

THE HALTON HERALD

District 15

Halcyon Edition

January, 2011

*Honouring the Past
In the Present
For the Future*



John Belisario - Celebrating a Native Tradition - Page 11

Celebrating Wonderful Years!

Edith Bielby
October 29th, 1910

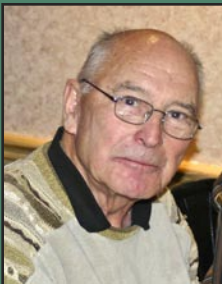


On Growing Old

*By Edith Bielby on the occasion of her
100th Birthday!*

Growing old is not so bad
In fact I think that you'll be glad
When asked to do a certain chore
That you know will be a bore
To say, "Oh, I'm too old for that!"
Too old to do the laundry
Too old to scrub the floor
But when it comes to playing cards
That's when you want to score!

Mary Rose
December 1st, 1910



Do You Recognize These Retired Principals and Superintendents?

All were born in the 1920's.
From left, down and over to
the top right they are
Don Kemp, Don Gentleman,
Roy Cooper, Jack Wallace,
Doug Lawless, George Cass,
Cliff Goodwin & Willard Price.
More pictures on Pages 14-15.



President's Report

By Linda Jones



A Happy and Healthy New Year to you and your families! I hope you enjoyed the festive season with family and friends. You know if you read the fall issue of Renaissance that I will have especially enjoyed my New Year celebration.

At the Fall Senate **Jan Murdoch** and I represented District 15 as Senators and **Phyllis Kingsley** and **Penny Hambly** as Observers. Your newly elected Provincial Executive is **Joan Murphy** - President, **Jim Sparrow** - 1st Vice-President, **Leo Normandeau** - 2nd Vice-President, **Marg Couture** - Past President with **Margaret Clarke** and **Norbert Boudreau** as Executive Members. I would like to congratulate **Cecile Leach**, our Past President, who has just been appointed to the Provincial Nominating Committee.

Costs at the Provincial office have been rising steadily. So there was considerable debate over a budget proposal to reduce the amount of money coming back to each district using a set formula in order to avoid raising membership rates. The vote was so close that it was counted three times. Although the final vote was 51-50, the motion lost as we had voted earlier to accept the rules of procedure which stated that for any motion to pass it had to have 54 votes. This issue has not gone away and we expect a similar motion or one to increase fees to be presented at the next Fall Senate. We also heard that within the year we will receive an updated health plan brochure, a useful tool for all who are plan members.

Our **Fall General Meeting** followed a new format this year. Instead of a dinner meeting, it was a luncheon meeting in a more upscale location. We enjoyed learning that the laughter we experienced listening to **Sue Stephenson**, a laughologist, was good for our health. The comments made to me afterwards were very positive regarding both the programme and the meal. Please feel free to contact me and share your point of view. I'm looking forward to our **Winter Meeting**, on February 24th in Milton when we will listen to some Latin music, taste some Latin food and even try a few dance steps. To sign up see the flyer included in this mailing.

By the time you read this report the first two of this year's **Wellness Series** will have taken place. However, there are still places available for the **"Bone" China High Tea** and a talk on **Osteoporosis** on April 15th at the Quality Inn, Bronte. A great value for \$10!

President's Report... continues on Page 4

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

President's Report... continued from Page 3

I look forward to seeing many of you at our District 15 events. To make it easier for some of you to attend, we have instituted a process by which you can request a drive to our Fall, Winter and Annual General meetings. However, if you will be down south or travelling or otherwise not able to attend, have a safe winter.

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We Get Letters, Emails & Calls

By Peter Gnish



The correspondence I received over the past few months has been a bit scarce. It's always nice to hear from our members. How about sending a letter, card, email or call to let me know what is happening with you. Your friends and former colleagues want to know. Why not do it now! Thanks to the following people who sent messages.

Kay Bounsall sent an email to say "I just got back from a wonderful week-end at the lake ...all rested and ready for my various activities! I seem to be just as busy as when I was working full time. Maybe it just takes me longer though to do everything!! I retired at Christmas in 1994."

Ian Downie emailed to say "Another Gnish journalistic triumph! You do a fantastic job. And thanks again for your kind comments on my work. I do have one complaint. Have you noticed how all the women in your photographs are youthful and vibrant whereas the men, without exception, appear ancient and decrepit? Would it not be possible to have the shots of males retouched to make them look something like contemporaries of the females?"

What a wit! Always a comedian.

We Get Letters... continues on Page 5

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We Get Letters... continued from Page 4

Diane Knox emailed me to say “Hello my Mentor Principal. Yes I still think of you this way and may I say I do enjoy reading the RTO Mag and seeing your face and many others in the pages. We retired people do look good and we do so much on so many levels. WOW! And, that is partially why I am sending this. I just received my copy via Canada Post re-direct. Yes I finally sold the ‘Strawberry Breakfast house’ on Spruce and am now living in the lee of Lord Elgin (Whoops), Bateman condos - you remember those pesky High rises. On a personal note, I just began my 45th September as a teacher. I was ten when I began - just kidding (but I tell my students that so they can do the Math - always a teacher of Math, right!). Along with many other retired teachers of Halton, too numerous to name, I am teaching for Brock University Teacher Education. I guess we are giving back, passing on, ensuring good teaching for our grandkids and all those things and reasons. My work is mainly with the Tech Candidates, those career change people and the class is Ed. Psyche. ? hmmm. We have fun and I tell stories and yes, you are part of the stories, but No Names, so rest easy. I hope all is well in your life and I would like to keep connected to this publication. Someday soon my shelf life will expire as a teacher and I will be looking for other experiences so I want to stay connected to RTO.”

Ann Laing emailed to say “The Halton Herald is a pleasure to read, cover to cover. Your hours of dedication are truly appreciated! My rough copy of the survey has been collecting dust for a month. Phyllis encouraged me to complete my survey electronically. After the election, mine will follow online.”

Again, it’s nice to read about others, isn’t it?

District 15 RTO/ERO Hikers

By Dave Wright



A small but hearty group of our members enjoyed the fall weather on a hike along Sheldon Creek, Burlington near Frontenac Public School on Wednesday, November 3rd. Why not join us the next time we go out.?

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

Welcome New RTO/ERO District 15 Members!!!

District 15 membership is now more than 2200 strong. Below are the names of new retired teachers and other education staff who became members of District 15 between September 1 and November 30, 2010. Please welcome and invite them to join you at one of our many activities.

John Addison	Hilary Barber	John Belisario
Gerry Blosser	Martin Boal	Marlene Bogart
Stephanie Brennan	Jeanette Brown	Jim Brownridge
Nancie Callon	Katherine Clarke	Glynis Crochetiere
Carol Cummings	Richard Dayment	Susan Eade
Susan Forde	Patricia Gow	Gayle Gregory
Donna Harris	Virginia Hureau	Sonja Keaveny
David Knight	Jean MacLean	Michael MacLeod
Sandra McDonald	Grace McKay	Bob Moulder
Janet Nikolov	Bert O'Hearn	Rosemary Oliver
Shirley Palmer	Constance Petchkin	Pauline Phillips
Carmela Picchi	Elaine Potter	Rosemarie Pratt
John Rowe	Terence Ruf	Carol Smith
Lois Stinson	Mary Trant	Heather White
Susan Wigle	Patricia Wright-Bodi	Beatrix Benner
Susan Carson	Marjorie Haus	Georgina Hoffman
Sheila Hofman	Janet Perigo	Ina Reed
Terry Sonoda	Barbara Vaughan	Robert Wilson

Editorial Policy

The Halton Herald is a non-partisan newsletter published by RTO/ERO Halton District 15 and is distributed to members and prospective members 3 times a year. Material from members, charitable or volunteer organizations submitted for inclusion in the newsletter or website, in full or in part, must be approved by the editor or website manager. We reserve the right to edit all submissions and advertisements.

Advertisements may be accepted at the discretion of the editor if accompanied by a pre-determined donation to RTO/ERO District 15 based on the size of the ad. They are to be submitted electronically. Publication of any advertisement in the Halton Herald or Website does not constitute endorsement of the product or service by RTO/ERO Halton District 15. This issue of the Herald was printed and supported by **Astra Graphics**.

Niagara Wine Tour

Submitted By Dave Wright



After two unfortunate postponements **Dave Wright, Jim Brownridge and Keith Hincks** cycled and wine in the Niagara-on-the-Lake area on a beautiful September day. Jim remarked that we were at the wineries more than we cycled. That was the plan. It was a very relaxing day - **A Tour de Niagara** not

a Tour de France. This was the week of the wine festival so there were others on bikes and each winery had staff to answer questions and pour the wine.

We started at a parking lot on the Niagara Parkway and cycled south to the Reif Estate Winery. The first picture is at Reif. You can see the elegance of their bar if not of us. We proceeded on the Parkway to Inniskillen, and like Reif, it was very well appointed. After one more visit on the Parkway we turned on to side roads to visit two more wineries before lunch in Virgil. The route to Virgil was the longest continuous ride. After lunch we stopped at three more wineries. At Pond View we had a long chat with Margarita, who is in the picture with Jim and Keith, and she told us the history of the winery and the owners. Pond View was one of the stops Prince Charles made last year on his Ontario tour. Behind the bar there was a picture of the family with a guest, Don Cherry, who may or may not have celebrity status in your opinion.

We plan to do this next year so if you feel somewhat comfortable on your bike and it is safe, has good brakes and you have a helmet, please join us.



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District 15 Day with the Blue Jays

By Dave Wright



Twenty-four District 15 members, family and friends attended the annual RTO/ERO day at the Rogers Centre on Sat. Aug 28th. It was a perfect baseball day with the dome open but a bit on the hot side in the sun. It was a good game, a good crowd and we had great field level seats on the first base side.

The Jays did not disappoint as they came up on the winning side against the Detroit Tigers with a 5-4 score. They had a comfortable 3 run lead when pitcher Brendan Morrow handed the ball over to the bullpen. The relievers then proceeded to give up 3 runs and it looked like there might be more until the closer



Jill Walton and Jack

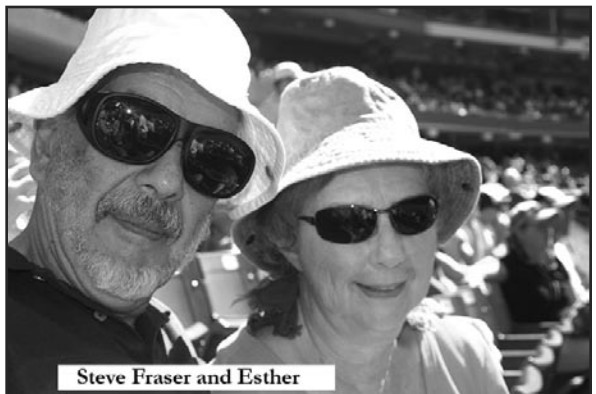


Marg Bailey, Murielle Elliott, Irene Chalupka

got the final out with Detroit men on bases. Jose Bautista didn't get one of his home runs but there were lots of good hits, great action on the bases and some close and disputed calls. This is the second year we have attended the RTO day and perhaps it is worthy of becoming an annual event.



Our Leader: Dave Wright



Steve Fraser and Esther

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The Hell With The Bell Breakfast - September 9, 2010

A good crowd of new retirees enjoyed the breakfast at the Quality Inn, Bronte. We hope to see them again at more of our District 15 functions.



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Totem Pole Carving - A Connection to Our Heritage

Submitted By Peter Gnish

What does a brand new RTO/ERO District 15 member do the first week into retirement to bridge the gap from the daily routine of teaching to this new-found freedom? Of course he might go and join other new retirees at **The Hell With The Bell Breakfast**. Or, he might choose to take a challenging course in northern Ontario and learn a new skill that makes a connection to our Canadian heritage.

Early this September, John Belisario, pictured on the front cover and below, joined a small group taking a week-long course in Gravenhurst learning how to carve a totem pole using the traditional tools that native carvers use. It was intense (35 hours) but thoroughly satisfying and the results were amazing. And,



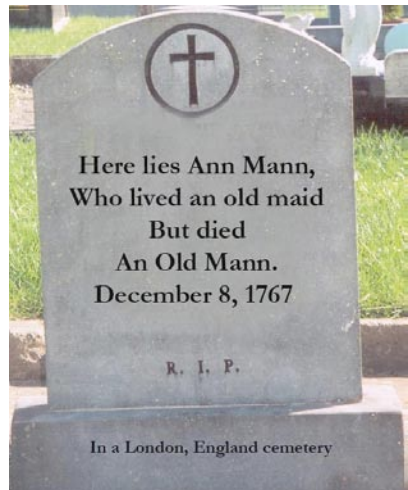
we ended up bringing our final products home to display to our family and friends. It was a wonderful experience that John says he wants to do again.

Wayne Hill, the instructor, (just behind us in the picture) is not native but is considered one of the best and most prolific totem pole carvers in the world. If you are interested in this topic you might want to buy his beautiful book, *Carve Your Own Totem Pole*. You can

view his works and learn more about Wayne by going to the following website: <http://www.muskokaartsandcrafts.com>. Click on Members' Studios, then Wood Carving and finally, Wayne Hill. You won't be disappointed - the photos are beautiful and in colour.

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.
MARIA: Here it is.
TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America?
CLASS: Maria.

Tombstone Humour: These Actually Exist!



The New Psychology!

A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses. She started her class by saying, 'Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!' After a few seconds, Little Larry stood up. The teacher said, 'Do you think you're stupid, Larry?' 'No, ma'am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!'

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CUBA

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for life and learning.

Our Cuba Education Tours offer a comprehensive examination of island's remarkable education system. They are a rare occasion to imbibe in Latin culture and art, and experience island history, social and ecological achievements first hand. Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of our programs is enduring friendships with Cubans and tourmates that follow.



See our 2011 programs at
CubaFriends.ca

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Principals/Superintendents' Luncheon - October 19, 2010

Submitted By Peter Gnish

What a pleasure it was to join a gathering of more than 100 retired former principals and superintendents for lunch at the Mandarin Restaurant on Monday, October 19th. Everyone was a bit older looking but most were easy to recognize. Can you spot the administrators you worked with in the pictures below and on the following page? Did you see the group on Page 2? All of them were born in the 1920's.

We all have stories to tell about the administrators with whom we worked. I'm sure some of the stories are very funny, and others are more poignant. Why not share them with us? Send me a short interesting article about an administrator you worked with and you can earn a \$10 payday. Email it to pgnish@cogeco.ca or mail it to Peter Gnish, 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton, ON L8M 2K4 by Feb. 15, 2011.



Principals' Luncheon... continues on Page 17

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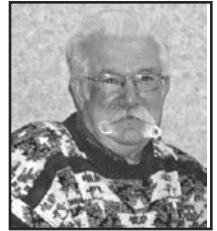
Principals' Luncheon... continued from Page 16



There's Got To Be A Story Here!

Submit your memories of administrators.

See page 14 for details.



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Skiers Wanted!!!

Submitted By Jan Murdoch

I like to ski Wednesdays at the Caledon Ski Club. It is a private club that opens its hills to the public on Wednesdays. The hills are relaxing (mainly intermediate) and never crowded. The other reason I like this setting is that you can bring your own picnic lunch and a bottle of wine to share with others. Generally, I am there by 9:00 a.m. and ski at a relaxing pace. I enjoy a lengthy break for lunch and depending on the weather and mood, I may go out for a few more runs or not. If you are looking for something to do in January – March on Wednesdays, why don't you join me on the hills. If we get a large enough group, we may be able to negotiate a better rate for our skiing.



Contact Information: janmurdoch@cogeco.ca or 289-956-0163.



ReStore Volunteers Needed

Positions Available:

- General Help Personnel
- Salvage Crew Leaders
- Salvage Crew Members
- Product Testers/Handymen (electricians, carpenters, locksmiths)
- Drivers
- Cash and Pricing Personnel

Benefits:

- Meet new people
- Utilize your skills
- Have fun
- Learn a new skill
- Support your community
- Earn your community involvement hours

ReStore Hours

Monday to Wednesday and Friday
9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Thursday
9:00 am - 8:00 pm

Saturday
9:00 am - 5:00 pm



For more information on these volunteer positions, please contact:
 Coordinator of Volunteer Services at
 (905) 637-4446 ext. 223 or email
volunteer@habitathalton.ca

Recreation Committee

By Dave Wright



One of the hints for good-hearted living that **Sue Stephenson** gave us at the fall meeting was to go to fun places with fun people. That is what we have been trying to do.

On Oct 22nd, twenty of us went for dinner and saw the **Aldershot Players'** presentation of a Canadian play, "*Kitchen Witches.*"

We acted as the audience in a local channel cooking show with the star of the show Molly, her son Stephen as the host and cameraman Rob. As Molly kept us laughing with her Ukrainian recipes flavoured with booze and advice to the letters from her fans, the show was crashed by Isobel, another cooking show star. The two former friends detested each other. The rivalry was over the affections of Stephen's deceased father (when he was alive of course). Isobel said she had put the smile on his face when he died. The result of the scrapping on air was another cooking show, *Kitchen Witches*. The costumes, situations and insults provided for an evening of hilarity and a dose of Sue's good-hearted living. Molly, Isobel, and Stephen were finally united as a family and the happy ending was recorded by cameraman Rob.

One of the scenes was a cook-off in which the two ladies were to produce a dessert that would be judged by someone from the audience. For some inexplicable reason a member of our group found himself on stage as the judge while the desserts were being concocted. This is one of the hazards associated with convening events. An RTO highlight was **Judy** and **Bob Martin** appropriately dressed for the season in pumpkin/Hallowe'en accented dress and tie. Much appreciated.

We have other fun places to go this winter and spring. **Famous People Players** and **Drury Lane's Music Hall** are on the February calendar. Of special interest in April is the play, "*Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii*" at the **Oakville Theatre for the Performing Arts**. It is being directed by **Micki Clemens** and the set designer is **Jane Coryell**. Both are District 15 members. Check the calendar and be sure to join us for this one. In May we go back to the **Aldershot Players** for dinner and a Norm Foster play, "*Bedtime Stories.*" The breakfasts are on the last Thursday of the month. This is a good opportunity to chat with colleagues.

If you have ideas of fun things to do, pass them on. We will attempt to put the event together. So join the fun and remember, your friends are welcome to come.

Communications Committee

By Peter Gnish



The members of this committee all work hard to ensure you get top quality communication that keeps you informed about activities and the members of RTO/ERO District 15. We do this by creating, editing and proof-reading the Halton Herald. George MacRae has revamped the website so that it is up-to-date and interactive. He sends out a monthly e-letter to those who have submitted their email addresses to him.

However, communication is a two-way street. We need to hear from you, about your personal situation, so your friends and colleagues can keep up with changes in your life, about items that interest you which we may not be touching in our interaction with you, about what you would like to see in the Halton Herald that we are missing, about how we can improve the website to make it more useful for you. Many of you have writing and photographic skills that we are not aware of. Send me your poems, your essays, your short stories, your photos or just your editorial comments. We would love to hear from you. Take part in this two-way communication by getting in touch with us. **Make a start this month by taking part in the contest that George MacRae is facilitating that is related to Seniors' Discounts. It is advertised on Page 34 of this newsletter.**

Or just send me "stuff." Send it by email to pgnish@cogeco.ca, by Canada Post to 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton L8M 2K4 or telephone me at 905-547-1628.

Contribute to the Herald!

The next *Halton Herald* will be distributed in April, 2011.

- **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. Please try to limit your article to a maximum of 1000 words.
- **Share a funny story** with our many readers.
- **Provide us with pictures** to share with our members.

Send your article or correspondence to the Editor, Peter Gnish by email: pgnish@cogeco.ca, by mail to 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton L8M 2K4 or telephone: 905-547-1628. Deadline - February 15, 2011.

RTO/ERO District 15 Contact List

Executive 2010 – 2011

Past President	Cecile Leach	905-634-8027
President	Linda Jones	905-336-5785
1st Vice President	Janice Murdoch	289-956-0163
2nd Vice President	Phyllis Kingsley	905-845-6911
Secretary	Janet Carter-Wright	905-336-5328
Treasurer	Chub Baxter	905-643-3732
	Assistant: Daliah Brown	905-825-8470
Member-at-Large	Jim Baker	905-639-1292

Committees

Archives	Judy Sloan	905-336-5538
Awards	Phyllis Kingsley	905-845-6911
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, Octavia Dutzak, Cecile Leach, Carrie Mayeur, 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	Marg Megalink	905-877-7135
Out-of-Region Convenor	Peter Gnish	905-547-1628
Health Services	Paul Durnan	905-630-2285
Membership/Recruitment Chair	Mary Lyons (Interim)	905-336-5744
	Committee Member: Judy Sloan	905-336-5538
Pension	Jim Baker	905-639-1292
Political Advocacy	Linda Jones (Interim)	905-336-5785
Recreation	David Wright	905-639-5093
Program	Jan Murdoch (Interim)	289-956-0163
Member-at-Large	Penny Hambly	905-639-6193

Calendar of Events - January to June 2011

- Jan. 18 Art Gallery of Hamilton, King Street. 12:30 p.m. \$8.00. Cafe on site. Tour can be arranged. Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca by Jan. 5.
- Jan. 27 Breakfast at El Spero Restaurant, Hopedale Mall, Oakville. 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-630-2285.
- Feb. 17 Famous People Players. 11:30 a.m. Lunch and show. *"She Did What?!!!"* An original musical. \$52.50 + tax. Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca.
- Feb. 17 Drury Lane Music Hall, 2269 New Street, Burlington. 8:00 p.m. \$24. Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca.
- Feb. 23 Breakfast at Country Grill, 470 Appleby Line, Burlington. 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-630-2285.
- Feb. 24 Winter Luncheon Event at Teatro Conference and Event Centre, Milton. Latin America Fiesta Theme. Entertainment by Havana Express. \$20.00. See enclosed flyer for more information and to register by Feb. 11.
- Mar. 31 Breakfast at Troy's, 295 Main St. East, Milton. 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-630-2285.
- Apr. 15 Wellness Series: *"Speaking of Bones"* at the Quality Inn, Bronte. \$10.00.
- Apr. 15 Oakville Theatre for the Performing Arts, Navy St. Comedy, *"Nurse Jane Goes To Hawaii."* 8:00 p.m. \$27.00. By a Canadian, Allan Strattan. Contact D. Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca by Feb. 1.
- Apr. 28 Breakfast at El Spero Restaurant, Hopedale Mall, Oakville. 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-630-2285.
- May 2 Nordic Pole Walking. Mainway Recreation Centre, Burlington. 2:00 p.m. See the enclosed flyer to register and for more information. \$5.00.
- May 6 Dinner Theatre Aldershot Players, West Plains United Church, Burl. A Norm Foster Comedy *"Bedtime Stories."* \$35.00. 6:30 p.m. Contact D. Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca by Apr 1.

Calendar of Events January 2011 to June 2011

- May 18 Bicycle Trip. Cambridge to Paris rail trail. 10:00 a.m. Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca by May 11.
- May 26 Breakfast at Cora's, 3455 Fairview Street, Burlington. 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-630-2285.
- May 30 Stratford Musical Matinee. Avon Theatre, 2 p.m. "*Jesus Christ Superstar.*"
- June 26 Canadian International Military Tattoo., "*Connecting Canadians to Their Military*" at Copps Coliseum, Hamilton. 2:30 p.m. Massed bands, pipes drums, dancers, drill teams from Canada, USA & overseas. Seniors \$30.00. Contact D. Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca by May 1.
- June 28 Oakville Theatre for the Performing Arts. 2:00 p.m. \$23.00
"Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance" with the Burlington Footnotes. Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca by May 6.

Winter Luncheon Event - February 24, Teatro Centre, Milton

Submitted By Roberte Rivard



Havana Express is a unique music group that consists of 3 talented musicians from Cuba and Argentina who provide great music, professional vocal work and an array of world rhythms performing songs in English, Spanish and Italian.

Jose Carret is the Artistic Director for Danza Corpus from Matanzas, Cuba. His choreographies were shown in the National Dance Festival in May, 2010 in Ottawa. He has worked internationally as a prime dancer and choreographer for several dance schools. Recently he has danced in the Erie Music Festival in Toronto. He is presently a freelance dancer, teacher and choreographer in Canada. Argentinean born Mercedes Berna-

dez has an international performing career as a principal dancer and ballet mistress in several ballet companies from South America. In Canada, she has worked as Ballet Mistress and as Artistic Director for various dance schools and has taught Dance Workshops at different local schools. She is presently teaching for Ballet Creole, Ballet Jorgen, and Kerr Senior Centre as a freelance ballet mistress and choreographer. Come for a great lunch and performance. See the enclosed flyer for details.

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

Program Committee

By Jan Murdoch



Your committee has been hard at work searching for good entertainment for our **General Meetings**. Although we do a bit of RTO business, the meetings are designed to offer our members a chance to socialize, eat a great meal at an affordable price followed by some good entertainment. Those who attended the October meeting with **Sue Stephenson** were treated to something we all need more of, healthy laughter. The feedback on the location (Oakville Conference Centre) was excellent and moving to an afternoon meeting instead of the traditional evening one was well received. At our last committee meeting the consensus was that the Oakville Conference Centre will be our venue for future **Fall Meetings**. Hopefully you have marked Feb. 24, 2011 on your calendar as we are trying a new venue in Milton, the Teatro Conference Centre for our **Winter Meeting**. Again, good food and good entertainment.

The **Wellness Series** is going well. In October, “*Downsizing*” was the theme and in November, “*Winter Greenery*” helped people prepare for Christmas. We are looking forward to the Spring session, where “*High Tea*” will be served prior to the speaker who will share valuable information about our bones. If you have any suggestions for further sessions contact any member of the committee.

Always looking for something new, the Program Committee has arranged for interested members to learn about “*Nordic Pole Walking*.” This work shop is offered the first week in May in Burlington, just as the good walking weather is arriving. The statistics on aging show that we are living longer. Doing an activity like Nordic Pole Walking helps to ensure we are more physically able during those later years. It’s an affordable way to improve your physical well-being and it is outdoors. I can’t wait to have my introductory lesson.

Nordic Pole Walking: Join the Fun !!!

Mainway Recreation Centre-Auditorium, Burlington May 2, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

By Jan Murdoch

Today, **Nordic Pole Walking** is fast becoming the most popular outdoor exercise all over Europe. Invented in Finland, walking with special designed Nordic Poles and using an easy-to-learn technique, it’s a great way to blend the words, fun and exercise.

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Clinical Studies show that walking with poles and using the right technique is much more effective than “Exercise Walking” without poles. The key advantage of Nordic Pole Walking is that nearly all your body muscles are engaged and the cardiovascular system is also activated. Although it is a low-impact exercise and the focus is on moderate intensity, clinical and scientific studies show that with regular practice (2-4 times/week) astonishing health benefits are achieved.

Why is Nordic Pole walking better than just walking?

Nordic pole walking increases your heart rate, oxygen consumption and caloric expenditure without increasing your perceived rate of exertion. In addition by working your legs, you experience a full range of motion. Activating muscles burns calories! Riding a bicycle or a treadmill uses only 35% of all body muscles, while joggers use 70% of their body muscles. Nordic pole walking works over 90% of your body muscles!

Nordic pole walking is beneficial for a variety of conditions including: arthritis, diabetes 2, hypertension, chronic pain, fibromyalgia, obesity, osteoporosis, repetitive stress injuries, and more. As a weight management strategy, Nordic Pole Walking can burn up to 46% more calories than normal walking. You will feel the difference right away, in your upper body muscles and improved posture. The poles provide additional stability and help reduce stress in the back, knee and hips. It can adapt to everyone’s fitness levels and is well suited for the elderly and those with physical limitations. If you can walk you can Nordic walk!

Come and join us on May 2, 2011 at 2:00 pm in the Mainway Recreation Centre Auditorium to learn more about Nordic Pole Walking from **Dr. Klaus Schwanbeck**, President of Nordixx Pole Walking Canada. He along with several trained instructors will complete beginner walking clinics for those interested. The poles (which are adjustable so they fit in a suitcase) will be available for loan and purchase. If you are interested, please complete the flyer insert in this Halton Herald and mail ASAP as spaces are limited. To learn more about Nordic Pole Walking visit www.polewalkers.com or www.Nordixx.com.

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The Life and Times of Herma Helen Bartlett Bailey

By Marina Lloyd - Chair of Goodwill Committee



It's in **The Book!** One hundred years of family history lie between the covers of a four-inch-thick black binder. The lives of **Herman** and **Esther Bailey** and their families, have been lovingly remembered and written down by their daughter **Herma**. Their story mirrored that of many other young men and women who heeded the call to "Go West!" Herma writes..."*In order to entice*

settlers to fill the empty stretches of prairie and to support the idea that the just completed CPR railway was necessary, 160 acres of land were offered to homesteaders for \$10.00, with the provision that a house was built, that 10 acres were "broken" for cultivation for each of 3 years and that the homesteader slept on his own land. The land my father Herman Bailey filed on, was 8 1/2 miles south of Tompkins, Saskatchewan, a few miles north of the Cypress Hills, which were named locally "The Bench."



In March 1910, Herman persuaded his parents and brothers to join him in his homestead shack until they could "prove" their own land and build their own homes. Herma describes her grandparents' home, a two-storey frame building which sat atop a hill, in great detail - the dark cellar with earthen floor and walls whose shelves were loaded with jars of fruit (particularly Saskatoon berries), pickles, crocks of pork packed in fat, canned beef and chicken and eggs in water-glass preservative. There was the summer kitchen with a hand-driven washing machine. The front room had a

pump organ and the family would gather around to sing while Herma's mother pumped the organ and her uncle played the ukulele.

Herman came to Beamsville in December 1910 to marry Esther Bartlett and to take her back to his small home near Tompkins, but there was not to be a "happily ever after" ending to this tale as he died in December 1911, just weeks short of their first anniversary. He was 27. Herma was born a month later in January, 1912 and named for her father. Esther was understandably devastated and even lost her sight for awhile after her husband's death. In 1917, she married Herman's brother Ralph and began a new life on Ralph's homestead. Herma has a phenomenal memory for the details of prairie life - the farm machinery pulled by

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Herma Bailey... continued from Page 24

teams of horses, harvest time when trainloads of young men came West to find work, the threshing crews, stooking the sheaves of wheat and the thunderstorms. Although only a child at the time, Herma will never forget the day her house was struck by lightning. Cattle were often killed by lightning.

The aptly-named Benchview School was a typical rural school - a large square room with windows on opposite sides, the teacher's desk at the front, a coal stove and separate cloakrooms for boys and girls. It opened with twelve pupils in Grades 1 to 8. Herma rode three miles to school on the back of Nellie who sometimes stumbled and fell, luckily causing no more damage than a flattened lunch pail. The high school in Tompkins provided instruction up to Grade 11 and Herma spent her Grade 12 year fifty miles away in Swift Current. Then it was off to Normal School in Moose Jaw where she graduated in June, 1931 and began to answer "Teachers Wanted" ads, sometimes being interviewed by a trustee in his field. It was not until November that she was able to get a classroom at an annual salary of \$600. It was the Great Depression and her salary went down each year after that. Herma writes.... *for me on the prairie, it was the constant wind and whirling dust, the years of drought and failed crops, the deserted farms and closed schools. The plight of farm livestock was a tragedy in itself. To add to the misery, there were the pests - the Richardson ground squirrels (gophers), clouds of grasshoppers which sucked the juices from the stalks of grain and the army worms which destroyed everything that lay in their way. It was a time that broke the spirits of many Canadians who had so tried to make a successful living in this new land. In the 40's, the rain began to fall and many children who had never seen rain were terrified when water began to fall from the skies...*

On January 4, 1938, Herma boarded the train for Ontario. Her first school was S.S. No. 3 Canboro near Dunnville. Then in 1944, she came to Fishers Corners School where she taught the Junior School. Florence Meares was with the Seniors on the other side of the partition. They became friends and shared many experiences, including a six-week bus tour across Canada and the US to Mexico. Herma has been making and keeping friends all her life. The Book includes a beautiful article about a friend from childhood, Herbert Dimmock, the sheep herder who tramped the hills and fields around her home with his dogs and his woolly charges. She writes of how easily he entered her world of imagination... *My first memory of him is of a tall bearded man poking his head around the edge of my piano-crate playhouse to inquire in his English accent, "Are these chocolate or strawberry?" He was referring to my neatly lined-up mud pies!* She is still attracting a coterie of friends as she goes about

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her days - quilting on Thursdays, lunching with the retired women teachers, attending worship services and UCW meetings. Some of her happiest times are those spent with her niece and nephew, their children and grandchildren. When she first came to teach near Dunnville over 70 years ago, she boarded with the Dodgsons and their children still consider her to be part of the family.

Glenwood School opened in September, 1947 to accommodate pupils from the Queensway Survey, which was built to house returning veterans, students from Fishers Corners School which had closed and from the rural schools which closed to allow future development of the Queen Elizabeth Highway. When, in 1959, she was transferred from Glenwood to Elizabeth Gardens in the east end, Herma learned to drive and bought her first car. A stint at WE Breckon came next and then Mountain Gardens. Following a leave of absence during which she returned to Saskatchewan to care for her ailing mother, she was assigned to Fairfield as Principal's Assistant and then Librarian. In June 1973, a wonderful retirement party was held to honour Herma. She writes... *So ended my teaching career. I have only happy memories, although the years brought many struggles, low salaries, school closings, crowded classrooms, salary inequalities, to mention a few. The changes since I retired, have been astronomical, some for the better, a few, in my opinion, not so good for teachers or pupils.*

Once there were no more teaching duties, the West called Herma back home to Tompkins where she kept house for her stepfather and threw herself with enthusiasm into the life of the village. She was a member of the committee which in 1975, published a book of local history, **Tompkins, Trials and Triumphs**. One thousand copies were sold with orders for five hundred more. She wrote articles for the local newspaper. She joined the Seniors' Club where folks enjoyed many a card game followed by Herma's famous coffee cake.

Twelve years later, she said a final 'Goodbye' to Tompkins and returned to Burlington, where on January 26, 2002, in another Seniors Centre, family and friends gathered to wish Herma a Happy 90th Birthday. After the event, she wrote... *"Such a special day and so many memories to treasure and pictures to remind me of all the people who made it so memorable."* As she was writing in The Book, Herma was revealing as much about herself, as about the people whose lives she chronicled. We recognize in those pages, a woman who is blessed with so many gifts - an inquiring mind, a loving and grateful heart, a spirit of adventure and a zest for life. Herma Helen Bartlett Bailey - you're an inspiration to us all.

Health Services Committee

By Paul Durnan



This report continues from the September report and deals with more frequently held misconceptions about the RTO/ERO Health Care Plan as outlined to us at the Annual Health Care Representatives Conference in June.

- The government covers most of my expenses outside of Canada in a medical emergency. **Answer:** There is very limited funding for a limited range of medical services. Pre-existing conditions are excluded. The government plan pays on average 3-5% of the travel medical emergency bill under the RTO/ERO Extended Health Care Plan.
- The government pays for my drugs once I reach age 65 so I will not need extra coverage. **Answer:** The government pays only what is listed on their formulary. Some are “limited use,” and newer drugs are not always included. The RTO/ERO Extended Health Care Plan covers more than just drugs.
- Bill 16 (a reduction in price of generic drugs) will reduce RTO/ERO Extended Health Care Plan costs. **Answer:** Bill 16 affects the public plan first; generic fill rates are low. There are new brand drugs in the pipeline. The RTO/ERO Plan has other benefits besides drugs.
- Travelling outside the province requires proof of departure for the RTO/ERO member only. **Answer:** No, each insured person must have his/her own proof of departure, showing the province of residence and the date.
- My doctor says I’m physically okay to travel, therefore I am covered by RTO/ERO Out-of-Province/Canada travel benefits. **Answer:** A physician’s clearance for travel does not override the RTO/ERO policy. If according to the policy your condition would not be considered stable, any medical emergency related to this condition would be ineligible.

If you have any questions or comments call me at 905-630-2285.

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

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

or by email at dvezeau@rto-ero.org

or **Contact Mary Lyons** by telephone 905-336-5744

or by email at mlyons3@cogeco.ca

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Political Advocacy Committee

By Linda Jones



Since my last report I attended 2 conferences sponsored by the Ontario Health Coalition. What I learned and wish to share with you follows.

The Health Action Assembly

It was reported by Natalie Mehra, the Director of the Ontario Health Coalition that 80% of hospital budgets are in deficit, 1000 nurses have recently lost their jobs and now clinical services are starting to be cut. Ontario now wants to introduce pricing costs in order to bid for specialties, requiring many more administrative staff. This is the system referred to by the Ontario Government as patient focussed funding. Rachel Tutte, the co-Chair of the B.C. Health Coalition explained that this system is also known as patient centred funding, service or activity based funding. In the U.K. it is known as payment by results, where hospitals are competing with each other and with private clinics for numbers of patients. In B.C. patient focussed funding was used as a Trojan horse to introduce more private care. The number of private clinics has doubled since 2005. Unfortunately, only the cost of care is assessed and there is no measure of the quality of care.

Dr. Duncan Etches, an Intervenor in the B.C. private clinic court challenge of the constitutionality of the Ministry of Health's ability to audit private clinics warned us that if the private clinics win this case it will open up our health care to U.S. private insurers under the conditions of N.A.F.T.A.

Natalie Mehra also reported that the situation in the Long Term Care industry in Ontario is that it is very hard to attract workers to the sector because of constantly changing contracts, under which no seniority can be accumulated. The governing body of the retirement home industry is self-regulating, and there is a case to be made that human rights are not being respected in that some private for-profit homes are locking people up.

The Hon. Roger Galloway, former Liberal M.P. spoke of the "Ontario chimera" called LHINs after touring the province and hearing "the sad sameness of submissions" from citizens about the results of restructuring of hospital services in their communities. These LHINs have recently been severely criticized by the Provincial Ombudsman after his lengthy inquiry. He is extremely concerned that

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Municipal officials are not getting prompt responses to their questions from the LHINs. He also spoke of the lack of democracy in the appointment of Hospital Board members. He told us to demand our constitutional rights of each party in the 2011 Provincial Election.

Manufactured Crisis: The Myth of Medicare's Unsustainability and What it Means For Ontarians

This conference featured Dr. Robert Evans, an eminent health economist from B.C. He was very direct and began by saying that "there is a lot of money to be made by wrecking the Canadian health care system" and that "the notion that the system is ailing or broken is crazy." He used statistics from 1999-2009 to show that the doctor to population ratio has not changed in 20 years, although the payments to physicians are speeding up, but that the largest increase is a 73% increase in the cost of drugs, which are not part of the Medicare plan. In Ontario the government's initiative with generic drugs should help this. Fee for service is in fact going down but the effective price of lab tests and diagnostics is going way up. Electronic records, when fully established, will greatly reduce the duplication of diagnostic tests, which many of you may be familiar with. In fact, national health expenditures as a percentage of GDP (a generally accepted measure of a society's ability to pay) compared to OECD countries and the U.K. are very much the same. America's costs are much higher. The oft-cited increase in health care spending, as a share of total public spending, reflects not an extraordinary increase in health care spending, but rather decisions by government to cut taxes and public spending in areas other than health care. The cuts in government fiscal capacity, amounting to \$90 billion or about 6% of GDP, dwarf by a sizeable margin even the most pessimistic estimates of health care cost escalation projected over the next 25 years. The trends, to which critics incessantly refer, date back only to the mid 1990's, when governments at all levels began to cut expenditures and taxes. In fact, Statistics Canada input-output data for the hospital sector show that wages have declined as a share of hospital operating costs from a high of 75% in the late 1970s, to just over 60% in 2008.

The data also indicates that the likely impact of the aging population on health care costs is overstated. While the impact of aging is greater than in the recent past (0.8% per year between 2001 and 2010) and will likely see an increase of 1% a year, not the looming financial crisis that many are forecasting. In Dr. Evans' words, "a tsunami is not the same as a glacier" and, in fact, there is plenty of time to make sensible adjustments.

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I also learned that the proposals typically advanced in response to the “crisis” of sustainability would almost certainly make things worse. Proposals to shift financial, delivery or management responsibility from the public sector to the private sector do not reduce costs. Indeed by shifting costs and control from the public to the private sector these proposals would reduce our ability to manage the costs in the system. The system in the United States illustrates clearly what can happen when institutions in control of our system have no incentive to control costs. All of the major proposals - from premium based pre-funding to health care utilization taxes to user charges and co-payments - result in shifts in income and wealth from ‘the healthy and wealthy to the unhealthy and unwealthy.’ These cost-shifting proposals are directly opposed to the values that underlie Canadian medicare and to the principles set out in the Canada Health Act. The key to controlling costs and improving quality in the health care system, as unexciting as it sounds, is better management of the system in the public interest.

Ref: “The Sustainability of Medicare” Hugh Mackenzie and Dr. Michael Rachlis, 2010

For Your Information:

RETIRED TEACHERS DONATE \$10,000 TO PAKISTANI FLOOD RELIEF

In light of the recent tragedy in Pakistan, The Retired Teachers of Ontario/les enseignantes et enseignants retraités de l’Ontario (RTO/ERO) is donating \$10,000 to the International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF), which will be matched by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) totalling \$20,000. The \$10,000 is a provincial donation on behalf of RTO/ERO, as our members are devoted to volunteering and helping others.

The Retired Teachers of Ontario has a long history of assisting those in need. In the past few years, RTO/ERO has donated to other natural disasters around the world such as the typhoon in the Philippines, Hurricane Katrina, and the earthquakes in Indonesia and Haiti. On an annual basis the organization also donates \$10,000 to a designated charity that assists children, and \$100,000 to its Project-Service to Others program which helps non-profit organizations locally and globally.

Archives Committee

By Judy Sloan



In July, the Hamilton Spectator wrote a very positive review of the play *"On Golden Pond"* which was presented at both the Drayton Festival Theatre in Drayton and King's Wharf Theatre in Penetanguishene during the summer. Our own member and talented actor **Ian Downie** played the lead role of crusty old Norman Thayer who is 80 yrs. old in the play and happens to be the same age as Ian. The review stated that when Downie entered the stage he slid neatly under the skin of a slightly bigoted, bombastic man who uses an outer shell of protection against revealing his warm and lovable heart and then it went on to rave about Ian's performance. In case any of our RTO members aren't sure who Ian is, he has been appearing in all those TD Bank commercials on TV lately. Ian started out as a high school teacher who moonlighted at night in community theatre plays and then took an early retirement to continue his acting career in earnest. The rest is history.

Were any of you ambitious enough to try out our Halton District 15 President **Linda Jones'** Scotch trifle recipe? Her recipe was described in the Fall RTO/ERO Renaissance magazine under the heading *Food From Around The Globe*. Linda, who was born in Scotland, came to Canada at the age of 23 and still considers herself a true "Scot" of the Baird clan. She continues to celebrate Hogmanay with her family and friends every Dec. 31st when she makes her Scotch trifle. Hogmanay is the Scots word for the last day of the year and is synonymous with the celebration of the New Year in the Scottish manner. It is, however, normally only the start of a celebration which lasts through the night until the morning of New Year's Day or, in some cases, even until January 2nd. Maybe I can convince Linda to bring her delicious trifle to one of our Board meetings.

Recently, the Burlington Post featured articles concerning the birthdays of two of our retired members as well as one school. **Don Crossley**, who writes the column, *"Seniors' Moment"* mentioned that **Cliff Goodwin**, a former elementary principal with the HDSB celebrated his 90th birthday on June 24. Cliff was born in Lincolnshire, England and served in the 2nd World War with the RAF as a pilot. Cliff flew the Bristol Beaufighter, one of the first radar-equipped planes used as night fighters. After the war ended, he graduated from Teachers College and then began his long and successful years in education. Don stated in his article "It is said of Cliff that he always worked on the premise that every student under

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his care had proficiency in something whether it be Math or English or kicking a soccer ball.” Cliff is an active member at the Burlington Seniors’ Centre where he is co-moderator of the current events program, a very competitive bridge player and an excellent ballroom dancer. Happy belated birthday Cliff!

Happy belated birthday also to member **Edith Bielby** who celebrated her 100th birthday at Heritage Place Retirement residence. Edith was born on Oct. 29,1910 in Brussels, Ont., the second youngest of seven children. She grew up in Wingham, Ont., and in 1959 her family moved to Burlington. She taught at Lakeshore Public School and later at Mountain Gardens Public School until her retirement in 1974. Congratulations on your 100th Edith! See Edith’s picture on Page 2.

My last birthday greeting goes out to **Kilbride Public School**. The school recently celebrated its 50th anniversary with an invitation to former staff and students to reunite for a day of sharing memories of the past. The Burlington Post published a photo of past principals taken in the current principal’s office. They included members **Florence Meares** (1960-64), **Jim Morrison** (1964-69), **Irma Coulson** (1978-83), **John McGibbon** (1984-85) and **Bev Bowra** (1987-93).

On a sad note, I received another obituary for the scrapbook. **Carol Janet Elliot**, wife of member **Brian**, passed away on July 31, 2010 at the age of 60. Carol was a long-time teacher with the Halton District School Board who touched the hearts and minds of countless students and colleagues. She was an avid golfer, skier and traveler who, for as long as her health would permit, found joy in sharing those experiences with family and friends. During the past three years that Carol had waged her battle with cancer, she had done so with courage, with quiet determination and with grace. Our sincere condolences go out to the family of a brave and lovely colleague who will be very much missed.

If you have been following my reports, you will by now be aware of the many different kinds of newspaper and magazine clippings about our members that are being sent to me to be put into our Archives scrapbook which also includes an Obituary section. So please, if you see something about any former staff members, not just teachers as they can also be associate members, take the time to cut it out and send it to me at 1446 Brenner Cr., Burlington ON L7P 2Z2. Remember I only have access to the Burlington Post and need your help with other newspapers. Don’t worry if you don’t know if they are RTO members. I will find that out on my own. You may also contact me at either judymsloan@yahoo.ca or by phone at 905-336-5538. Until next time, have a safe and hopefully warm winter.

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Nuances of English

Submitted By Janice Murdoch

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that is **'UP'**.

It's easy to understand **UP**, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake **UP**? At a meeting, why does a topic come **UP**? Why do we speak **UP** and why are the officers **UP** for election and why is it **UP** to the secretary to write **UP** a report? We call **UP** our friends and we brighten **UP** a room, polish **UP** the silver, warm **UP** the leftovers and clean **UP** the kitchen. We lock **UP** the house and some guy fixes **UP** the old car.

At other times the little word has real special meaning. People stir **UP** trouble, line **UP** for tickets; work **UP** an appetite, and think **UP** excuses. To be dressed **UP**, is special. And this **UP** is confusing: A drain must be opened **UP** if it is stopped **UP**. We open **UP** in the morning and close **UP** in the evening. We seem to be pretty mixed **UP** about **UP**! To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of **UP** look the word **UP** in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes **UP** almost $\frac{1}{4}$ of the page and can add **UP**.

If you are **UP** to it, you might try building **UP** a list of the many ways **UP** is used. It will take **UP** a lot of your time, but if you don't give **UP**, you may wind **UP** with a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding **UP**. When the sun comes out we say it is clearing **UP**. When it rains, it wets **UP** the earth. When it doesn't rain for a while, things dry **UP**. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it **UP**, for now my time is **UP**, so Time to shut **UP**.

Puzzle:

See if you can figure out what these words have in common.
banana dresser grammar potato revive uneven assess

Are you peeking at the answer or have you already given up?
Give it another try. Look at each word carefully.

Answer:
In all of the words listed, if you take the first letter of the word, place it at the end and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word.

Seniors' Discounts

A Web Contest

Where can seniors get the best deals? Through advertising, most of us know about seniors' days at various retailers. Wouldn't it be great to have a list to refer to of local businesses offering seniors' discounts with information about the amount of the discount, when the discounts are valid and so on.

District 15 is going to place a page on our website with such information. Of course there will be a caveat indicating that inclusion on this page does not endorse or recommend any business listed. But to build the list we need the help of our members.

Please provide us with information about a senior's discount including the name of the business, the validity day(s), the amount of the discount, who is eligible for the discount and any other information that you feel is relevant. If you know of several, then send them all in.

On March 1, we will draw from the names of all those members who made submissions - the winner will receive a cash prize of \$50 which you might choose to spend on attending District 15 RTO/ERO events.

Here is an example of how you could provide us with the information for each item.

- Business: Freddies Bagels, Milton Location only
- Eligibility: 60 or older
- When valid: 2nd Tuesday of each month
- Discount: 20% off food and beverage purchases

Please email to *George MacRae* at RTO.district15@gmail.com by February 28, 2011 to be eligible to enter the contest.

Welcome to the **NEW** Provincial RTO/ERO website!

With a fresh look, updated content, and exciting new features, the re-designed Provincial RTO/ERO website is now ready for you to explore. Look for these brand-new features:

- Online membership application
- Calendar of upcoming provincial events
- An interactive District map with a detailed District contact list
- Classified and reunion section (with banner ads)
- Boutique for RTO/ERO promotional items

We also invite you to discover the new and improved Members' Centre, where you will find familiar resources as well as many new ones:

- Fact sheets in a professionally designed template
- Online change of address form
- e-Liaison sign-up form
- Digital edition of Renaissance

All content has been updated as well and re-translated to ensure consistency in English and French. Note that you can now transition from the same page in English and French at the click of a button. In the next few months, we look forward to more interesting features, such as discussion forums for members.

Please send feedback/suggestions to websitecomments@rto-ero.org

Review of Provincial RTO/ERO Travel Program



In 2006, Merit Travel was engaged to provide a comprehensive travel program for members. Last year, the Provincial Executive renewed the legal agreement between RTO/ERO and Merit Travel for a one-year period. The agreement will be discussed in the spring, pending a program review by Simon Leibovitz, Director of Administrative and Member Services, and the Member Services Committee.

We believe the relationship between RTO/ERO and Merit Travel has been positive and the services provided have been well-received. Concerns or problems raised by members and brought to the attention of Provincial Office staff have been quickly addressed by the travel agency. We want to hear directly from members who have used these services and/or wish to share opinions about Merit and the RTO/ERO travel program. If so, please contact Simon Leibovitz at sleibovitz@rto-ero.org. You may be asked to complete a short online survey.



Book of Remembrance

We remember with fondness

Laura Barr

Brenda Daniels

Oleg Gipp

Jackson Reed

Jean Bennett

Olwin Donnell

Evan Hoffman

William Rogers

Charles Brown

Carol Elliott

William McKeown

Irene Wedeles

Tri-District Travel Group

Submitted By Jan Murdoch

Retired teachers from Halton, Peel and Durham Districts have banded together to seek out excursions here in North America. Our Chicago visit was a huge success last May. Boston with its whale watching, lobster eating and historic walks is the location of our next adventure (May 31-June 3, 2011), then we are on to San Francisco in the Fall. To help everyone stay connected with where the group is going, what the prices are and what related activities are being offered a website has been created, www.tri-districttravelgroup.info. If you see something that piques your interest contact me at janmurdoch@cogeco.ca or 289-956-0163.

Advertising and Promotion Policy

It is the policy of RTO/ERO Halton District 15 that all advertising and promotion to or by its members must have prior approval by the District Board of Directors. Publication of any advertisement by an outside group in the Halton Herald or other District 15 printed material, on the District 15 website or at any District function or event does not constitute endorsement of the product or service by RTO/ERO Halton District 15 and must have Board of Directors prior approval. In this context “Advertising and Promotion” includes signage, verbal presentations, handouts, distributed material and display table material.

Living in a Lighthouse

By Wayne Bridle



I have spent my whole life around water. My father was an avid fisherman and many of his brothers and sisters had cottages on Lake Simcoe, which we often visited during the summers. In later years I spent hours exploring the bottom of quarries and lakes as a scuba diver. It was only natural that I would develop a dream of living in a lighthouse – a dream that recently has been realized.

One day, while reading the newspaper I came across an article about a lighthouse organization that had started a program offering the opportunity for people to become volunteer lighthouse keepers. Since I was retired, I pointed out to my wife **Carol**, that there was nothing stopping us from undertaking such an adventure, although, at the time, she did not share my enthusiasm. I immediately went on the Internet to find out more information and how to contact the organization. With printout in hand and mustering as much salesmanship as I could, I convinced my wife that we should apply.

The lighthouse was up on the Bruce Peninsula and in my application I pointed out that I have been diving on the shipwrecks of the Bruce for more than 40 years and knew the area well. I was overjoyed to receive an e-mail saying we had been accepted and in May of 2009 my wife and I arrived at the Cabot Head Lighthouse to become assistant light keepers for a week.

The lighthouse began operation in 1896. By 1987 the Canadian Coast Guard decommissioned it and turned the work of the lighthouse over to an automated tower beside it. The facility was abandoned for several years until an organization called **“The Friends of Cabot Head”** established an agreement with the coast guard to take over



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the maintenance of the building. With an injection of financial donations and a lot of work the organization restored the lighthouse. Today it has been turned into a museum except for four rooms that are set aside for the light keepers. The rest of the lighthouse is set up as it would have appeared in the early 1900's. The light keeper's bedroom and sitting room are on the second floor, with the wash-room located on the first floor. During my nightly excursion to the washroom I felt like I had been transported from the present to the early 1900's. I half expected to encounter an old man with a white beard and a pipe standing in one of the rooms watching me. Then, one night, I did! It was with some relief that I realized I was looking at myself in the mirror on the old pump organ – minus the pipe. I felt a slight disappointment at being alone.

Our daily duties at Cabot Head included keeping the lighthouse clean, sweeping away cobwebs, opening it up for visitors at 10:00 a.m., keeping a log of the weather and visitors as well as making the visitors feel welcomed and answering any questions they might have about the area. The Lighthouse property and the **Wingfield Basin Provincial Nature Reserve** have been popular locations for naturalists. In the spring of 2009 we had the opportunity to meet many birders from all over North America who had arrived for a conference and tour based around the bird banding centre on Wingfield Basin. The Bruce Peninsula forms a major bird migration route for birds migrating to the Arctic regions of Canada. The National Parks in this area have been designated as part of the UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. Many people arrive each year to explore the extraordinary variety of plants and animals found throughout the bushes and Alvars. When we were at the lighthouse in May of 2009, the Bruce was celebrating its annual Orchid Festival. We decided to join in on the fun by searching out orchids while hiking on the many local trails.

It was an amazing experience living in a part of our marine heritage. Each day we met people from all over the world. I spent many evenings in the observation tower looking over Georgian Bay and watching spectacular sunsets. My wife and I would have a morning coffee outside the side door, and share the sun with the resident water snakes that live under the lighthouse. This was our second year staying in the lighthouse and my wife is already suggesting we return for a third year.



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Celebrating Canada's
Nautical Past:
Living in a Lighthouse
Carol and Wayne Bridle



Celebrating Europe's Cultural Past

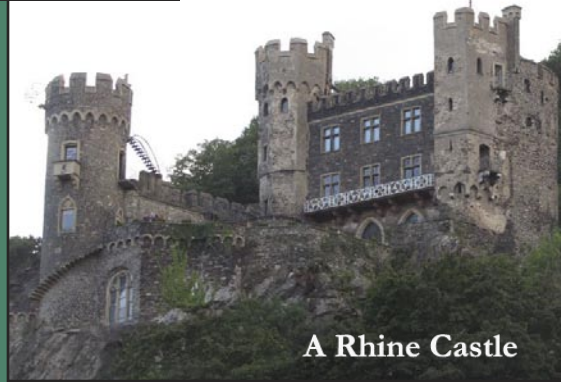
From Amsterdam to Budapest: submitted by George MacRae



Koblenz



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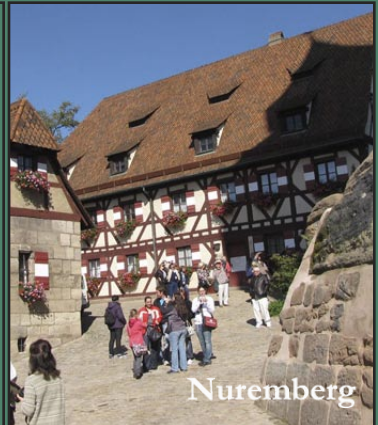
A Rhine Castle



Undercover Agent



View From The Rhine



Nuremberg