



**RTO  
ERO**

**District 24  
Scarborough and East York**

# Beyond the Blackboard

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Bill Sparks, Award Recipient

Photo by Paula Chambers

## Editorial Disclaimer

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## Change of Address or Membership

**Paula Chambers, Editor in Chief**



Are you aware that our *E-News* electronic newsletter is available via email? In addition to our three magazine format hardcopy publications called *Beyond the Blackboard*, *E-News* is available during the months of January, March, April, May, September, November and December.

When you registered for your RTO membership, you may have selected not to receive email from RTO District 24. That means you will miss out on *E-News blasts* regarding upcoming trips and events and the coupons to attend. You can make sure you are receiving *E-News* by sending an email to:

[membership@rtoero.ca](mailto:membership@rtoero.ca)

and requesting that you receive email from RTO District 24. We do not send daily, weekly, or even monthly emails on other matters unless it is absolutely necessary. Don't miss out. **While you are writing to Membership, make sure that you provide your current email, address and phone number so that everything is up-to-date.**

## Beyond the Blackboard

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

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

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

**Deadline for submissions for the next edition of *Beyond the Blackboard* is December 7, 2022.**

Executive List 2022- 2023

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<b>BOOK CLUB B:</b>	June Bourdon		
<b>BOOK CLUB C:</b>	Danielle Desmarais Connie Macdonald Danielle Desmarais Susan Hall		
<b>MEMBERS at LARGE:</b>	Les Coombs <a href="mailto:lesonriviera@gmail.com">lesonriviera@gmail.com</a>		



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Annemarie McKee**

*"Grief is the price we pay for love." Queen Elizabeth II*



Although the past two years have been a challenge in so many ways, I have been fortunate to work with an excellent Executive Board. It has been my distinct honour and privilege to serve you all as District President for the past 2 years. As I continue into my third term I extend a warm welcome to the new members of District 24 Scarborough & East York RTOERO. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. It was great to see you all at the Welcome Breakfast on September 21, 2022.

Our Annual Meeting and Luncheon was another successful event coordinated by our Social Convener, Sue Watson, and her committee along with the help of the Executive. The Annual Meeting was well attended. Our Senior members over 90 were recognized. There was a lot of excitement and happy chatter, as colleagues met and caught up with each other. All the members of the Executive have been acclaimed for another year.

Covid is not behind us, but we are learning to live with it: following Covid protocol and precautions as recommended. Events have already started for this year, and I hope many of you will be able to make some if not all the events planned. Our monthly E-News will inform you of upcoming activities, many of which are resuming, and provide you with opportunities to connect with former colleagues and meet new friends. Our social events in District 24 continue to grow and be successful. Please join us at one of our monthly Coffee Chats at Calabria Bakery or take part in our trips to various venues.

Due to restrictions caused by COVID over the past three years, the financial report showed a larger than normal bank balance that will be used to benefit members by continuing with and supporting Executive initiatives.

## Membership Certificates

RTOERO District 24 had a membership total of 3,054 as of September 1, 2022. We have nine individuals who are over the age of 100 and two people in this group who are 109. We are proud of our growing membership and appreciate the ongoing support.



For the first time to my knowledge, we will be recognizing individuals who have been members of RTOERO District 24 for twenty-five years or more. We have one individual who has been a member for 49 years. Congratulations to all these members. During the summer, I signed 127 certificates for members who have reached membership milestones. We have 81 members who have reached 25 years; 14 who have reached 30 years; 29 who have reached 35 years; 2 who have reached 40 years; 1 who has reached 45 years and one who has reached 47 years!! Congratulations to each one for being such valued RTOERO members of our District and community.

Those members who reached a milestone and attended the Annual Meeting and Luncheon this year were presented with their certificates in person at the Annual Meeting luncheon. For those members unable to attend the luncheon the certificates will be mailed out.

## Open Position on District 24 Executive

### Community Grants / Service to Others Chair

Each year, the province promotes District participation in community projects. A \$4000.00 grant is available. The district chooses the project that it wants to promote. The purpose of any project is to raise the profile of retired teachers in the community. It is hoped that RTO members will participate in the chosen project. The chosen project can support local and/or educational and/ or community projects. See the document below for information on filling out the form.

[https://rtoero.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Instructions for Grant Application EN.pdf](https://rtoero.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Instructions_for_Grant_Application_EN.pdf)

The Chair will contact the chosen group to discuss their needs and discuss the ways that RTO members can assist in the project. It is important that the chosen group needs to know that the project MAY NOT receive the grant or MAY only receive a portion of the \$4000.00 that is available.

The Chair will work with the group to work through the application. The application is available, online, in November of each calendar year. To see the types of activities that have received grants go to the link below. If you are interested in arranging a grant for a needy organization, please contact me.

<https://rtoero.ca/giving-back/grants/>

## Governance

The District 24 Governance Committee met over Zoom to review and revise our District 24 Governance document (formerly the Constitution). The last Constitution was completed in 2017. The committee updated the language to reflect the new wording. It has been posted on the District 24 website. Thank you to the members of the Governance Committee: President Annemarie McKee, Past Presidents Paula Chambers, Gary Fick, and Bill Sparks.

## October is Social Isolation Month

Social isolation affects one in five Canadian seniors and another 30% are at risk. Social isolation can contribute to anxiety and depression, poor physical health, higher rates of disease and dementia, and even suicide. Did you know that Canadians over 65 have a higher suicide rate than any other age group? Our environment is getting safer, the vaccinations have added to our growing level of well-being and we are all being more careful than ever before. Perhaps now is the time for you to take the next step. Get together with former colleagues and reintegrate into life. Our many activities, such as our book club, would be an excellent opportunity to rejoin life in RTOERO. Take the time to read our wonderful newsletter.

You can participate in **Chime In** and connect with other RTOERO members for weekly online chats.

Please visit <https://rtoero.ca/rtoero-foundation/get-involved/chime-in/> to register.

*Annemarie*

## Knitters and Crafters

After a summer hiatus, the Knitters and Crafters group started up again on Monday, September 12 at the Agincourt Community Centre (Glen Watford Drive in Scarborough). We continue to make Twiddlemuffs and lap blankets for seniors with dementia at various Long Term Care homes in our community. We meet on the first Monday of the month from **10:00 a.m. to 12 noon** and welcome anyone interested in contributing their talents to our project. At this time we do not require any donated materials as there is quite a backlog accumulated during lockdown. Stay tuned if you wish to contribute anything in the future.



**Upcoming meeting dates:** October 3, November 7, December 5

For more information, contact Chris Elliot at [416-497-6192](tel:416-497-6192) or [chris.elliott99@hotmail.com](mailto:chris.elliott99@hotmail.com)

## Hava\*Java COFFEE SOCIALS

Our popular coffee socials will start up again at the Calabria Bakery (1772, Midland Ave., between Lawrence and Ellesmere) on the last Monday of most months from **9:30 to 11:30**. This is a "drop-in" event, so you can choose when you arrive and how long you stay. It is ideal for meeting old colleagues or making new friends. It is subsidized by RTO to the tune of \$5 which includes a regular coffee and a pastry. If you want to spend more, just pay the difference. Please be considerate and park at the rear or north side of the building to leave room for the bakery's other customers. **Please note the new hours.**



**Upcoming dates:** September 26, October 31, November 28, December (TBA)

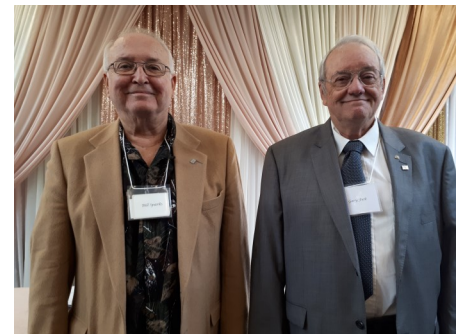
For more information, contact Chris Elliot at [416-497-6192](tel:416-497-6192) or [chris.elliott99@hotmail.com](mailto:chris.elliott99@hotmail.com)



## Distinguished Member Award 2022

The Distinguished Member Award was created by RTO District 24 to recognize members of the District for their leadership and exceptional work in furthering the goals of RTOERO at the district level. This year, at our Annual Meeting on September 8, 2022, we were happy to present the award to Bill Sparks for his achievements as our RTO District 24 Distinguished Member. Bill was nominated by his friend and

former RTO 24 President, Gary Fick. Congratulations, Bill, on your well-deserved recognition.





# SOCIAL COMMITTEE

## 2022 Annual Meeting

### Susan Watson

As you are all aware, we had to postpone the Annual Meeting and Luncheon until September 8, 2022, due to Covid-19! It has begun to feel like Covid has been stalking us for the past couple of years! Now, it seems, that many of us are risking to venture out a little further.

Luckily, we were able to gather together and to celebrate the gift of life and each other. We were particularly thrilled to welcome a good number of special guests who had celebrated their 90+ birthdays throughout the time we were in isolation.

A special welcome to all those who may have retired within the past couple of years. We are so pleased that you took the opportunity to join us for your first RTO 24 Annual Meeting and Luncheon.

I personally received a number of phone calls after the event from attendees expressing their enjoyment of the good food and lovely entertainment provided for us by The Estate Banquet Hall and singer/songwriter Anne Walker. Our thanks go out to them and to Allan Burt, our photographer!

Last, but not least, I need to express my ongoing gratitude to my wonderful Social Committee who have been there assisting in so many valuable ways to make this day a success!

My gratitude goes out to: Robin Bethke, Carmela Gaudet, Wendy Hooker, Carol Killoran, Eileen Murphy, and Anne Scollard.

There are always positions available which might just resonate with you and the special gifts that you have to offer! We continue to need new voices and ideas, to keep our RTO District 24 group thriving.

The Social Committee is a vibrant group of people who will welcome any talents that you may wish to share with us! Remember the saying, "Many hands make light work."

If you would like to be part of our team, please call Susan Watson at **416-698-3030** or email me at [siwatson006@gmail.com](mailto:siwatson006@gmail.com)

I look forward to seeing you at our next Annual Meeting or at one of the other District 24 events being held this year. Until then, may you remain healthy, safe and content.



## 2022 RTOERO District 24 Golf Social

### Gary Fick, Convenor

A group of 87 golfers assembled at Mill Run Golf and Country Club on Tuesday, September 8 to celebrate a return to social activities after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The weather was a concern, but the rains held off until after we were all finished. The assembled group enjoyed the opportunity to get together for golf and a luncheon.

The winners were:

### Top Teams

Male: Paul Addie, Paul Ambrose, Al Wolch, Tom Lazarou

Female: Sandra Miike, Cathy Wolch, Linda Sherlock, Stella Dasco

Mixed: Peter Smiley, Gloria Smiley, Gail Miles, Julie Foster

### Closest to the Pin

Male: Gordon Baker

Female: Nadine Moroz

### Most Accurate Drive / Closest to the Rope

Male: Rick Line

Female: Tracy Cunningham

### Best Putter

Male: David Senik and Paul Bennington tied

Female: Cathy Brown and Donna Weston tied

Congratulations!

It was my pleasure to serve as convener for this year. A package of procedures is available for anyone or a group to step forward to organize a 2023 Golf Social. If you or your group would be interested in stepping forward, please contact Annemarie McKee, District 24 President. [president24@districts.rtoero.ca](mailto:president24@districts.rtoero.ca)



## BRIDGE

### Terry and Dale Smith

This Fall, the District 24 Bridge Group resumed playing on September 6 at Ellesmere Community Centre, 20 Canadian Rd. We play on Tuesdays from **12:15 to 3:30 p.m.** Prior to our first meeting, the group decided, with a substantial majority, that we would continue with our mandatory mask policy.



We had eight tables the first day, and all were glad to see each other again. As is our tradition, those who brought bells rang them to celebrate the beginning of school, and that we were playing bridge. Sweet.

As well as our group who resumed in person play last spring, we had others from our original pre-Covid group rejoin us and it felt like old times. At this time, we are not serving coffee or cookies; people are welcome to bring their own drinks or snacks. Play costs \$1, and all offerings come out in weekly prizes. We are grateful to the District for providing us with cards, score cards, bidding boxes, etc.

For those who might like to join us, we have intermediate players, some advanced, and some with less experience but able to bid and follow play. You can come every Tuesday, or when you can. You can come with a partner or without. We rotate after every four hands, and unite with a new partner. We use bidding boxes, but it is not duplicate. If you have not used bidding boxes before, no worries, they are easy and help will be provided. We meet for friendly games and fellowship, while also trying to not talk about the bidding and hands during the play. Many of us have been coming for many years; great friendships have evolved or been re-united from our education careers. Best of all, our playing skills have improved.

If you wish more information, contact Terry Smith [chooch120@hotmail.com](mailto:chooch120@hotmail.com) or Dale Smith [dfsmith15@hotmail.com](mailto:dfsmith15@hotmail.com). If you would like suggestions for lessons so that you can join us in the future, get in touch.



## Scholarship Recipient in District 24, Geneva Mariotti

RTOERO believes in the power of our community to secure a better future and we're committed to helping secure better futures for students for each other, and for seniors in Canada. One of the ways we work towards achieving this goal is through our post secondary scholarship program. This year, Geneva Mariotti, nominated by her grandmother, Nona Mariotti, was awarded a \$3,000 post secondary scholarship in the field of Cognitive Science.

Geneva Mariotti began her studies at York University in the Bachelor of Science program in Specialised Honours Psychology, where she largely focused on experimental neuropsychology and cognitive neuroscience. She quickly became interested in participating in laboratory research in the lab of Dr. Joseph DeSouza who studied the neuropsychology of dance in Parkinson's Disease as well as vision. Geneva assisted in the analysis and writing of various neuroscience projects, including a project of her own investigating facial emotional recognition in Parkinson's Disease. During her 3rd year at York University, Geneva began working in the lab of Dr. Jennifer Ryan at the Rotman Research Institute, on projects using eye-tracking and MRI methods to understand various aspects of cognition such as memory and learning in older adult populations. As she enters her 4th and final year at York University, Geneva is beginning her thesis project in the lab of Dr. Dale Stevens, where she plans to investigate conceptual representations within the brain.

Following her 2023 graduation, Geneva hopes to begin a Masters and Ph.D. program in cognitive neuroscience, where she will study the cognitive neuroscience of ageing. She hopes to become a leading scientist in the field of ageing, and to give everyone equal opportunities to live long, happy, and healthy lives. We wish Geneva much success in her studies.

## GOODWILL

Our Goodwill Committee is usually a very busy committee. We have attempted to call or send "Thinking of You" cards to everyone 80 and over in District 24. Since we have over 3,000 members in District 24, it has been a challenging task.

Birthday cards continue to go out monthly to those senior members 85 and above and winter holiday cards go out in December. Social isolation is very prevalent with our older members, and we just want to keep in touch with those members to let them know they are not forgotten.

Volunteers are very important to help us keep in contact with our members during our annual telephone campaign and we are always looking for new volunteers to assist us with these calls. If you are available to volunteer for a few hours, once a year, I would love to hear from you. Please call me, Lynne Horvath, at 647-483-7377 or email me at: [lynne.horvath58@gmail.com](mailto:lynne.horvath58@gmail.com) .

N.B.: Lynne Horvath was recognized by RTOERO as an Outstanding Volunteer.



## SCAM ALERT!

Terry Smith, D 24 P&R Rep and co-Chair Political Advocacy



**Identity Theft:** Scammers are always on the lookout to collect or reproduce your personal information to commit fraud. Thieves can make purchases using your accounts, obtain passports, receive government benefits, apply for loans, and more. This could turn your life upside down. Fraudsters use techniques that range from unsophisticated to elaborate. Offline, they can go through trash bins or steal mail. Online, they can use spyware and viruses, as well as hacking and phishing, online usernames and passwords, driver's licence number, and passport number. They look for credit card information, bank account details, full name and signature, date of birth, social insurance number, full address, mother's maiden name etc. Ensure your identity remains yours alone!

### How Do I Protect Myself?

- Never provide your personal information over the phone, via text message, email or the internet.
- Avoid public computers or Wi-Fi hotspots, such as in coffee shops, to access or provide personal information; they put you at risk
- Create strong and unique passwords for each of your online accounts. Password-protect your devices and home Wi-Fi network.
- Use a secure and reputable payment service when buying online—look for a URL starting with “https” and a closed padlock symbol.
- Avoid giving out personal information on social media. It can be used along with your pictures to commit fraud.
- Always shield your PIN when using your card. If you hand it over to a cashier, never lose sight of it.
- Shred and destroy documents with personal information.
- Never provide personal information to unsolicited telephone calls.



# DISABILITY TAX CREDIT

Gary Fick



Canada Revenue  
Agency

Agence du revenu  
du Canada

Something which you may wish to investigate when you are preparing your income tax forms in April is the Disability Tax Credit Form T 2201.

When we see the term Disability it can trigger many feelings such as I am not disabled, I can do anything I want, I do not need welfare. First the purpose of this tax credit is to recognize that even though you are able to function, it might require you to spend additional funds in order to “do everything”. The tax credit will reduce the income tax you would normally pay for these additional expenses.

How does one find out if the tax credit applies to your situation? You can explore with your doctor the requirements for this credit and if your doctor believes you may qualify, the T2201 application form can be submitted to the CRA for consideration. The application may be found along with specific qualifiers from the following website: (Doctors will charge a fee for completing this application. This fee may be submitted as a medical expense when filing your income tax.)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/segments/tax-credits-deductions-persons-disabilities/information-medical-practitioners/eligibility-criteria-disability-tax-credit.html>

If you are approved for the tax credit and have been certified by your physician to have been afflicted for a long period of time, the CRA will reassess your tax returns for the past 10 years and refund partial taxes that you have paid. This can be a significant amount of tax-free cash to assist with extra expenses needed to make your life easier.

There are companies which will assist you with the process by doing a pre application interview and if they believe you should be eligible, they will work as your agent in dealing with your physician in completing the medical portion of the application as well as with the CRA in submitting the application. They work with you on a contingency basis. If you are approved and receive a refund, you must agree to pay them a portion of your refund. While the percentage may appear significant if CRA deems you to not to qualify, you pay nothing to the agency. If you are deemed to qualify by the CRA, going forward you may claim the Disability Tax Credit when filing your annual taxes and the company gets no additional fee.

I was skeptical when I heard of this but can assure you that, if you are eligible, a substantial refund can be received.

## HEALTH

Bonnie Clarke



### Changes in Our Health Insurance

I want to let you know about an important change to the process for submitting insurance claims and getting reimbursed. This change comes into effect [Jan. 1, 2023](#). Right now, the deadline to submit an insurance claim is the end of the **next** calendar year after the date in which you incurred the expense. For example, 2021 receipts can be submitted until [Dec. 31, 2022](#).

Most members submit their claims almost immediately. But some members wait until year-end before sending in their claims. This has a number of negative effects. It means a backlog of claims at certain times – which means slower service for all members. It also makes it harder to predict the total claims for a given year, since it's another year before we receive all of the claims.

Starting [Jan. 1, 2023](#), the RTOERO policy will require you to submit your claims within **six months** from the date the expense was incurred. For example, if you had a massage on [Jan. 7, 2023](#), you have until [July 6, 2023](#) to submit your claim. Or, if you had a dentist appointment on March 1, you have until Aug.31. Expenses incurred on and before [Dec. 31, 2022](#) must be received by [June 30, 2023](#). For items such as eyeglasses or orthotics, the incurred date is the date the item was paid in full. For services such as massage or physiotherapy, the incurred date is the date the service was rendered.

RTOERO continues to offer many convenient ways to submit your claims. It is most convenient to use the claims portal to submit online. Have your claims submitted directly by your pharmacist and dentist. Some paramedical providers and opticians also offer the option to submit your claim directly. We also continue to accept claims by mail.

On May 1, we improved our service to members again! The travel portion of the Extended Health Care Plan now covers you for trip cancellation, interruption or delay benefits if you or your travelling companion have a positive test result, become ill or die due to contracting COVID-19.

[insurance@rtoero.ca](mailto:insurance@rtoero.ca)  
[1-800-361-9888](tel:1-800-361-9888) / [416-962-9463](tel:416-962-9463)

## POLITICAL ADVOCACY

**Betty Lou Reynolds, Co-Chair**

RTOERO advocates on these three key issues:

- Seniors Strategy
- Geriatric Health
- Environmental Stewardship



RTOERO District 24 chose to focus on the issue of Geriatric Health.

Access to quality health care in institutional settings such as hospitals and long-term care facilities as well as home care are important issues for our members.

We continue to advocate with our local politicians on these issues of concern.

Please keep this in mind while communicating with your local politicians in the upcoming municipal election.

### **Key dates for 2022**

Municipal Council and school board elections will take place on Monday, October 24, 2022.

### **For voters**

The voters' list will be prepared on September 1, 2022. If you want to add, remove, or change your listed information on or after September 1, you must contact your Municipal Clerk. [www.toronto.ca](http://www.toronto.ca)

### **Joint Letter to the Government of Ontario**

On August 30, 2022, RTOERO joined Alzheimer Society Ontario, International Federation on Ageing, CanAge, Fédération des Aînés et des Retraités Francophones de l'Ontario, International Longevity Centre Canada, and Save Your Skin Foundation to express grave concerns about the government's intentions to accelerate the passing of Bill 7. This Bill is intended to remove senior patients from hospital beds and place them in long-term care homes not of their choosing. In some instances, this could mean separating patients from family by hundreds of kilometres.

To read the letter in full, please click on the link in the next E-News Electronic Newsletter. The full letter was not available for publication as of this printing.



# WEBMASTER

Annemarie McKee



About Giving Back Insurance News Events Classifieds Membership [Join](#)



As the webmaster, I have been working to update our new website. <https://district24.rtoero.ca>. The web page was launched Monday, August 1, 2022. The platform has been changed from Drupal to WordPress. It is set up to use keywords for searching with Google. There is a change in people's usage, so the page renders better on phones, pads, and sites. There are many more features such as Facebook right on the desktop, Classified ads, and pay online.

Some of the information on our new website is auto-populated by data held by Head Office such as contact information for Executive Committee members. This allows our website to be as up-to-date as possible. By clicking on the tabs at the top, you can easily access the most current "News", "Events" and "Giving Back" items. In addition, there are several helpful links to other topics you may find interesting and informative.

**Explore our new website and bookmark it!**

<https://district24.rtoero.ca>

- **Front Page:** Scroll down to see our latest Posts: News, Events, Facebook, Classifieds.
- **About:** Origins, Historical documents, contact list (some executives, some volunteers).
- **Giving Back:** See how RTOERO and District 24 support communities.
- **Insurance:** RTOERO site: complete Insurance information.
- **News:** Access additional Posts: District 24 Executive, Archives, Activities, Newsletter, and more.

# RTO 24 New Website Features

## Events: Similar to News but with additional related posts



### Annual Meeting and Luncheon

2022 Annual Meeting and Luncheon The District 24 Annual Meeting and Luncheon, will be held on Thursday, September 8, 2022, at The Estate Banquet [...]



### E-News Summer 2022

E-News Summer 2022 The Summer issue includes the following updates: Hava\*Java Annual Meeting & Luncheon New Retirees Brunch Travelogue Book Club A



### Toronto Districts

The four RTOERO Districts in Toronto have the legacy names of Metropolitan Toronto prior to amalgamation in 1997. Our four districts serve all education employees [...]

News Scholarships



### 2022 Scholarship Recipient

News



### President's Message

Event News



### New Retirees Brunch

Event News



### New Retirees Brunch

To our 'New' District 24 Retired Members from the past 3 years "We missed you!" Covid compelled us to suspend our Annual Fall Welcome Event [...]

Event News



### Hava Java

Hava\*Java Our popular coffee social, Hava Java, is returning in September! Discussions with our usual location, Calabria Bakery (1772 Midland Ave.), have been completed and [...]

Event News



### Bridge Club

During 2021 to April 2022 some of the bridge players from the district Bridge group played a marathon type rotation on BBO, set up by [...]

**Classifieds:** a list of ads for assorted travel; paid and volunteer jobs; services; reunions, rentals, sales, etc. option for you to place your ad (submissions subject to approval).

**Resources:** RTOERO site: practical, time-savings tips, relevant news, members' stories, and more to help you plan for retirement, stay healthy, and enjoy your retirement.

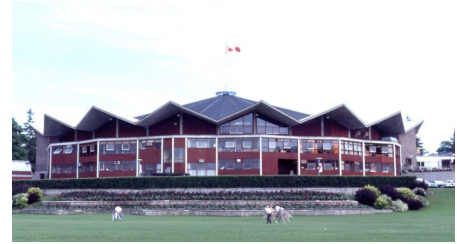
**Membership:** RTOERO site: already retired, close to retirement, or years away, there's a place for you

## RTOERO District 24, 2022 TRIPS

**Marilyn Tregwin**

### ***Our Theatre Trip to Stratford, Ontario by Ron Foster***

On Wednesday, June 8, 2022 a group of eager RTO 24 members joined in an almost surreal experience – that of travelling once again to the Stratford Festival to enjoy a performance of the Broadway hit show, “*Chicago*”. (The last two plus years since the previous RTO excursion were filled with anticipation of just such a trip.) We boarded our comfortable coach at Kennedy Commons and, after a journey across the city, we were spirited away to Stratford, courtesy of the capable staff of Mary Morton Tours.



We enjoyed a delicious served meal at the Queen’s Inn, after which we were taken to the Festival Theatre for the performance. The Stratford Festival has gone all out this year to impress its patrons with a dazzling display of horticultural delights. The formal gardens have never looked better!

The production of *Chicago* has been carefully directed and choreographed by the talented Donna Feore. Ms. Feore stated in her forward that, “If you sat down today to write a musical that might speak directly to our time, a time of image manipulation, open corruption, and the abuse of truth, you would probably come up with *Chicago*.”

The show is filled with the jazz, sex, and booze for which the era of the Roaring Twenties is justly famous. The vaudeville tradition of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century came alive as the capable cast of actors, singers, and dancers gave their best on Stratford’s famous thrust stage. Ms. Feore had the opportunity to reimagine “*Chicago*” to fit the Festival’s unique stage. She was able to emphasize the various talents of the dancers to make a real impact on the appreciative audience. Their timing was impeccable and convincing. The design of the Stratford stage and the “theatre-in-the-round” design draws one into the production as an immersive experience. The actors and dancers are literally “in your face” because the stage is so close to much of the audience.

Of course, audience favourites such as “All That Jazz” and “Razzle Dazzle” were performed with panache and vigour. As an audience member, I was particularly attracted to the song, “Mister Cellophane” performed by Steve Ross (in the role of the hapless Amos Hart). His sincerity is unrivalled.

On our way back to Toronto, we shopped at the Shakespeare Pies shop in the town of Shakespeare (a unique experience, given the preceding two years of isolation). Many delicious treats were taken home by the RTO members present.

We were whisked home in comfort via Highway 407, sparing us from the congestion prevalent on the 401.

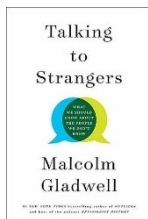

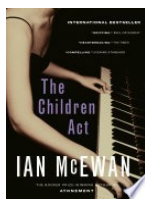
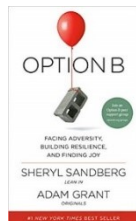

## NEWS & READS FOR 2022 - 2023

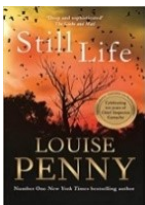
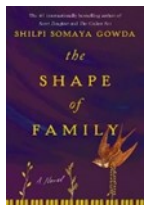
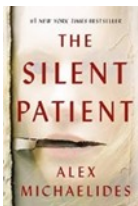
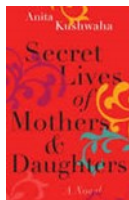
### Book Club B

#### Danielle Desmarais– book club convenor

The RTOERO District 24 Book Clubs B and C are finally able to resume their in-person monthly book discussions.

Book Club B members meet on the first Thursday of the month at the Ellesmere Community Centre located at 20 Canadian Road (by Costco) starting in October from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Complementary coffee provided by RTO 24 is available at 1:15 p.m. The first meeting is scheduled for October 6 to discuss *Talking to Strangers* by Malcolm Gladwell.

<p><i>Talking to Strangers</i> by Malcolm Gladwell (2019)</p> <p>October 6, 2022</p> 	<p><i>Olive Kitteridge</i> by Elizabeth Strout (2008)</p> <p>November 3, 2022</p> 	<p><i>The Children Act</i> By Ian McEwan (2014)</p> <p>December 1, 2022</p> 	<p><i>Option B; Facing Adversity, Building..</i> by Sheryl Sandberg (2017)</p> <p>January 5, 2023</p> 	<p><i>From the Ashes: My Story....</i> by Jesse Thistle (2019)</p> <p>February 2, 2023</p> 
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<p><i>Still Life</i> by Louise Penny (2011)</p> <p>March 2, 2023</p> 	<p><i>The Shape of Family</i> by Shilpi Somaya Gowda (2019)</p> <p>April 6, 2023</p> 	<p><i>The Silent Patient</i> by Alex Michaelides (2019)</p> <p>May 4, 2023</p> 	<p><i>Secret Lives of Mothers and Daughters</i> by Anita Kushwaha (2020)</p> <p>June 1, 2023</p> 
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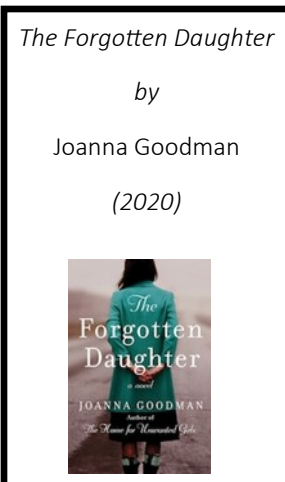
## Book Club C

### Danielle Desmarais & Susan Hall – book club convenors

Book Club C members meet the last Thursday of the month at the Ellesmere Community Centre located at 20 Canadian Road (by Costco) starting on October 20 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Before the pandemic, we were unable to complete our book selection, five books were selected and the list will be complete hopefully by November. Complementary coffee, provided by RTO 24, is available at 1:15 p.m. We have spaces available in Book Club C for new members. The first meeting is scheduled for October 20 to discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens.

If interested, please contact Danielle Desmarais by email at: [danielledesmarais58@gmail.com](mailto:danielledesmarais58@gmail.com) for more information.

<p><i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i> by Delia Owens (2018)</p> <p>October 20, 2022</p> 	<p><i>Homegoing</i> by Yaa Gyasi (2016)</p> <p>November 17, 2022</p> 	<p><i>The End of The Day</i> by Bill Clegg (2020)</p> <p>December 15, 2022</p> 	<p><i>Five Little Indians</i> by Michelle Good (2020)</p> <p>January 19, 2023</p> 	<p>February 16, 2023</p> <p><b>TBA</b></p>
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### Mark your calendars.

#### Meeting Dates:

**April 2, 2023**

**May 18, 2023**

**June 15, 2023**

## Book Club A

### Gloria Courtney

We have been welcomed back to the Agincourt Community Centre after our absence since January 2019. Our members were keen to meet in person and we were excited to attend our first in-person meeting in a long while. Covid-19 safety protocols were followed to ensure our safety. Our list of books for the coming season is:

October 26, 2022	<b><i>The Rose Code</i></b> by Kate Quinn
November 30, 2022	<b><i>One Step Too Far</i></b> by Lisa Gardner
December, 2022	<b>No Meeting</b>
January 25, 2023	<b><i>The Personal Librarian</i></b> by Marie Benedict
February 22, 2023	<b><i>Beartown</i></b> by Fredrik Backman
March 29, 2023	<b><i>All the Frequent Troubles of Our Days</i></b> by Rebecca Doner
April 26, 2023	<b><i>The Lincoln Highway</i></b> by Amor Towles
May 31, 2023	<b><i>Five Little Indians</i></b> by Michelle Good
June 28, 2023	<b><i>The Midnight Library</i></b> by Matt Haig



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

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

Teresa Scenge, Jean Dennis, John Jamieson, Lorna Lamb, Charles Neville, Dorothy Rathbone, Suddhavanthy Edwards, Mary Irene Black, Muriel Brown, Inge Bundesmann, Heather DeGraaf, Albina Dombrowsky, Carman Woodman, Dolly Beeransingh, Brian Bettens, David Graham, Robert Humphrey, Donalda Knox, Nellie Millette, Sheila O'Sullivan, Lois Stewart

## Volunteer Opportunity

**Nanny Angel Network** is a not-for-profit organization that provides specialized child-care through psychosocial support to families impacted by a parent’s cancer diagnosis. Imagine a world where a child does not have to go through a parent’s illness alone but instead has an angel by their side – a Nanny Angel! We currently have many families within your community who are waiting to receive respite and support.

Many of our skilled volunteers come to us as retired teachers and I would hope we could offer our opportunities to RTO District 24. I’d love to connect and can be reached at the information within my signature.

Warm regards,

*Alanna Amarion*

Manager of Volunteer Experience

### **Nanny Angel Network**

1000 Sheppard Avenue West, Suite 100  
Toronto, Ontario M3H 2T6

**Phone:** 416-730-0025 Ext: 6 |

**Email:** [alanna@nannyangelnetwork.com](mailto:alanna@nannyangelnetwork.com)

**Website:** [www.nannyangelnetwork.com](http://www.nannyangelnetwork.com)



## RTOERO Learning Management System



Gary Fick would like to forward information about a Learning Management System that has been created and can be found on the RTOERO website.

[www.rtoero.ca](http://www.rtoero.ca)

It consists of many pages. Gary directs us to go to the Membership section on the site map where there is a drop-down with four main topics to browse through. They cover **Governance, Volunteers, Technology and Webinars**.



**RTO  
ERO**

**District 24  
Scarborough  
and  
East York**

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

Margaret Jamieson, Sharon Shipton, Clara Langan, Ivor Corbett, Benedicto Muere, Bruce Sparks, Thomas Babits, Kuvear Balbahadur, Matthew Brook, Cathy Chant, Fernando Clotildes, Nicholas English, Paul Farrell, Tom Haralmpidis, David Henry, Vienna Hylton, Kii Karailiadis, Maureen Kelly, David Kondziolka, Sean Lekey, Patriia Legh-Jones, Gillian MacCausland, Sofia Makris, Susan Marie Martin, Diane MCarvell, Sidney McKay, Athena Menelao, Karen Mills, Edwin Miranda, Sandra Neal, Janet O'Neill, Prem Pape, Joan Power, Peter Raymond, Rameena Reaud, Hans Remisch, Anne Richardson, Juliet Riding, Nan Ssawfyer-Hazell, Maria Scarano, Shari Schwartz, Kelly Sherrard, Kent Sherrard, Christine Schmanka, Rajaindra Singh, Ingril Smith, Tara Stephen, Catherine Sullivan, Paul Sullivan, Wendi Woodall, Wendy Yamamoto, Judith Zoltai, Shelagh Humphrey, Queeny Chan, Lisa Finlayson, Olyn Alphonso, Denis Lopes, Sofia Makris, Mark Paddison, Beverley Parsons