amckee.rto@gmail.com

Health Seminar on Parkinson's Disease

Once again a very successful Health Seminar was enjoyed by our members. Naseem Jamal, from the Central and Northern District of the Parkinson Society Ontario, enlightened the audience with an informative presentation. She answered the question 'What is Parkinson's Disease?', and outlined many of the resources offered by the Parkinson Society of Ontario.

Parkinson's Disease is a chronic, progressive disease which involves chemical neurotransmitters in the brain. There is no known cure, but early diagnosis and treatment with medication can slow the progress of the disease and help to manage the symptoms so that the patient can enjoy an improved quality of life. In long time sufferers surgery may be beneficial.

The disease impacts everyone in a different manner. Possible changes that may be evident can be divided into motor and non-motor symptoms.

Motor symptoms:

- tremors in hand or leg when resting
- akinesia (slowness of movement)
- rigidity (muscles are in a state of contraction) which results in writing becoming smaller, speech becoming softer, and perhaps "freezing" (stopping in mid-action with changes in environment e.g. going from floor to the carpeted area)

- loss of automatic movement, such as swinging the arm when walking or a "poker face" with the loss of expressive facial movements.

- postural change, loss of balance or stooping (which occurs in more advanced stages)

Non Motor symptoms:

- sense of smell diminishes

- overall fatigue

- constipation (muscles of the gut slow down)

- sleep disturbances, restless leg, vivid dreams

- emotional changes, clinical depression, anxiety or panic attacks

- cognitive changes e.g. speed of processing slows, loss of memory

All these changes result in diminished quality of life. Management of both motor and non-motor symptoms may be achieved through medication, diet and daily exercise.

The Pillars of the Parkinson Society are support, education, advocacy and research. Through fund raising activities such as their annual "Hope in Bloom" campaign they are able to support leading edge research and provide educational resources and awareness opportunities in the communities. Through advocacy activities they hope to increase understanding of the disease, improve education, and develop public awareness that will benefit all Parkinson's Disease sufferers.

Joan Varley

GOODWILL CARDS and TELEPHONING

We are continuing with our annual campaign to contact all members of District 24 who retired on or before 1998. Cards have been sent out to members and others have been contacted by phone. We have received a positive response to our calls and hopefully they will be completed in a few weeks. Thanks to all our diligent volunteers. 246 Christmas cards will be mailed to RTO-District 24 seniors over 85.

If you wish to assist, contact Lynne Horvath by phone at 705-738-4557 or email at lynneh@i-zoom.net

Thank you,

Marilyn Hodge (Goodwill Cards) and Lynne Horvath (Goodwill Phoning)

HEALTH NEWS

For many of us it's the time of year that we may fulfill our warm weather winter holiday cravings, in some cases for an extended period of time. Here are the Out-of-Province Conditions for Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP). You may be out of the province for up to 212 days in any 12-month period and still maintain your Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) coverage provided that you continue to make Ontario your **primary** place of residence. To maintain continuous eligibility for OHIP coverage, you must be an eligible resident of Ontario. This means that you must

-be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or have a valid OHIP-eligible immigration document;

-be physically present in Ontario for 153 days in any 12-month period;

-make your primary place of residence in Ontario

In addition, if you have just established residency in Ontario, you must be physically present in Ontario for at least 153 days of the first 183. If you will be out of the province for more than 212 days in any 12-month period, contact ServiceOntario at 1-866-532-3161 or visit the **Ministry of Health and Long Term Care** website. You may also want to check with Johnson Inc. regarding your RTO/ERO Group Benefits Program coverage regarding new limitations on travel days in the USA.

Most Canadian citizens are welcome to visit the U.S. for up to six months (182 days) in a 12 month period. The number of allowable days doesn't necessarily reset on January 1 just because the calendar year changed. The time is based on an individual's travel dates and can continue from one calendar year to the next. Every day spent in the U.S. through the year – from shopping trips to travelling between destinations – counts. Owning as opposed to renting a vacation home doesn't increase the maximum number of days a Canadian may stay each year in the U.S.

For more specific information, you should contact the appropriate US Consular District listed at **canada.usembassy.gov/visas/consulates.html**.

At the annual RTO conference for District Health Reps which I attended in June, a Q&A session is provided to discuss aspects of our health plans.

Our new RTO members should know that RTO/ERO owns and manages our Group Benefits Program. We have hired Johnson Inc. to provide administration, claims payment and consulting services to our members. The Provincial Health Insurance Committee's (**HSIC**) most recent member survey indicates that 9.9 in 10 are satisfied with the RTO/ERO Group Benefits Program. The combination of these services provides a fully integrated approach for the provision of information to RTO/ERO members re the Extended Benefit Plan administered by Johnson Inc. as well as services from Allianz, the company facilitating our travel claims.

Q: For out-of-Canada claims that are paid out-of-pocket, is there any way for members to ensure that the proper information is on the invoices to allow for prompt processing by Allianz?

A: Participants are encouraged to call Allianz as soon as treatment is required, if they are able to do so. This allows Allianz to locate the participant and provide information to where a practitioner/doctor has a relationship with Allianz and who will bill them directly and/or provide the appropriate invoice. If Allianz was not called in advance, the invoice must have: name of practitioner/doctor, designation/registration number, date of service/treatment, total cost and itemized cost.

Q: Clarify when a "trip within a trip" is or is not covered.

A: A trip starts the day the participant leaves his province of residence. The participant can go from one destination to another and it will be considered the same trip. It is important to remember that in order to report a Trip Cancellation claim, the participant must still be in the province of residence and before the date of departure. The reason for the cancellation should be "sudden and unforeseen." Therefore, once the participant leaves the province of residence, he no longer qualifies for Cancellation Insurance as the policy stipulates. However, for "Sudden and Unforeseen" events that occur after leaving the province of residence and after the date of departure, Trip Interruption/Delay and Emergency Medical Coverage will apply as long as it occurs within their 93 days and/or Supplemental Travel plan. Please contact Johnson Plan Benefits Service with your specific questions/ concerns.

Q: Clarification re any pre - existing condition (NEW!) that is stable for 90 days prior to travel.

A: As every participant's pre-existing condition will differ from one participant to another, members are encouraged to call the Johnson Plan Benefits Service Department.

Q: Why do premiums keep increasing?

A: Premium increases are a combination of healthcare inflation and plan improvements. The HSIC works diligently to keep these increases low while still maintaining quality healthcare plans that meet the needs of RTO/ERO Health Plan members.

Q: What steps are being taken to ensure RTO/ERO does the best for its members?

A: RTO/ERO has several measures in place.

Our constitution and bylaws outline the purpose of our organization, the governance structure in place, and the mandates of the committees.

The HSIC has guiding principles to meet the needs of the majority of members.

Each member of the HSIC takes four courses with the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, and four days of customized continuing education.

RTO/ERO regularly surveys members and participants in our Group Benefits Program.

The HSIC contracts third-party market assessments of our Group Benefits Program, and regularly reviews the service agreements with our partners. The HSIC also contracts independent assessments of our partners.

Q: What effect did the contribution to the Foundation have on our reserves?

A: The following was excerpted from the Spring 2014 Senate reports:

At the fall 2013 Senate, a motion was made and passed that \$3 million be taken from interest earned on investments and gifted to the RTO/ERO Foundation. The Provincial Executive, following the Senate mandate, transferred these funds to the Charitable Foundation. Health Premium Stabilization Fund (HPSF)

Balance at January 1, 2013 \$80,614,320
2013 Net investment income \$6,438,285
2013 surplus receivable from Manulife \$5,285,268
Total HPSF as at December 31, 2013 \$92,337,873
The funds were transferred to the RTO/ERO Foundation proportionally from the HSPF as well as the RTO/ERO Reserve Fund.

Did you know?

Members may presently submit claims for Drugs, Dental work and a number of Paramedical claims directly through the provider. As of December 2014, members may go on-line to the Johnson Inc. members' site and submit claims on-line for all for items not indicated above. Since this will not involve snail mail, the turn-around time should be reduced when combined with direct-deposit.

In our summer issue of Beyond the Blackboard I mentioned health plan enhancements. The HSIC tells us that 'all requests are considered, no matter how large or small, or whether they come from individuals or groups'. One of their meetings involved discussions regarding the requests submitted for possible inclusion in the 2015 year.

These discussions always include both the short and long term effects of including the item requested as well as the possible effect on the Premiums required from the members. These extensive discussions are never easy and involve significant debate. Any possible changes in either the content or the premiums charged for coverage must be submitted to the OTPP by November since they must reprogram the pension information and inform the member of any changes. You should have received the publications 'Going Places' and 'Update' which outlined the changes to our plans effective Jan. 2015.

Caregiver Leaves to Help Families now in effect

People in Ontario can now take three new leaves of absence thanks to the Employment Standards Amendment Act (Leaves to Help Families), 2014, which came into effect on October 29/14. This legislation allows caregivers to focus their attention on what matters most - providing care to their loved ones - without fear of losing their jobs. October 31, 2014 Ministry of Labour.

At our last executive meeting I was informed by one of our Goodwill phone callers that not all of our members have a family doctor. The government agency **Health Care Connect** helps Ontarians who are *without a family health care provider* (family doctor or nurse practitioner) to find one. People without a family health care provider are referred to a family doctor or a nurse practitioner who is accepting new patients in their community. Keep in mind that Health Care Connect attempts to find a provider for you, but *priority is given to those with the most need for family health care*. You require a valid OHIP card. Their website is:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ms/healthcareconnect/public/>

Or you may register by phone: 1-888-218-9929 Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm. You'll speak to a representative who will ask a short series of questions. Make sure that you are not already enrolled with a family doctor. If you'd like to end your enrolment with the doctor you have now, contact them directly or call Service Ontario at 1-888-218-9929

Lastly, be sure to read Joan Varley's report of our fall Health Seminar on Parkinson's Disease. My thanks and appreciation are extended to her for her report and assisting me with setup, to Gloria Courtney who provided and set up all the AV equipment, and to Ann Ferron for thanking the speaker.
Marilyn Tregwin, Health Chair D24HR

WANTED - TWO VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS

(presently under the leadership of Les Coombs)

Membership

- Receive Monthly Change Reports from Provincial Office
- Communicate these Reports to District 24 Committee Chairs who require them
- On a monthly basis print and mail "Welcome Letters" and mail Newsletters to new members
- Attend Provincial workshops when presented
- Receive and store Newsletters received from the printer and provide same newsletters to various Executive members as needed
- Purchase Office Supplies and stamps for mailing Receive and maintain The District & Unit Membership List of Full Members and Associate Members for District 24 as forwarded from Provincial office
- Respond to phone calls and e-mails from members
- Report to the members at Executive Meetings and the Annual General Meeting

Recruitment :

- Investigate and recommend to the Executive, ways and means of increasing Provincial and District membership
- Communicate with Provincial Member Services Committee through the Committee liaison person
- Attend planning meetings of Toronto Districts' RPW Committee
- Attend and help in the presentation of Toronto Districts' Retirement Planning Workshops
- Report to our District Executive the details of the Toronto Districts' RPW meetings and workshops
- Organize the annual "Brunch" for new retirees
- Be in supply of the up to date RTO/ERO Enrolment Kit and order from Provincial Office when required
- Be constantly on the lookout for opportunities to share with potential new members the advantages of being a member of RTO/ERO
Contact Les Coombs - lesonriviera@gmail.com or any member of the executive if you are interested.

DOES THIS APPLY TO YOU?

Are you moving?

Is your address information incorrect?

YOU NEED TO CONTACT DIANNE VEZEAU AT RTO, IN WRITING:

18 SPADINA ROAD, TORONTO, ON M5R 2S7

BY PHONE: 416.962.9463 OR 1.800.361.9888 (EXT 223)

BY EMAIL: dvezeau@rto-ero.org

Our thanks go to those members who remember to update their information with us.

Retired Teachers of Ontario - District 24
Financial Statement as of November 6, 2014; Budget 2014

	Budget – 2014	Nov. 6, 2014	
Bank Balance		\$5,128.47	\$5,128.47
Investments			
GIC Face Value – Matures 17/12/15		\$5,131.72(GIC)	
GIC Face Value - Matures 16/01/17		\$4,000.00 (GIC)	
GIC Face Value – Matures 16/01/15		\$3,000.00 (GIC)	
Income			
Provincial Grant		\$37,200.00	\$37,624.39
Bank Interest			
Breakfast for kids-Golf Tournament		\$0.00	\$7,213.59
Interest Income (GIC)		\$0.00	\$52.00
Provincial Grant – STO		\$0.00	
GIC Redeemed		\$0.00	
Donations Received (Gold)		\$0.00	
Total Receipts		\$42,328.47	\$50,018.45
Expenses			
Disbursements- Administration			
Bank - GIC			\$3,000.00
Bank Charges		\$200.00	\$138.00
Executive Expenses		\$3,000.00	\$2,124.92
President’s Discretionary Fund		\$500.00	\$169.50
District A.G.M.		\$500.00	\$258.68
Office Expenses		\$400.00	\$421.73
Senate Meeting		\$3,000.00	\$2,005.80
Archives		\$50.00	0
Election Expenses (Provincial)		\$0.00	0
Member Services- Communications			
Goodwill, District 24(Cards)		\$1,200.00	\$706.92
Goodwill Phoning		\$200.00	\$258.77
Membership		\$1,000.00	\$570.10
Recruitment, District 24		\$2,000.00	\$1,603.18
Newsletter (mailing, printing, postage)		\$18,000.00	\$11,088.58
Toronto District (Levy)		\$800.00	\$794.70
Political Advocacy		\$100.00	0
Member Services- Programs			
Day Trips		\$1,000.00	\$445.28
Spring Luncheon		\$3,000.00	\$4,485.18
Fall Luncheon		\$500.00	-\$737.97
Christmas Luncheon		\$200.00	-\$9,120.00
Health Seminar		\$500.00	\$292.87
Bridge Club		\$500.00	\$407.46
District Awards /Gifts		\$500.00	\$208.38
Book Club			\$100.00
Service to Others			
Breakfast for Kids		\$0.00	\$8,225.00
Provincial Approved Project		\$0.00	
District 24 Projects		\$0.00	
Total Debits		\$37,150.00	\$27,457.74
Total Income		\$42,328.47	\$50,018.45
Current Bank Balance/Anticipated		\$5,178.47	\$22,560.71

Bonnie Clarke, Treasurer, RTO - District 24

RTO 24 Visits the 1000 Islands - September 11

Our group boarded the bus on a cool, windy day. We stopped at The Big Apple for coffee en route. We arrived for a dock-side lunch in Gananoque to find that our meal had been up-graded from chicken to roast beef. Those who preferred chicken still had it for lunch. Souvenir shopping was available before boarding.



Inside the boat, there was a screen showing the history from the area including underwater explorations of older wrecks from many Great Lake storms. Many of the islands were large and housed club houses for organizations. Many had a lone cottage with a dock and a boat, a beautiful site for a summer home. Some of the homes were palatial and Boldt Castle is probably the best known of these homes. It looked like something from Scotland that had been set down in the fresh water of Lake Ontario. We enjoyed our two and a half hour tour and decided that this was a cruise could be enjoyed by everyone. All in all, it was a great day.

Paula Chambers, Program Chair, Edited: (See Original on E-NEWS website.)

Wicked

This fall, Hallowe'en was highlighted by a performance of *Wicked* at Ed Mirvish Theatre on October 29. After our morning pick up at Kennedy Commons, at 10:30 a.m. we travelled to downtown Toronto to enjoy lunch at The Hothouse Café. Participants selected from the regular menu and paid individually. The surroundings were comfortable, the service attentive and the generous portions were delicious. We boarded our bus at 12:30 and headed up to the theatre for a 1:30 p.m. curtain call. Our driver, Bill, was very adept in getting us right to the theatre door. This was no mean feat with all the school groups also attending. Several participants with mobility issues were accommodated with front-of-the bus seating, the assistance of a step up to the bus and a motorized lift up to the main level seats, we were all on one level once we entered the theatre. And what seats they were! We had an excellent view of the entire stage and could readily pick out facial expressions of the actors. Ear phones were also available if people wanted them.



The plot of *Wicked* is based on the back story of what supposedly happened before the story of the Wizard of Oz took place. We are lead to believe that the story of the Wizard of Oz is told from the point of view of Glynda, the "Good" witch. We then see the story of the "Wicked Witch of the West" unfold and have our minds enlightened as to just what did happen. It turns out the so-called bad witch wasn't what we had been lead to believe. She was smart and brave and misunderstood because she was different. The characters of the Tim Man, Lion and Scarecrow were cleverly woven into the story along with the famous ruby slippers. All in all it was a very imaginative and entertaining event with strong performances by the cast. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

One last work about all those school groups - the students were marvelous. They gave way for participants with walkers, held doors to help and were very respectful. It was very encouraging.

Paula Chambers, Program Chair



RTO Bridge Club

District 24's Bridge Group resumed play in September, coincidentally on the first day of school, with many of the players ringing school bells (or any kind for that matter), to show respect for our fellow colleagues who are not yet so fortunate to be leading this sweet retired life. We are happy to be at Ellesmere Community Centre this year, a result of our numbers growing (past the fire code for the old room, as we kept pointing out to them!!). Acquaintances were re-newed, a few new players welcomed, we rang our bells and cards were dealt. We are missing our bridge buddy Wayne Carlson these past weeks; looking forward to having you back sometime soon, Wayne.



The following persons had lucky cards these past weeks. Oh yes, they are also very skilled at the game (or so they tell us).
Sept. 30 1. Joan Williams 2. Peggy Smith 3. Olive Foley 4. Carlton DeRyck

Oct. 7: 1. Carlton DeRyck 2. Mary Gerrmann 3.

Oct. 14: 1. Peggy Smith 2. Elizabeth Scarlett 3. Carlton DeRyck 4. Arlene Lindfield 5. Edna Mathews

Oct. 21: 1. Arlene Lindfield 2. Terry Smith 3. Marg Long 4. Dale Smith

Oct. 28: 1. Mary Gerrmann 2. Carlton DeRyck 3. Terry Smith 4. Edna Mathews

We are a friendly group, playing every Tuesday from 12:30-3:30 p.m. at 20 Canadian Road, in the community centre opposite Costco near Warden and Eglinton. New players with a working knowledge of the game are always welcome; phone Terry or Dale Smith, 416 438-0430 or Brian Dorward 416 291-1514 for more information, or just show up!! No partner is necessary as we rotate around after every 4 hands, providing a chance to meet and play with new people. If learning how to play bridge is on your list of things to do in retirement, we can provide the names of persons providing lessons, so you can join us in the near future!! We had a lovely Christmas buffet luncheon on Tuesday, December 16 at 11:30, feasting and playing cards after. We resume play on Tuesday, January 6. We appreciate that our RTO District sponsors this group; a number of the players have been coming for almost 10 years now, and enjoy our afternoons, playing cards and seeing friends.

District Awards Committee

Our District Awards Committee is seeking your support in recommending names of our RTO/ERO members who meet the following criteria to receive An Outstanding Community Service Award.

A submitted name must be: a member of District 24, an active volunteer during their career and continuing after retirement. Recommended names along with a description of such volunteer activities and length of time committed to them should accompany this submission - i.e. - a team leader for 15 years for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

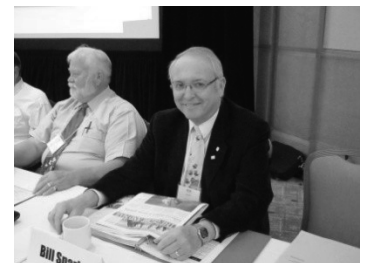
Please include your name and e-mail address so that the Awards Committee can contact you for clarification of your recommendation or more details about their volunteer experience.

All recommendations should be sent to the Chair of our District Awards Committee no later than March 29, 2015.

The selected recipients(s) will be invited to our District AGM and recognized with a certificate, a small token of appreciation and a photo opportunity for release to the media.

The Service to Other Award is sponsored by the RTO/ERO Provincial Executive. Our District Committee is responsible for reviewing all submissions and recommending a group that we can nominate and send to the Provincial Executive for consideration. If this application is successful, the group is eligible for a grant of up to \$4000.00. Details of this award and an application form are available on the RTO/ERO website at www.rto-ero.org. Click on Project STO for this information. Completed application forms must be submitted to District 24 Awards Committee by January 31, 2015.

Submissions are to be sent to Bill Sparks – wgasparks88@gmail.com



A New Change about our Future Trips

Travel Related Protocol:

RTO Districts received correspondence from a compliance officer of Travel Industry Council of Ontario that Districts cannot lawfully organize trips or tours without going through a TICO (Travel Industry Council of Ontario) certified agent. This applies to all trips, including one-day trips.

Background:

When RTO/ERO obtained liability insurance to cover district-sponsored travel, our processes had to be explained to the insurance broker and company, and they allowed us to purchase insurance under certain rules. These rules were developed in consultation with legal counsel and the auditors to protect RTO/ERO, its districts and its members from possible liability in the event that a local district or member was found negligent in a court of law in a case related to travel. RTO/ERO Districts must adhere to these new laws, the understanding with the insurers, and the rules that TICO and the Consumer Protection BC have in place for travel.

Upcoming Events, Paula Chambers - Important Changes to our Trip Planning

Current changes in legislation now make it necessary to write cheques directly to the travel agency organizing each outing.

Please read carefully

- 1) Make **Cheques Payable** to the indicated **travel agency** as list on the coupon.
- 2) **Send** your cheque and coupon to the **Trip co-ordinator**, whose information is included for each event.
- 3) The **Trip co-ordinator will send all cheques to the travel agency** involved before the event.
- 4) The cut-off date is now one month (30 days) before each event. Cancellations will only be possible before that date.
- 5) The travel agency will now be issuing individual receipts,
- 6) **You must check off the “Release of Contact Information” part of the coupon.**

If you have provided an email address on your coupon, this will then be provided to the travel agency and you will receive an e-mail receipt. This will keep our costs down.

If you do not have an e-mail address, the agency will still send a receipt to the mailing address provided on your stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Most trips will still be leaving from Kennedy Commons. Please park in the north-west corner near Michael's. If there is a different departure location, it will be indicated on the coupon.

The Last Resort – A Madcap Musical Whodunit St. Jacobs Country Playhouse – Thursday, April 23, 2015 **NEW DATE!!**

Departure: 8:30 a.m. Kennedy Commons

Cost: \$121.00

Lunch: D. H. Food (Formerly Benjamin's). Choose from the menu upon arrival.

Program: The Last Resort is where you want to be, especially if you have a secret. And everyone has something to hide in this madcap murder mystery—including a restaurateur on the run from the mob, a carpet salesman killing more than time, a poet seeking inspiration (and a shallow affair), and twins battling over daddy's will. The one-liners are fast and furious, and the laughter is melodious as these outrageous characters sing their way through a storyline full of murderous twists and turns. This outing will also include a visit to St. Jacobs Market in the morning before lunch.

Facilitator: Marilyn Tregwin – 41 Ravenscliff Cres., Toronto, ON M1T 1R7 Phone: 416-493-3757

Email: m.tregwin@rogers.com

Make cheque payable to **MARY MORTON TOURS. Send cheque and coupon to Marilyn Tregwin.** Coupon is on page 15.

Waiver: All in your party must have read, understood and signed the waiver on page 16. All attending must agree to provide contact information to Mary Morton Tours. They will be issuing receipts directly to participants as per new TICO regulations. Deadline: February 12, 2015. **Please use this date on your cheque.**

Sweets, Treats and Rural Delights - Lilac Festival in Cold Creek

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, May 26, 2015. More information to follow.

Programme: This outing starts with a stroll along a trail following Cold Creek. We will be led by Peter Brotherhood, a historian and retired teacher. Peter dresses in 19th century clothing and is a foundation of information which he humorously shares. When we are in the garden area we each are given a map of the location of the many different lilac plants so we can identify the various types.

Carousel

Stratford, Avon Theatre –Thursday, June 25, 2015 Departure:

Cost: \$152.00

Lunch: The Buffet lunch will be at Queen's Landing.

Program: Against the backdrop of a sun-drenched New England summer, a pair of star-crossed lovers, carnival barker Billy Bigelow and millworker Julie Jordan, discover the power of love to transcend turmoil and even time itself in a show graced by what is arguably Rodgers and Hammerstein's most luscious score.

Facilitator: Marilyn Tregwin – 41 Ravenscliff Cres., Toronto, ON M1T 1R7 Phone: 416-493-3757

Email: m.tregwin@rogers.com

Make cheque payable to **MARY MORTON TOURS**. Send cheque and coupon to Marilyn Tregwin.

Waiver: All in your party must have read, understood and signed the waiver on page 16. All attending must agree to provide contact information to Mary Morton Tours. They will be issuing receipts directly to participants as per new TICO regulations. Deadline: May 25, 2015. Please use this date on your cheque.

Planned Trips with firm dates for the Fall of 2015

Boat Cruise on the Grand River

Save the date for a Boat Cruise on the Grand River in Early September. More information to follow.
Cruise down the Grand River while dining leisurely on board.



Hamlet

Stratford, Festival Theatre – Wednesday, October 7,
2015 Depart: 8:30 a.m. Kennedy Commons.

Cost: \$168.00

Lunch: Lunch will be at The Waterlot Restaurant.

Program: Hamlet centres on the brooding Prince of Denmark, who is both mourning for his father and deeply disturbed by the speedy remarriage of his mother, Gertrude, to Claudius, her deceased husband's brother, whom Hamlet believes murdered his father. This performance is advertised as a highlight of the Stratford season.



The Pirates of Penzance

St. Jacobs Country Playhouse – Wednesday, October 14, 2015
Depart: 8:30 a.m. Kennedy Commons

Cost: \$122.00

Lunch: Lunch will be at D. H. Food. (Formerly Benjamin's).

Program: In honour of the 40th Anniversary of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Waterloo Region, join us for a laugh-filled songfest full of zany puns and good-natured fun. We will also be visiting the St. Jacob's Outlet Mall on this trip.



Coupon: The Last Resort

Thursday, April 23, 2015 NEW DATE!!

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque made payable to **Mary Morton Tours.**

Name: (Print) _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Spouse/Guest Name: (Print) _____

Would you like an e-mail confirmation: YES NO

If no, a stamped, self-addressed envelope is required for confirmation!

The travel agency will issue a receipt directly to you. Please check the space following to give permission to share your contact information. _____

I give permission to share contact information with the travel agency organizing this trip. I acknowledge that I have read and understood the RTO waiver on page 16.

Signature _____

Deadline: February 12, 2015. Please use this date on your cheque.

Send cheque and coupon to Marilyn Tregwin. 41 Ravenscliff Cres., Toronto, ON M1T 1R7

Phone: 416-493-3757 E-Mail: m.tregwin@rogers.com

Coupon: Sweet Charity

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque made payable to **Mary Morton Tours.**

Name: (Print) _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____ Spouse/Guest Name: (Print) _____

Would you like an e-mail confirmation: YES NO

If no, a stamped, self-addressed envelope is required for confirmation! The travel agency will issue a receipt directly to you.

Please check the space following to give permission to share your contact information. _____

I give permission to share contact information with the travel agency organizing this trip. I acknowledge that I have read and understood the RTO waiver on page 16.

Signature _____

Deadline: **April 6, 2015.** Please use this date on your cheque. Send cheque and coupon to **Paula Chambers**
6 Colinroy Street, Scarborough. ON M1C 5G6

Phone: 416-208-0202 E-Mail: paula.chambers@rogers.com

Coupon: Carousel

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque made payable to **Mary Morton Tours**.

Name: (Print) _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____ Spouse/Guest Name: (Print) _____

Would you like an e-mail confirmation: YES NO

If no, a stamped, self-addressed envelope is required for confirmation!

The travel agency will issue a receipt directly to you. Please check the space following to give permission to share your contact information. _____

I give permission to share contact information with the travel agency organizing this trip.

I acknowledge that I have read and understood the RTO waiver on page 16.

Signature _____

Deadline: May 25, 2015. Please use this date on your cheque.

Send cheque and coupon to Marilyn Tregwin – 41 Ravenscliff Cres., Toronto, ON M1T 1R7

Phone: 416-493-3757 E-Mail: m.tregwin@rogers.com

THE WAIVER

Acknowledgement, Waiver and Release... Provincial Executive, January 2010.

The participant in (the "Event") acknowledges and agrees that RTO/ERO, including District 24, will not be responsible for any loss, injury or damage of any nature, including death, howsoever arising in connection with this trip/excursion/event. Participants in the Event are therefore hereby advised to carry their own insurance in connection therewith. By signing the activity coupon and in consideration of the participant's attendance at the Event, the participant hereby releases and forever discharges RTO/ERO, District 24, and their respective directors, officers, members, agents, employees and volunteers (collectively, the "Releases") from any and all actions, causes of action, claims, and demands (collectively, the "Claims") from any loss, injury or damage of any nature, including death which has arisen or may arise from the participant's attendance at the Event, unless such loss, injury or damage has arisen as a result of the sole negligence of one or more of the Releases.

Any claims arising out of the participant's attendance at the event will be governed by the laws of Ontario, Canada, and the participant consents to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts in Ontario, Canada in any such action.

Fall Luncheon and Craft Sale.....2014

Another successful craft sale and luncheon was enjoyed by 150 guests, on October 23.

Many guests arrived early to attend the craft show, which, once again, indicated the ongoing skills and talent of the crafters. This is yet another sign, that educators are keen to

begin a “new creative era”, in their lives, after retirement.

I spoke with guests who had discovered that “great gift”, for friends and family....”something unique and just perfect”!

We are grateful to the crafters and others who donated door prizes for the event. I overheard guests who had received or purchased items from the vendors or won a prize, exclaiming to others at their table, how delighted they were with their purchase/prize. It is wonderful to hear the laughter and chatter and to see the smiles, as we spend time with colleagues and friends.

At Qssis, we were once again treated to a lovely room, a good meal, and quality service. We have already begun the work of organizing the AGM/Luncheon for May, which will be held at the same site.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of my Social Committee, without whom, I could not have done the work of organizing this event with such success. To Allison, Carmela, Carol, Donna, Elaine, Robin and Wendy, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for all you did to make this event special.

Last, but certainly, not least, I would like to extend my thanks to all of you who continue to support our luncheons. We hope that they are positive events, that you store in your memory bank, as we head into the winter.

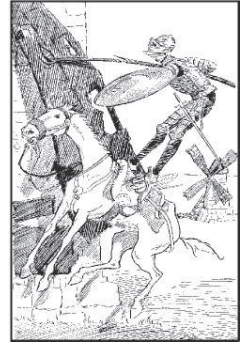
Have a wonderful Christmas and holiday season. Looking forward to seeing you in May.

Susan Watson



MAN OF LA MANCHA

On a crisp, overcast September 30th, twenty-six Scarborough “pilgrims” (members of RTO and friends) embarked on the “journey of a lifetime”—our Knights’ Quest for The Impossible Dream. Before we set out, we chose one of our own, Marilyn Tregwin, to be our capable leader. From the moment we entered the bus, we recognized that it would be a fabulous adventure. The excited chatter of the people, as they renewed acquaintances and anticipated the events of the day, was a clear harbinger of expectations for the experiences to come.



As we motored westward toward our destination, the Avon Theatre in Stratford, we witnessed Mother Nature painting the landscape from her palette of crimson, yellow, and gold. As well, the opportunity to witness the beautiful, rural countryside of Southwestern Ontario made the “pilgrims” even more eager to push on to pursue their eternal quest. On arrival at peaceful Stratford, time was set aside for nourishment and rest at the historic Queen’s Inn. Here, the innkeeper and his merry maids invited their Scarborough travelers to dine in The Queen Victoria Dining Room where tables were bedecked with festive linen and fine china. The bountiful victuals included roast beef and turkey freshly-basted from the spit, vegetables and salads, and tasty sweets to complete the hearty fare.

Time was available for a brisk stroll, browsing through shops, before curtain call. Outside the theatre, while crowds were gathering, a lone balladeer told a medieval story through song. Now, to the major reason for this excursion—to experience the majesty of the creativity of Miguel de Cervantes. Even at the opening line, we were transported back to our days in Grade 7. Among other great writers to whom we were introduced, there was a story in our Life and Literature, Book One reader entitled The Battle with the Windmills, a brief excerpt from Don Quixote de La Mancha by Cervantes. Rereading the story now, one realizes that the real magic behind this early exposure to a great master of story-telling was quite inadequate, and that we as 12-year-olds were not prepared in depth to understand its importance. However, the real significance is that this story, along with the creations by many other masters that were referenced in the readers of those days, was responsible for guiding us toward a wealth of learning to be gained from those who had gone before us. One can only hope that students of today are being exposed to the advantages that people of our generation had.

But . . . we digress. As our thoughts return to *Man of La Mancha* at Stratford, we reflect first upon the originality of the staging. Like a book exposing its secrets, the play opened with a huge windmill that began turning in the background with appropriate back-lighting that portrayed different moods and times of day. For the remainder of the time, the stage came alive with a flurry of activities demonstrating such imaginative scenes as a prison, a castle, a bawdy inn, and the stairway to an inquisition court.

For the most part, however, our focus was on the images that emanated from the fertile mind of Cervantes. What understanding this man had of the foibles of human nature! While stressing the goodness in the minds and actions of some people, especially of principal character Don Quixote (played with imagination and force by Tom Rooney), he never sugar-coated the evil side that is extant to a great deal in some individuals and, by extension, perhaps to a certain degree in all of us. Yes, there was Action! Sex! and Violence! in the performances; there was something to meet the “desires” of everyone. But it was not an X-rated performance. All the scenes were portrayed properly in context and with finesse.

It was the values, however, that Cervantes stressed in this masterpiece that stood out in our minds. Even the fair play that “prisoners” demonstrated as they permitted the newly-incarcerated Cervantes to state his case was perhaps unexpected, as was their trilling, Shakespearian-style, of the melodious *Little Bird, Little Bird*. But, to us, the crowning value was exemplified by the transformation, against all odds, that was brought about in the self-assessment of the kitchen-maid, Aldonza, who became the fair and admired Dulcinea (played with zest by Robin Hutton) in the agitated mind of Don Quixote. Though Dulcinea could not at first believe that Quixote had anything but an ulterior motive in mind when he praised her, and even though she was treated mercilessly by her peers as a result of her “exultation,” she finally was compelled to believe that the man was sincere in his commendation. The transformation from ugly duckling to elegant swan derived through the simple act of expressing kind words brought all of us to the realization that self-fulfilling prophecies are easily within our grasp.

When the moving rendition of the signature song, “The Impossible Dream,” was completed, the reverential feeling was evident in the slight delay of applause by the audience. Indeed, if only all of us in society would take to heart the message of *striving* toward the goal of “doing good and being kind to each other,” even though we never quite reach this impossible goal completely, what a wonderful world we would have. *Man of La Mancha* is a performance not to be missed. We all need to dream.

By Bud and Lorraine Dilling

From *Life and Literature, Book One*

'Breakfast for Kids' Golf Tournament – A Heartfelt “ THANK – YOU”



Gorgeous weather, ninety- three fun loving golfers and a group of industrious and creative volunteers, helped make the 2014 'Breakfast for Kids' Tournament another huge success. We had 21 generous sponsorships this year which helped the final sum a great deal.

Our District 24 Executive was well represented. Donna Hubel, Bonnie Clarke, Marilyn Hodge and Linda Jarvis joined us for lunch. Our District would also like to thank Matt Savage of the Mill Run Golf Club and their kitchen/serving staff for another satisfying meal and wonderful service.

Along with a cart 'goodie bag' and a choice of prizes from the prize table, each person was invited to participate in a draw and make bids at the Silent Auction. Individual and team awards were presented after lunch. Thank you for all your generosity.

Most Accurate Drive Ladies: - Diane Sheehan

Most Accurate Drive Men: - Dave Long

Closest to the Pin Ladies: - Hazel Quan

Closest to the Pin Men: - Ken Chong

Most Accurate Putter Ladies: - Cathy Wolch

Most Accurate Putter Men: - Ab Tapper

A huge THANK YOU to the following volunteers for contributing in so many different ways to help make the tournament the most successful in the last four years: Jerry Chadwick, Noreen Coombs, Inge Hermann, Phil Hindle, Yolanda and Bill Hindle, and Doris Maier.

Once all monies were counted and the bills paid, I am proud to share with you the fantastic news; we raised \$8,225.00. Thank you EVERYONE!

District 24 Executive members will be distributing the cheques to schools in late October or early November. Fiona Bowser, Student Nutrition Community Development Senior Manager-Food Share with the assistance of Lothar Maier, Convener, chose the sites and will also accompany the group for the cheque presentations.

This year the school/community sites are:

TDSB EAST YORK – **Parkside P.S.**, morning meal JK – Gr. 5 – for 127students

TDSB SCARBOROUGH – **Galloway Road P.S.**, morning meal JK–Gr. 8 – for 220 students

TDSB SCARBOROUGH – **Tam O'Shanter P.S.**, snack (this donation will help them move to a morning meal program) JK – Gr.6 for 200students

TCSB, SCARBOROUGH – **St. Dunstan C.S.**, morning meal JK –Gr. 8 -for 250 students

*** Please note that a morning meal is a 'three food group' meal and a snack is a two food group meal.



As you can see by the number of sites supported, all of you continue to be a difference maker in the lives of children!

As I step down from the Convener's position, I want to thank the District 24 Executive, the many members and friends who have helped me with the tournament throughout the past four years. Your encouragement and participation have continued to make this tournament a huge success. I wish Jerry Chadwick, Les Coombs and Brian Hern all the best as they start to organize the 2015 charity golf tournament.

I encourage and invite all of us to support the 18th Annual 'Breakfast for Kids' golf tournament on **Tuesday, September 15, 2015**. Please look for details in the Spring Issue of 'Beyond the Blackboard'.

Best wishes, Lothar Maier (2011-2014)



RTO District 24 Members are involved in many things.



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ARE YOU MOVING?? YOU NEED TO CONTACT DIANNE VEZEAU AT RTO/ERO .

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