

RTO
ERO

Halton Herald

RTO/ERO DISTRICT 15

April 2008

You Focussed ... Fabulous!

Photo Contest Results



Wildflowers by M. Ortwein

1st Prize - Marilyn Ortwein - cover

2nd Prize - Don Gentleman - page 2

3rd Prize - Marion Jonassen - page 2

Honourable Mentions: pages 2, 27, 28



2nd Prize ... Tied!

Both photos by **Don Gentleman**

Left: *Beverly Sill*

Below: *Frosted Cranberries*



3rd Prize...*Grundy Lake*
by **Marion Jonassen**



Honourable Mentions



Fiddler St. Peter's Harbour by **Bernie Butt** (Honourable Mentions ... continues on Page 27)

President's Report

By Mary Lyons

It hardly seems possible that my term as President of Halton District 15 RTO/ERO is almost over. It feels like only yesterday that I was writing my first President's message and now I've written my last one. It has been a very good year for our District and I have had the privilege of working with some dedicated and talented people who have offered me both support and guidance.



I have really enjoyed meeting members at our events and hearing stories of the different ways that our retirees have chosen to fill their days. The face of retirement has certainly changed over the years. Many of our members continue to work part-time, volunteer in the community, travel extensively and enjoy leisure activities. We are choosing to remain active and involved. Not surprising is that many retirees are busier now than when they were teaching. Watching a group of retired friends trying to coordinate their calendars for a lunch date, golf game, etc. is proof of how busy we are. The difference is that now we can do whatever we want whenever we want to do it.

As I leave the role of President, I would like to encourage all our members to consider four things:

Volunteer some time to help on one of our District Committees. Although we have over 2000 members, fewer than 50 people do the work of organizing events and activities and who work to serve the needs of our members. More people to help would be most welcomed and appreciated.

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

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

Come out and support at least one District 15 RTO/ERO activity in 2008-2009. Events are always listed in the Halton Herald and are on our website. If you haven't had a chance to attend yet, please do try. To accommodate the needs of our members, some occur in the daytime and some in the evening. Some are held in South Halton and some in North Halton. In all cases, the costs are kept to a minimum. There is usually a variety of choices so we hope at least one of the planned events will appeal to you.

Encourage your retired teacher friends, who may not be RTO members, to join our organization and to take advantage of the benefits that RTO has to offer. As the membership brochure states: "These include: excellent health care coverage, pension support, advocacy on social, political and economic issues, group travel programs, community involvement and regular communication from both Provincial and District levels." At the District level, it's an excellent opportunity to reconnect with former friends and colleagues.

Become a part of our District Board. We are looking for someone to take on the role of Second Vice-President for next year and also someone to be the Program Committee Chair. If you are interested in finding out more about these roles, please contact me. You can reach me by email at mlyons3@cogeco.ca or call me at 905-336-5744.

I would like to thank the Board members who, I believe, are the heart and soul of our District. They continue to volunteer their time to make our District one of the best. I know that I wouldn't have been able to do it without them this year. I look forward to working with them as my involvement with Halton RTO/ERO District 15 continues as Past President.



Book of Remembrance

(For the period Dec.. 1, 2007 to Feb. 29, 2008)

We remember with fondness

Mona Adam
Cliff Byrnes
William Egan
Elinor Leard

Clifford Batchelor
John Casimir
William Embree
Nellie Lee
Phyllis McCollom

Calvina Beavis
Donald Corbett
Kathryn Hatherley
Mary McKenzie

We Get Letters, Emails & Calls

By Peter Gnish



Congratulations to the many people who submitted pictures for the Photo Contest - we are all winners! A number of others sent cards, letters and emails. Thank you all for becoming involved and for letting your friends and former colleagues know where you are and how you are doing.

Rick Burgin sent an email and attached an article and picture. His article on Page 12 describes how he changed his RTO/ERO membership to become a member of District 15 even though he lives in Lavigne, Ontario.

Lisa Cerny sent a card to let us know that she and her husband are moving to Australia. We hope, that while enjoying the evening sun, she sees many pelicans on the beach like the one on the card.

John Horner sent a card at Christmas to say that he enjoyed meeting his former colleagues at the Milton District High School Reunion held in early September. He mentioned that one of the highlights of his career was being invited back to be the guest speaker at Excellence Night.

Gay Loveland sent me an email which read, "Thank you for your Christmas Greetings, it is always nice to hear from you. I am writing to tell you that I am no longer out-of-region as I have moved back to Oakville recently from Montreal."

Andrew Park sent greetings from the Sun Coast in Florida. He says, "this is our 10th winter down here and being able to view ALL the snow on the news, as I sit clad in my t-shirt and shorts. Yea, it's tough but..." He also mentioned that Martha has been plagued with a restricted blood flow but is slowly able to increase regular her walks. Andrew sends his best wishes to all and "God's richest blessing and health all the way through 2008."

Vera Robinson sent a Christmas card thanking us for the "interesting and colourful Christmas greeting" that is sent to all District 15 members who reside outside of Halton.

Doreen Silver included the following in her Christmas card: "Thank you so much for your letter. It is nice to know that even though I have moved out of the Halton area, someone will be keeping me posted on all the news."

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

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

Jean Somerville wrote to say that she has moved back to Acton (“still worth the drive”) after retiring to Sauble Beach and will be renewing her friendships with the RWTO branch in North Halton. She says that she appreciated the communication while away from Halton and “enjoyed hearing of the events and activities of other members.”

Morris Wernick wrote to say that the Holiday Greetings letter sent to him in Gatineau, Quebec, where he now lives “brought back some memories of when we worked together at Nelson.” He keeps in touch with some people going back to his first years in Halton and attended the Nelson High School Reunion in September. He has not regretted his move to Quebec as it means being close to family, especially his grandchildren.

Welcome New RTO/ERO District 15 Members!

Our District 15 membership is now over 2000. Below are the names of retired teachers who have joined our ranks since September, 2007. Give them a warm welcome and invite them to join you in one of our many activities.

Evelyn Batchelor	Frank Becker	Flo Belford
William Brock	William Burton	Sharron Crawford-White
Debra Currie-Mills	Sally Friedenberg	Glenda Hailes
Marian Hamp	Brian Horner	Mona Hummel
Anne Hyland	Margaret Jasper	Nancy Johnston
Merle Kirsten	Earl Leard	Wayne Lemmond
Millie Markun	Jim Mitchell	Adele Morley
Jan Moxey	Ann Moynes	Paul Owens
Priscilla Potvin	Greta Robinson	Judith Robinson
Eva Rutten	Margaret Small	Lynn Snider
Leteria Soares	Hilary Speed	Victoria Steedman
Faye Ward	Jeannette Wilson	

Circulation

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of blood. Trying to make the matter clearer she said, “Now class, if I stood on my head, my blood would run into it and I would turn red in the face. So why is it that while I am standing upright the blood doesn’t run into my feet?”

One little boy volunteered, “ ’Cause your feet aren’t empty!”

Annis Munro - A Lifelong Learner

Submitted by Marina Lloyd - Goodwill Committee Chair

“It seems as if I’ve been going to school all my life!” Annis was speaking the truth. There were decades spent in classrooms as pupil and as teacher. But much of her education occurred beyond walls as she furnished her mind with images and knowledge gained from travelling, talking and listening to people, studying, taking courses, honing new skills and reading, reading, reading.

Annis McMane was born in 1913, in the village of Milverton, north of Stratford -“a wonderful place to be a child.” Villagers looked out for one another and for each others’ children. Annis shared two memories from a golden childhood. One was the time the whole McMane clan gathered at her aunt’s large farmhouse for Christmas dinner. Her father had prepared the sleigh. It had a long bench on each side with buffalo robes and hot bricks and was pulled by his prizewinning team of black horses. The End of Summer expedition to the CNE where that matched team of horses won their prizes was another happy memory.



Her early schooling was in Milverton’s Continuation School but in order to take her Senior Matriculation she had to attend Stratford Collegiate. Compared to her village, Stratford seemed to be such a big city. When she was just 17 she began her post-secondary studies in the great metropolis of Toronto - the “centre of the universe.” She still feels grateful to her parents who encouraged their only daughter to follow her dream of pursuing higher education in Math and Physics - very unusual for a woman in the 1930s. She earned her B.A. degree and attended the Ontario College of Education in Toronto.

She returned home to begin her career at her Milverton Continuation School by teaching eleven periods each day and working long into the night, preparing lessons for the next day. In 1939 she was offered a job at Waterford District High School in Norfolk County. In 1941 a first-year teacher named John Munro joined the staff and it wasn’t long before a romance blossomed between the two. A year later, John took a leave from his teaching assignment and enlisted in the Signal Corps. In 1943 Annis received a call from him to say that he had an Easter weekend leave from his officers’ training course.

(Annis Munro ... continues on Page 22)

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

A Valentine's Day Event!



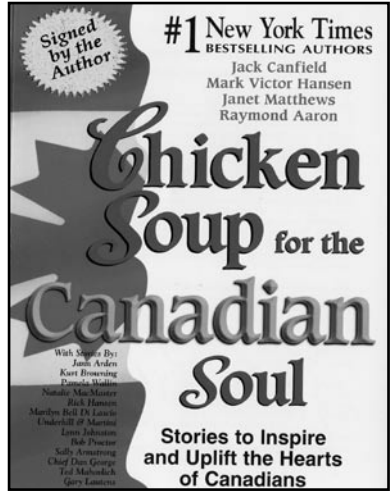
Carolyn Blake

Mmm...
Mmm...
Good!



Robert Law

“Heart
Warming”



Marie Nunn



Janet Matthews
signs books for ...

Sharon Matz



Donna Bethune



Door Prize Winners

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

“Filled with history and humour!”



Jean Dunlop



Jean Anderson



Annemarie Krudwig

“Motivating”

An engaging talk given by Canadian author, Janet Matthews



Christine Cornier

Enza Lafratta

“Appreciated and enjoyed by all!”



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

In Memoriam ... Clifford G. Byrnes A Magical Man!

By Judy Sloan



On Friday, February 1, 2008, Clifford G. Byrnes, passed away at the age of 74. Cliff was the longest-serving Director of Education at the Halton Catholic District School Board (1971-1994) and a former President of our Halton District 15 RTO (1999-2000). He is survived by Doreen, his devoted wife of nearly fifty years who was a former teacher in Halton's Catholic Board, eight children - five of whom have entered careers in education, and fifteen grandchildren. He will be fondly recalled and missed by all whose lives he touched.

Cliff cared deeply and passionately for his staff and students. He was a very accessible and inviting director and his teachers felt comfortable going to him with their problems and concerns. Cliff had a great sense of humour which he often used to make a person feel at ease. He also continued to display a deep interest in his employees after he retired by founding the Board's Retirement Club, an active and growing social club that enabled retirees to keep in touch with each other.

In 1994 Cliff was the first recipient of the Halton OECTA Elementary Unit's Life Membership Award, which reads "For Outstanding Service To Catholic Education In Halton Region And The Aims Of Education In The Province Of Ontario"- a well deserved honour! Richard Brock, the President of Halton OECTA in his memorial tribute to Cliff this past February stated, "In your lifetime, hopefully you will be touched by one of the great ones. Cliff was a great one! He was a person whose presence was powerful; whose decisions were just; whose rules were fair; and whose heart was full of love and compassion."

Cliff was appointed Director of Education just two years after the four Catholic Boards of Halton amalgamated and during his tenure he guided the Board through the extension of full funding for Catholic schools and the establishment of the first Catholic high school in Halton, Burlington's Assumption Secondary School. This year the Board will open its eighth high school!

(Cliff Byrnes ... continues on Page 19)

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

Please Contact **Dianne Vezeau** at the Provincial RTO/ERO office -
 In Writing: 18 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON M5R 2S7
 By Telephone: 1-800-361-9888 Ext. 223 or 1-416-962-9463 Ext 223
 By Email: dvezeau@rto-ero.org

Recruitment & Member Services Committee

By **Bill Caldwell**



Fellow Retirees - Spring is in the air! Many teachers are experiencing the last months of their career and giving thought to the wonderful years of retirement. Again this year, RTO/ERO District 15 will be hosting a **Wine & Cheese Reception** for all prospective retirees on April 10th at The Quality Inn on Bronte Rd. Please advise any friends and former colleagues who have not yet joined RTO/ERO of this reception. Detailed information is posted on all school staff bulletin boards.

Golf season will soon be with us. Our **Annual RTO/ERO District 15 Golf Tournament** takes place at the Hidden Lakes Golf Club on May 28. The Registration Form and information is included on Page 15. Join us for a great day. We look forward to a good turnout.

In closing, I wish to thank **Bev Hilton & Carolle Twiss** for their assistance this year .



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All Fired Up About Halton District 15 !

Submitted By Rick Burgin



When my wife **Blanche** (who was an instructional assistant with Halton) and I took our retirement in '98, we made our cottage on the northwest shore of Lake Nipissing our permanent residence. Due to the distance involved, I opted not to join District 15 but rather the local district. After years I acted on the suggestion made by Mary Lyons last November and transferred my RTO membership to District 15. Over the past three months I have been very pleased with the communication from District 15. Guess I was a

slow learner taking so long to transfer!

Now into our 10th year of retirement we have become an integral part of the community of West Nipissing being involved with the local Canadian Cancer Society, the Lavigne Landfill Board, the Literacy Board, the Anglican church, the fire department and its ladies' auxiliary, the Royal Canadian Legion and the Lavigne Emergency Planning Committee - mostly in executive capacities. To promote literacy, Blanche tutors several students in mathematics each week while I tutor two students in computer skills.

Despite all our volunteer activities, we still find time to fish and boat, visit family in Louisiana, visit our sons and their families in Barrie and Kitchener and enjoy social events with our many friends in the area. One of us does go hunting as well.

Since 1996, I have been the Fire Chief in Lavigne, Station 7, West Nipissing Fire Service. This affords me the opportunity to continue my teaching, as I impart forty-one years of knowledge as a firefighter to the newest members of my station. I have included a picture showing another teaching opportunity I had as a firefighter. This was taken in North Bay during the RCMP Race Against Drugs Initiative. In the picture, I am doing a presentation on home fire safety using Sparky's Hazard House.

All being well, I plan to attend the annual meeting in May.

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

RTO/ERO District 15 Contact List

Executive 2007 – 2008

Past President	Colton Roberts	905-335-0027
President	Mary Lyons	905-336-5744
1st Vice President	Cecile Leach	905-634-8027
2nd Vice President	Linda Jones	905-336-5785
Secretary	Janet Carter-Wright	905-336-5328
Treasurer	Chub Baxter	905-643-3732

Committees

Archives	Judy Sloan	905-336-5538
Book of Remembrance	Marina Lloyd	905-637-6030

Communications Chair	Peter Gnish	905-547-1628
Website	George MacRae	905 315 8581
Newsletter	Peter Gnish	905-547-1628

Assistants: Chub Baxter, Les Dorans, Cecile Leach, Eleanor McCulloch,
Marilyn MacRae, Cate Roberts (Design), Ray Smith & Dave Trueman.

Goodwill Chair	Marina Lloyd	905-637-6030
West Convenor	Gloria Simchuk	905-637-7340
East Convenor	Warren McBurney	905-845-8219
North Convenor	Iona Lobb	905-877-0767
Out-of-Region Convenor	Peter Gnish	905-547-1628
Assistant	Flo Gray	905-639-4850

Health Services	Paul Durnan	905-631-8939
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Recruitment and Member Services

Chair	Bill Caldwell	905-633-9506
Committee Members:	Bev Hilton	905-632-4528
	Carolle Twiss	905-632-8036

Pension	Jim Baker	905 639 1292
Political Action	Marg Daniels	905-634-7371
Recreation	David Wright	905-639-5093
Social	Colton Roberts	905-335-0027
Tours	Irene Chalupka	905-637-0887

Calendar of Events – April to December 2008

- Apr 24 **Breakfast** at El Spero Restaurant, Hopedale Mall, Oakville. 9 a.m.
Contact Paul Durnan at 905-631-8939.
- May 7 District 15 **Annual General Meeting** and Lunch - 9:15 a.m. start.
Speaker: **Katherine Barber “The Word Lady”** - see the ad enclosed
as a separate insert. Send in your Registration Form by April 28th.
- May 28 Sixth Annual **Golf Tournament**. Hidden Lake. 9:00 a.m. See the ad on
Page 13. Send in your Registration Form by April 30th.
- June 24 Oakville Theatre for the Performing Arts, Navy Street.
“Gotta Sing-Gotta Dance.” Burlington Footnotes. 2 p.m. Cost \$23.
Contact the theatre at 905-815-2021 or Dave Wright.
- Sept 4 Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Musical **“Wonderful Town.”** 2 p.m.
Cost \$40. Contact Janet Carter-Wright by July 31 at jcwright@on.aibn.com
or 905-336-5328. Cheques made out to Retirement Club must be received
by Janet at 4491 Appleby Line, RR#6 Milton, ON L9T 2Y1 by July 31.
- Sept 10 **Bicycle Tour** of Niagara Wine Country. Contact Gym and Doris Grant
at 905-632-2299 or gdgrant@cogeco.ca
- Oct 18 **Dinner Theatre**, Aldershot Players. Play to be announced.
West Plains United Church, Burlington. Cost \$35.00. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca by Sept 2.
- Oct 22 **Historical walk** in downtown Burlington. 10 a.m.
Visit the new Brant Street Pier. Lunch at Benny's.
Contact Dave Trueman at 905-632-9887 or truemand@hotmail.com
- Oct 30 **Breakfast** at El Spero Restaurant, Hopedale Mall, Oakville. 9 a.m.
Contact Paul Durnan at 905-631-8939.
- Nov 19 **Walk and shop** the PATH under downtown Toronto. Meet at the Appleby
GO Station at 10 a.m. for GO ride to Union Station. Contact
Dave Trueman at 905-632-9887 or truemand@hotmail.com by Nov 12.
- Nov 27 **Breakfast** at Johnathan's Family Restaurant, 4121 Fairview St., Burlington
9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-631-8939.

Bring a Friend! *People who are not members of RTO/ERO are more than welcome to join you at any of the activities listed.*

To contact Dave Wright, Chair Recreation Committee
Telephone: 905-639-5093 or E-mail: wandave@sympatico.ca



District 15 RTO/ERO Sixth Annual Bestball Golf Tournament 2008



Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2008
Place: Hidden Lake Golf Course
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Cost: For 18 Holes including Lunch: \$70.00

The GOLF Committee has reserved 40 Tee Times for this event.
 Cheques must be received by Wednesday, April 30th.

Make Cheques payable to the "RTO/ERO District 15 " and mail to:

John Goodman,
 70 Cameron Ave.,

Dundas, ON L9H 1P8

For further information contact John Goodman
 by email at johng54@cogeco.ca

----- Tear Off -----

Registration Form

SIXTH ANNUAL RTO/ERO DISTRICT 15 BEST BALL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please reserve me a Power Cart. The extra charge for the
 Power Cart will be paid on the day of the tournament.

Amount Enclosed: \$70.00

Cheque made payable to: "RTO/ERO DISTRICT 15"

Please note any names of the group in which you would like to play.

_____, _____, _____

Snowshoeing 101

submitted by Marilyn Ortwein

When my son Tom, and his wife Kristen, gave me snowshoes, I walked the trail behind my condo for practice. Thinking I was doing well, I joined The Meanderthals (the seniors' hiking group here in Canmore, Alberta) who snowshoe on Mondays. After a 40 minute drive we arrived at the snowshoeing location where the conditions were fabulous: clear blue sky, deep fluffy snow and mild temperatures.



On went the snowshoes and I took a position near the back of the line. Even though I hadn't fallen once while trekking behind my condo, I hadn't travelled 3 metres before I fell. Many hands brought me to my feet. I was informed that my shoes were on the wrong feet. The entire group waited while I changed my snowshoes. Further down the trail, another gentleman told me that my feet were not positioned correctly on the shoe. "You are expending far too much energy. When we stop for lunch, we will correct the problem."

Our "Guide" led us through pristine snow as we moved through the woods. It was a marvellous experience, but I was constantly thinking about avoiding another fall. We stopped for lunch in an area with fallen trees where we could sit on some logs. I tried to back up to the fallen tree in my snowshoes, but couldn't, so started to take them off. "Don't do that, just back up." In order to save face, I told them that I wanted to remove my snowshoes as adjustments needed to be made. "Be careful or you'll sink. This snow is very deep."

I finally sat down and had my lunch. Adjustments were made to my snowshoes and everyone was happy that I wouldn't be exerting as much energy. The log was covered in snow so I sat on my hat. "You should have one of these," said the person next to me. She held an inflatable cushion. They told me that I could also use a mouse pad, but that might be a touch small. Were they referring to me or was that just a general statement? I asked where I might purchase a cushion. They both blurted out "MEC" or perhaps one of the outdoor stores in Canmore. Trying to act as if I were familiar with the outdoors, I said, "Could I buy one at the Mountain Equipment store in Calgary?" "Of course, that's 'MEC', Mountain Equipment Co-op."

(Snowshoeing ... continues on Page 17)

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

(Snowshoeing ... continued from Page 16)

On the way back, one of the women asked, "Why are your poles so short?" When snowshoeing, you also use hiking poles. Another stop, as the participants showed me how to lengthen my poles.

I was feeling very positive about my progress, when I slipped off the trail and my one shoe sank into a large hole at the trunk of a tree. Again many hands pulled me out of this dilemma. All seemed to be progressing well when I attempted to place my left snowshoe flat on the ground. The tip was elevated and would not lie flat because a chunk of ice the size of a baseball had formed under the metal piece on the snowshoe. I couldn't remove it. Once again, I asked for assistance. "Just place the heel of your snowshoe on the ground and I will attempt to remove the ice buildup." Fortunately, I did as requested without toppling over.

Back at the parking area, one of the women said, "Is this your first time snowshoeing on trails?" "Yes," I replied. "You did very well." Right.

.....
Next CONTEST .. "Surviving The Winter!"

How did you survive the harsh weather this winter? Let us know. This contest will offer three cash prizes of \$25, one in each of the following categories. Winners and a selection of others will be featured in the September issue.

Category 1: Anecdotes

Submit a **written article** describing how you spent your time surviving the snow, rain, slippery roads, and the cold. You might indicate the activities you took part in to pass the time, special places you visited, humorous or unusual situations or anything else you think might be of interest to our readers.

Category 2: Pictures

Send in **your pictures** that show this winter at its best - or worst.

Category 3: Heart-Warming Recipes And Why They Work

Send **your favourite recipe**, (one that is a true comfort food), a new recipe you tried or another you may have used to weather the storms. Tell us why they work for you.

Be a Winner! Send Anecdotes, Pictures and/or Heart-Warming Recipes by Canada Post to Peter Gnish, 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton, ON L8M 2K4 or electronically at pgnish@cogeco.ca. Hard copies of pictures will be scanned and returned after the contest. Contest deadline is **June 30, 2008**.

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

Recreation Committee

By Dave Wright



Since our last report in January we have experienced some good theatre events and will do more this coming season. Those who attended these performances were very enthusiastic.

The **“Burlington Footnotes”** performance in June at the Oakville Centre promises to be a good show. The cast includes several of our members and they get a “kick” out of seeing you in the audience. Tickets are still available.

The first event this fall is a repeat of the **Wine Tour** in Niagara on bicycles. It will be lots of fun, as it was last time, with stops to sample the latest wines and enjoy lunch. No plans this year to get on the moose at Inniskillin. The more the merrier. So plan to join us by contacting **Gym** and **Doris Grant**.

In October, we will do a **Tour of Downtown Burlington** to view some of the historical houses and buildings. **Dave Trueman** will lead us on the excursion. The tour will be followed by a look at the new Brant Street Pier and lunch at Benny's. Then in November, Dave will take us on the GO train to Union Station and have us walk the **PATH to the Eaton Centre**. There will be time to shop, browse, have lunch and get back to Burlington before the rush hour. You can stay in the big city as long as you like but we will give you an itinerary and a map if you want to stay in a group. I want to thank Dave for these suggestions and for leading the groups.

Janet Carter-Wright is arranging another outing at the Shaw this September. This year we will see **“Wonderful Town”** with music written by Leonard Bernstein. The play is based on the play and movie “My Sister Eileen.” I am old enough to remember that one.

Thanks for your suggestions made in the survey. We will do our best to try to include as many as possible in our future plans. Please read the Calendar of Events on Page 14 for details on the events mentioned and how to register.

Love That English!

Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies like banana.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

He had a photographic memory that was never developed.

(Cliff Byrnes ... continued from Page 10)

“Real magic can happen only when people are passionate about making a difference in the lives of others” stated Rossini, The Magical Motivator. Cliff’s legacy will be that he lived a life of honour, love and respect. By doing so, he succeeded in making a difference in the lives of others and successfully created real magic.

Cliff, you will continue to live on in our memories and in our hearts. You

Nursing Home Minimum Care Standards On the Way? **Edited from Ontario Health Coalition Material**

As a result of pressure from the Ontario Health Coalition (OHC), the provincial government has committed itself to bringing in a regulation to set minimum nursing home care standards. Bill 140 is going to Third Reading (and final passage) in the legislature starting March 29 and the regulation should follow the passage of the legislation.

The OHC and member groups are calling for a 3.5 hour average minimum per day to reflect the levels recommended in the best studies. Information obtained through a Freedom of Information request shows that nursing homes are self-reporting to the government that their levels of care in 2006 were at 2.81 hours per day using a combination of Nurse Practitioners, RNs, RPNs and PSWs. This reported figure is higher than the estimates of lobby groups who have stated that the actual levels of care are between 2.5 and 2.6 hours on average. It is not clear how accurate any of these figures are, and this is an average, so the lowest homes are likely still lower than the former minimum standard regulation of 2.25 hours per day that was removed by Mike Harris more than a decade ago.

The need to improve care levels, enforcement and transparency in reporting is clear. Bottom line? Promises made during the legislative hearings on Bill 140 by George Smitherman and Monique Smith were that the regulation will be introduced this spring. It is not clear at what level of care the regulation will be set. We all should be concerned as we may have to use these services.

What can you do if you are interested and concerned about this issue? Call your local MPP or email the health minister and tell them that you want to see minimum standards in nursing homes returned. A full list of MPPs can be found at www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca - click on “Queen’s Park Watch.”

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

Watch Out For SCAM Artists!

Edited from Crime Stoppers Material

We can all avoid becoming victims of some crimes by becoming informed. One common form of financial abuse against older adults is deceptive telemarketing and door-to-door sales scams. These frauds can come in the form of letters, faxes, emails and telephone calls. Because more than half of the total number of victims are over the age of 60, seniors need to exercise the “buyer beware” philosophy more than ever. Although not all telemarketing offers are fraudulent, some can be and very often are intended to victimize on a large scale.

How can you recognize a scam?

- It sounds too good to be true or you have to pay up front to win.
- You are asked to provide personal financial information, cash or a money order to claim a prize.
- The person calling advises they are the manager, want to be your best friend and are more excited than you are.
- The offer is presented to you as a limited opportunity and you need to act now or miss out.

New frauds and schemes are always surfacing. Prevention is the key to not becoming a victim. Remember to protect your personal information at all times as well as credit card, bank card and financial information.



If you have any information on any type of crime occurring in your neighborhood call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS to be eligible for up to a \$2,000 cash reward. Remember, you will never have to reveal your identity and Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display.

Contribute to the Herald!

The next Halton Herald will be distributed in September, 2008.

- **Submit** a line for our readers to let them know what you are up to.
- **Send** a Letter to the Editor on any topic that concerns you.
- **Write** an article on any topic that may interest your retired colleagues.
- **Share** a funny story with our many readers.
- **Provide** a picture to share with our members.

Send your article or correspondence to the Editor, Peter Gnish by email: pgnish@cogeco.ca, by mail to 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton L8M 2K4 or telephone: 905-547-1628. Deadline - July 15, 2008.

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

Health Services Committee

By Paul Durnan



The RTO/ERO Group Benefits Program, available to all members, includes a wide range of coverage some of which you may not be aware of. Here are two examples:

1. Emergency Dental Coverage outside of Canada is reimbursed on the same basis as similar expenses within our province. A letter, signed by the dentist giving details of the service that was provided including pre-treatment x-rays, is required.

2. The Hospital Money Plan provides cash directly to you while you are in hospital. Even if you have coverage under the Semi-Private Hospital Plan, you may discover there are extra out-of-pocket expenses such as telephone, television rental or even visitor parking. The plan is available to RTO/ERO members and their spouses who are under age 85. There are two plans depending on your age. You can receive up to \$1200 per month based on \$40 per day due to hospitalization because of an accident or sickness. Benefits are payable after the fourth day of hospitalization. The plan terminates at age 85. Members interested in adding this plan to existing coverage should contact Johnson Inc., Plan Benefits Service (1-877-406-9007 or 416-920-7248) for more information and costs.

Six Words You Never Knew Had Something To Do With Pigs Submitted by Colton Roberts

This is the title of what should prove to be a lively and entertaining talk by **Katherine Barber** at our Annual General Meeting on May 7th. “Canada’s Word Lady,” Katherine is Editor-in-Chief of the award-winning Canadian Oxford Dictionary and is known for her lively and engaging take on the history of our language. She is a regular guest on radio and TV across Canada.



As Editor-in-Chief of Canadian Dictionaries at Oxford University Press she has overseen the production of 11 dictionaries and has received several awards for her work. ***Six Words You Never Knew Had Something To Do With Pigs*** was on the Maclean’s bestseller list for 14 weeks in 2006. Come and hear Katherine and enjoy a great meal. Please see the Flyer and Registration Form that is enclosed as a separate sheet in this mailing.

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(Annis Munro ... continued from Page 7)

Could they be married? They were - on Easter Sunday, in her parents' home, surrounded by family and some close friends. As she had a few days of Easter vacation remaining, they were able to have a short honeymoon in Kingston.

The young couple left Waterford moving first to Stirling then to Smith's Falls. In 1958 the family, which by now included two children, came to Burlington to the house on Lorne Street where Annis lived for nearly 50 years (she moved to Appleby Place in 2007). John taught Science at Central High School and Annis taught Home Economics there for a year. She continued to supply at Central until another opportunity to teach Home Economics presented itself at the Ontario School for the Deaf in Milton. Even the drives to Milton on wintry days did not diminish the pleasure Annis got from working with her students.

When she retired in 1973, John, who planned to teach for 3 more years, worried that she'd not have enough to do. "Just watch me!" was her response. In 1958 Annis had joined Burlington's newly-formed University Women's Club where there was always something new to learn from the speakers at the monthly meetings. Once she retired she was able to participate in daytime activities, join CFUW interest groups, play duplicate bridge, join the Seniors' Centre, take courses in creative writing and yoga. John needn't have worried!

Satisfying her curiosity about the world through travel, was a high priority. Annis crossed the Atlantic close to a dozen times. Having four Irish grandparents ("I'm as Irish as Paddy's pig!") necessitated two visits to the Emerald Isle. On this side of the Atlantic, she's gone from the Caribbean to Tuktoyatuk, from Vancouver Island to the Maritimes. She always believed in the adage that one can't have too many strings to one's bow, so during her summer vacations, Annis took Department of Education courses. She'd earned a specialist's certificate in Art and during her travels, always sought out the world-famous art galleries.

Annis was a shy child and her father encouraged her to look others in the eye and to speak to people. She took his advice to heart so much so, that her husband once remarked, "You talk to everybody!" She continues to live by her father's words, knowing that you get so much more out of life when you open yourself to people. She would also encourage others to keep a lively interest in the world around them and to write their memoirs. The Munros had two children, Gail and Scott. There are now four grandsons and twin great-grandchildren. If Annis takes her own advice, she will leave a legacy of fascinating reading for those grandchildren and greatgrands. Thank you, Annis, for sharing your story with Halton Herald readers. You'll never truly retire from teaching so long as your friends and family continue to learn valuable life lessons from your example.

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Social Committee

By Colton Roberts



The committee has met several times since the last Board meeting. We are pleased to have several new members including **Marilyn MacRae** and **Jan Moxey**. They have brought new ideas and a willingness to look after several of our programs. They are a great complement to our faithful members **Mary Lyons, Cecile Leach, Gail Reeves** and

Ray Smith. This is an enthusiastic committee filled with great ideas about ways in which the interests of members can be enhanced.

The most recent activity planned by our committee was the **Winter General Meeting** held on February 19th with **Janet Matthews**, editor of “Chicken Soup for the Canadian Soul” as the guest speaker. There are many upcoming activities including the **Wine and Cheese** for prospective new members which will take place on April 10th. For the first time in Halton, District 15 will be hosting a **Retirement Planning Workshop** on April 24th. Both of these events will be held at the Quality Inn in Bronte. We are looking forward to the **Annual General Meeting** on May 7th where a very special speaker, **Katherine Barber**, Canada’s word lady, will entertain us with her humorous spin on words in the English language. The **“To Hell with the Bell Breakfast”** has been booked for Thursday, Sept. 4th to be held at the Quality Inn again this year.

Plans for the **Fall General Meeting** will be finalized at our next meeting. We hope to present an evening focussing on what senior centres in Halton offer for our retired members. The final date and theme for our 2009 **Winter General Meeting** will be established as well. Themes being explored for future meetings include genealogy, scrap booking, member interests, cooking “light”, gardening and travel.

We hope to see you at one or more of these events. Read the Calendar of Events on Page 14 to learn more about all the activities and how to register.

What Did He Say?

The teacher was teaching his heart out but was concerned that because of the acoustics, the students were finding it difficult to hear him. “Can you all hear me?” he stopped to ask.

“I can,” came a voice near the front, “but I don’t mind exchanging with someone who can’t.”

Archives Committee

By Judy Sloan



Hi Everyone! I am sitting here typing this article during a brutal snowstorm outside. Hopefully you are reading it during a lovely spring day.

In the Halcyon Edition of the Halton Herald this January, I mentioned that I performed with my Footnotes dancers at the RWTO AGM at the Burlington Convention Centre. I would like to apologize for my error. Thanks so much to our member **Joanne Mackie** for contacting me and explaining that the occasion was actually a meeting of the Penta. Joanne was kind enough explain the history behind Penta of which I had no knowledge. Her article is now in our Archives scrapbook. The Penta is actually a social gathering of five RWTO branches. In 1956 OASWT (Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers) was formed and in the late 1990s the name was changed to the present day RWTO (Retired Women Teachers of Ontario). In 1970 the Peel Branch was formed to include all retired teachers in Peel County and the Halton townships of Esquesing, Nasagaweya and Trafalgar. The group grew too large over time and became Peel North and Peel South. Later Peel South divided to become Mississauga and Oakville. In 2000, the Lydia Snow (North Halton) branch was formed. Over the years, as each new group was born, they celebrated their joint past with a yearly social. Each group hosts in turn inviting the other branches to lunch and entertainment. With four groups of the original Peel Branch the yearly social was called the Quad Branch meeting. Recently the Burlington Branch of RWTO requested through the provincial organization to become part of the former Peel Branch. So now they are the Penta. 2007 was Burlington's turn to host the other four branches of RWTO. Thanks again Joanne for clearing up my error!

While browsing through the winter edition of Renaissance, our provincial RTO/ERO magazine, I noticed a letter from our member **Linda Cowan** written under the "Letters from Our Members" column. Linda was the Grand Winner of the RTO/ERO "Travel Teaches" contest. The prize was two airline tickets to any destination WestJet flies. Linda and her husband John chose Hawaii and while there, they toured Honolulu for three days before going on a cruise which went to Hawaii (the Big Island), Maui and Kauai. They then flew back to Maui for five days. Linda describes the trip as a "truly wonderful holiday, one we won't forget." Congratulations Linda and your article is now in our scrapbook!

(Archives Report ... continues on Page 25)

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(Archives Report ... continued from Page 24)

In the same magazine under “Reunions” it was mentioned that **Bishop Ryan High School** in Hamilton is celebrating its 50th anniversary on the weekend of May 23-25, 2008. I’m letting you know because my husband was a former teacher at this school and there may be other retirees in Halton who once taught there also. For more information visit www.wearbr50.com.

Please keep those newspaper articles and photos coming. Send them to me at 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.

“GOTTA SING, GOTTA DANCE”

Why not celebrate Seniors’ Month and the Art of Staying Young in June by coming to see the famous Burlington Footnotes Senior Performing Troupe Inc. show **“GOTTA SING, GOTTA DANCE”** at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts! The troupe consists of performers ages 50 to 80 plus. The show includes dancers who specialize in various styles: tap, jazz, ballet/lyrical, clogging, hip-hop, musical theatre, creative clowning as well as vocalists and musicians. Several of our own RTOERO District 15 members **Margaret Daniels, Carroll Goodwin, Mary Hopkins, Bonnie Johnstone, Kate Lowe, Butch Rogers, Joan Wilson** and **myself** are among the Footnotes performers. The dates are Tuesday, June 24, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Wednesday, June 25, 2 p.m.. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact either Dave Wright or the Box Office at 905-815-2021 or 1-888-489-7784. Come out and enjoy an upbeat, fast paced seniors’ musical variety extravaganza as well as supporting your fellow RTO members in the show!

Editorial Policy

The Halton Herald is a non-partisan newsletter published by RTO/ERO Halton District 15 and is distributed to members and prospective members 3 times a year. Material from members, charitable or volunteer organizations 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. They 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. This issue of the Herald was printed and supported by **Astra Graphics**.

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Making A Difference !

Submitted By Phyllis Kingsley

When I retired in 2001 I knew that I wanted to volunteer in the community, although at the time I hadn't decided what form this would take. Then my Rotary Club sponsored a new program that Big Sisters of Oakville was initiating called **"The Club."** It was an after-school tutoring program for disadvantaged students in two elementary schools in Oakville where the tutors spent one hour a week helping these students with their homework. The program needed supervisors with a teaching background and I offered to help. Thus began my involvement with the agency which has expanded steadily over the years. I have been a "Club" supervisor, a member of the Steering Committee for In-School Programs, a member of the Board of Directors and, most recently, a Big Sister to a 13 year old girl! My commitment to the agency stems from my belief that it is making a significant impact on the lives of disadvantaged children in this area.

The agency has also grown. In 2005 Big Sisters merged with Big Brothers, becoming Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton. Besides the one-to-one matching program for which it is so well known, the agency provides a range of mentoring programs aimed at increasing students' confidence and self esteem so that they can realize their potential. All these programs are growing to meet the needs of children in our communities. "The Club" for example has expanded to providing homework help and mentoring in 12 schools in



Oakville, 2 in Milton and 2 in Acton, with other groups opening up in 2 Georgetown schools in the fall of 2008. All of these programs rely heavily on the help of volunteers, as BBBS of Halton is a non-profit agency that receives no government funding.

BBBS of Halton offers several mentoring programs designed to fit the schedules of volunteers. **Even one hour a week can make a tremendous difference in the life of a child. If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity that makes use of your expertise as an educator, please consider getting involved.** Women, men, or couples can participate. Call Anne-Marie Doherty at 905-339-2355 ext. 228 or email her at amdoherty@bbbsshalton.ca for more information on how you can help to change lives.

"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give."

...Winston Churchill



Flower Pot by **Marion Jonassen**



Newport by **Bob Sweet**



Eiffel Tower by **Judy Sloan**



Morning Fog by **Bob Sweet**



Sunset Grundy Lake by **Marion Jonassen**



Deer by **Marion Jonassen**



Kolgate Potholes by **Marlene Horne**



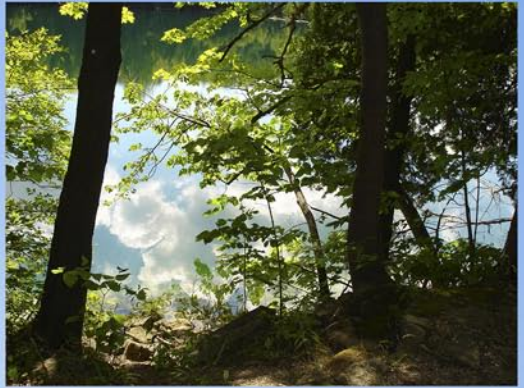
Child by Bruce Shapka



Robin by Brenda Burke



Vertigo by Eleanor McCulloch



Sky in Lake by Jenny Panda

