



DISTRICT 24

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

“Where
old and new
friends
meet”

Scarborough/East York

June 2003

RTO/ERO

The Retired Teachers of Ontario /les enseignantes et enseignants retraités de l'Ontario - commonly referred to as RTO/ERO is a provincial organization of retired teachers, administrators and others receiving pensions and allowances under the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board. RTO/ERO is the best organizational friend a retired teacher can have. Formed in 1968, RTO/ERO is dedicated to the needs of Ontario's retired educators and is their official voice, promoting and protecting their interests, particularly in the area of pensions, health-care and insurance. RTO/ERO has maintained this unwavering commitment for over 30 years.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone,

After one cold winter, both here and in Florida, we can finally look forward to some warm, walk-about golfing and gardening weather, or just relaxing in the sunshine.

This past year has been one of many challenges and changes for RTO/ERO. As stated in our last newsletter, District 24 Executive has joined forces with three other districts to form a Joint Executive Council. It's primary purpose is to share talents, ideas and money and to coordinate efforts put forth for our collective membership. Since Recruitment of new members is the major focus this year, posters, brochures, CD's etc were designed and printed, some of which were sent to all schools in our areas. As well, the four presidents and membership chairs of the Recruitment Committees met in March to brainstorm ideas for enhancing membership as well as to review the availability of materials that can be distributed to District-

sponsored events. Look for representation of RTO/ERO members at Teacher Retirement events also. Handouts and promotional material will be available.

The concept of developing a joint website for the four RTO/ERO Toronto Districts is also being considered. Each District could provide both the location and distribution of information for it's own members. More dialogue is required since the setup and on-going maintenance of the website are important elements upon which a decision must be based. More information will follow once a decision is made.

Politically, RTO/ERO is becoming more involved in anticipation of the next provincial election. Thousands of posters were printed by Provincial Office and distributed to the districts to encourage members to get out and vote. They will be forwarded to all schools, libraries, senior citizen homes, etc. when the next election is called.



Your participation at the polls is more important than ever, given that issues like health care, education, long-term care, energy, and the environment are heavily dependent upon our vote. It looks like a fall election is in the air, followed by a municipal, and maybe a federal election. So, perhaps we will get a lot of mileage from the posters.

Don't forget to sign up for the Annual Golf Tournament to be held September 16th, at Mill Run Golf Course. You are guaranteed lots of good fun, food and prizes, and remember, no cheating allowed

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1st Vice-Pres.	Position open	
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Secretary	Gord Reid	416-282-3714
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Political Action	Allan Mawson	416-265-5433
Program	Judy-Anne Tumber jatumber@rogers.com	416-264-6016
Program Newsletter	Hal McCullough hal@powergate.ca	905-985-8760
Service to Others	Eileen Higgins	416-493-8120
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Bernie Chalmers		905-474-1382
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Joanne Draper		unlisted
Ken Drope		416-485-9538
Anne Ellis		416-261-5190
Pat Evenson		905-889-1353
Donna Hubel		416-490-1861
Margaret Nicolson		416-759-5560
Akitsugu Obukuro		416-755-8665
Ken Turton		905-666-8878

SALUTING OUR WORKERS

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MODELS OF SERVICE TO OTHERS

The District 24 executive of RTO/ERO is a group of hardworking people volunteering numerous hours on your behalf. In addition to the five meetings a year where we gather to make decisions, many members contribute countless hours attending meetings, planning events, answering questions from the membership, recruiting new members, attending public forums to represent RTO/ERO, attending Senate, fundraising for charity, writing articles and publishing written communication for our members. Their return on this valuable investment of time is the satisfaction they glean from working with others and knowing that their work is important to the retired educators and the families of RTO/ERO District 24.

In this and subsequent issues, we will salute a few members of the executive. You may recognize them as former colleagues and acquaintances, and if by chance your paths cross again, it would be a fine gesture to applaud their efforts on your behalf. They model the RTO/ERO motto of service to others.

-K.T.

SALUTE GLORIA KONDZIOLKA

Since joining RTO/ERO three years ago, Gloria Kondziolka has moved quickly through the District 24 executive ranks beginning with 2nd vice President and moving soon after to fill a vacancy as first vice president and President. Since she retired in 1996, she has spent time volunteering and tutoring



at Covenant House, a shelter for homeless youth in Toronto as well as work with the Out of the Cold Program.

Gloria became involved in RTO/ERO after attending an executive meeting where she was encouraged by the work of so many dedicated people. She hopes to encourage other new retirees to become actively involved in the running and organization of District 24. She points to the accumulated years of valued experience of the people on the executive, and encourages new retirees to come out and add their experience and expertise to a well-organized and vital organization. Gloria is impressed with the Service to others aspects of RTO/ERO which remind her of one of her favourite quotes "The people who make a difference in life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money or the most awards; they are the ones who care."

When not hard at work on behalf of District 24, Gloria loves having time to enjoy golf and bridge and most of all, to spend quality time with her grandchildren.

SALUTE ELLEN MCCORMICK

As one of the Executive's more experienced members, Ellen McCormick has held positions of Vice President, President, Past President and has settled comfortably into Membership and Recruitment. Ellen retired in 1989, enrolling in RTO/ERO and joining District 24 almost immediately.



Ellen's role as Chair of the Membership Committee carries heavy responsibility. This committee's biggest responsibility is the recruitment of new members; especially the invitation to newly retired teachers to join the ranks of RTO/ERO. She attends recruitment workshops that involve chairs from all four Toronto Districts of RTO/ERO. For three years, she has organized an information booth at Reading for the Love of It to communicate to active teachers the benefits of joining RTO/ERO upon retirement. She works tirelessly on membership lists, and is in constant contact with the provincial office of RTO/ERO, updating and adding to the address lists of our members. She sits on committees to plan recruitment activities; the most recent of which is the upcoming champagne breakfast for new retirees in Scarborough and East York.

Commenting on her present role in RTO/ERO and her career as an educator, Ellen values the people she has had the opportunity to work with in both roles. She considers herself fortunate both for her rewarding teaching career and her years spent since in her work with RTO/ERO.

When not working for RTO/ERO, Ellen's favourite pastime is her passion for genealogy.

SALUTE GORD REID

Gord Reid retired in 1986 and enrolled in RTO/ERO immediately. He joined District 24 Executive in 1991 and has held the position of Secretary since that time. Gord faithfully attends and records all executive District meetings, mailing copies of minutes to members prior to the next meeting.

When not volunteering time to RTO/ERO, Gord and his family enjoy travelling. He also has a keen interest in baseball, bridge and curling.

Gord reflects on how education has changed. He perceives himself as fortunate to have retired when he did, and he expresses empathy for the teachers of today in light of the challenges they face. He also expresses gratitude for and stresses the importance of the RTO/ERO Benefits Plan that offers Gord and his family a sense of underlying security both at home and when travelling. He sites one incident where medical bills occurred in the U.S. which would have seriously set his family back financially, had it not been for the Benefits Plan.



MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS



Enjoying a lighter moment, from left to right: Bob Cook, Ken Drope, Eileen Higgins



Decisions, decisions...L to R: Robert Lamb, Allan Mawson, Bernie Chalmers, Akitsugu Obukuro



*Taking care of business...
L to R: Hal McCullough, Helen McCormick, Elaine Aprile*

On the Lighter Side

"Thinking For Yourself"

The businessman dragged himself home and barely made it to his chair before he dropped exhausted. His sympathetic wife was right there with a tall cool drink and a comforting word.

"My, you look tired," she said. "You must have had a hard day today. What happened to make you so exhausted?"

"It was terrible," her husband said. "The computer broke down and all of us had to do our own thinking."

MEMBERSHIP and RECRUITMENT 2003

Recently, Elaine Aprile and I attended a Toronto Districts recruitment meeting with representatives from Etobicoke/York, Toronto and North York, where we discussed the latest recruitment strategies to be put into effect this spring. Recruitment is important for RTO/ERO members at any time, but this year recruitment strategies have become all the more effective because a cross-promotional policy was adopted last year involving all four of the former metro districts. Amalgamation was a challenge for everyone, including RTO/ERO. As a result, various co-operative initiatives have been implemented and are in operation in both the Toronto Catholic District School Board and the Toronto District School Board.

Scarborough/East York District 24 has three recruitment efforts. We have sponsored a booth at "Reading for the Love of It" since 2001, where promotional material is distributed to hundreds of active teachers, many of whom are nearing retirement. This year Elaine Aprile, Bob Cook and Bob Duncan managed the promotion and had a lot of fun doing it.

Every June, we attempt to contact all prospective retirees in our district. Volunteers and executive members have phoned all the schools in Scarborough and East York each year, to find out where these teachers are and to get permission to send RTO/ERO information to them. It was quite a big job; but now an agreement, negotiated by Herb Cooney and Bill Menagh of Toronto District 16, with the Superintendent of Employee Services in TDSB, has reduced the work dramatically. The agreement allows RTO/ERO material to be sent to each school principal with a request to make the material available to potential retirees. There is already a poster with a contact name in all schools in Toronto. Membership packages are also available through the Human Resources Office at TCDSB and through OEFTA union offices.

The focus for District 24 this summer will be to make Scarborough and East York retirees aware that their local RTO/

ERO District 24 will be the place for them to make contact with former colleagues. Toronto District 16 is helping in this regard by placing notices in their newsletter, pointing out that some newer members might be in the wrong district and might want to transfer over. District 24 members could help also by directing former colleagues to District 24 when retirement comes along.

As mentioned in the President's Message, for the first time, District 24 will host a complimentary Champagne Brunch for new retirees from Scarborough and East York regions of TCDSB and TDSB. In order to help make it a success, we ask that you bring this event to the attention of your friends and former colleagues who have or are planning to retire this year. Please see page 15 for details.

Ellen McCormick, Chair, Membership Committee



*Members of the Membership/Recruitment Committee
L to R: Ellen McCormick and Elaine Aprile*

In Memoriam

Remembering that each life is a miracle that changes the world,
we honour the lives of our departed colleagues and friends with our memories.

Rose Calderwood

James Fox

Douglas McDonald

Irene Cowley

Alfred Holland

Walter Stalmack

J.W. Davis

Doreen Lechelt

Verna Wice

MOVED? CHANGED YOUR MAILING ADDRESS? LET RTO/ERO KNOW!

Contact: RTO/ERO Provincial Office, 18 Spadina Road, Ste. 300, Toronto ON M5R 2S7

Or see Moving Form in provincial newsletter.

Help save postage and unnecessary effort of returned mail!

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

I'm sure most have noticed some changes in the newsletter this issue and in the way it came to your homes. We are attempting to streamline both the work and the costs of delivery. Until now, a distribution team of about twelve people met every time a newsletter was published and printed. This team worked an average of three hours to stuff envelopes, attach address labels, return address labels and stamps on about 1750 copies. With the cost of the envelopes and first-class postage, not to mention the many people hours to complete this task, a decision was made to try a more efficient system.

From now on, the company that prints the newsletter will also be responsible for mailing it. Addressing will be done electronically, cutting time, and mailing costs will be at the level of bulk mail, reducing costs.

The program newsletter was published in February in this fashion, and henceforth, all future newsletter communication can be expected to be produced in this way.

We're adding a little colour to our lives this issue as well. I hope the change appeals to you. Let us know how we are doing!

With the publication of every issue, there continues to be a concern about waste of both effort and money as undeliverable newsletters are returned. Most often this happens because someone has moved, and has not contacted RTO/ERO at Spadina, despite numerous reminders in all newsletters. When this happens, members lose out on important information, and money paid for postage is wasted. Unfortunately, sometimes newsletters are returned because someone has passed away, and RTO/ERO has not been notified.

If you have moved, **your address change must be recorded at provincial RTO/ERO at 18 Spadina Road, Toronto**, because the mailing labels and files are generated from there, not from District 24. Please contact **RTO/ERO 18 Spadina Rd., Ste. 300/18, Toronto ON M5R 2S7.416-962-9463 or 1-800-361-9888.**

Once again, thanks for your comments and suggestions about this publication. (Thanks, Glen Webb, for your animated response and encouragement). My aim is to keep it valuable for all our members. We are a varied group, so your suggestions regarding content are extremely valuable. An address for comments is printed on the back and my email and phone number are in the executive list. You can be an ambassador for RTO/ERO District 24 by passing this newsletter along to a new retiree or a former educator in need of health coverage and an educational connection. Please share the getting ready for retirement article on page 14 with someone you know who is retiring in the near future, and please make sure they know the difference between RTO/ERO and RTIP.

Enjoy the long-awaited rewards of a happy and healthy summer! Lake Superior is beckoning me!

-Kathleen Turkington, Editor

Notice Of Annual General Meeting

Once again, we extend a warm welcome to all our members of District 24 to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday, October 16th at the Blue Danube Restaurant. The business meeting, commencing at 11 o'clock will be of interest to all our members and you are encouraged to attend. A cash bar will also be available at 12 noon. A wonderfully delicious lunch is being offered to our members at the subsidized cost of \$8.00, and to non-members of District 24 {spouses, friends} for \$26.00. The following menu will be served:
Bread basket
Salad {mixed greens}
Hungarian Goulash {lean morsels of beef simmered in a red wine sauce seasoned with fine herbs and spices}
Spatzle {homemade noodles}
Seasoned vegetables
Dessert {crème caramel}
Tea, coffee

For our enjoyment, a drama production called **AMoving Scenes** developed and performed by Act II, Ryerson will highlight current issues in an entertaining way.

Participating in this social event allows for the renewal of friendships, the sharing of a delicious meal and the enjoyment of fine entertainment. Plan on attending now and encourage other District 24 members to do the same.

This will be the **ONLY** notice you will receive before the A.G.M. Seating is limited, so please remit your form and cheque as early as possible and before the deadline date of Fri., SEPT. 26th. We regret that no refunds will be given. **Please see the Program Section on pages 10 & 11 for instructions and mail-in coupon.**

*-Gloria Kondziolka
AGM Committee Chair*

Report On Political Action

ONTARIO ELECTION CALL EXPECTED: VOTER AWARENESS CRUCIAL

The RTO/ERO provincial executive has planned carefully for the soon-to-be-expected Ontario provincial election, a crucial one in many respects. In addition, there have been several planning meetings for the Political Action Committees from the four Toronto districts of RTO/ERO.

To assist local P.A. Committees and interested members, position papers have been prepared on the key issues of health care; long term care and home care; education; safeguards for seniors; and energy. Background information and sample questions (to be directed to election candidates) are provided on each topic. In addition, a poster, to be placed in public venues such as schools and libraries, has been prepared with the aim of encouraging voters to exercise their right to vote.

Voter apathy is a growing concern in political circles. A degree of cynicism may have developed as political campaigns increasingly bear the marks of professional party staffers and their adroit use of "wedge" issues, which separate and divide parties, "hot button" issues, such as health care and education; and attack ads focussed on individuals running for office.

One response to voter skepticism is a growing interest in the possible adoption of some form of proportional representation, which would divide seats according to the popular vote and the distribution of votes. This idea has been adopted in other jurisdictions such as Israel and, in a modified form,

in Germany. Ontario Liberal and NDP leaders have expressed interest and the Law Commission of Canada is due to report its recommendations on this subject to Parliament in early 2004.

The pending Ontario election, however, will not be affected by this idea. Rather, it will be run on "first past the post" rules, meaning a majority of votes as narrow as one vote could determine election results. Hence, since many seats in the last election were won by slim majorities, EVERY VOTE WILL COUNT. The P.A. Committee of District 24 encourages all its members to VOTE, and take a friend!

Your help in promoting RTO/ERO election aims could make a difference. The Committee of District 24 encourages members to attend candidate meetings and to bring their questions with them. We are also looking for volunteers to help with the mailing and distribution of materials.

To volunteer or for more information regarding the upcoming election, contact Allan Mawson at 416-265-5433.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON POLITICAL ISSUES

RTO Position Papers:

Gail Knox **Telephone:** 416-962-9463

Proportional representation: Telephone: 416-410-4034

email: www.info@fairvotecanada.org

Energy: email www.electricitycoalition.org

Political Parties:

Email: www.ontarioliberal.ca **email:** www.ontariondp.com

Email www.ontariopc.com

=Allan Mawson, Chair District 24 Political Action Committee

RTO/ERO POSITION PAPER: SAFEGUARDS FOR SENIORS

aware-

INTRODUCTION

Seniors are the fastest growing segment of the population and represent a significant political force. Seniors are interested in the political process and have a history of voting in greater numbers than other age groups. RTO/ERO sees as one of its roles the advocacy of issues which are specific to the needs of retirees/seniors.

ABUSE

The incidence of abuse of seniors in public institutions, private care facilities and family home settings is greater than anyone would care to admit or is reported.

Seniors often feel compelled to conceal abuse or neglect by staff or family members, for fear of reprisals or increased isolation. Too many seniors do not know who to turn to for help. Society as a whole, and governments in particular, must openly acknowledge this terrible phenomenon, develop

ness programs and implement concrete strategies to protect seniors from abuse of any kind.

PERSONAL WELLNESS

As seniors age, health problems increase regardless of where they reside. This can have a debilitating effect on seniors- emotionally, as well as physically. Lack of confidence, loss of self respect, loneliness, isolation, are contributing factors in the decline of personal care and cleanliness. The standard of care in public institutions and private facilities varies widely, and too often contributes to the premature decline of individual faculties. There is a collective obligation to ensure not just adequate, but appropriate programs and services for seniors' wellness i.e. public transportation, social activities, preventative health strategies.

FINANCES

Too many seniors live at or below the

poverty line. While this may not be the case for most retired teachers, there are those with small pensions and limited government supports. The "golden years" should not be fraught with concerns about "making ends meet" by having to make unhealthy choices. Society must also protect the elderly from scams and frauds through prevention and education, with a justice system that levies sentences that will deter financial abuse.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. What concrete measures will your party commit to in order to combat elder abuse?
2. How will your government promote practical wellness programs for seniors?
3. How will your party ensure that seniors have adequate finances and the necessary protections to allow them to live their lives with dignity?

FUNDING

RTO/ERO believes that the Provincial Government must provide sufficient funding for all components of the funding formula. The benchmark costs used in calculating these funds must be updated to reflect the current costs of providing education. Providing a multi-year formula will enable school boards to develop more effective long range plans. Reform in the funding of education must make use of the comprehensive recommendations in the Rozanski Report of December 2002, including provision for the Double Cohort in September 2003.

STABILITY

RTO/ERO believes that well-funded, public education systems provide the best opportunity for a quality education for all citizens in Ontario. New curriculum implementation needs to be well planned and sufficient resources must be provided to facilitate the

changes. Textbooks and teacher in-service are vital for implementation to be successful. Ontario needs a period of education stability in order to allow the plethora of recent reforms to take shape in a structured manner. In order for school boards to be more accountable to their communities, they must have sufficient decision-making authority to represent local needs and interests.

RESPECT

RTO/ERO believes that there must be respect for teachers, administrators and school boards. In our view, those directly responsible for educating students have been under siege from a variety of quarters. The recertification process has created much turmoil among teachers, making them feel undervalued and even more demoralized. We oppose the provincial testing of students and recertification of teachers in their current formats.

RTO/ERO POLICIES

RTO/ERO, as an organization of 50,000 retired teachers, retains an avid interest in what is happening in the classrooms and schools in this province. We have policy statements that support publicly-funded education, active teachers, OTF and the Affiliates. We also believe that the first criterion for school closures must be the total welfare of students.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. How will your party use the recommendations in the Rozanski Report to improve the funding of education?
2. How will your party foster stability in the education sector?
3. What will your party do to re-establish respect in the education sector?
4. What will you do to prevent the demise of small schools in single-school communities?

-from RTO/ERO Website



FOR THE LOVE OF IT

District 24 Ambassadors Bob Cook, left, and Bob Duncan host the RTO/ERO booth at Reading For the Love of It



On the Lighter Side

A frog went into a bank and approached the teller. He could see from her nameplate that her name was Patricia Whack, so he said: "Miss Whack, I'd like to get a \$30,000 loan to take a holiday."

Pattie looked at the frog in disbelief and asked his name. The Frog said his name was Kermit Jagger, his dad was Mick Jagger, and that he knew the bank manager. Pattie explained that he'd need to secure the loan with some collateral.

The frog said, "Sure. I have this", and produced a tiny porcelain elephant, about half an inch tall - bright pink and perfectly formed. Very confused, Pattie left to consult with the bank manager. She found the manager and said, "There's a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who claims to know you and wants to borrow \$30,000 and he wants to use this as collateral". She held up the tiny pink elephant. "I mean, what in the world is this?"

The bank manager looked back at her and said....

"It's a knickknack, Pattie Whack, give the frog a loan. His old man's a rolling stone."☺

F. Y. I.

Retired Women Teachers of Ontario (RWTO), Scarborough Branch welcomes new retirees. Come to **New Retirees Tea** held on Thursday September 4, 2003 from 1-3 p.m. and celebrate with others who are also newly retired. Please R.S.V.P. before July 15, 2003. **Monthly Luncheons...** held on the third Tuesday of each month...interesting speakers and entertainment. **Day Trips...**several are planned throughout the year to theatre, historic sites, shopping excursions. **Bridge Club...**compete, have fun, and meet others with like interests. **Book Club...**monthly meetings to share ideas and reflections. **Publications and Announcements** receive up-to-date information on issues of concern to retired teachers. For further information Contact Linda Lunscombe at 416-282-3955

Sunshine Centres for Seniors is a charity that seeks out frail and isolated seniors and brings them together for mutual support with a variety of high quality programs in a protective environment. We are currently seeking volunteers to play the piano for our sing along at our Ward's Island program this summer. If you are interested please contact Sherri Bulmer, Volunteer/Donations Coordinator at 416-924-3979 or e-mail sunshinecentres@on.aibn.com. For more information on the Sunshine Centres go to www.sunshinecentres.com

News Flash

Service To Others Award

It has just been announced that Agincourt Community Services Association is among the 24 organizations that will receive a Service To Others Award from RTO/ERO this year. A.C.S.A. applied for funding for its Clean and Safe Program through District 24 Executive. According to Eileen Higgins, Committee Chair for Project Service to Others District 24, "the Association was overjoyed" when she gave them the news. Mickey Contini, President of RTO/ERO Provincial will present the award to the Association on June 5th at the District 24 Executive meeting. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

RTO/ERO Spring Senate

The **RTO/ERO Spring Senate** was held on Wednesday, May 21, 2003 at a downtown Toronto hotel. Three delegates from District 24 attended. They are: Gloria Kondziolka, Senator 1; Bob Cook, Senator 2; and Judy-Anne Tumber, Observer. The delegates will report back to District Executive at the June meeting.

Two of the delegates are funded by RTO/ERO provincial, and the third delegate is funded by the district.

News Flash

OSSTF/OTF DISPUTE SETTLED BY COURTS

The Supreme Court of Canada dismissed, with costs, OSSTF's request to have the Supreme Court review the decision of the Court of Appeal of June 21, 2002. The decision upholds the validity of OTF bylaws which requires the affiliates to remit OTF membership fees. The decision was announced on April 10. OTF is currently consulting with its lawyers regarding the outcome.

Volunteer Opportunities

"In a garden, imagination grows with life." The Civic Garden Centre's Teaching Garden offers programs and activities that will interest and educate children in the love and values of gardening and nature. The Teaching Garden is seeking Program Leaders to work with school groups in September and October and to work with after-school and weekend programs throughout the winter. 777 Lawrence Ave. E. Toronto Contact Christine at 416-397-4145.

Volunteer Opportunities

Many still take better care of others than they do of themselves. Few realize that more women than men die from heart disease. As a woman, it is essential to be aware of this important health issue, because there is so much that women can do to reduce their risk. One way you could help is to become involved in the "Cheerios Mother Daughter Walk for Heart and Stroke", which takes place this September. All funds raised from the Walk go directly to support women's specific research on heart disease and stroke. We currently need volunteers to fill the following committee positions: Draw Prize Chair, Operations Chair, and Participant Pack Chair. Time commitment is approx 10 hours per month, February until September. If you have experience in sales, marketing, or event operations [or for more information], please contact Janelle Virgin, Event Coordinator, Mother Daughter Walk at 416 489-7111 x367 or jvirgin@hsf.on.ca.

Carp Petition For Home Care

RTO/ERO members interested in signing a petition, sponsored by Carp, on a **National Home Care Program** can do so by logging on to www.50plus.com. The petition speaks to the need for chronic care to be included in the "basket" of home care services, as referenced in the Romanow Report and the government's response.

(Continued from page 1)

with the counting! Breakfast Clubs are dependent upon support from the community, and through this golf tournament, we would like to continue our support. Last year, we raised \$1,500. and with a top-up from District 24 Executive, three schools in our District each received \$600. We're very proud of our efforts, and with your continued participation, we would like to aim higher each year.

For the very first time, District 24 will be hosting a complimentary **Champagne Brunch** for new retirees from both TCDSB and TDSB Scarborough and East York schools. The brunch will take place on Tuesday, October 7th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Cathedral Bluff's Yacht Club in Scarborough. Information about District 24, RTO/ERO's pension fund, health plan and travel and social opportunities etc. will be available. Seating is limited, so please register upon receiving this newsletter if you are interested in attending. **Please note: this brunch is for new retirees only.** Look for detailed information elsewhere in this newsletter. We look forward to welcoming you to District 24.

Plan to attend our **Annual General Meeting**, a wonderfully inviting business/social event. It will be held on Thursday, October 16th at the Blue Danube Restaurant. The company is refreshing, the food delicious and the price is right. Again the cost is heavily subsidized by your District. Be sure to send in your response as early as possible to avoid disappointment. Check this newsletter for further details.

Unfortunately, because the deadline for submission to this newsletter was early May, no information can be forwarded to you from the Spring Senate [May 21-22]. However, any Constitutional amendments, changes to pensions, health insurance etc., will be published in the forthcoming RTO/ERO Renaissance magazine, which all members receive from the Provincial office.

Overall, the past few months have been very active in our District. Our finances are in stable condition, membership continues to grow, and volunteers are still generously giving of their time and talent. You will find an outline in this newsletter of the full range of services available to our membership. As the original saying goes, "many hands make light work". So we ask that you seriously consider offering assistance in any capacity.

From all our members to three special volunteers who have given many years of service, we offer our heartfelt thanks for jobs well done: Joyce Morfitt, for her involvement in the Goodwill Program; Denise O'Hearne for organizing the AGMs at St Andrew's Church Hall, as well as the Christmas Luncheons, and Ken Turton for organizing trips and coordinating the printing of the Program newsletter. These programs are an important part of what we are all about, our caring for others and sharing the good times!

Please note, that if you worked and retired from Scarborough/East York and are receiving a newsletter other than the District 24 one, you can choose which district to belong to. If you would like to remain part of District 24, please call provincial office at Spadina (416-962-9463) and request the change.

As I review this message, I realize that there is a lot of information in capsule form, but greater detail is contained within the body of this newsletter. I hope that you enjoy being kept abreast of what's happening in District 24. We're here for you!

To all our members, family and friends, have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Gloria Kondziolka, President

Traffic Violation

When asked for her occupation, a woman charged with a traffic violation said she was a schoolteacher.

The judge rose from the bench. "Madam, I have waited years for a schoolteacher to appear before this court," he smiled with delight. "Now sit down at that table and write: 'I will not pass through a red light' five hundred times!!"

Did YOU EVER WONDER?

- Why does the sun lighten our hair, but darken our skin?
- Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?
- Why is it that doctors call what they do "practice"?
- Why is it that to stop Windows 98, you have to click on "Start"?
- Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?
- Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
- Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?
- Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?
- Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes? You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes?
- Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?!
- Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?
- If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

"The Painting"

- Liz goes to her first show at an art gallery and is looking at the paintings. One is a huge canvas that has black with yellow blobs of paint splattered all over it. The next painting is a murky gray color that has drips of purple paint streaked across it.
- Liz walks over to the artist and says, "I don't understand your paintings."
- "I paint what I feel inside me," explains the artist.
- "Have you ever tried Alka-Seltzer?"

PROGRAM INFORMATION

EVENT/LOCATION	DATE	STATUS	FACILITATOR
Stratford Festival "Taming of the Shrew" Stratford, Ontario	Tuesday, September 9	Space available	Gloria Smith 416-431-0466
Breakfast for Kids 6th Annual Golf Tournament Mill Run Golf Course, Siloam, Ontario	Tuesday, September 16	Space available	Bob Cook 416-267-0246
18 Day Cruise Panama Canal Transit Aboard the "Norwegian Sky"	October 2 to October 19	Space available	Ken Turton 905-666-8878
'Dame Vera' and Fall Colour Cruise	Wednesday, October 1	Space available	Judy-Anne Tumber 416-264-6016
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Blue Danube Restaurant	Thursday, October 16,	Space available	See advertisement page for details
Over the Hills to Georgian Bay	Wednesday, October 22	Space available	Ron Smith 416-431-0466
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON Scarborough Golf and Country Club	Wednesday, December 3	Space available	See advertisement page for details

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

When: Wednesday, December 3, 2003

Where: Scarborough Golf and Country Club

Please start to assemble around 11:30 a.m. Buffet lunch will be served at noon.

Reserve your place early as this popular event is always a sell-out!

Cost: \$39.00

Reservations:

Please call **Marilyn Hodge** before sending **coupon** with **cheque** made payable to **Retired Teachers of Ontario – District 24**, and a **self-addressed stamped envelope** to:
Marilyn Hodge

48 Langevin Cres.

Scarborough,

M1C 2B6

Telephone: 416-284-9984

This event fills up quickly. Call Marilyn as soon as possible to book your spot!

Deadline: call as soon as possible

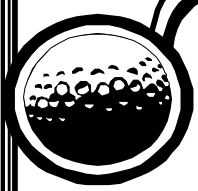
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON COUPON
cut out and send with your cheque

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME _____

OF TICKET(S) _____ @\$39.00 ea. = _____



FORE: FUN


Golf Tees

It was a sunny Saturday morning, and Murray was beginning his pre-shot routine, visualizing his upcoming shot when a voice came over the clubhouse loudspeaker - "Would the gentleman on the ladies' tee back up to the men's tee, please!"

Murray was still deep in his routine, seemingly impervious to the interruption. Again the Announcement:

"Would the MAN on the WOMEN'S tee kindly back up to the MEN'S tee!" Murray had enough. He straightened up and shouted, "Would the announcer in the clubhouse kindly shut up and let me play my second shot?"

-from 50+ magazine



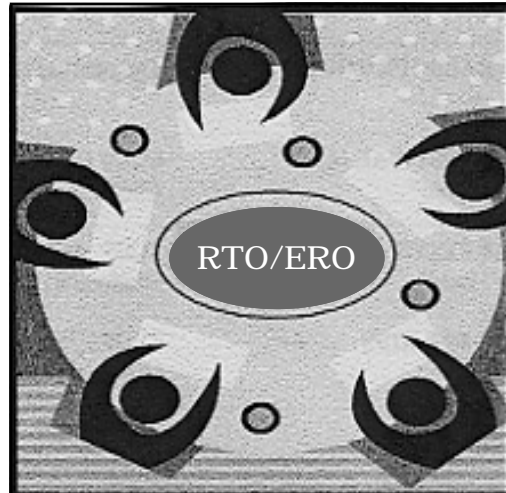
**SCARBOROUGH/EAST YORK
RTO/ERO DISTRICT 24
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SOCIAL**

DATE: Thursday, October 16, 2003

TIME: 11 a.m.

PLACE: Blue Danube Banquet Hall
1686 Ellesmere Road
Scarborough
(east of McCowan)

Parking: Free, underground and outside



PROGRAMME

11:00	Business Meeting
12:00	Cash Bar
12:30	Lunch

Presentation: "Moving Scenes"
Presenter: Act II Studios, Ryerson

Cost: Members: \$8.00 Non-members: \$26.00

R.S.V.P. by Friday, September 26, 2003

COUPON please cut along line and remit with your cheque

<p>Name: _____</p> <p>No. of members _____ @ \$8.00 each _____</p> <p>No. of guests _____ @ \$26.00 each _____</p> <p>Total _____</p>	<p>Make cheque payable to:</p> <p>RTO /ERO District 24 c/o Robert Duncan 8 Trailside Drive Toronto M2J- 2C9</p>
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HEALTH MATTERS

MONITORING DEVICE A LIFELINE FOR MEMBER

Just a few days before Christmas last year, Joyce Morfitt, a long-time member of District 24 Executive was struck with the Norwalk Virus, an incident that could have ended her life. Thanks to an unlocked door and an astute young teenager, Joyce has recovered sufficiently both to tell her story and to offer some advice to other people, especially seniors who live on their own: Consider the use of a Lifeline device.

Joyce had awoken not feeling well and by midday, she decided to rest. In her discomfort, she inadvertently left her front door unlocked. The next thing she remembered was someone standing over her where she had fallen -a lapse of about 4 hours.

Joyce and her dog live in the family home. She has the help of two teenage neighbourhood boys who take turns walking her dog, and the support of her children who all live and work in the Toronto area. Normally, the teen would knock on Joyce's locked door to take the dog for a walk. But on the day in question, the boy received no answer to his knock. He persisted to no avail, and decided to get help from his father, who entered Joyce's house after further attempts at knocking. The father and son found Joyce on the floor where she had fallen and twisted her back and unable to get up. Fading in and out of consciousness, Joyce asked the man to call her son. Then, fearing a stroke, the neighbour also called an ambulance and rushed Joyce to hospital.

Joyce was hospitalized over Christmas after being diagnosed with the Norwalk Virus, and the incident left her shaken and her family concerned. One of the paramedics who had transported Joyce to hospital had mentioned a Lifeline device to Joyce's son, who immediately looked into the purchase of one for Joyce. It has proven to be a tremendous resource for Joyce and for her family's peace of mind.

**"there is always a human being,
not a machine,
at the other end of the line"**

Lifeline is a small device attached to a cord that people wear around their neck. It is small and oval, and reminds Joyce of a "piece of aboriginal jewellery". It has a small button on it that the subscriber to the Lifeline service pushes when he/she needs help. The device is wirelessly connected to the phone system. If the button is pushed, a customer care representative phones the subscriber immediately in response. The rep determines the person's need and acts accordingly. If the rep cannot reach the subscriber, he/she calls another number - one that the company have been given as a backup. Reps will also order emergency services if directed, and notify family members or contact persons of an emergency situation.

Although Joyce has never had to access the service since



Bob Duncan, left, presents Joyce Morfitt with a token of appreciation for more than ten years of volunteer time on behalf of District 24 members

she got it, there were a couple of times at the beginning, as she was getting used to it, that she make contact with the Lifeline service by accident. Joyce was impressed with both the speed of connection from the company as well as the patience and good nature with which her accidental call was received. She was not charged for the error. She is reassured with the fact that "there is always a human being, not a machine, at the other end of the line."

The service costs \$37.00 per month after an initial hookup charge of \$60.00. Joyce considers the cost a reasonable investment for what it offers her and her family in terms of peace of mind and security. Valuing her independence and freedom, Joyce believes that Lifeline is the main reason that she can remain living independently in her own home, and at the same time, she remains confident that should she need it, help is only a push of a button away.

Joyce has also accessed a couple of other support systems. Through L'Amoureux Seniors' Centre, Joyce was connected with a volunteer who phones her every day at the same time. This former teacher has similar interests to Joyce, who looks forward to the daily connection and conversation with the new friend. This is a free and volunteer service set up by the Seniors' Centre.

Joyce had recently stepped down from her Goodwill work with District 24. Since she retired in 1991, Joyce has been reaching out to District 24 members through telephone and cards mailed to hundreds of our members. She enjoyed her work with RTO/ERO and she enthusiastically praises the "wonderful work" of RTO/ERO volunteers who keep in touch with the membership, adding, "I had never really realized how important support systems are."

Joyce attended her last Executive meeting in March, where Treasurer Bob Duncan presented her with a gift of gratitude for her lengthy service with District 24 of RTO/ERO.

-K. Turkington

TRAVEL INSURANCE – A FEW SURPRISES

For years, my wife and I have travelled extensively without ever having to use our travel insurance while out of the country. Two recent experiences have changed that.

The first occurred in San Francisco, California and involved a clinic visit in a large hospital. As soon as the diagnosis was completed I communicated with World Access Canada. I was surprised to find that, unless the cost was over \$500, we had to pay up front and claim a refund upon our return. Naturally, ours was just under the limit. We were advised by World Access to bring home complete documentation.

Once home, the claim process became an exercise in frustration and impatience. I was surprised to find that we had to file a claim with the Ministry of Health first. Finally after 8 months, we received a cheque for a paltry \$15. We could then file a claim with Johnson Inc. who, to their credit, rapidly processed it and refunded the balance.

The second incident occurred in Telluride, Colorado, involving treatment exceeding the \$500 limit. Once again, I communicated with World Access Canada, assuming that they would take over the financial aspects – wrong! We were dealing with a small emergency hospital and to our surprise, they would not recognize our insurance. It was either pay up by credit card or they wouldn't release the patient and/or the records. We paid.

When we returned home, we were surprised to find that we were dealing directly with World Access Canada (not Johnson Inc.) and back into the waiting mode. I wonder if we're in for more surprises? (*NOTE: please see Ken's ensuing comments*)*

OUR ADVICE:

Make sure you have a generous limit on your credit card(s)

Carry a list of all your medications and dosages; the name, address and telephone number of your doctor(s); and the telephone numbers for World Health Access; and keep them with your health cards.

If you are being actively treated for anything, ensure that travelling companion(s) know or have access to basic information.

Make sure you or your travel companion(s) document treatment and collect documents for everything that occurs.

Keep travelling. Have a great time! Be prepared for surprises.

*We were pleasantly surprised with the speed with which World Access settled the claim. Without going into the messy details, they could have dragged in on indefinitely, but somehow, they settled it right away.

-Ken Drope Executive Member-at-large

EDUCATORS' BUILD A REALITY THIS SUMMER

Habitat for Humanity Toronto has announced the date for the start of The Educator's Build as August 14, 2003. The house will be part of a group of forty townhomes to be built by Habitat for Humanity and its partner families at Tapscott and McLevin Roads in Scarborough. Many members of District 24 have volunteered time and made donations to this endeavour.

The money raised for the home has come from all aspects of the educational community. According to District 24 member Sandra McNabney, who chairs the Educators' Build Committee, \$46,000 of the \$60,000 needed for the Build has been raised to date, thanks to generous support from RTO/ERO and individual donors. The dedication (key ceremony) for the Educators' Build House will be on Sunday, December 14, 2003.

For those interested in getting involved in this project, applications are now being taken for the August Build. Even if you cannot be part of the two-week framing "blitz" which begins on August 14, the post-build work of painting, drywalling, landscaping and finishing, will continue until the partner family moves in at Christmas time. The forms are available at the Habitat Toronto office or on-line at www.torontohabitat.on.ca

All levels and skills are needed on a build according to Diane Leahy, another District 24 member who has been involved in past builds. From bookwork to building, most people can find a role that suits their talents.

Val Savolainen, another District 24 member, who is communications liaison for the Educators' Build for Habitat, suggests visiting the site where Habitat will build 14 townhomes in May and June. This site is at 4277 Lawrence Ave. East, east of Morningside in Scarborough, and began May 3.

While at the site, you can purchase a tee shirt promoting the Educator's Build. They cost \$10.00 and Savolainen suggests "Pick one up and demonstrate your pride in being part of such a caring profession".

To get involved in a build, to make a donation, to purchase a tee-shirt or for more information, contact Habitat for Humanity Toronto, 29 Bermondsey Road, Toronto, Ontario, M4B 1Z7 or access www.torontohabitat.on.ca and follow the links to the "Educators' Build-a-thon."

"The Educators' Build Committee of Habitat for Humanity Toronto thanks all RTO/ERO District 24 members for their generous support in our fund-raising drive to build a home in Toronto this summer, in partnership with a needy family. To this date we have achieved a total amount of over \$46,000"

-Val Savolainen, Communications Liaison, Habitat For Humanity

REFLECTIONS ON TEACHING AS A VOCATION

If you want to build a ship don't herd people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.

~ Antoine-Marie-Roger de Saint-Exupery

All human interactions are opportunities either to learn or to teach.

~ M. Scott Peck

Never regard study as duty, but as the enviable opportunity to learn to know the liberating influence of beauty in the realm of the spirit for your own personal joy and to the profit of the community to which your later work belongs.

~ Albert Einstein

TEACHING: the earth doesn't move every time, but when it does, what a RUSH!

~ Cameron Beatty

Every truth has four corners: as a teacher I give you one corner, and it is for you to find the other three.

~ Confucius

If a doctor, lawyer, or dentist had 40 people in his office at one time, all of whom had different needs, and some of whom didn't want to be there and were causing trouble, and the doctor, lawyer, or dentist, without assistance, had to treat them all with professional excellence for nine months, then he/she might have some conception of the classroom teacher's job.

~ Donald D. Quinn

One hundred years from now,
It will not matter what kind of car I drove,
What kind of house I lived in,
Or how much money I had in the bank,
But the world may be a better place
because I made a difference in a child's life.

~ Author unknown

If a seed of lettuce will not grow, we do not blame the lettuce. Instead, the fault lies with us for not having nourished the seed properly.

~ Buddhist proverb.

The best learners... often make the worst teachers. They are, in a very real sense, perceptually challenged. They cannot imagine what it must be like to struggle to learn something that comes so naturally to them.

~ Stephen Brookfield



CHECKLIST FOR RETIRING TEACHERS

Retiring? Here's a check list of what to do ...and the connections to make it happen.

1) Submit letter of resignation to your school board
2) Apply for pension. Three months in advance of your required pension commencement date, contact the Teachers' Pension Plan to obtain your personalized pension application form. 416-226-2700 800-668-0105 View the TPP Web site.

3) Send to Pension Plan Board birth certificates for you and your spouse, marriage certificate, or notarized statement re common law marriage.

4) Notify the Ontario College of Teachers of your retirement status. Contact the College at 416-961-8800 or toll free, 1-888-534-2222 and ask them to send you a Notice of Retirement Form, or visit their website, College of Teachers for further information.

5) Join RTO/ERO. RTO/ERO is the official voice of all retired persons in receipt of a pension administered by the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board. View the RTO/ERO Health Benefits and review the rates and other frequently asked questions. Apply on-line for membership in RTO/ERO with the Membership Application, or from Membership Menu.

6) Check for adequate health insurance coverage. E-mail RTO/ERO. Confirm with your school board the coverage you have during retirement, and when it terminates. Ensure continuity of your health insurance coverage. **Apply before your school board / spousal / other group coverage terminates (medical evidence of insurability is required if you apply after 60 days has elapsed).**

Contact the following for information:
Johnson Incorporated Suite 400, 1595-16th Avenue
Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3S5 Tel.:1-877-406-9007
Tel.: (416) 920-7248

RTO/ERO Suite 300, 18 Spadina Rd. Toronto, ON
M5R 2S7 Tel.:1-800-361-9888 Tel.: (416) 962-9463
Fax: (416) 962-1061

7) Apply for the Canada Pension Plan "CPP/ISP Web site" You are eligible to receive Canada Pension as early as age 60. Obtain an application form from your local Post Office, Income Security Programs Office. The normal age that you start receiving a CPP retirement pension is 65. However, you can start receiving your pension as early as 60 or as late as 70. If you start your pension before 65, you must stop working or earn less than a maximum amount for a required period of time. If you start your pension early, it is permanently reduced by 0.5 percent for each month that you are under 65. If you start your pension later, it is increased by 0.5 percent for each month that you are over 65, up to the age of 70.

For practical on-line information, access the above CPP Web site, provided by Human Resources Development Canada. Request a CPP application by phone. The toll-free number is 1-800-277-9914.

From the RTO/ERO Website



ERTO

WELCOME NEW RETIREES

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND A

Champagne Brunch

OCTOBER 7TH 2003

CATHEDRAL BLUFFS YACHT CLUB
BLUFFERS PARK ACCESS ROAD
(BRIMLEY AVE & THE LAKE)

PLEASE BRING YOUR RETIREMENT QUESTIONS

SPACES ARE LIMITED
TO RESERVE PLEASE CONTACT:

ELLEN MCCORMICK
416.284.7795
ELLENMCCORMICK@SYMPATICO.CA

R.S.V.P. BY JUNE 20TH 2003
WITH YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER

~ THE RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO ~ DISTRICT 24 ~ SCARBOROUGH / EAST YORK ~

DISTRICT 24
WHERE OLD AND NEW FRIENDS MEET

"SERVICE TO OTHERS"



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

MOVED? CHANGED YOUR MAILING ADDRESS? LET RTO/ERO KNOW!
Contact: RTO/ERO Provincial Office, 18 Spadina Road, Ste. 300, Toronto ON M5R 2S7
Or see Moving Form in provincial newsletter. *Help save postage and unnecessary effort of returned mail!*

RTO/ERO DISTRICT 24
21 Braeburn Drive
THORNHILL, ON
L3T 4V2

