

ER
E RO

DISTRICT 15

HALTON HERALD

HALYCON EDITION

Volume 4 - January, 2008

2008

Here's
Looking
at
YOU!

This year...Get Focussed
Ready...Aim...Shoot

Want to be a Winner? see page 18

cover photo by **jamesROBERTS**
lifestyle photography

The Hell With The Bell Breakfast - September 6, 2007

Photos by George MacRae

What a great way to start the new school year - breakfast at 9:30 a.m. with newly retired colleagues and friends! This year more than 40 people gathered at the Quality Inn in Bronte to learn about the benefits of membership in RTO/ERO. It's always interesting to hear how people plan to spend their days as they begin this new stage of life. Welcome.



She's A Rose - A Wild Irish Rose!

Submitted by Marina Lloyd

She turned 97 in December; she's lived directly across from the Joseph Brant Hospital for 15 years and except for visiting sick friends, Mary Rose hasn't stepped a foot inside the building. Good genes, good fortune or just plain good living - which is it Mary?

Mary Runchey was born in Brantford, in 1910, second of five girls. She was named for her Irish grandmother. Her high school years were spent at the Brantford Collegiate which opened the year she was born. Mary attended the Collegiate's 80th reunion and expects to be present at its Centennial. Mathematics was her favourite subject. She hated History when it was a matter of memorizing the dates of treaties and such, but she did like learning about the lives of historical characters, particularly the English queens - their sufferings, their divorces and their executions! After graduating, she went to Hamilton Teachers' College. She wanted to go to university but the prevailing wisdom was that a university education was wasted on a



(She's A Rose... continues on Page 21)

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

President's Report

By Mary Lyons



Happy 2008 to all of you. I hope you had the opportunity to relax and enjoy time with family and friends over the holidays.

A new Provincial RTO/ERO Executive has been elected. The president is now **Brian Kenny** from District 35, Dryden. Brian is very committed to looking at issues and concerns that are important to members. Our District

Liaison, **Bob Lamoureux**, has had experience on the Provincial Executive and will be very helpful to our District Executive.

Upcoming Provincial Events:

Saturday, August 23, 2008 is the date for the **RTO/ERO Blue Jays game** against the Boston Red Sox. This Junior Jays Day has various activities for children under the age of 14, like participation in stretching exercises with the Jays. Also, 2008 is the year of the **STO/RTO 40th Anniversary**. If you have ideas for celebrating this event, please call me and I will pass them on to our District Liaison.

Some changes to our **Group Insurance** plan took effect on January 1, 2008. These are outlined in the new Health Plan brochure that will be sent to you in February. Please make sure you put it in a safe place so it will be readily available if you have any questions or if you have to make a claim. A summary can be found on Page 7.

Thank you to all those who took the time to fill out the **survey** that was sent with the last Halton Herald. It was reassuring to see that we are meeting your

Table of Contents	
Committee Reports	Pages
Archives	19
Book of Remembrance	20
Communications	9
Health Services	17
Pension	14
Political Action	15
President's Report	3, 4
Recreation	8
Recruit/Member Services	10
Social	20
District 15 Events	
Calendar of Events	12
Contact List	11
Golf Tournament	13
Planning For The Future	22
The Hell With The Bell	2
Articles	
Access Johnson Website	17
Changes to Health Plan	7
New District 15 Members	4
Photo Contest	18
Shaw Festival	23
She's A Rose	2,21,22
Survey Results	16
The Joy of Sharing	23, 24
Tribute to Ethel Gardiner	6, 14
We Get Letters...	5

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

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

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

needs in many areas and it also gives us suggestions and direction for the future. The names of those of you who indicated a willingness to help on our committees have been passed on to the Committee Chairs. You will be receiving a follow-up call soon to discuss your interests and availability.

District 15 is very active and a variety of events is planned that will give you the opportunity to have some fun and reconnect with former colleagues. I hope that many of you can find the time in your busy schedules to attend at least one event this year. Upcoming plans are listed on page 12 in this newsletter. The Winter event which features **Janet Matthews**, the interesting speaker and author of **“Chicken Soup for the Canadian Soul”**, the great lunch and the fellowship will certainly be worth the \$10 registration fee.

This is the time of year that we start to think about our plans for next year. We start to discuss membership on the Executive for 2008-2009. I have met many capable members who would be a real asset to the District Executive or to one of our committees. Please consider taking on one of these roles. Our District will only remain active if we have your support and help. If you would like information about the expectations and commitment for any position, I would be very happy to talk to you about it. I can be reached by phone at (905) 336-5744 or by email at mlyons3@cogeco.ca.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our District 15 events. And for those of you who will be travelling or unable to attend, have a safe winter.

Welcome New RTO/ERO District 15 Members!!!

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

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Larry Allen | Kristine Bannerman | Richard Beriault |
| David Blair | Bruce Boettger | Barbara Borthwick |
| Richard Burgin | Kathy Bush | William Cavanaugh |
| Marilyn Cooke | Anthony Corbin | Anne Galliani |
| Michael Harrison | Wendy Harrison | Daria Hensiorowsky |
| Gillian Hewitt | Donald Hunt | William Macdonald |
| Thomas Morrison | Franklin Munian | Stephen Nelson |
| Sheryl Pearson | Janet Quinn | Shelly Rankin |
| Janice Robertshaw | Patricia Sally | Joan Smid |
| Peter Straughan | Joan Thomas | Suzanne Wong |
| | Lynda Wood | |

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

We Get Letters, Emails & Calls

By Peter Gnish



Hearing from former colleagues and friends is wonderful.

• **Nan Hurst** telephoned in September to chat. She wanted all her former colleagues and friends to know that she is “doing very well, thank you” and was looking forward to celebrating her 91st birthday in November, 2007. She is still living in her own home and looking after her dog who is unfortunately going blind. Nan has no complaints and looks forward to each new day. She keeps fit by walking, using her indoor exercise bike and by swimming in her out-door, above-ground pool during the warm weather. This means she has to climb the ladder to get to the top before jumping in. Whew, what a lady! Her personal approach to keeping her mind and body healthy is to eat three regular meals every day, to read and re-read as much as possible. “Use it or lose it!” and “Don’t let things get you down!” are two of her mottos. Sounds like a recipe for a long, productive life.

• **Barb Singleton**, a retired Halton Secondary School Principal, sent an email heralding the Holiday Season Lights display at their Stone House on Guelph Line just south of Campbellville. Many retired teachers have a sense of community. Some go miles out of their way to help those less fortunate and in need. Barb and her husband Dr. Paul (also a former Halton administrator) do just that. On November 19th more than 200 friends - many retired teachers, came to the Singleton’s home to share in a potluck dinner and celebrate the turning on of the ingeniously designed Holiday Lights developed over 14 years, a huge, enchanting display of 20 animated story boxes, plus moving mechanical animals and toys, antique figures, larger than life cut-outs and music which entertains and delights people of all ages.

This annual celebration is Barb and Paul’s gift to many. In addition to the cost of acquiring new items, the project takes more than 1000 hours of time to create and maintain each year. And, it’s not just a hobby - it’s a charity fundraiser. During December, the public is invited to explore the Christmas displays at the magical Stone House transformed into a Winter Wonderland. A drop box is available for people to contribute to The Halton Women’s Place, a charitable group that Barb formerly served as President. Each year between \$1500 and \$2000 is raised for this organization which operates a shelter for women in need. Kudos to Barb and Paul for their wonderful work! That’s commitment we like hearing about!
See pictures of the event on Pages 23 and 24.

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

A Tribute To Ethel Gardiner

By Erica Andrew

My dear friend and colleague, Ethel Gardiner, passed away on June 5th after a courageous year-long battle with cancer. On June 9th, a celebration of her life was held at St. John's United Church in Georgetown. It was standing room only as educators from across the province gathered to pay their respects.

Ethel's influence in education began long before her election as a trustee representing Halton Hills. It began in 1956 in New Brunswick where she taught Grades 7-12 English and Physical Education. Three years later she was teaching in Copper Cliff, Ontario. By 1967, she was principal and teacher at Milton Heights. She also taught in other Halton schools including Kennedy, Chapel Street, Robert Little, and Centennial.



Ethel retired in June 1995, and successfully ran for trustee (Halton Hills) in October 1995. She was appointed Chair of the Halton DSB in December, 1997 and served until 2003. That year she was acclaimed once again and served her fourth consecutive term as trustee. In 2004, she was the recipient of the prestigious provincial Dr. Harry Paikin award of Merit as well as the Halton District School Board Award of Excellence for her contributions to education in Halton and in Ontario.

Ethel and I were trustees together during the Harris government - not an easy time to be involved in any aspect of education in this province. As a trustee and chair, Ethel was quick to herald the accomplishments of students, educators and support staff, and often did so in a public forum, further promoting the successes of public education. She met each task in a fair and equitable manner, and sought relevant information in order to make informed decisions for the betterment of students and staff of the Halton DSB, and for public education as a whole. As Chair, Ethel brought leadership and vision to the board of trustees in Halton, pioneering change and focussing outcomes on student achievement. She was quick to speak out on behalf of public education both locally and provincially. Her passion for people was accented by other pursuits in her life - commitment to family, volunteer participation on a number of community

(A Tribute... continues on Page 14)

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

Changes To RTO/ERO Health Plan

The following is a brief summary of the changes that have been made to the Health Plan effective January 1, 2008:

- The monthly premium rates for benefits have been increased by 0% for Semi-Private Hospital, 2% for Extended Health Care and 3% for Dental. The premium increases are required for expected inflation and utilization.
- The annual prescription drug maximum is increased to \$2,100.
- Dental claims will be reimbursed based on the 2008 Fee Guide for Dental General Practitioners.
- Dental services performed by a dental hygienist (accredited by the College Dental Hygienists of Ontario), independent of a dentist, are a covered benefit.
- The post-surgical eyeglass restriction for laser eye surgery is removed.
- The annual prescription drug maximum for erectile dysfunction medications is increased to \$350.
- The Semi-Private Hospital room reimbursement level is increased to 90% with an unlimited maximum.
- The annual maximum for surgical support stockings is increased to \$300.
- The Extended Health Care Plan's definition of Out-of-Province/Canada "Sudden and Unforeseen Medical Stability Clause" has been revised to include the following parameters which are not insurable:

1. Any cancer, heart or lung condition for which, in the 90 days prior to date of departure (or date of booking for the purpose of Trip Cancellation);

2. You were awaiting the outcome of medical tests (except routine monitoring), the results of which show any irregularities, or abnormalities;

- Except routine monitoring, you require future investigation, consultation with any physician, treatment or surgery recommended by your physician or planned before your trip.

- Any condition for which you are admitted to hospital for a period of at least 24 hours in the 90 days prior to the date of departure (or date of booking for the purpose of Trip Cancellation).

3. Any condition for which you have been advised by a physician not to travel.

Recreation Committee

By Dave Wright



On a balmy Saturday evening in October a group of Halton District 15 members made what has become a regular trip to the Aldershot Players dinner theatre. We enjoyed a beef dinner and were treated to a hilarious play titled **“Love, Sex, and the IRA”**. We found out that when you try to cheat the tax man you have all kinds of troubles with your fiancée, your best friend, your mother, and your landlord.

All ended well when the cheater came clean because the tax man was appreciative of the booze and hospitality he received and the fiancée, best friend, mother and landlord were forgiving.

There are still good tickets available for the April 12th play **“Office Hours”** by Norm Foster, so sign up and join us for another fun evening.



You can see we have some good things in store on the schedule of events for this spring and early fall. It is important that you let me know by February 1st if you wish to go on the **Toronto Harbour Cruise** in June. The cruises the past two years have been very well received by those who took part. We trust this one will be as well. The 2005 **Bike Tour in Niagara** was a blast so we will repeat that event in September. Due to their popularity, we will go back to the **Aldershot Players Dinner Theatre** and the **Shaw Festival** in the fall.

Join us for our **Monthly Breakfasts**. We have changed the locations in Burlington and Oakville. The schedule of events lists those locations. Up-to-date information is on our website and in the monthly e-newsletter. Your input is always welcome. We need new ideas and new people. The survey you responded to will be used to plan future events.

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

Communications Committee

By Peter Gnish



Let me begin by thanking those of you who responded to the District 15 Membership Survey that was enclosed in our September mailing. And thanks to **George MacRae** and his committee (**Cecile Leach, Mary Lyons, Marina Lloyd** and **Colton Roberts**) who prepared the survey. You will find a brief summary of the survey on Page 16. The final report will be presented to the District 15 Board in early 2008.

Special thanks are also extended to **Les Dorans** and **Dave Trueman** who volunteered to join the Communications Committee. New “blood” is always welcome and appreciated. If you have an interest in any aspect of communications - writing, layout, desktop publishing, photo imaging using Photoshop, website design, proof reading etc. - please call, or send me an email.

Email – Who Needs It?

A couple going to Florida one winter planned to stay at the same hotel where they'd spent their honeymoon years before. Their hectic schedules meant each had to leave on different days. The husband checked into the hotel. Unlike years ago, in the room he found a computer so decided to email his wife. However, he accidentally left out a letter in her email address, and sent the email to the wrong address.

Meanwhile elsewhere...a minister's widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. She decided to check her email, expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she screamed and fainted. The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and then glanced up and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My Loving Wife

Date: Friday, October 13, 2007

Subject: I have arrived!

Dearest Love:

I'm sure you will be surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now, and you are allowed to email your loved ones. I have just arrived and been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow, and look forward to seeing you then. Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

P.S.....It sure is awfully hot down here!

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

**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

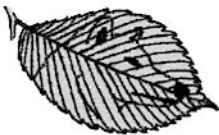
By Bill Caldwell



With this issue of the Halcyon edition of the Halton Herald, the hectic holiday season will be behind us and our thoughts now turn to a variety of winter activities, followed by thoughts of spring. In the last issue I mentioned I would be relinquishing my position as Recruitment and Member Services Committee Chair. However, I am pleased to announce that two volunteers have agreed to assist me in some of the tasks to be fulfilled

Accordingly, I will remain in my role. **Bev Hilton** and **Carolle Twiss** will be assuming the responsibility of forwarding the **Annual Wine & Cheese** invitations to all new retirees in early spring. This will be of immense help. I also direct your attention to the notice on Page 13 of this issue regarding our **Sixth Annual RTO/ERO Golf Tournament** to be held May 28 at Hidden Lake Golf Course. John Goodman will be the coordinator of the tournament this year. We look forward to a good turnout.

In closing I extend my best wishes to all for A Happy Healthy 2008.



**Timberwolf Tree Care
and Consulting**



THOMAS WRIGHT

ISA Certified Arborist

#ON-0715

Fully Insured

Free Estimates

Burlington, Ontario

Phone: (905) 336-5979

Fax: (905) 336-7596

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
-----------------	-------------	--------------

Recruitment and Member Services

Chair	Bill Caldwell	905-633-9506
Committee Members:	Bev Hilton	905-632-4528
	Carolle Twiss	905-632-8036
	Margaret Steedman-Turek	905-335-3767

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
Volunteer Management	TBA	

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

Calendar of Events – January to June 2008

- Jan 18 Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts, Navy Street.
“Charley’s Aunt” 8 p.m.
- Jan 30 Stage West Dinner Theatre, “70’s Fever” Musical Revue.
Dixie Rd. and Matheson Blvd. Mississauga. 11 a.m.
- Feb 19 Winter General Meeting - Speaker Janet Matthews, Author of
“Chicken Soup for the Canadian Soul”. See the special insert.
- Feb 28 Breakfast at The Fifth Wheel, Milton. 9 a.m.
Contact Paul Durnan at 905-631-8939.
- Mar 5 Lunch at Mother Tucker’s, Burlington. 12:30 p.m.
Contact Dave Wright by February 27.
- Mar 27 Breakfast at Jonathan’s Family Restaurant, 4121 Fairview St.,
Burlington. 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-631-8939.
- Apr 3 St. Jacob’s Farmers’ Market. Meet at the market at 10 a.m.
Lunch in the area. Contact Dave Wright by Mar. 27.
- Apr 12 Dinner Theatre, “Office Hours” - A Norm Foster play.
Aldershot Players. West Plains United Church, Burlington.
6:30 p.m. Cost \$32.50. Contact Dave Wright by Feb. 1.
- 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 - more information will be
forecoming in the April issue of the Halton Herald
- May 9 Drury Lane Theatre, “Nunsense”, 2269 New Street, Burl.
8 p.m. Cost \$24.00. Contact Dave Wright by Feb.28.
- May 27 Stratford Musical Matinee, “The Music Man”
Contact Dave Wright for ticket availability.
- June 10 Lunch Cruise, Toronto Harbour, Mariposa Cruises.
Cost \$49 + taxes and grat. Contact Dave Wright by Feb 1.
- 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 by Apr 1.

**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: Thursday, 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 Friday, 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.

_____, _____, _____

Pension Committee

By Jim Baker



I receive telephone calls and emails on personal pension matters. Enquiries are on topics such as applying for a spousal pension on the death of a member or applying for a teacher pension after a number of years outside of the teaching profession. Questions are asked about the effects (benefits and/or problems) on a teacher's pension if one takes the Canada Pension Plan (C.P.P.) at 60 years of age. However, since matters on an individual's Teachers Pension are resolved by the Ontario Teachers Plan, I would recommend that the individual contact the Pension Plan directly at 1-800-668-0105 (www.otpp.com). I will be happy to answer general questions on teachers' pensions.

Fact Sheets: The Provincial Pension and Retirement Concerns Committee has developed over 60 fact sheets that should be of interest to retired teachers. A new Fact Sheet on Home Security is now available on the RTO/ERO website (www.rto/ero.org) in the members only file. A Fact Sheet index and individual fact sheets can be obtained from the website. Hard copies can be obtained from Liz Timms at the RTO/ERO office, 1-800-361-9888.

The Safe Living Guide: A guide to home safety for seniors is available from the Public Health Agency of Canada. Read it online or download it at www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/seniors-aines/pubs/safelive/slg05_e.htm. This site even lets you read the text in a large font size.

RTO/ERO Celebrates 40th Anniversary

In 2008, RTO/ERO will be 40 years old. Any ideas on how to celebrate this occasion would be welcome at the Provincial Office.

(A Tribute... continued from Page 6)

initiatives and committees, and a quest for life-long learning in education. Ethel's advocacy and support for students and staff transcended the boundaries of the Board Room. As one of many examples, the Halton system was quick to pledge \$15,000 within ten days when Ethel accepted a challenge to run a lap at Halton's Special Athletes' Track meet - funds that were used to support Variety Village West.

Ethel's leadership, vision, compassion, commitment and dedication will long be remembered and not easily replaced within the Halton District School Board, and by all those who had the good fortune to know her.

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

Political Action Committee

By Marg Daniels



Provincial RTO/ERO is supporting two initiatives of interest to members. The first is the **Coalition After Property Tax Reform** that recommends a revision to the 4-year assessment cycle recently introduced by the Provincial Government. Instead, the Coalition suggests that there be a cap of 5% per year placed on any property tax increases and that subsequent phase-in be put in place by the government. This change would effect an equitable property tax regime for all Ontario property owners.

The second initiative concerns the Provincial Political Action Committee's support for the Health Services and Insurance Committee in its effort to lobby the Provincial Government to have PET scans made available in Ontario as they are in other parts of Canada.

PET (Position Emission Tomography) scans work by injecting a patient with a short-lived radioactive tracer isotope. Cancer cells absorb the glucose more readily than healthy tissue, causing it to light up on a scan. This helps in diagnosing cancers often before they can be found by other methods. It can find a lung cancer that has spread, preventing a futile operation. A lymphoma patient may learn that a worrisome lump is merely scar tissue. Colorectal cancer patients may discover that the tumors on their liver can be safely removed. A scan can help determine when chemotherapy is not working, prompting doctors to change to a drug cocktail. For certain kinds of cancer, the PET can be more revealing than the CT scan. In 20%-40% of cases, cancer patients will have their treatment plan changed based on PET scan results. Everywhere else in Canada, it has become a routine test. Ontario remains the only part of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that does not have routine access to PET services.

RTO/ERO will also be closely monitoring Long Term Care, LHINs and other health issues that are important to our members.

Why Join RTO/ERO?

The best organizational friend a retired teacher can have is RTO/ERO. For 39 years it has been the official voice of retired educators promoting and protecting their interests particularly in the areas of pensions, health care and insurance. Tell this to your retired colleagues who are not yet members. Encourage them to join!

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

District 15 – Halton Membership Survey Results

By Peter Gnish

The September mailing sent to all members of District 15 included a Membership Survey you were asked to complete. A total of 240 surveys were completed and returned (a 12% response rate) – 140 by mail and 100 were completed online. Thanks to those who submitted a response. The following is a brief summary of results. The complete report will be presented to the Executive and the Board in January. The figures shown below are given as a percentage of those who responded to each question.

- 80% join RTO/ERO for the Health Plan and because of Pension related issues. Others like the idea of keeping in touch with former colleagues, the travel and social/recreational opportunities.
- 2% work full-time while 20% work part-time.
- 20% provide daily care or supervision of a parent, spouse/partner, child or grandchild.
- 65% indicated they provide volunteer services to charitable or community organizations. Most devote up to 5 hours per week although there were some who spent more than 10 hours per week.
- 83% indicated that they were aware of the services provided by the District 15 Goodwill, Political Action and Service to Others committees.
- 57% indicated they had attended a District 15 function during the past two years, more than half of these attended during the past year. Theatre and day trips were the most popular events .
- Everyone who answered indicated an awareness of the extended travel opportunities provided by the Travel Committee. 21% had taken advantage of one or more of these trips and the satisfaction rating was very high.
- 85% indicated they had access to the Internet. 60% had viewed the District 15 website on at least one occasion during the past year with the vast majority of these viewing it several times per year. Two-thirds of these found the information useful. 40% had never viewed the website.
- Most people who received email communiques from District 15 found them useful.
- 90 % find the information in the Halton Herald useful; 75% read it cover-to-cover, 23% skim through it and 2% do not read it at all. The most interesting aspects seem to be the articles about the life and interests of individual members and the Book of Remembrance.

Health Services Committee

By Paul Durnan



RTO/ERO has a **Long Term Care Plan** administered by Johnson Inc. that helps cover the cost for chronic illness or disability if you are unable to care for yourself for an extended period of time either in your own home or in a nursing home. This is above and beyond the care offered by the Community Care Access Centres. You can apply at anytime up to age 89 by completing the “Application For Coverage” and the “Medical Questionnaire.” For information and/or to receive the package containing a pamphlet and the forms contact Johnson Inc, Plan Benefits Service by telephone: 1-800-461-4597 or 1-905-764-4884 or write to 1595 16th Avenue, Suite 600, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3S5.

Remember, it is your responsibility to notify Johnson Inc., Plan Benefit Service in writing at the above address when there is a change in your coverage status – e.g. from family to couple, from single to couple or vice-versa.

Changes have been made to the Health Plan. See Page 7 in this newsletter for details. If you have any questions or comments call me at 905-631-8939.

As an RTO/ERO member you can use the Internet to access and interact with your Group Benefits Program in a completely secure and private environment. The information is stored in real-time so claims and coverage information is current. To do so, follow this procedure outlined below.

Accessing The Johnson Inc. Website For The First Time

1. The website address is www.johnson.ca.
2. On the first page of the website click on “Members Only.”
3. Click on the “click here” button located after the phrase “To register for a user name and password.”
4. Click on each of the boxes under which you have coverage from Johnson.
5. Under “Plan Benefit Info”, fill in the Certificate # box with the 9-digit ID# found on your RTO/ERO Health Card.
6. Under “Primary Information”, fill the boxes marked with an asterisk.
7. Click on “Submit” after checking that the button beside “I am a first time visitor” is green.
8. Johnson Inc. will send you an email within minutes giving you a username and password to access the members’ section of the website.
9. The username and password gives you access to the information in the members’ section including Claims Information. For further assistance call 1-800-929-6274.

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

Expose Your Talents! A Photo Contest!

Do you have a photo you are really proud of? It could be a winner.

Why not share it with our membership and possibly have it printed in the next Halton Herald. To do so you must enter this contest. You will also have a chance to win some cash. The rules are simple;

- * All subjects are acceptable – people, scenery, action shots, hobbies
- * The photo can be either colour or black and white

Enter as many photos as you like!

- * Send the photo(s) either electronically by email or by Canada Post
- * By mail send your photo(s) to Peter Gnish, 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton, ON L8M 2K4. All hard copies received will be returned
- * By computer, send your photo(s) to me as an attachment to an email message. Send it to pgnish@cogeco.ca.

* Include

- Your name, telephone number and email address if you have one
- A brief description of the photo and how it relates to your life
- Any information about how you took the photo – camera, settings

* Winning entries will be selected by the Communications Committee

* **Three prizes** will be given: 1st - \$50; 2nd - \$25; 3rd - \$15

* The prize winning photos and a selection of others will be used in a photo display in the April, 2008 issue of the Halton Herald.

The contest deadline is February 15, 2008

Contact Peter Gnish at 905-547-1628 if you have any questions.

Contribute to the Herald!

The next Halton Herald will be distributed in April, 2008. Why not

- Share a line with our readers and 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.
- Send a picture

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 call 905-547-1628. Deadline - February 15, 2008.

Archives Committee

By Judy Sloan



Although no items for our RTO/ERO scrapbook have been received since the last edition of the Halton Herald, two events involving our members should result in interesting items being submitted. On September 20, 21, and 22, **Nelson High School** in Burlington hosted its **50th Anniversary** celebration. Many District 15 RTO/ERO members took part in the festivities. Among them were three of the original staff members, **Harold Hall**, **Emerson Lavender** and **Jim Peachey**. A number of our members were on the organizing committees as well. Would any RTO/ERO Halton District 15 members who attended please send me photos or articles that you may have to add to our scrapbook.

On Thursday, November 8th, RWTO held its AGM at the Burlington Convention Centre. As one of the Burlington Footnotes dancers who provided the entertainment, I could see from the stage some of our RTO/ERO Halton District 15 members in the audience. So ladies, do you have any items that you could send me? PLEASE keep those newspaper articles and photos coming to me at 1446 Brenner Court, Burlington Ont. L7P 2Z2. You may contact me by email at judymsloan@yahoo.ca or by phone at 905-336-5538.


The "2008 Here's Looking At YOU!" Photograph


Like the photo on the cover? Get your special occasions professionally captured by our guest photographer, Jamie Roberts. View Jamie's website to see how expertly he captures weddings, family portraits, retirements and business promos. Preserve memories that can be shared forever. Choose jamesROBERTS lifestyle photography for formal and informal events.

jamesROBERTS
lifestyle photography

James H. (Jamie) Roberts

 jhroberts@james-roberts-photography.com

 (519) 623-9158

 1-866-516-4086

 www.james-roberts-photography.com

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



Book of Remembrance

(For the period Aug 1, 2007 to Nov. 30, 2007)

We remember with fondness

Valda Anthony

William Barnett

Elizabeth Cavanaugh

Denis Cooke

Ronald Fugedi

Raymond McCallion

Thomas Morgan

Clarence Oerton

Edwina Smith

Social Committee

By Colton Roberts



The social committee has been energized by two new members, **Marilyn MacRae** and **Jan Moxey**. The committee has been busy planning activities for your enjoyment and enlightenment. We appreciate the input of those who answered the recent questionnaire. It gives us ideas about what you would like to see as future events.

Plans are under way for the **Winter General Meeting**, to be held on Tuesday, February 19th. The speaker, **Janet Matthews**, author of **“Chicken Soup for the Canadian Soul”** is someone you won’t want to miss. You will be able to buy her book at a discount. Enjoy good fellowship and good food. The registration form for this event is a special insert in this mailing. Plan to join us.

The **Annual General Meeting** is scheduled for **May 7th**. Plans include the election of officers and committee reports. A lexicographer will entertain you with an informative presentation. Your support at the AGM is an essential ingredient for the future growth of RTO/ERO, District 15.

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 three 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**.

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

(She's A Rose... continued from Page 2)

woman, for she'd only get married anyway! Each Sunday night she rode the Lake Erie and Northern electric railway to Hamilton and returned home to Brantford for the weekend.

Mary's career began in a one-room school in Waterloo County at 19. Two years later, she moved to another one-room school in the village of Roseville. She took a year's leave from teaching to attend McMaster University to get her permanent teaching certificate. While teaching at Tuck's School on Hwy 5, she met George Rose. On July 1, 1939 they were married in her parents' home. Her mother made her wedding dress and she remembers throwing her bouquet out the upstairs window. They lived on a 50-acre fruit farm on Brant Street between Plains Road and Hwy 5, later on Kerns Road. When George died in 1991, Mary found living in the house alone unsettling and so she moved to a more central, attractive apartment on Lakeshore Road.

The Roses had two children - Agnes and George. Agnes, who lives in Ottawa, comes to stay with Mary once a month. George lives in Brantford where he leads the well-known George Rose Band. His wife Mary Ann and their 3 children are all musicians. In 2005, George and the family with Mary at the piano, performed in the Brantford Kiwanis Music Festival. Mary showed me a letter from the festival adjudicator who wrote, "These (i.e. families making music together) are the things that build magical memories for a lifetime." Mary is deservedly proud of her children and their families. She shared a collection of photos, letters, wills, family stories and family trees with me which she has spent hours compiling as a unique legacy for her family.

Working mothers were not the norm when Mary was raising her children so it was 11 years before she picked up her career again. She taught at Glenwood, Mountain Gardens and Elizabeth Gardens. She enjoyed teaching music and often helped colleagues by teaching their music classes too. She's always loved books, so it comes as no surprise that she trained to be a librarian assuming a part-time librarian's position at Kilbride and then fulltime at Mohawk Gardens. In all of her 31 years of teaching, introducing children to the wonderful worlds between the covers of books gave Mary the greatest pleasure.

When she retired, Mary joined the Burlington Retired Women Teachers and served in several capacities, including President. She has kept her interest in the world around her. She used to travel widely on this continent and abroad. Now, beside her chair sits a tall pile of library books which Agnes brings for her. The authors she reads include popular mystery writers - Ellis Peters,

(She's A Rose... continues on Page 22)

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

(She's A Rose... continued from Page 21)

Anne Perry and Lillian Jackson Braun. Mary plays a mean game of bridge 3 times a week. She follows the stock market in the Hamilton Spectator each day and works at solving the puzzles (except for the cryptic crossword) in the GO section of the Saturday Spec. When her 1986 Taurus developed engine problems last year, Mary decided that even though she'd passed her driver's test, she didn't really want to invest in a new car so she gave up driving. This was a difficult decision as she does not like to depend upon others for rides to bridge, to church and to appointments.

As she shared memories of the past, both of the happy times and the sad times, tears welled in Mary's eyes. But she was quick to say that she has had a wonderful life. She had good parents, was privileged to spend over 50 years with a gentle, loving husband and now she has children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who cherish her. Blessings on you, Mary Rose. May your days be touched by a bit of Irish luck, brightened by a song in your heart, and warmed by the smiles of the people you love.

Planning For The Future

By Colton Roberts, Photo by George MacRae

On November 1, 2007 at the St. Paul's Parish Hall in Burlington after a hearty dinner, 86 participants were treated to a very informative presentation by the speakers from Johnson Inc. and local Community Care Access Centres (CCAC). **"Dealing With the Special Needs of Aging Family Members"** was a timely message for those who are considering the needs of family members or close friends. It informed us about the access we have to services to make life more manageable for ourselves and for those close to us as we age and need special attention.

Many good questions from those present were answered by Mary Siegner and Kathy Brown who spoke on behalf of the CCAC. Don Brooker of Johnson's Inc. explained the RTO/ERO Long Term Care Insurance Program available to members.



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

The Shaw Festival

Submitted by Janet Carter-Wright

On October the 10th, twenty-nine District 15 members enjoyed the musical “**Mack and Mabel**” at the Shaw Festival in Niagara-in-the-Lake. Before the show, people shopped and had a leisurely luncheon. The play took



us back to the early silent film days. We witnessed the stormy relationship between Mack Sennett and Mabel Norman, a girl he transformed into a gifted comic actress. We were exposed to the likes of the Keystone Cops, Charlie Chaplin and Fatty Ar-

buckle. The music enticed us with many hummable songs. The costumes were extraordinary. All in all it was an extremely enjoyable event.

Next year the Festival theatre will be doing the musical “**Wonderful Town.**” It is based on the musical movie “**My Sister Eileen.**” More information will be forthcoming. Hope you can join us when the curtain goes up!

The Joy of Sharing - Creativity That Contributes!

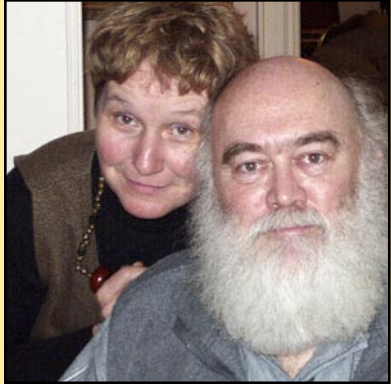
The Singleton’s Xmas Festival of Lights for Halton Women’s Place



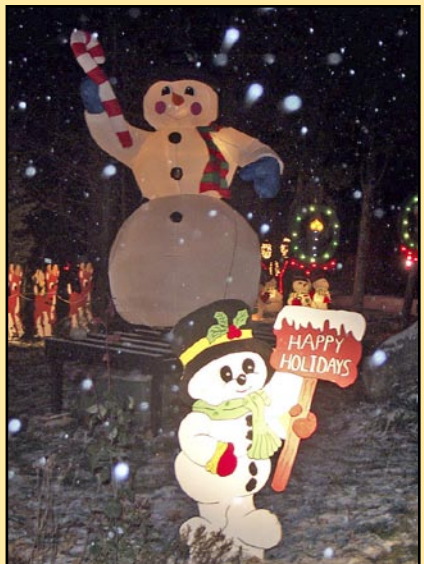
Visit us on the Internet at www.halinet.on.ca/district15



Barb and Paul Singleton's Annual Festival of Lights



*- for Halton Women's Place
"Magical!"*



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