



**RTO
ERO**
District 15

HALTON HERALD

April, 2020



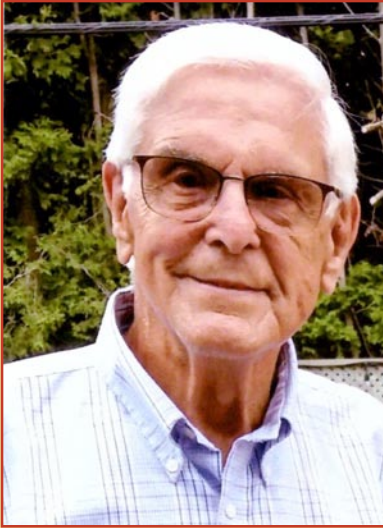
Spring at Last - a watercolour by one of our members. See Hobbies...page 30

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President's Report

By Micki Clemens



In the fall of 2018 I wrote my first report as President of District 15 RTOERO. As it has transpired I have had the exceptional privilege to serve as President for two consecutive terms and to become a key observer and participant in the exciting changes and the transformative growth and development that have occurred within RTOERO at both the provincial (now national) and local levels during 2019 and 2020.

First of all RTOERO as an organization has been totally re-imagined, re-structured and re-energized in the last two years. The National Office of RTOERO has focused on its continuing purposeful activity with regard to the changes in Governance, in membership fees, in the release of a new Code of Conduct, in the total branding and communications make-over and with an evolving Strategic Plan. The new Branding Guidelines were distributed recently to every district and all board members are becoming informed about requirements for the official logos, colours and font type for our publications. You will notice that we are using Arial, rather than Times New Roman, in this issue of the *Halton Herald*.

David Kendall, our RTOERO Liaison Officer, will attend our board meeting in June 2020 to discuss key topics relating to partnerships, investments and the RTOERO Strategic Plan. We are also free to raise issues relevant to our own District 15 so please contact me if you wish us to raise specific questions or topics on your behalf.

We have witnessed the explosion of membership within the whole organization and the formation of new districts across Canada. Here in District 15 we have surpassed 2900 members and are on track to eventually burst the 3000 member mark!

So what has been accomplished in RTOERO District 15 during these past two years?

We have reworked our old constitution with the guidance of **Claudia Stewart**, our Past President, and sculpted a shiny new RTOERO District 15 Governance Document that will guide us for the next five years. Our volunteer role descriptions were crafted during 2019 for every position

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on the Executive and the Board, vetted by the RTOERO staff person in charge of Volunteer Engagement and approved by our District15 Board. You can view these on our website under Volunteer Role Descriptions.

We have recently added a new Social Media Manager role to our roster!

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During the fall of 2019 our treasurer, **Carol Pashkievich**, undertook the required training through workshops, webinars and phone consultations to implement, in smooth-as-silk fashion, all the new financial reporting forms and procedures that have been established across all districts to ensure national RTOERO organizational consistency. Chrome books, loaded with the QuickBooks program, were supplied to every District Treasurer so that all our financial endeavours will meet the high standard of recordkeeping required of each treasurer. Carol is exemplary in her standards for our financial records and her contribution to District 15 is immeasurable in its value!

Our secretary, **Dianne Visschedyk**, relatively new in this role on our Board, has been a pillar of quiet strength and superb competence as she manages to make coherent sense of the sometimes- animated proceedings at our Board meetings. I have relied on her totally to capture accurately, confidently and completely the many exchanges, questions, motions and decisions while I focused on my job as chief listener and Chair.

In 2018 District 15 changed from storing

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our Archives records in several home basements to our heated and fireproofed locker at Apple Self Storage in Bronte. **Patricia Mateja**, as Chair of the Archives Committee, launched us on an important and significant start to the restructuring required under the new Archive Guidelines issued this past fall. As Patricia transitions, next year, to her new role as Social Media Manager we thank her for her stellar efforts and send out an invitation for a keen volunteer to take up this role as Archives Chair. We are looking for an RTOERO District 15 member to assist with the further identification and consolidation of our materials in a systematic manner during the coming year. Are there any retired organizers, say librarians or even Marie Kondo enthusiasts, who might wish to join our merry band and do some good work?

Our Awards Chair, **Penny Hambly**, has coached, with expert skill, our external applicants for Project Service to Others through two successful years of grant applications. The proposals for the Freeman Station in 2018 and Habitat for Humanity in 2019 were awarded their full funding because of the strong and thoroughly researched presentations that were compiled, reviewed, approved by our Board, and submitted.

Our website is managed by **Jeannie Woodcroft**, our experienced Webmaster, and she is eagerly anticipating the roll-out and implementation of a new look to our RTOERO District 15 Website once the National RTOERO website has completed its own transition. Also, this spring communications are gearing up to incorporate the new branding ideas for enhancing all our media publications. We have been thrilled with the fresh and vibrant look that our E-Letter Coordinator and Second Vice-President, **Brad Fisher**, has provided for *Rapport!* And we extend our deepest thanks to **Peter Gnish** and **Nanci Wakeman** for their outstanding contributions as Chief Editor and Coordinating Editor, respectively, to our newsletter, The *Halton Herald*.

The Goodwill Committee, lead this year by **Marina Lloyd** and **Toni Pizzingrilli**, continues to clarify and strengthen its role and activities within RTOERO District 15. With the new National Goodwill Guidelines distributed in 2019 and the Summary of Goodwill Practices compiled from other districts, the Committee has an energizing range of possible options for our goodwill activity. Decisions will be made in the coming months with regard to the significant contribution that our District Good-

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will Committee will be making this coming year.

N. B. District 15 will be highlighting the longstanding work of the Goodwill Committee at our AGM on May 7, so this is another excellent reason to attend our meeting and luncheon as we pay tribute to these individuals. With **Marina Lloyd** stepping down after many years of valuable service and **Toni Pizzingrilli** taking up the leadership role, we will have much to celebrate on that occasion! The Committee's area conveners are planning to display some of the thank you cards and e-mails received from our members expressing their gratitude for our personal contacts. NOTE: We are looking for additional volunteers as we would like to expand the scope of our goodwill activities. We warmly encourage and invite members to consider coming forward to volunteer to work with the current committee and to contribute just a little of their time to spread cheer and empathy throughout District 15.

Colton Roberts, as Chair of Benefits, has been a stalwart force within RTOERO District 15. With his lengthy history in this role and his fingertip knowledge of the Johnson Health Insurance and Travel policies, Colton has proved outstanding in providing leadership service in this area to our members. He has worked seamlessly with our neighbour, District 13, in hosting the recent annual joint Health Seminars and in launching the wellness theme for our luncheon event last fall. Colton has indicated that, in the coming months, he would like to mentor a replacement for his role so that he can spend more time with his children and grandchildren. He has reassured me that he can train a new Committee Chair "very easily". May we please hear some expressions of interest for this significant position?

Membership/Recruitment in District 15 has been thriving under the leadership of **Marilyn MacLennan**. Marilyn has organized our RTOERO Information Sessions, our new members' breakfasts and our Retirement Planning Workshops with invitational posters, letters and welcoming touches at these key events that have impressed both prospective and new members. Last year, both Marilyn and I engaged personally with the two Directors of Education in Halton around the protocols for sharing RTOERO membership information on an ongoing basis. District 15 hopes to enhance further recognition of our organization and

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its benefits with both Halton Boards of Education through our annual Academic Spirit Awards for graduating secondary students in Halton. Marilyn serves as our volunteer event photographer and, as such, is our AV expert. We have placed in her care the new District 15 LED projector and will employ this technology so that we can reduce the amount of paper at our Board meetings by reviewing committee reports and financial statements onscreen.

Moira Plexman, in her leadership role as Foundation Champion, received special accolades from RTOERO for her inspired establishment of our own District 15 fundraising page to support the recent campaign "End Social Isolation". In the spring of 2019 we instituted the tremendously successful "High Tea for Super Seniors" to support this initiative and, as a Board, hope to offer this special event every second year.

As one of her Political Advocacy initiatives during this year **Moira Plexman** organized and recruited a number of Board members to attend the 17th annual session of The Dinner Party organized by the Women of Halton Action Movement (WHAM) at the Oakville Conference Centre on the evening of March 4. This was a major showcase for RTOERO District 15 as a result of our premier sponsorship of this fundraising event. Furthermore, with a minority government on Parliament Hill, Moira recognizes the possibility that, after the Conservative Party leadership contest in April 2020, the PAC may need to activate once again if another federal election should materialize.

The Program Committee helmed last year by **Brad Fisher** and then this year by **Jerry Powidajko**, our First Vice-President, continued to organize and manage three luncheon events featuring amazing entertainment and speakers. Who can forget the authors - fascinating Brian Murray, humourous Drew Hayden Taylor, and the inspirational Elizabeth Manley? In the fall of 2019 we adopted a new wellness theme for the October luncheon and offered engaging workshops to support safety, brain health, body vitality and mindfulness. Our recent Winter Luncheon on February 24 at the Burlington Convention Centre raised the roof with the singing group "Cruisin."

Excitement is building for the May 7 AGM and Luncheon, with author,

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Catherine Gildiner as our featured guest speaker. The business portion, beginning at 10 a.m. at Rattlesnake Point Golf Club, is open to all RTOERO District 15 members at no cost. At that meeting the elections for the 2020 - 2021 Executive will be held, the new Governance document will be presented for ratification and we will pay tribute to **Marina Lloyd**. The business meeting will be followed by lunch and our guest speaker for which your pre-registration and advance payment are required. See the Registration Form in the middle of this booklet.

The Social Committee, under **Claudia Stewart's** most able direction, has expended many hours mounting a wealth of activities and events that it hoped would entice a wide variety of District 15 participants. She and her committee are to be commended for the robust smorgasbord of social opportunities they designed to appeal to a range of interests and to tempt our members in all months of the year. Unfortunately the membership take-up on these activities has been less than salutary and this is discouraging to the Social Committee members. If there is an excursion or day trip that you would love to experience please share your suggestions with Claudia and her committee.

On June 1st, 2020, I will end my term as President and, since this will be my final report, I want to thank all the Board members for their deep dedication to our District 15 organization. It is their diligence, commitment, creativity and generosity in volunteering their time for your benefit that has contributed to the amazing progress and achievements in our district. For me, it has been a most memorable journey as President 2018-2020!!!

Springtime is a time of renewal and fresh starts! Do something to shake things up! Why not try a completely new experience and volunteer for RTOERO District 15? You will contribute to the wellbeing of your fellow RTOERO members, make new friends and allow your brain to make new connections!

Please see the report from **Claudia Stewart**, our Nominations Committee Chair, for a complete list of all the Board volunteer opportunities available for the coming year, 2020-2021. Our Board meets only five times a year leaving lots of time for your own activities. If you're inter-

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ested in any of the Executive or Board positions available please contact either **Claudia Stewart** or myself at district15halton@gmail.com.

We Get Letters, E-mails & Calls

By Peter Gnish



It's always nice to hear from people we knew about changes or adventures in their lives. Thanks to the 7 members who sent me e-mails recently. Be sure to read their stories and views. Why not send me something soon - pgnish@gmail.com.

Judy Eberspacher wrote to say "Thanks, Peter, for the January issue of *Halton Herald*. I am reading this issue in Wuerttemberg, Germany while visiting family. On Thursday of this week I will fly again to Botswana to spend 10 weeks with my son and the African birds and animals. I wish everyone in Ontario a wonderful winter with warm drinks and a nice fire for comfort."

David Laidlaw sent an e-mail to say "I retired about seven years ago and usually spend part of the winter at the Periwinkle Trailer park on Sanibel close to you. I was involved in the District OSSTF leadership during my tenure and was an art teacher at Georgetown. We recently purchased a new RV and my wife recently retired so we will be spending three months on Sanibel. We love nature and cycling and there seems to be both readily available there. I'll see what we can put together regarding photographs or paintings from nature on Sanibel and, if interested, I can send them your way."

Flora Litt-Irwin sent us a card to thank the Goodwill Committee for remembering her on her 90th birthday. She said "That meant so much to me."

Joan Myers wrote "I just wanted to let someone know that my husband, Jack Myers, passed away on Dec. 1. He received the *Halton*

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Herald regularly and read it from cover to cover. It is a very long time since he worked in Halton but still often found articles about folks he knew. Thanks for your part in producing such an interesting and informative booklet.”

Shirley Scott wrote to say, “My husband Larry and I have recently moved to Victoria, BC (where most of our family lives) and appreciate getting the Halton news more than ever. Larry taught in Etobicoke but since we lived in Georgetown most of our teaching years he is as interested, as I am, in the magazine. So we will look forward to reading it on line from now on. To you and the District 15 folks, keep up the good work.”

Nancy Whitnell sent a lovely message to bring us up-to-date on what is happening with herself and her family. She said “We moved to Milton where our daughter lives, in June 2011. My husband and I lived in the Peterborough area all our lives. We love our townhouse as it is close to the arts centre, the library, aquafit and the grocery store. I retired from teaching in elementary schools in 1998 but stayed home for 12 years with three children. In that time I sang in the church choir and studied for my BA at Trent.

Moving to this area had two conditions...I wanted to play trombone and continue with fiddling in a group, both interests I started in retirement. For a short time I played in the Milton Concert Band, played in a Celtic Fiddle Club and then moved onto my real passion, old time fiddle music. I now play mainly at a weekly fiddle jam in Waterdown and with the Puslinch Fiddle Orchestra. I chord for fiddlers and also enjoy singing harmony.

It is important to keep busy in retirement with something that really interests you. My husband and I have travelled to many countries starting with Canada from east to west, camping with our three children. Penpals were encouraged when I was younger and Gilly, from Derby, England, and I have corresponded now for 68 years. And yes, we have met both here and in England. We are very fortunate to have our health and lots of events to keep us active.”

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Pete Saberton sent me an e-mail in response to the new Ontario licence plate. Apparently the Ford government has discontinued the "Yours to Discover" phrase in favour of "A Place to Grow". He writes "It occurred to me that drivers may want an opportunity to complete this new phrase. Car dealers may want to leave space on their licence plate holders for this purpose. Dollar stores may sell packages of letters so that drivers can customize their plates. For example their licence plate could now read ... A PLACE TO GROW ... POT!

Other plates could read: "A PLACE TO GROW ... POOR or ... DISCOURAGED! or ... A LIKING FOR POLITICIANS/POLICE/DENTISTS/THE NDP or... FRUSTRATED! or... SICK AND TIRED! or... A LOVE OF TAXATION! or ... OLD AND WEARY/SEXY/SMART. Would you adjust your plate?"

Helen Van Sickle sent her yearly Christmas letter to say that at 96 she is still ticking and enjoying her stay at Cressant Care where she has been a resident for 10 years.

Louise Young sent an e-mail to say "This is another voice from your past who you may not remember. When I taught with you at Tecumseh my last name was Staresina and is now Young. We just received the most recent copy of the *Halton Herald* which I read as usual from cover to cover. I have always enjoyed your writing and am amazed and grateful you still do it.

We moved to Calgary in the early 70's. There I taught, became a high school department head in French, then a consultant for Alberta Education and finally a school principal in Lac la Biche. I returned to Ontario in 1989 and taught in Halton, mostly in Milton, until I retired in 2000.

We have recently moved from Burlington to Vancouver Island and hopefully will continue to receive the *Herald*. Since we moved here we bought a house in Cedar, on the outskirts of Nanaimo mostly for the wonderful studio space it affords me. I have started a small group in fibre arts and am hoping to expand the group into a guild in the future such as the ones in the Burlington Art Centre. We are really enjoying the mildness of the winter and glad we sold our snowblower before moving."

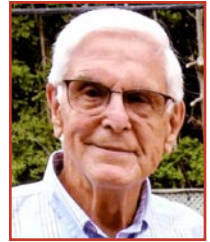
Ray Everett - His Story

By Marina Lloyd



Dear Reader, during your career, were you ever assigned to an open concept school? Let's meet Ray Everett, a member of the School Design team, which, in the 1970s, brought five "schools without walls" to Halton. The Team also focused on team-teaching and teaching to account for individual differences. Over his 28-year career in Halton Ray made multiple contributions to staffs and students.

As Chair of the Junior Division project he oversaw the rewriting of the programs for Grades 4-6, gave presentations to principals, superintendents and directors across Ontario and travelled on behalf of the project to the US, Netherlands and the UK. He chaired the Principals' Association for two years. For 25+ years he helped organize track and field meets (one still bears his name) and cross country races. All these activities took place outside the classroom. Which schools have found Ray in front of students or in the principal's office? His teaching career began in 1953 in Humberstone. He also taught in Simcoe and Dundas before joining the staff of W.I. Dick in Milton in 1960. Seven years later he was appointed VP of J.T. Tuck. Between 1969 and retirement in 1988 he'd served as principal of Ryerson (a school he designed which was without a gym roof for a year!), Frontenac, Chisholm and Tecumseh.



But 1988 wasn't to be the final year spent in the company of young learners. Ray and his wife Gerry's opportunity to travel to Turkey and China came about because of a chance conversation with Edna McMillan. Edna told Ray about a seminar she'd attended in Turkey. "That sounds interesting." Later he got a call from Turkey! Ray and Gerry could not have imagined the adventures that would await them in Asia and Europe. These adventures began in Istanbul where Ray first served as head of the English department and then as General Director of Yeni Ufaklar Kolegi (New Horizons College). Gerry taught Grades 1,3 and 5 there. He had the honour to meet with the president of Turkey,

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Suleyman Demirel, to discuss government funding which would allow Turkish teachers to attend seminars presented by educators from around the world. Ray and Gerry's two years in Turkey afforded them the opportunity to travel to Spain, the Island of Mallorca, Egypt and Greece.

In 2007, with their appetite for experiencing international educational settings undiminished, they were off to China. In Yutian Ray taught English and Idiomatic Expressions to students in Grs 7,8 and 12 while Gerry taught Grs 3 and 4. Chinese students spend over 40 hours a week in class. Next stop - Xiamen, the Hawaii of China, where he was assigned to 3rd year university students again teaching English, English Idioms and Business while Gerry taught students in their 1st year. During their holidays he and Gerry travelled as far north, south, east and west as one can go in China as well as to Thailand, Taiwan and Viet Nam.

Have this couple exhausted their thirst for travel? Not at all. They have timeshares in Aruba and Cape Cod and trade with other timeshare owners. When not on the road they enjoy family time with their four children, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Ray spends his time at home meeting with many different groups during the week, taking walks in the morning and playing cards with friends. He enjoys lunching with the ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out) - a group he proudly says he founded. These Old Men have retired from many different occupations so the luncheons provide an opportunity to develop friendships and learn from each other. They meet every Thursday but on one Thursday each month they try a different restaurant as they wish to experience a variety of foods from around the world.

Like ripples in a pond Ray will never know how far his influence upon schools, teachers and students has spread, both here at home and across the world. Because he so loves English idioms we wish that, in the years that lie ahead, he and Gerry will feel *full of beans* as they *trip the light fantastic over highways and byways*, sometimes even *going off the beaten track!*

Sharing Family History

By Bruce Shapka

Recently I received a request from my youngest son, David, to share some of our family's history with his son Andrew's grade three class in Guelph. They were studying the topic, "Pioneers". Andrew did not know until the day of my presentation that his great-great-grandparents were original pioneers. They migrated to Canada from Bucovina (a region that borders southern Ukraine and northern Romania) in the late 1890's and early 1900's for the promise of free or inexpensive land. They settled in a community north-east of Edmonton called Smoky Lake, Alberta.

They received 160 acres of land. Their basic tools were an axe and a hoe. Their first home was a primitive log cabin with few amenities. They did not have horses or oxen to work the land. Andrew's great-great-grandfather and his great-great uncle walked from the Smoky Lake area to Calgary to purchase three teams of horses. Their walk was over 420 km long and took about three weeks.

As we all know pioneers had to clear land, build a home or shelter, grow crops, raise farm animals and have a family. My grandmother on my mother's side had eight children and my grandmother on my father's side had twelve children. I showed Andrew and his class photos of his great-great grandparents, the farm and the barn I used to play in when I was his age. The area they lived in was called Dickie Bush.

One of the prime features of this area was the domed church the original pioneers built (photo on page 2). It was built on a hill overlooking the farm country the pioneers had settled. Andrew's great-great grandfather hauled logs with a team of horses to the building site. The chief carpenter could not read or write. His design was based on memories of churches in Bucovina. The church is still standing. I refer to this church as the "Church of my Fathers". My grandfather helped build the church, my father as a young man took part in the church services, and my uncles were involved in the administration of the church of Saints Peter and Paul. The church was an important centre in the life of the pioneers.

We are so lucky to have our family history documented. I will pass it down to my children and grandchildren. I hope you also have kept track of your family history. It shows your roots.

Contribute to the *Herald*!

The next *Halton Herald* will be distributed in September, 2020.

- **Send a Letter to the Editor** (pgnish@gmail.com) on any topic that concerns you or **share a line** with our readers and let them know how you are doing and what you are up to.
- **Write an article** on any topic that may interest your retired colleagues. Please try to limit your article to a maximum of 750 words. The full version of longer articles will be published on the District website.
- **Share a funny story** with our many readers.
- **Provide us with pictures** to share with our members.

Send your article or correspondence to the Newsletter Coordinator, Nanci Wakeman by e-mail: nanci.wakeman@gmail.com.
Deadline - July 15, 2020.

CHANGE IN CONTACT INFORMATION

- If you are moving OR
- If your mailing address has been changed or is incorrect OR
- If your e-mail or phone number has changed or is incorrect

You need to let RTOERO know in one of the following ways:

- E-mail RTOERO national at membership@rto-ero.org
- Phone RTOERO national 1-800-361-9888
- Contact Marilyn MacLennan (District 15) with the change maclennanred@sympatico.ca
- Use the contact form on the District 15 website – choose Membership

You will need your RTOERO membership number when contacting the national office.

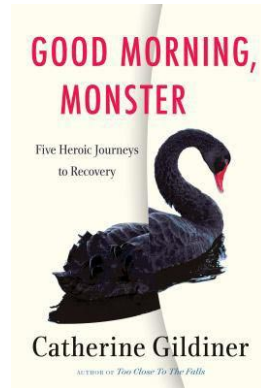
ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION POLICY

It is the policy of RTOERO HALTON DISTRICT 15 that all advertising and promotion to or by its members must have prior approval by the District. In this context advertising and promotion includes signage, verbal presentations, handouts, distributed material and display table material. Publication of any advertisement by an outside group in the *Halton Herald* or other District 15 printed material, on the District website, or e-letter, or at any District function or event, does not constitute endorsement of the product or service by RTOERO Halton District 15.

**YOU ARE INVITED...
TO OUR SPRING LUNCHEON!!**

**RTOERO HALTON DISTRICT 15
Spring Annual Meeting & Luncheon
Thursday, May 7, 2020
Rattlesnake Point Golf and Country Club
Milton, Ontario**

Our GUEST SPEAKER will be Catherine Gildiner, a bestselling memoirist, a novelist, and a psychologist in private practice for twenty-five years. In *Good Morning, Monster*, she focuses on five patients who overcame enormous trauma - people she considers heroes.



**COST: Cash Bar will be available 11:30 a.m.
\$40.00 for RTOERO District 15 members/spouses
\$45.00 for guests/non-members**

**Refreshments: 9:30 a.m.
Annual General Meeting: 10:00 - 11:45 a.m.
Lunch Registration: 11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Welcome and Opening Remarks: 12:15 p.m.
Luncheon: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Special Guest Speaker: 1:30 p.m. + Q and A.
Door Prizes/Lucky Draws/Book Signing**

**RTOERO SPRING LUNCHEON!! MAY 7, 2020
REGISTRATION FORM - PLEASE PRINT**

Name: _____

Tel.#: _____ Member : _____

Email: _____

Vegetarian Meal: _____ Food/Gluten Allergy: _____

Guest Name: _____

Tel #: _____ Member : _____

Email: _____

Vegetarian Meal: _____ Food/Gluten Allergy: _____

**Enclosed is a cheque payable to:
RTOERO District 15**

in the amount of

Please forward by mail by **APRIL 9, 2020 to:
Lynda Kozak
491 Underwood Drive
Oakville, ON L6L 5P1**

RTOERO District 15 Halton Contact List

NOTE: Recently, the RTOERO has advised all their Districts of the need to protect the personal security of our Executive and Board members and our District members in our publications. You may contact us in TWO ways.

1. To contact any of the Board members listed below, please use the following email address: district15halton@gmail.com. Indicate in your message, the individual Board member or members to whom you would like the message to be directed.

2. Go directly to our Contact Page on our RTOERO website, <https://district15.rto-ero.org>, and submit your inquiry.

Any contact information included in the committee reports found within this publication appears with the approval of the individual author.

Executive 2019 – 2020

Past President:	Claudia Stewart	President:	Micki Clemens
1st Vice President:	Jerry Powidajko	2nd Vice President:	Brad Fisher
Secretary:	Dianne Visschedyk	Treasurer:	Carol Pashkievich
Member Emeritus:	Jim Baker		

Committees

Archives	Patricia Mateja
Awards	Penny Hambly
Book of Remembrance	Marina Lloyd
Communications	
Webmaster	Jeannie Woodcroft
<i>Rapport</i> Coordinator	Brad Fisher
Newsletter Coordinator	Nanci Wakeman
Newsletter Editor: Peter Gnish - Design:	Cate Roberts
Editing:	Nanci Wakeman
Proofreaders:	Micki Clemens, George MacRae, Marilyn MacRae, Eleanor McCulloch, Jordan Palmer, Ray Smith
Foundation Champion	Moira Plexman
Goodwill	Marina Lloyd
West Convenor	Ruth Roberts
East Convenor	Warren McBurney
North Convenors	Judy Rose
	Susan Spencer
Out-of-Region Convenor	Peter Gnish
Health Benefits	Colton Roberts
Committee Members:	Paul Harper, Toni Pizzigrilli
Membership/Recruitment	Chair: Marilyn MacLennan
Committee Member:	Claudia Stewart
Member Without Portfolio	Tony Pizzigrilli
Political Advocacy	Moira Plexman
Committee Members:	Bev Balch, Olga Shewchun, Paul Sousa
Program	Jerry Powidajko
Committee Members:	Penny Hambly, Paul Harper, Lynda Kozak, Toni Pizzigrilli, Moira Plexman, Colton Roberts,
	Claudia Stewart
Social	
Committee Members:	Lynda Kozak, Marilyn MacLennan, Carol Pashkievich, Diona Szczerbak, David Wright

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Awards & Service Report

By Penny Hambly



It is the time of year when we ask for your assistance in identifying RTOERO District 15 members who deserve recognition for their significant and/or long term contribution to the work of RTOERO locally and/or nationally. The **Distinguished Service Award** will be presented at our Annual General Meeting on May 7, 2020. A nomination form is available to download on our RTOERO District 15 website. It outlines the criteria for the nominations. You may e-mail it to: hamblyp@cogeco.ca
Deadline is April 17, 2020.

We are always looking for projects that our members are involved in for the Service to Others (STO) national grant. Please contact me to discuss a project that you would like to submit.

A reminder that if you have a relative, grandchild, niece etc. who is in his/her first year of a post secondary program you may apply for a **Johnson Insurance \$1000 scholarship**. The application forms will be available on the Johnson website in the spring. Go to www.johnson.ca or e-mail scholarshipfund@johnson.ca for more information.

RTOERO District 15 will also be giving a \$1000 scholarship entitled The Academic Spirit Award. See the details below.

RTOERO District 15 Academic Spirit Award

By Marilyn MacLennan

Once again District 15 is excited to offer an academic scholarship for one graduating student in each of the Halton District and the Halton Catholic District School Boards. Each deserving student will be given \$1000 to assist them in their post-secondary education whether it is in an apprenticeship, a college or university. For more information check the information on the home page of our website:

<https://district15.rto-ero.org/committee-news/awards-and-scholarships>

Deadline is May 5, 2020.

Foundation Report

By Moira Plexman



If you received the **Foundation Newsletter** – December 2019 Winter Edition, you will know that Dr. Paula Rochon addressed the fall assembly presenting updates on her current work and research that supports the development of programs and offers suggestions for improvements in geriatrics. Her work is evidence of your donation dollars at work. In this same edition of the Foundation Newsletter RTOERO District 15 and I were applauded for running a highly successful district-wide “End Isolation Campaign” in October. I am sure that we will see other districts engaging in campaigns similar to ours next year.

When a loved one passes on I encourage you to make memorial donation to the Foundation. It is one way to help seniors who will benefit from the research and the various support programs being developed. Some day that senior receiving support might be you! For a donation form, call 1-888-930-4761 or e-mail foundation@rto-ero.org.

Welcome New RTOERO District 15 Members!!!

Our membership is now over 2900 people. Below are the names of retired teachers, other education staff and surviving spouses who became members since April, 2019. Please welcome and invite them to join you at one of our activities.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Dale Adams | John Baker | Gillian Beechey |
| Michael Bromilow | Marie-Claude Chalifour-Vessio | |
| Phil Davidson | Brigida DiBattista | Lori Fraser-Smith |
| Anthony Galioto | Gary Gray | Charlotte Hale |
| William Jack | Sheila Kalapacz | Baljit Kehal |
| Line Lemoyne-Lafleur | Neil McMahon | Elizabeth Novosel |
| Patricia O'Meara | Lynne Richards | Marilyn Serjeantson |
| Charles Sharp | Lynne Shilliday-Rock | Dawn Taylor |
| Georgina Tousignant | Gillian Willoughby | |

Looking Back 40 Years

By Bruce Shapka

Forty years ago the first issue of HETA's *Teacher's Voice* was published. Reading over the headlines it appears little has changed. Here are a few headlines from the first issues: "Recognizing Child Abuse", "Teaching - a Profession in Transition", "Education Act - Is It a Farce?", "Cutbacks Creating Conflict", "Teachers are Scapegoats ...", "Computers Will Transform the Learning Process", "A.U.T.O. - Amalgamation Again!", "T.V. Overdose Harms Student Work and Attention Span".

The Opposition Liberal Leader at the time, Stuart Smith, called for Bill 100 to be amended to bring an end to the legal right of teachers to strike in Ontario and the right of school boards to lock out their teachers. At the time the Peel Board of Education teachers were on strike. In one edition **Brad Fisher** interviewed **Em Lavender** about the fear of loss of teaching jobs due to declining elementary enrolment in Halton. These fears were based on inadequate data and Em indicated that there was growth in Milton, parts of Burlington and Oakville.

After browsing the pages, familiar names appeared. You might know or even have taught with them. Here are a few: **Shirley Fraser, Gerry Dunn, Carole Yuzwa, Bill Watt, Gerry Smith, Bob Gapes, Joanne Zywine, Cathy Wilson, Doug Hines** and **Barb Baxter**.

In the spring of 1980 **Brad Fisher**, the managing editor of the *Teacher's Voice* was awarded the 1980 Harold Pinkerton District Newsletter Editor's award for the *Teacher's Voice*. What a great achievement!

Today we have the *Halton Herald* and the *Rapport*, both of which play important roles in the sharing of information with retired teachers.



Book of Remembrance

We remember with fondness

Bernard Bonehill
Ena Gibson
Terence Leeder
Peter O'Meara

Frank Easson
Sally Gray
Beverley Lindars
Dr. Andrew Park
Michael Sherlock

Ann Galioto
Helen Green
Donald Marshall
Grace Sharp

Political Advocacy Committee & Pensions

By Moira Plexman



Held on March 4, “The Dinner Party”, by WHAM Women of Halton Action Movement, was an important District 15 Political Advocacy event. We were proud to support women locally and internationally at this sold out dinner. Since ETFO is the founding sponsor, many current teachers were there to support an event that is highly valued by their membership. By being a premier sponsor RTOERO District 15 received name recognition on the scrolling screen during the dinner, in the table brochures, and from the podium. This event was a unique marketing opportunity to current teachers who may not know about our RTOERO District 15 Halton. Our sponsorship of “The Dinner Party” promoted our RTOERO District 15, assisted women in our community, and supported girls and women in Afghanistan.

Get the *Halton Herald* Electronically!!!

The *Halton Herald* magazine is mailed out to most of our District 15 members. Currently our membership has grown to more than 2900 in number. Since the costs for print publication and for mail distribution of the *Halton Herald* are increasing each year we would like to encourage more of you to receive your *Halton Herald* electronically.

To date already 150 members have made the environmentally friendly choice to receive it only electronically. This has resulted in savings of more than \$300 in printing and mailing costs. If you would like to change your subscription preference from print to online only please e-mail **Peter Gnish** at pgnish@gmail.com.

The magazine is fully available as well on our District 15 website. Please share your feedback, suggestions and comments at district15halton@gmail.com.

We’d love to hear from you.

Nominations Committee

By Claudia Stewart

There are a number of positions available on the Executive and Board of RTOERO District 15 to be voted on at the AGM in May.



Executive

First Vice President

Board

Chair of Archives Committee

Chair of Program Committee

Chair of Social Committee

Micki Clemens will be leaving her position as President to take on the role of Past President. **Jerry Powidajko** will move to President leaving us with a vacancy for First Vice President.

We have been pleased to have a Member at Large on the Board this year. **Tony Pizzingrilli** was able to shadow the role of Chair of the Goodwill Committee to become familiar with the workings of the Board. This is an excellent way to get involved and find a role you would like to learn about.

Please consider joining the Board or taking on an Executive position. We meet five times a year and committee work is usually done on your own schedule. There are role descriptions defining each of the Board Committee Chair positions which we would be very happy to share with you for further information. We help one another and work to maintain the high level of programming and support of our members. It is a very interesting and rewarding way to help other District 15 RTOERO members.

Membership Committee

By Marilyn MacLennan



Our membership continues to grow and we have now surpassed 2900 members in RTOERO District 15. By the time you read this we will have had another successful information session for those planning to retire this year. This event provides information about what membership in RTOERO can offer specifically within District 15. We also present our Benefits plan as an alternative to RTIP.

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rto-ero.org

Health Benefits Committee

By Colton Roberts



If you are part of the RTOERO Health Benefits Plan you should have received your new Health Benefits Booklet and Benefits Card before the end of 2019. Please keep the booklet in a safe place and review it to ensure that you have the information you need at hand. It is recommended that you take it, along with your Benefits Card, when you travel to be sure that you are aware of what is covered should you need medical assistance.

If you have not attended a Health Benefits Workshop I would encourage you to consider attending in the fall. The workshop, held jointly with District 13, will take place on Wednesday, October 21st at St. Naum Macedonian Hall, Stone Church Road, Hamilton. Further details will be available in the *Rapport*, the fall *Halton Herald* and on the RTOERO District 15 website this summer.

The annual District Health Representatives workshop will be held on May 10th and 11th. Should you have any item about the RTOERO Health Plan you wish to have brought forward at that meeting, please contact me well in advance of that date.

Archives Report - This Moment in Our History

By Patricia Mateja



At the January RTOERO Board Meeting, we adopted the practice of backing up our archived materials on a portable hard drive. This action will ensure the history of RTOERO District 15 is safely recorded. Meanwhile the materials in the storage unit at Apple Storage have been surveyed and organized making it easier to locate specific information or items.

Working on the archived materials, I realize how much work and effort the dedicated volunteer members of the RTOERO District 15 Executive and Board have committed to this organization. I am appreciative of the efforts of all, particularly those of **Jeannie Woodcroft**, our web master. Jeannie manages our website so we can easily find information - from news about our organization to information about our Group Insurance Plan to notifications about exciting events the Social Committee has planned. Check it out by going to <https://district15.rto-ero.org>.

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rto-ero.org

Social Committee Report

By Claudia Stewart



The Social Committee meets bimonthly to plan events for RTOERO District 15 members and friends so retirees can maintain contact and participate in activities. We have discovered that when at least 20 members participate in an event, we can generally get a discount. Often we must make a deposit, so it is disappointing not to be able to draw enough interest to continue with an event which is what happened in January when we had to cancel a wine and cheese tour of three wineries.

We hope that if you see an event in which you'd like to participate, you will encourage friends to register so that you can have an adventure with people you know, as well as meet other members, and perhaps create new friends. If you have suggestions about activities you might like to see us sponsor, let me know at district15halton@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Mohawk Raceway and Casino

Address: 9430 Guelph Line, Milton, On.

Date: **Friday April, 17, 2020**

Time: Dinner 6:10 pm

Races begin 7:10 pm

Cost **\$60**

We start with a sumptuous buffet in the Terrace Dining Room. Then we begin to enjoy some exciting standard-bred harness racing. The Race Program will outline all the choices for your betting pleasure. If you are a novice, help will be available to give you instruction and answer questions. We will be seated at tables of 6 so gather your friends or join us to meet new ones.

Should you choose to extend this evening you may visit the Elements Casino to try your luck at the slots. Carpooling will be available for this event. The operative thought for this event is: WIN.WIN.WIN.

(More Social... on Page 26)

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rto-ero.org

(Social...continued from Page 25)

June 2020

The Grand River Luncheon Cruise & Blazing Fiddles Performance

Date: **Tuesday June 30, 2020**

Cost **\$125.00**

Begin the day in The Landing with complimentary coffee and shopping before enjoying an audiovisual presentation about the Grand River, followed by a fabulous **musical featuring The Blazing Fiddles**. Then we embark on a **3-hour cruise** to enjoy a **sumptuous lunch**. After the cruise we visit the **Big Creek Bakery and craft shop**. Bus picks up in Oakville, Burlington and Hamilton. Please indicate your pick up location with your reservation

July 2020

McMichael Canadian Art Gallery

10365 Islington Ave., Kleinburg, Ontario

Date: **Monday July 13, 2020**

Cost: **\$15**

Includes private guided tour and admission to the gallery.

Carpooling to be organized Busing may be possible with sufficient registrations.

Leaving Burlington at **9:00AM**

The McMichael permanent collection consists of artworks by the famous **Group of Seven** as well as various **indigenous and contemporary** works. This year, 2020 Marks the 100th anniversary of the Group of Seven so it will be a special showing this year!

On the date we are visiting, we will also enjoy an **exhibit of Canadian Women Artists of the 1920s and 1930s**.

Following the tour we can have free time to return to favorite exhibits and explore the sculpture garden.

Reservations for lunch will be made at a local restaurant. (Your cost)

(Social...continues on Page 27)

Social Committee Inclusions

By Dave Wright

May 21 Stratford Festival Musical. Festival Theatre.
"Chicago" Cost \$ 117
Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or
davidwright16@me.com

June 23, 24 Burlington Performing Arts Centre, Locust St.
Burlington Footnotes, "Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance"
2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on June 23 and 2 p.m. on June 24
Cost \$32. Buy tickets on line or phone 905 681 6000.

Nov. 29 Clarkson Musical Theatre. Meadowvale Theatre,
Montevideo Drive, Mississauga. Cost \$32.00.
Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or
davidwright16@me.com by July 1.

Winter Luncheon Meeting

Article and Photos by Marilyn MacLennan

More than 80 attendees swayed, clapped and sang to the incredible harmonies of the a cappella group **Cruisin'** at the Burlington Conference Centre on February 25 during the luncheon and General Meeting. The group entertained us with their unique style, performing songs from many decades. The event was a good time to catch up with old friends, make new acquaintances, and enjoy a delicious lunch. Thank you to the program committee for all their work in planning this fun event.

See the happy faces and fun entertainment below. Why not join us at the next event. See details on page 16.







From The Previous Issue - More Photo Contest Submissions!

We were delighted with the wonderful response we received to the photo contest that was highlighted in the January issue. To thank more of the members who submitted their photos and to encourage some of you to submit your work for future issues, we are posting more of the photos that were received but not printed in the last issue. Hope you like them! View them below, on page 2 and on the last two pages.



Brecon Canal, Wales by David Lewis

Wanted - Articles and Photos About Hobbies!!!

Retired teachers readily pick up hobbies. But, we seldom hear from them about these special activities. As an encouragement we are going to give you a \$10 Tim Hortons gift certificate if you send in your photo(s) and an accompanying article for us to use in future editions of the *Halton Herald*. Here is what to do:

1. Tell us a bit about your hobby. The article can be as short as you like but no more than 750 words, please.
2. Submit as many photos as you like - we will use a selection.
3. Attach the article and photos to an e-mail sent to pgnish@gmail.com or by Canada Post to Peter Gnish, 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton ON L8M 2K4. All hard copies will be returned. Deadline is Dec. 31, 2020.

Psst: The painting on the cover was submitted by a member who just began watercolour painting 3 years ago - me! No shame, no gain. Why not share your passion!

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rto-ero.org

More Photos from the Photo Contest



Path to Wendake Beach by David MacDonald



Kestrel by Bruce Shapka



Mayan Lady and Weaving by Marlene Horne



Going to the Sun by Anne Stewart

**More
Photos
from the
Photo
Contest**



Seagull at Sandbanks by Karen O'Halloran



Westlake at Sunset by Karen O'Halloran

*Marilyn MacLennan, Membership Chair
District 15 RTOERO Halton
469 Woodview Road, Unit #7
Burlington, ON L7N 2Z9*

