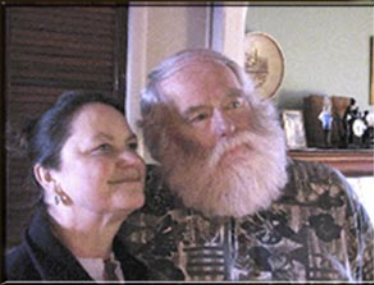


WE GET PICTURES, LOTS OF PICTURES !!!!

Over the past three months there has been a wonderful response from members living outside of Halton to our December Holiday Greetings letter and to our newsletters. Here are a few of the photos we received. There are more on the inside along with some interesting correspondence.

Gunter Schade and Jeanette
... Article Pages 2, 24



Don Baker... Article Page 5



Carl Hymers and Fran... Article Page 8



Gary Hedderson... Article Pages 2, 7



(We Get Pictures... continued from Page 1)

• **Gary Hedderson** sent his thanks for keeping in touch and finds it most enjoyable to hear what former colleagues are doing. Since retiring in 1997, Gary and his wife, Miriam, have lived at Kamaniskeg Lake near Barry’s Bay, Ontario.



In addition to numerous woodworking projects, Gary has restored several heritage cedar/canvas canoes in his shop. One winter he assisted in moving and rebuilding a log house (circa 1898 logs) as guest accommodation for family including an exuberant red-headed granddaughter and friends.

(Gary Hedderson...continues on Page 7)

• **Gunter Schade** and his spouse Jeanne D’Arc Pineault moved from Oakville to Newfoundland and Labrador after retiring from Halton in 1994. Previously, he had acquired a beautiful parcel of coastal land there that included a one bedroom historic fisherman’s cabin directly by the sea on a small peninsula called Cow Head. - postal code beginning with AOK. The nearest village is 3 km away across a causeway joining the one time summer fishing residences of the local fisher folk from the winter residences on shore.



(Gunter Schade continues on Pages 24)

Cabaret

by Dave Wright

Twelve of our District 15 members attended the February Oakville West End Theatre production of “Cabaret.” Before the show we got together for dinner at Paradiso’s. It was a very enjoyable evening of food, entertainment and companionship. See the Recreation Committee Report on Page 13 for more details on this event and others that are planned for the rest of the year.



Visit us on the Internet at www.halinet.on.ca/district15

President's Report

By Colton Roberts

It hardly seems possible that another year has passed and our Annual General Meeting is just around the corner. I am very grateful for the many dedicated individuals who have made this another successful year in Halton. Our membership is now over 1800 with people being added monthly. But this is also a time of sadness as we reflect on those who have left us. It is with a heavy heart that I remember the loss of Al Porter who was a mentor in RTO/ERO for me. We also lost Al Fish, one of our oldest members who was pictured in the last issue of the Herald, at



our Fall meeting.

On a happier note, the many dedicated people who serve on our committees have done an outstanding job in presenting programs that meet the needs of members. Special thanks go to all those who have worked on your behalf. These members are always striving to make things better. When I meet members of other districts, I am proud to say that our programs are as good as or better than those in other districts. You can show your support by attending the meetings and events which are planned for you. Please note and read the brochure for the **Wellness Day** planned for November. There will be something of interest for each member. Consider setting the day aside to enrich your life. Support the hard-working planning committee. You will be glad you did.

I would like to pay special tribute to **Flo Gray** who has done an outstanding job with the Goodwill Committee.

(Presidents's Report... continues on Page 4)

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(Presidents's Report... continued from Page 3)

As she steps down from her leadership role we want to thank her for her dedication and for the many hours of work devoted to helping meet the needs of many of our members. As we move forward, Flo's cheery disposition and caring attitude will be missed .

It is obvious we need more volunteers to help meet the goals of our organization. It is of concern to me that I feel it necessary to put my name forward as President for a second year. I am not worried about the workload because it is not an onerous task. We do need those who are willing to let their names stand for office if we are to maintain a healthy vibrant organization. I challenge you to consider what you might be able to do. Why not consider letting your name stand as chair of a committee or simply as a committee member. The commitment is not for a lot of hours, especially if we get sufficient volunteers, and it is very rewarding.

Please read on and see for yourself the activities available to you through RTO/ERO District 15 Halton and the fine work of your newsletter staff.

Welcome New RTO/ERO District 15 Members!!!

Listed below are the names of retired teachers who have become members since January, 2006. We now have well over 1800 members. Give them a warm welcome and invite them to join you in one of our many activities.

LAIMA ALLEN	JANET BABINETZ	LYNNE BARRETT	VIRGINIA BRYER
DIANE DICKIE	GEORGE DRIEDIGER	SALLY ELEY	ONNA ERSTIKAITIS
EVELYN FULLERTON	JOHN GREVEN	JAMES HEASLIP	
HARVEY HONSBERGER	THOMAS JOHNSON	ANNE MARIE LANCASTER	
JEAN LEMAY	NANCY MADSEN	ARTHUR MCREAVY	THIREA MUDIEA
CLARENCE OERTON	ANN PORTER	CAROL QUIN	CHARLES RATTRAY
JON SIMS	IRENE SOTNYK	HELEN VAN SICKLE	

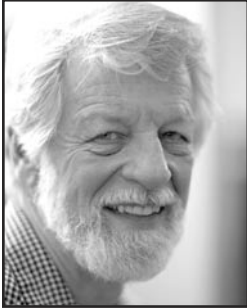
Getting Old is Fun

A very elderly gentleman, (mid nineties) very well dressed, hair well groomed, great looking suit, flower in his lapel smelling slightly of a good after shave, presenting a well looked after image, walks into an upscale cocktail lounge. Seated at the bar is an elderly looking lady, (mid eighties). The gentleman walks over, sits along side of her, orders a drink, takes a sip, turns to her and says, "So tell me, do I come here often?"

Visit us on the Internet at www.halinet.on.ca/district15

We Get Letters, Emails & Calls

By Peter Gnish



Thanks to everyone who sent me an email, a card, a letter, a picture or called me on the telephone. The communication over the past few months has been fantastic particularly from those living outside of Halton. Keep it up, please. Everyone wants to hear what you are up to and pictures are a wonderful way to make the connection. I hope to hear from many more people in the next few months both from outside Halton and from those still living in our fair Region. Keep in touch!

• **Don Baker** wrote in response to the Holiday greeting letter... “Lynda and I are still living in Grand Cayman. It was originally for 2 years, but we are now into our fifth year. It is difficult to trade the warmth and sun 12 months of the year for a Canadian winter. I purchased a cottage in the Haliburton Highlands a few years ago and I spend the summer months in Canada. Fortunately my employment is flexible so that I can spend time in Canada during the best season.

Life here has been a little difficult since Hurricane Ivan devastated the island. We lost our condo, all of the contents and one of our cars from the sea surge. Finding affordable accommodations is a challenge and we have had to move several times. Our condo unit is scheduled to be rebuilt by September 2006, and that will make life a little more simple.

The schools here are trying to establish a “peer counselling” program and I have been asked to volunteer some time to work on the project. Unfortunately, I was not really involved with peer counselling when I worked in Halton, but if any of my former colleagues have any information, I would very much appreciate hearing from them.

Grand Cayman is a very popular destination for cruise ships. We may have as many as seven arrivals in one day. I have had the pleasure of showing some of my former friends around the island when they were in the harbour for the day. It is always refreshing to see the island from a new arrival’s perspective.”

Don’s email address is dgbaker1941@yahoo.ca for anyone who can help him out.

(We Get Letters... continues on Page 6)

Visit us on the Internet at www.halinet.on.ca/district15

(We Get Letters... continued from Page 5)

• **Pat Boyle** sent her thanks for the “cheery greeting from District 15” which she received via the Holiday letter sent to all members living outside of Halton. She went on to say that she moved to Wyevale in 2000 where “a whole wealth of interests” opened up for her. She is Vice President of the Elmvale Seniors’ Club, was the community rep for the Wyevale School Council for several years, joined the Women’s Institute and is a member of the Elmvale Horticultural Society.

After retirement in 1996 Pat started writing for newspapers and magazines, at first some educational pieces and then more of the human interest variety. She is part of a local writers group which proved very helpful when she wrote and published her first book, *The Hat Lady*, a biography of a Burlingtonian, Norma Shephard. For the past year and a half Pat travelled across Ontario with Norma as her assistant at hat shows presented by the Mobile Millinery Museum.

Pat’s family still lives in Burlington so she is often there and tries to keep in touch with former colleagues. She still has dreams about being in the classroom and wonders if other retirees do too. Pat misses the RWTO and the camaraderie with those with whom she worked for so many years. But when she drives back to Wyevale and smells the pines she realizes that she doesn’t miss the stoplights, traffic and heavy air. A large group of retirees live here and are quite friendly. She says, “To tell the truth, I find it difficult to fit in all the social activities. I’d love to hear from anyone who remembers me and I’d be thrilled if they’d check out my website www.patriciboyle.com.” Or email Pat at psboyle@sympatico.ca.

(We Get Letters... continues on Page 7)

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(We Get Letters... continued from Page 6)

• **Jim and Norma Diell** are keeping themselves busy during retirement with a number of hobbies. Jim is an avid car collector and has several Corvairs. One of his suggestions is that the Halton Herald could do a spread on **“Old Autos”** owned by District 15 retired teachers. This could be followed by a **“Cruise Night”** if there was enough interest. See the article on Page 11 that invites interested car buffs to send in their material to the Editor.

Since Norma and Jim both collect Depression Glass another idea to get District 15 members together is to host a **Glass Fair** where retirees could share their proud collectables. **Genealogy** is another interest that was suggested which could bring a group of members out to share their histories, old pictures and family treasures.

• **Gary Hedderson** has been on the executive of the local Horticultural Society and is a member of the Township of Madawaska Valley committee responsible for the establishment of the Janusz Zurakowski (Avro Arrow chief test pilot) Park and Museum. Their social calendar is filled with get-togethers with the many friends they have made since moving to the Ottawa Valley. Miriam is occupied with her crafts, swimming and walking groups and is a member of the local nursing home auxiliary. Their film group travels to Renfrew every second week for a gourmet potluck meal and the viewing of a current ‘independent’ film in the historic O’Brien Theatre. Gary taught at Strathcona, Eastview, Glenview, Tom Thomson, Dr. Charles Best, and Paul A. Fisher. You can contact him by email at hedd_gm@sympatico.ca.

50th Anniversary Celebration



King's Road Public School

660 Greenwood Drive, Burlington

Saturday May 6, 2006 from 2 - 5 p.m.

Welcome to former Staff and Students

For Questions and any memorabilia for “Decade Rooms”
Please call 905-637-3477 (school) or email: normabrown2000@yahoo.ca

Come out and check out “THE ROAD”!

(We Get Letters... continued from Page 7)

• **Dorothy and John Horner** sent a holiday card to say that they find the Halton Herald to be “a great, informative publication.”

• **Carl Hymers** wrote that after retiring in 1996, he and his wife relocated to Port Colborne in 1997 and lost touch with all but a few of his former Halton colleagues and friends. He had a serious heart scare in October, 1998 while playing hockey with some other “Oldtimers.” After several months of recovery he is back to a normal life with a few “cautions” to abide by.

With two grandkids living in Toronto and two living in Quebec, they are on the road for days at a time. The grandkids have prompted his return to some “wobbly” pleasure skating after seven years off the blades.

He really appreciated receiving the “Holiday Greeting” in December and the Halton Herald. The notice in the newsletter prompted him to reconnect by participating in the **Cycling Tour of the Niagara Wine Region** last September. He would like to do more. However, their home-based Bed & Breakfast operation keeps them busy and the distance factor means they have to be very selective when considering participation in the numerous social opportunities offered by District 15. Carl says he has many fond and pleasurable memories of his 28 or so years as part of the Halton Team.

(We Get Letters... continues on Page 9)



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(We Get Letters... continued from Page 8)

• **Jim Kropf** wrote to say “Thank you for the annual RTO letter of greetings of the Festive Season.” He is busy with a variety of activities. After returning from “our wonderful Egyptian vacation with our Halton RTO friends”, he had successful minor knee surgery to clean up an old injury. Then it was back to volunteering for Patrol Services on the Blue Mountain ski slopes which he patrols with another Halton retiree, Ed Kirkpatrick. He and Ed ski almost every day at Blue Mountain or Georgian Peaks, where they volunteer for the FIS race program.

• **Edna McMillan** sent a note to say she enjoyed receiving the Christmas letter even though she’s “not really removed from the area.” She says that she really hasn’t been doing anything since her hip replacement last winter. Therapy, exercise classes and more therapy are filling her time. Everything has healed well and she is looking forward to a more exciting New Year.

• **John Marshall**, who retired from Aldershot High School, wrote to say that he is now living near Powassan on Ruth Lake. After leaving Halton he spent a year and a half teaching English and travelling in Thailand and the surrounding countries. He taught at ECC, a private language and computer school on the outskirts of Bangkok in a community called Minburi. He says, “I loved the experience! The Thai people are generally very tolerant, patient and happy people...and between you and me, I saw more beautiful women than Heinz has tomatoes.”

In fact he married one. He met Pannee in a local hospital where he had to go for a series of rabies shots after being bitten by a wild cat. Pannee arrived in Canada in September and loves their home, the surrounding nature and the snow...so far. “We’ll wait till March to see what she thinks.”

(We Get Letters... continues on Page 10)



Volunteers Needed!

Ontario's only operating electric streetcar museum is looking for education volunteers to help us deliver our NEW curriculum-based elementary school programs beginning May 2006.

Volunteers work at our North Milton museum site where they interact with students and museum volunteers, and receive training in our Museum program delivery. Contact Shannon Bettles at 519-856-9802 or at shannonbettles@hcry.org for more information.

Visit us on the Internet at www.halinet.on.ca/district15

(We Get Letters... continued fromPage 9)

• **Margaret MacLeod** sent a card in reponse to our Holiday Greeting. She says that not much is new with her - "I just keep on going!" Her daughter, Katie and husband live in Smithville with two daughters where Katie is the Presbyterian minister for two small congregations. Margaret will be glad to have her son back in Toronto after his 10 years living in British Columbia.

• **George Munro** sent a card and a picture to show us how he spent last summer with his son, John and his family in Canmore, Alberta. His grandson, Adam, is 11years old and a fine golfer.



• **Norma Reid** emailed to say, "Rec'd the Herald today. A really neat little book with a lot of info."

• **Vera Robinson** sent a Christmas card to say how much she enjoyed reading our Holiday Greeting letter. She mentions that in January she turned 94 and that this was her 29th year of retirement. Don't we all hope we can do the same.

(We Get Letters... continues on Page 24)

RIDE OUTSIDE

Dedicated to outdoor fun and adventure on 2 wheels



Monika Blewett

Certified Cycling Coach (NCCP)

Ontario Mountain Bike Instructor (OCA)

- ✓ Decided to get in shape this Spring?
- ✓ Want to ride your bike with others of the same ability?
- ✓ Thinking about riding on the road?
- ✓ Thinking about trying to ride the trails?
- ✓ Want to learn more about trails in your own neighbourhood?

Whether you're just a beginner or training for an adventure race, we have the right program for you! Half day or whole day programs fro \$25. Call 905-339-9999 or email rideoutside@cogeco.ca for more info and special rates for retired teachers.

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Interested in Old Automobiles?

By Peter Gnish

Automobiles, particularly vintage ones, have always held a fascination with people both young and old. Some of our members own these older vehicles. The '64 Corvair Coupe pictured here belongs



to Jim Diell. He knows of other retirees who own “old autos.” Are you one of them? We would like to do a spread in the next newsletter on vintage cars and the people who own them. Send me a picture and a short write-up on your interest in the car(s) – how and when you got it, why the fascination, what shows or trips it has been on, etc. The next issue of the Halton Herald goes out in September but I need to receive your information by June 30th.

Jim fantasizes that if enough vehicles were found, we might be able to have a “Cruise” night in a local parking lot and invite all of the retirees to admire the automobiles and to talk to their owners.

Send me your material by email at pgnish@cogeco.ca or by Canada Post to Peter Gnish 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton ON L8M 2K4.

A Special Hotel Deal For RTO/ERO Members

The agreement with the Courtyard Marriott in downtown Toronto for special rates for RTO/ERO members has been renewed for 2006. The hotel is located at 475 Yonge Street, one block north of College Avenue. The Preferred Corporate Rate applies to a standard guestroom, single/double occupancy, based on availability. Depending on the time of year the rates are as follows: January 1 – April 15, \$117; April 16 – October 31, \$140; November 1 – December 30, \$121. Please note these rates are not available on the following dates: May 20-23; June 2-5; August 13-17; September 8-16; December 31.

Reservations for this Preferred Corporate Rate can be made through the Hotel's Reservation Office at 1-800-847-5075. You must mention you are an RTO/ERO member and when you arrive for your stay, supply some form of identification that indicates you are a member.

Archives Committee

By Judy Sloan



Since the last edition of our Halton Herald I have only received one item for our Archives scrapbook. It is a photo and short article from the Georgetown Independent and Free Press concerning one of our Halton RTO members, **Karen Harrison**. Karen, on behalf of the Lydia Snow Branch of RWTO, presented the book "The Time Between" by David Bergen to the Georgetown District High School Library. This was done in memory of a long time GHDS teacher, Jessie Glynn, who died in October at the age of 100. Karen is a former Glynn student.

Just a reminder that five of our very own members (three of whom are in our scrapbook) will be singing and dancing during Seniors' Week in June in the famous Burlington Footnotes and Company extravaganza show, "Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance" at Oakville Centre. The ladies are **Marg Daniels, Mary Hopkins, Bonnie Johnstone, Joan Wilson and Judy Sloan** (yup me). The company consists of members ages 50 to 80 plus. Rosemarie Maurice, our producer, artistic director and choreographer also does the choreography for Hamilton's Geritol Follies. The performances are on June 27 at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm and June 28 at 2:00 pm. For tickets contact the Box Office at 905-815-2021 or 1-888-489-7784. Come out for two hours of great entertainment!

Please keep those newspaper photos and articles coming so we can continue to fill our scrapbook. My address is 1446 Brenner Court, Burlington ON L7P 2Z2. You may also contact me by email at judymsloan@yahoo.ca or by phone at 905-336-5538.

Keep Those Letters, Emails, Phone Calls Coming!!!

We want to hear from you! So do all your former colleagues and friends who receive the Halton Herald. They want to know how you are and what is happening in your life, a special event you might be celebrating, how you are spending your time, any interesting activity you are involved with. Contact me using any or all of the following means:

Mail - Peter Gnish
153 Fairleigh Ave. S.
Hamilton, ON L8M 2K4

Email: pgnish@cogeco.ca
Phone: 905-547-1628

Calendar of Events – May to December 2006

- Sept 28** **Breakfast at The Golden Griddle**
Burlington - 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan 905-631-8939.
- Oct 12** **Visit To An Ecovillage**
Hosted by Brenda Dolling Caledon ON 11:00 a.m.
Contact Dave Wright by Sept 14. Visit our website
for a description of the Whole Village or contact Dave.
- Oct 26** **Breakfast at The Golden Griddle**
Oakville - 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan 905-631-8939.
- Nov 16** **Shaw Festival , Niagara-on-the-Lake**
Matinee “High Society” Tickets: \$37.00
Contact Janet Carter-Wright by Sept 6.
905-336-5328 or jcwright@on.aibn.com
**Cheques payable to Retirement Club and send to
Janet at 4491 Appleby Line, Burlington ON L9T 2Y1.**
- Nov 30** **Breakfast at The Fifth Wheel**
Milton - 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan 905-631-8939.
- Dec** **Theatre Aquarius Musical**
Details to be announced.
Contact Janet Carter-Wright 905-336-5328 by Oct 1.
- Jan 19** **Burl – Oak Theatre Group**
Navy Street, Oakville.
“Dark at the Top of the Stairs” - 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$22.00 Contact Dave Wright by Oct 1st.

To contact Dave Wright, Chair Recreation Committee

Telephone: 905-639-5093 or

E-mail: wandave@sympatico.ca

Allan Joseph Fish
January 31, 1904 – December 28, 2005



Recently, we lost a dear colleague and friend. Al was a long-time active member of RTO/ERO District 15 who graced us with his presence at our functions on a regular basis – the last time at our Fall Meeting on October 27, 2005 at the age of 101. The following is an edited version of the eulogy presented at Al's funeral by Gerry Droppo, one of our members.

Born in Otterville, Ontario into a family of five boys and two girls, all of whom were assigned chores, Al and his younger brother, Fred, had the job of splitting wood for the stove. Apparently, Fred did the chopping and Al did the watching. When questioned by Fred, Al responded, "I'm watching and thinking, is there a simpler way of doing this?" Already Al was developing his supervisory skills.

Al worked at a number of jobs in his teens before entering the North Bay Normal School at the age of twenty. His first teaching job was in the Village of Hunta, then it was on to South Porcupine, then to Timmins and finally, in 1930, to Fort Francis where he became a Supervising Principal and Business Administrator for the Board. In 1953 Al joined the Oakville Board of Education where he held the same appointments.

During his tenure in Oakville Al was responsible for the establishment of an Oral French Program (the first in the province for all students K-Grade 8) the first Special Education class for students, Consultant Services for teachers and Psychiatric Programs for students. He retired from teaching as an Area Superintendent in 1969. In 1983 Al received a citation from Premier Davis commending him on his dedication and his distinguished career in education.

Al was active with the Rotary Club of Oakville and was a member for 51 years, still attending monthly dinner meetings before his hospitalization. He was presented with The Paul Harris Fellowship, Rotary's highest honour, in recognition of his contributions to the ideals of Rotary. However, Al would say that his greatest accomplishment was a marriage of 63 years to his wife Marty who passed away in 2000.

(Al Fish... continues on Page 17)

Visit us on the Internet at www.halinet.on.ca/district15

(Al Fish... continued from Page 16)

When asked how he had made it to 100, Al replied, "I look in the mirror each morning and tell myself, I have a rainbow around my shoulders and it fits me like a glove, making me feel like a million dollars." He believed that one could do anything if one had enthusiasm – "the sparkle in your eyes, the swing in your gait, the grip of your hand, the irresistible surge of will and energy to execute your ideas." No wonder he was always smiling.

One of Al's favourite memorized quotes was from Lord Tennyson's Ulysses:

I am a part of all that I have met;
 Yet all experience is an arch wherethro'
 Gleams that untravell'd world, whose margin fades
 For ever and for ever when I move.



Book of Remembrance

(For the period Dec. 1, 2005 to Jan. 31, 2006)

We remember with fondness:

John Berriman	M. Hester Blaney	Al Fish	Albert Fullerton
Rhoda Jardine	Jean MacInnis	Al Porter	K. Ann Sagan
O. K. Van Sickle			

Membership & Recruitment Committee

By Bill Caldwell



This issue of the Halton Herald brings with it another Spring and another cohort of new retirees from the teaching profession. Our **Annual Wine & Cheese Reception** in April will give the Executive an opportunity to meet with new retirees and present to them the many advantages of joining RTO/ERO District 15. We look forward to acquiring many new members. If you know of any colleagues planning retirement please have them visit their Staff Room Bulletin Board for more information about this event. In September we will welcome them once again to our **"Hell With The Bell Breakfast."**

I wish to extend my thanks again to the members who respond so quickly to my requests for new addresses of members who have changed their place of residence. There is obviously an efficient network in operation. I hope to see many of you at the **Annual General Meeting in May.**

Visit us on the Internet at www.halinet.on.ca/district15

Beauty and the Beast

By Janet Carter-Wright

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, “a big family musical”, was enjoyed by 31 people on Thursday, December 15, 2005. There was a significant snowstorm that day but over two-thirds of the participants came. The others changed their tickets to another date. Theatre Aquarius is very good about exchanging tickets when weather is concerned. The play began late – about 15 minutes – to allow people to get to the theatre. The production was exceptional and captivated not only our theatre-goers, but also many young people who attended the production. It was a blend of magic and award-winning music based on the beloved fairy tale. Everyone who attended commented that it was a truly dynamic production.



Ways of Dealing With The Burdens of Life



- Accept that some days you're the pigeon and some days you're the statue.
- Always keep your words soft and sweet just in case you have to eat them.
- Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
- Drive carefully - it's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.
- Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
- Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
- A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
- Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

District 15 Constitution To Be Amended

By Peter Gnish and Ray Smith

Provincial RTO/ERO requires all districts to review their constitutions every 4-5 years. The District 15 Constitution Committee (Ray Smith, Chair and Peter Gnish) worked over the past year reviewing the existing local constitution. The Committee recommended a number of changes to reflect the evolving nature of our organization and to ensure that the document coincides with the Provincial Model Constitution. The first revised draft was reviewed by the District 15 Board in May, 2005, and forwarded to the Provincial Constitution Committee for review/comment. The response from the Province, received in November, 2005, gave general approval to the revised constitution and recommended some minor changes. These were all incorporated into the latest draft which was approved by the Board at its January 25, 2006, meeting.

The following is a summary of the major changes that are proposed for the constitution. RTO/ERO District 15 members present at the May 10, 2006, Annual General Meeting will vote on the final draft. A two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the AGM is required for approval.

A number of **Cosmetic Changes** were suggested (corrections to spelling, updating names of committees, minor rewording for clarification) that would not change the intent of an article. Several **Minor Changes** were suggested to conform to the Provincial RTO/ERO Model District Constitution. The **Major Changes** proposed are as follows:

- The Board has been expanded to include the Newsletter Editor and the Website Coordinator.
- The tasks of the Awards Committee have been clarified and a section has been added so that an award for a non-member who has provided significant service to District 15 can be given.
- The Social Committee will now be responsible for all aspects of the organization of the Fall and Spring meetings .
- The Communications Committee will now be responsible for writing and disseminating an e-letter to members who submit email addresses.
- The words “and active teachers” were added to bring a Political Action Committee article in line with the Provincial RTO/ERO policy.
- Banking and Finance is a totally new feature article that has been added at the request of the Provincial Constitution Committee to bring it in line with the Model Constitution.

(Constitution to be Amended... continues on Page 21)

Visit us on the Internet at www.halinet.on.ca/district15

(Constitution to be Amended... continued from Page 20)

The full version of the Revised Proposed Constitution is available on the District 15 website and you are encouraged to read it at your leisure. A few copies of the full version will be available at 9:00 a.m. at the **May 10 Annual General Meeting** and Constitution Committee members will be available at the meeting to answer questions. Anyone without computer access to the Internet and wishing a copy of the Revised Proposed Constitution before the meeting may obtain one by contacting either Ray Smith (905-639-1645) or Peter Gnish (905-547-1628). A vote will be taken by the membership present at the AGM on the following motion.

Notice of Motion

That the RTO/ERO District 15 Constitution be amended as proposed and as endorsed by the Board of Directors at its meeting of January 25, 2006.

(Moved by Peter Gnish, Seconded by Irene Chalupka)

Come to the Annual General Meeting on May 10, 2006 and VOTE!!!!

Communications Committee Report

By George MacRae



As a District 15 member, you are kept informed about local issues and events through our newsletter, the Halton Herald, our District website, and regular emails sent to members who have shared their email addresses with us. In addition, you receive *Renaissance*, the quarterly magazine from the Provincial RTO/ERO office.

But many members are unaware of the information and resources available on the **Provincial Website**. A sampling includes position papers on various issues such as federal health care concerns, long-term care and home care, environmental issues; updates on our health care plans; facts about the Ontario Drug Benefit program; information about the organization and much more.

Within the **Provincial Website**, there is a Members-only section with additional information such as fact sheets with resources related to government benefits, health, financial, insurance, legal, and surviving spouse considerations; tax tips; and regular updates provided to the districts.

You may visit the provincial website by connecting to our district website (<http://www.halinet.on.ca/district15>) and selecting Provincial RTO-ERO from the menu. To enter the members-only portion of the website, you will be asked to enter your RTO/ERO membership number.

Visit us on the Internet at www.halinet.on.ca/district15

Social Committee

By Colton Roberts and Lori Mehta



The social committee has been doing a great deal on your behalf. This enthusiastic group of people has been working very hard to provide you with great social experiences. You will want to read and view the pictures on Page 27 of our very successful Winter Meeting on Valentine's day. Please keep our committee informed about what you would like to see happen at our general meetings. A great deal of planning

goes into them and we want to provide meaningful topics to attract as wide an audience as possible.

Don't forget the **AGM**. The speaker, Helen Biales, our Provincial Past-President, is interesting and well qualified to inform our District about issues which affect us. She will be glad to answer your questions.

Please keep November 2nd open for District 15's first **Wellness Day**. A sub-committee of the Social Committee has been devoting a great deal of time and effort into putting together an agenda which is designed to help you "**Age with Pizzazz**". The day is designed to be an informative and fun-filled experience for all. There will be a wide range of topics to keep you informed and assist you in getting the most out of your retirement. Check out the brochure which accompanies this newsletter and sign up early to ensure that you get to participate in this great experience.

Please remind anyone you know who is about to retire to be sure to sign up for the "**To Hell With The Bell**" breakfast on Thursday, September 7th.

Vancouver is hosting the 2010 Winter Olympics. Here are some questions, posted on an International Tourism Website, that people the world over are asking about Canada!!!! Believe it or not (frightening, isn't it)!

Q: I have never seen it warm in Canada on TV, so how do the plants grow? (UK)

A: We import plants fully grown and then just sit and watch them die.

Q: Will I be able to see Polar Bears in the street? (USA)

A: Depends on how much you've been drinking.

Q: Do you have perfume in Canada? (Germany)

A: No, WE don't stink!

Obviously the answers are a joke; but the questions were really asked!!!

Visit us on the Internet at www.halinet.on.ca/district15

Contribute to the Herald!

The next Halton Herald will be distributed in early September, 2006.

Why not

- Share a line with our readers and let them know what you are up to.
- Be the first to write a Letter to the Editor.
- Write an article on any topic that may interest our retired colleagues.
- Share a funny story with our many readers.

Send your article or other correspondence to the editor, Peter Gnish by email at pgnish@cogeco.ca or by letter to 153 Fairleigh Ave. South, Hamilton, Ontario L8M 2K4. The deadline is June 30, 2006.

Editorial Policy

The Halton Herald Newsletter is a non-partisan newsletter published by RTO/ERO Halton District 15 and is distributed to members and prospective members three times a year. Materials or letters from members, charitable or volunteer organizations that are submitted for inclusion in the newsletter or website, in full or in part, must be approved by the editor or website manager. We reserve the right to edit all submissions and advertisements.

Advertisements may be accepted at the discretion of the editor if accompanied by a pre-determined donation to RTO/ERO District 15 based on the size of the ad. Your cancelled cheque will be your receipt. Advertisements are to be submitted electronically. Publication of any advertisement in the Halton Herald or Website does not constitute endorsement of the product or service by RTO/ERO Halton District 15.

Communications Committee

George MacRae (Chair), Chub Baxter, Marie Campbell, Peter Gnish (Editor), Flo Gray, Eleanor McCulloch, Lorimer Rutty (Digital Imaging) and Ray Smith

This issue of the Herald was printed and supported by **Astra Graphics, Burlington**

Help Keep Our Printing And Mailing Costs Down!

By Peter Gnish

We receive numerous accolades from members for the newsletters we sent out. And we are trying to send out a quality product with contents that people value. However, our costs keep going up. If you are one of those who would just as soon receive the 3 newsletters by email please contact me. You will receive a direct link to the site where you will be able to view the newsletter on your computer screen and download the file for printing if you want a hard copy. If you are interested in being involved in this project, contact me as follows:

Email: pgnish@cogeco.ca

Telephone: 905-547-1628

Mail: 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton, ON L8M 2K4

Visit us on the Internet at www.halinet.on.ca/district15

(We Get Letters... continued from Page 10)

• **Gunter Schade** - Cow Head lies within the boundaries of the spectacular UNESCO World Heritage Park, called Gros Morne National Park, half way up on Newfoundland's west coast. Gunter and his spouse Jeanette spend most their time keeping busy by doing all the wonderful stuff that they didn't have time for before. This includes interacting with a multitude of visiting international tourists who drift in during the summer. In addition to doing some commercial and creative art work Gunter keeps active snow shoeing, cutting firewood in the bush and transporting it out by snow machine in winter, deep sea fishing and working on a 33' sailing vessel during the summer. He recently completed the construction of a large work shed with bunk bed accommodations in the upper floor for visiting family and friends. Jeanette tries very hard at growing things in this rather harsh gardening environment, does unique handicrafts and spends a lot of time on her nature studies collecting shells and rocks while wandering along the sandy and rocky beaches.

On those numerous miserable rainy and stormy days, Gunter writes "...we have the option of spending hours in our ancient, but cozy little home with a hot toddy and a good book, listening to the rain hammering on the old cabin windows and to the mighty seas rolling upon the shore just a few feet away from our exterior kitchen door, while wondering about the so-called 'riches' of the big city life. On clear nights we can enjoy a truly unobstructed and non-polluted sky with a spectacular view of the Aurora Borealis, the multitude of brilliant and countless constellations, shooting stars and satellites crossing to be seen like this only in Northern regions."

Gunter says that it was the calling of the saltwater sea which inspired him to settle there after retirement. He had been a professional man on the Atlantic Ocean. In her younger years, Jeanette lived on a family farm by the salt water shores of the St. Lawrence River in Gaspé.

Gunter and Jeanette wish all their "friends and former colleagues in District 15 the very best in their retirement, much health and happiness. May we always find the time and the opportunity to nurture and cultivate true friendship. Take good care you all."

(We Get Letters... continues on Page 25)

(We Get Letters... continued from Page 24)

• **Mary Shier** is President of the Limehouse Kiln Society which received a grant from District 15 last year. She wrote, "Thank you so much for the wonderful coverage you gave the Society in the Halcyon. The write-up and photos are excellent. We have also just published our first newsletter "The Keystone" which is also on our website. We do appreciate RTO's interest and support for heritage preservation." She has hard copies available.

• **Vivian Smith** sent a holiday card thanking us for the card we had sent which celebrated her birthday - 92 years young. Congratulations Vivian!

• **Mary Thornton** now lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake. She sent a card saying that she appreciated receiving all the messages sent to her over the years since her retirement from teaching. She also said that she had fond memories of teaching the little "Gifted Munchkins" in Milton.

• **Morris Wernick** recently left Burlington to live in Aylmer, Quebec, where two of his children live. Morris claims Aylmer "is the most bilingual of any place that I have been, including Montreal. Even the ubiquitous teenage help in the stores switch into English....My few months of experience has led me to the conclusion that, while Canada might be officially a bilingual country, in practice it is so, mainly on the part of Francophones. My son-in-law is a Quebecois from the village of Trois Pistoles on the St Lawrence south shore. No bilingualism there. The University of Western Ontario holds its French Summer School there for that reason. People in the heartland of Quebec have no need to learn English, but face the pressures of an English dominated North America."

Morris misses his coffees at the Mall with a number of his former colleagues, but enjoys the proximity to his family. "Indeed you cannot have everything"

• **Karen White** wrote "Thanks for the cheery Season's Greetings newsletter. It is indeed one of life's great blessings to have friends no matter how near or far or how often we hear from each other. I have recently returned from the November trip with "JUAL" to Egypt. I loved the trip. One of the best things about it was that I was able to renew friendships with so many of my previous teaching colleagues from Halton. What a fun bunch!"

RTO/ERO Scholarship Grants

By Colton Roberts

At the May Senate a new scholarship program with a budgeted amount of \$25 000 was approved. RTO/ERO members with relatives who are attending or plan to attend an institution of higher learning to pursue a career in education will find this article of great interest.

The criteria are as follows:

- Each scholarship shall be in the amount of \$ 1000
- The applicant shall be a student, full time or part time, pursuing a career in education in Canada
- Each scholarship shall be for one time only
- Scholarships shall be organized and distributed on a provincial level
- Consideration shall be given to gender, geographical distribution and language balance based on the proportion of applicants
- Scholarships shall be granted to children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews of RTO/ERO members

Contact the Provincial office (1-800-361-9888) for application forms. Applications should be received by Provincial Office by May 25th and you must be a member of RTO/ERO in good standing at the time the application is due.

Remember Your Last Airline Flight When...

With a very “senior” flight attendant as crew, the pilot said, “Ladies and gentlemen, we’ve reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants.”

The Flight Attendant said, “There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane.”

And another said, “In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child travelling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are travelling with more than one small child, pick your favourite.”

And finally, “Your seat cushions can be used for flotation; and in the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and take them with our compliments.”

Winter Meeting and Luncheon - February 14, 2006

By Colton Roberts

The Winter Meeting on Valentine's Day was a great success with 125 members in attendance to learn about digital photography. The meeting was



held at the Milton Sports Arena on Derry Road in Milton.

The day began with a delicious lunch catered by the Foods School at E. C. Drury High School. After the meal we listened to an

excellent speaker, Matt Sparling of Duncan & Wright Camera, who gave a great introduction to digital photography allaying many of the concerns about purchasing and using a digital camera. His presentation was first-rate.



Special thanks to Lorimer Rutty, Colton Roberts and Peter Gnish who presented members with valuable information on how to take a good photo and how to edit and process the photos once taken.



We had an enthusiastic audience and a great time!



Visit us on the Internet at www.halinet.on.ca/district15

This is the Way to Experience Hawaii

Submitted by Marquerite Birett

My husband and I recently returned from a fantastic trip to Hawaii arranged by Irene Chalupka. "Irene's Group" of 36 left Toronto on January 29th, stayed overnight in Vancouver and then flew to Honolulu where we stayed for 5 nights at the Pacific Beach Hotel on Waikiki Beach. It was a fabulous location across the street from the beautiful blue Pacific where we could swim, stroll in the water or just watch the surfers.



While on the island of Oahu various tour options were available. Many chose the Circle Oahu Island Tour and saw breathtaking scenery, remarkable aquamarine water, great beaches and visited a Pineapple Plantation. Also popular was a visit to the Polynesian Cultural Centre, a luau on the beach and a visit to Pearl Harbor.



On Saturday we boarded "The Pride of America" for a week of cruising to the other Islands. The snorkeling in Maui was fantastic as was the view from the Atlantis Submarine.



After descending to over 130 feet, the water was still clear enough to take pictures of the many schools of colourful fish. Other tours included the Circle of



Fire Helicopter Ride on the Big Island of Hawaii and a small river boat cruise up the Wailua River to see the Fern Grotto on Kauai. At the end of a fun filled week we exchanged adventures at a cocktail party followed by dinner in the Liberty Restaurant.

We arrived back in Toronto on February 12th filled with wonderful memories of beautiful, blue Hawaii. MAHALO Irene for organizing a super trip.

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