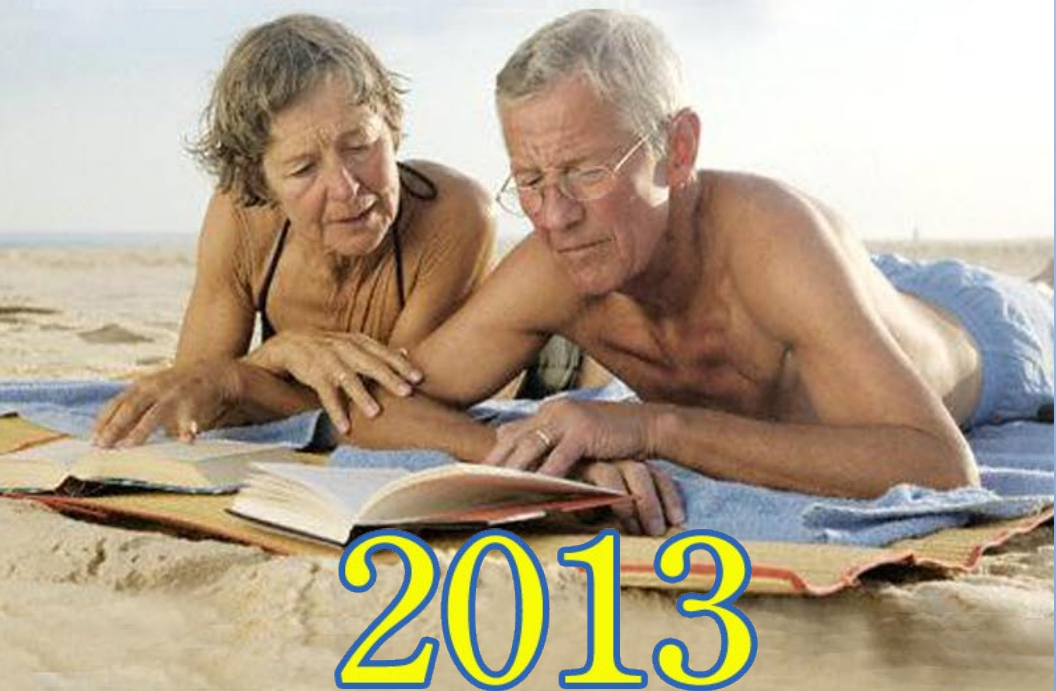


The year to SHARE

Activities

Interests

Experiences



2013

Fall Luncheon

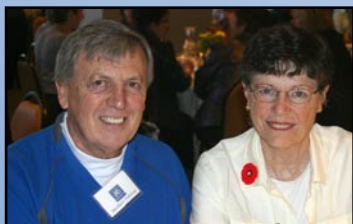
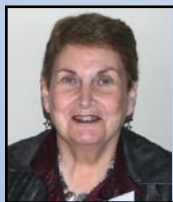
November 8, 2012

Pres. Jan Murdoch presenting cheque
to Nancy Trott, HDSB Foundation



Our Speaker

*Maureen Jennings,
Author of The Murdoch Mysteries*



President's Report

By Jan Murdoch



This year, marks the 40th anniversary of Halton District 15 as an organization. It was among the first 21 Districts to be established within the Superannuated Teachers Association as Halton-Peel District 15 with a membership of 172. The first President was Robert Hopkins of Oakville, 2nd VP was A. Balfour and Executive Members were Donald Thomas and E.W. Foster.

Much has changed over the past 40 years, especially the definition of member. Initially membership was restricted to teachers with pensions and their spouses. As recently as the October 2012 Senate, membership has extended to include “retired non-educator employees of a Canadian School Board or educational organization.” Anyone who has worked in an educational organization is eligible for membership with RTO/ERO either as a full or associate member and any reference to a pension plan has been completely removed. More people are now able to join RTO/ERO and take advantage of all that the organization has to offer. This is important for those looking for a good Medical Insurance Plan. RTO/ERO is a not-for-profit organization that designs and manages a group plan which reflects the needs of its members at competitive rates.

In 1974, Robert Hopkins, a member of Halton District 15, was elected to the Provincial Executive at Senate where he served for 5 years, ascending to the role of President of RTO/ERO in 1977-78. Robert was the first person to work at the provincial level but many of our members have followed his lead and worked on the executive or participated in a Provincial Committee. Our Provincial and District Committee members work hard to ensure that our members have the latest and most accurate information on issues that relate to our demographics from wellness issues to travel and recreational opportunities. The “Renaissance, Health Matters” and the website are the Provincial means of communication while the Halton Herald, District 15’s website and monthly email are the local means of communication. We also offer members an opportunity to reunite at one or all of our 3 District meetings where a great meal is always followed by some form of entertainment.

Staying active and in touch are things that ensure healthy aging, a concern that we all share whether 45 or 85. One thing that appears to have stayed constant over the years is the love of walking. In a Provincial survey completed in 1979

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

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

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

members indicated that their preferred activity was walking for pleasure and exercise. A survey completed in 2012 indicated that being physically fit and mobile was a personal focus of many members and walking continues to be the preferred form of exercise to address this concern. Many of our members and others provincially have added Nordic Poles to their walking, increasing the physical and mental benefits.

Table of Contents

Committee Reports	Pages
Archives	34
Book of Remembrance	20
Communications	25
Health Services	22
New Members	14
Pension & Retirement	30
Political Advocacy	40
President's Report	3
Program	15
Recreation	21
Recruit/Member Services	38
Tours	31
District 15 Events	
Calendar of Events	24
Contact List	26
Fall Luncheon	2, 48
Remembering Linda Jones	9
Shaw Festival	23
To Hell With The Bell	13
Wellness Workshop	16
We Love To Read	17
Articles	
9-11 Remembered	19
A Pilgrimage to Belgium	43
EC Drury Retirees	14
Great Book of Parenting	38
How I Started Teaching	18
Jim Baker, His Story	11
Life	29
My Time As a Trustee	27
We Get Letters	5

Marc Berman, a researcher at Baycrest's Rotman Research Institute, found that a 50 minute walk in nature can improve short-term memory performance by 20%, but no significant gains were found for urban walking. After an interaction with natural environments, one is able to perform better on tasks that depend on focus-attention abilities. Although participants did not enjoy the walks in January as much as in the summer or spring, they showed, surprisingly, the same memory improvements. So get out there, but don't forget your hat and gloves.

At the Fall meeting several people asked me if we are going to offer another introductory clinic to Nordic Pole Walking. The answer is yes, in early January and again in April. There is no cost for the clinic and the poles are provided for free for the 40 minute session. If you are interested in attending please email me at janmurdoch8@gmail.com and I will notify you of the date, time and location.

Our May 9th meeting will focus on our past 40 years. Come and join us as we explore our past. I would like to do biographies of our first four Executive members (mentioned in my opening paragraph). If you have any information or photos that you could share please contact me by phone at 289-956-0163 or by e-mail at janmurdoch8@gmail.com.

We Get Letters, E-mails & Calls

By Peter Gnish



Let me begin by thanking all those who have written, telephoned or emailed me with their thoughts and updates over the past months. Have you sent me something lately? Isn't it about time you did? I look forward to hearing from you and so do your colleagues. Why not drop me a line (and a picture) for inclusion in the April issue.

Erica Andrew: wrote to say, "I look forward to reading the Halton Herald and particularly looking at pictures of friends and colleagues – they really haven't changed that much. It is enriching to see that many of them are still pursuing the 'politically socially active journey.'"

As for me, I moved to Stratford after my second term as a trustee ended in 2003. Then, it was on to Forest City, near London, where my daughter, Lesley and I purchased a 100-year old duplex in Forest City where she runs a very busy studio out of a converted garage. I live on the ground floor and take care of our two dogs, talk to Lesley's parrot, play bridge, sing in, and occasionally direct, a couple of seniors' choirs, present "Whale" talks to various naturalists groups, volunteer to teach a dyslexic child twice a week, serve as Past President of a wonderful group called Newcomers (that welcomes women new to London) and am presently organizing a talk to deliver to retired people entitled "*Life Can Begin at 60.*" As walking any distance is problematic for me with my spinal stenosis, I choose activities that can be pursued while seated – a walker is sometimes my companion. All the best to everyone." (Editor's note: Be sure to read Erica's story on being a trustee on Page 27.)

Beth Carter: was one of several members who emailed me to say they were willing to receive the Halton Herald online rather than by Canada Post. She went on to say, "It was a huge book this time! Thank you for all your work to produce this."

Paul Dennis: emailed me to say. "Just received my September issue of the Herald and the article looks great. Thank you so much." Paul asked for two more copies of the Herald to send to his nephew, Father Mark, in Benque as well as a copy to Butch in Dallas - since this project is their baby. He says, "I am working on, albeit slowly, a proposal to the Executive for a grant to use towards building another house in Benque. I have attached a picture of this year's finished product."



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

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

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

Jim Diell: wrote to say that if Dave Letterman calls he will be listing the following as ten best things that happened to him during the summer of 2012 :

10. Haunting loon calls at sundown on Ski Bay
 9. Eight wild turkeys scrounging food on the driveway
 8. Sparkling fresh air wafting in from Georgian Bay
 7. Swimming 3x per hot July day
 6. Cruising to Sturbridge, Mass. in a '65 Corvair sport sedan
 5. Selling and signing my book at the Corsa convention in Sturbridge
 4. Diana Ross, Paul Anka, Patsy Cline, Everly Bros. All on Jukebox Golden Oldies Galaxie 905 satellite
 3. 1932 Packard Twin Six limo at Cruze Night in Parry Sound
 2. Riesling at 4.00 pm on the dock, Ski Bay
 1. Five humming birds dive bombing each other around the feeder and three who finally relented and shared the feeder..
-Summer #41 at Otter Lake and many more to go.

Wendy Ernst: telephoned to talk about the last issue of the newsletter and the need for a variety of focus topics. In talking with my wife, Cate Roberts (who is a former English/Drama teacher) she indicated that she re-reads *Pride and Prejudice* every year. Her suggestion for a book review column in the Halton Herald is a great one. To kick it off see the Call for Book Reviews on page 17.

Joyce Frank: sent an e-mail about her trip to Ireland where they “visited castles that are all over the place. We went to Bunratty Castle in Bunratty fully restored, Blarney restored, Desmond in Adare, partially restored, and then many that are in different states of ruin. The most interesting was Desmond because a historian gave a tour and explained the design, purpose, life style and the feuding families and countries that had built and taken over the castle.” She added that the food everywhere was delicious and bathrooms in all public places were spotless. Highlights were the Cliffs of Moher (“fantastic”) and the Inishsheer Island of Aran that is still untouched by tourism.

She added, “The RTO booklet was very moving and so well done. You (my wife Cate) and Peter take a topic and just run with it. All those grandparents will show the grandkids and parents those pictures. All stages of life were represented, some very seldom shown. My thanks to you both.”

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

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

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

Penny Hambly: wrote to say, "Thank you for the wonderful Halton Herald. It is so full of great articles and pictures. (I had forgotten that I sent you the picture and grandkids article). You must have spent a great deal of time on it as I can see that it would take so much work to get it to look so good."

Mary & Hugh McCully: emailed me - "I certainly understand the concerns around mailing costs for the Halton Herald. However, I do like to have a paper copy so I can cart it around and read at my leisure today and 6 weeks from now. I know, I know... I can do the same thing with my iPad and read it there, but for now I'd like to keep the paper copy. Eventually I am sure I will bow to the pressure of getting the electronic version. For the past year we have been receiving two copies of Halton Herald, one addressed to me and the other to Hugh. One copy to our house would be fine so that will cut one mailing off your budget."

Thanks for all the great work that goes into Halton Herald. When it comes in the mail, all work stops until we read it through. It's great to hear what our former colleagues are up to."

Octavia Dutzak: recalled a memorable event at her retirement - "In the fall of 1995 my retirement present to me was to join Mayor Mulvale and a group from Oakville on a cultural trip to Japan. Conrad's was the only familiar face in the group as we both attended St. Simon's Anglican Church and I often saw him Saturday mornings at Oakville Place, reading and writing, so I stopped for chats as I found him a remarkable person of great interest. I had no idea he would be going to Japan but did wonder why he was often studying Japanese."

During our trip I found we shared great interest in castles and there was a special one we decided to visit on our free day. It was a challenge just to get there. We left early. Transit a slight problem. Directions complicated. Conrad's Japanese helpful. Tight security everywhere as upcoming World Leaders' Conference was to be in the castle area. In fact, as we stood in the middle of the street a manhole cover popped up and black-suited bomb checkers climbed out at our feet. Finally a couple of Japanese policemen kindly directed us to our castle. We toured every inch of that castle and its lovely grounds in complete privacy taking pictures. I think the public was not supposed to be there. Quite a vivid day in my memory with excellent company."

Herman Starr: telephoned to say how much he enjoyed the latest issue of the newsletter and to wish us Happy Thanksgiving.

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

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

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

Sandra Taylor: commented on the Grandparents stories, “Many thanks for publishing my article! I was pleased to read it in the September issue. Moreover, I emailed it to the “Grand Children” and their parents. Greatly appreciated. Oh yes, I have already begun to organize next May’s jaunt including the Chelsea Flower Show, an event held by the RHS of which I am a member.”

Dave Wright: sent an email that shows how sometimes things turn out in ways we cannot foresee. He wrote, “Marina Lloyd and I received Service Awards at the 2012 AGM and the pictures that you took of us receiving the awards from Phyllis Kingsley are in the Awards Committee Report in the September issue of the Herald. Marina and I were classmates at Waterford District High School. Waterford is a small farming community in south western Ontario and the chances are not great that two graduates of a small grade 13 class would end up teaching and retiring in Halton and receiving awards at the same time. I know that Marina feels very honoured to be recognized by District 15 as I do.”

Jan Murdoch: wrote and attached this picture - “After some significant research and verification I can now confirm that Halton District 15 is celebrating its 40th anniversary. We were one of the original 21 Districts and our first president was Robert Hopkins of Oakville (on the right receiving the Alymer Award in 1950). There were other great Halton people on the first Executive but you’ll have to read the next Herald to see who. Robert went on to become the 9th Provincial president of STO/ERO.”



Q: Why don't cows have any money?

A: Because the farmers milk them dry.

Q: What do cows do for entertainment?

A: They go to the mooovies.

Remembering Linda Jones, Past-President

By Cecile Leach

We lost a very dear friend and a remarkable human being on November 20, 2012. **Linda Jones** and I became friends when she joined the Executive of RTO/ERO District 15 almost 6 years ago. Much of what I am relating about Linda's early life was gleaned from others.

While sitting at her bedside, I learned from her husband Ron, that Linda was born in Scotland on December 13, 1946 and graduated from the University of Glasgow in 1968. She immigrated to Canada as a young adult and landed in Vancouver. But the Vancouver weather was too similar to the rainy Scotland she had left behind so she moved to Toronto. In 1972, she and Ron were married at the Burlington Presbyterian Church in Burlington where they took residence. Her children, David and Ceri, were born here. Linda loved the ocean but was not a good swimmer. She loved to walk in the warm sand. She enjoyed trips to sunny exotic lands but also loved traipsing through old historic sites as well as exploring many new and interesting places.



From her close friends I learned that Linda loved the theatre both live and on-screen, liked long discussions on any subject and loved going to the movies with friends. She was a night owl and loved sleeping late. She was sometimes grumpy when she had to get up early.

While with the Halton District School Board, Linda taught French Immersion for many years and ended her teaching career at Pinegrove Public School in Oakville. Her colleagues and associates recall Linda as a tireless advocate for causes in which she truly believed. She fought for equity, social justice and championed human rights for all. Linda didn't just join a cause, she became involved! Maureen Weinberger, Vice-president of ETFO Provincial said: "I have fond memories of being a HETA rep, HWTA executive member, FWTAO and then ETFO delegate and watching Linda come to the microphone to, in her oh so articulate way, chal-

(Remembering Linda... continues on Page 10)

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

(Remembering Linda... continued from Page 9)

lenge and defend those issues she believed in. She was an amazing debater and loved verbal exchanges. To debate with her meant you had better have your facts straight because she was always well informed. She never stopped working to make the world a better place and challenged all of us not to sit on the sidelines. I always admired that about her. She was indefatigable!!! ”

Linda was also involved in the Oakville District Labour Council where she held many positions on the executive board including becoming the 1st VP. She was on the Board of Referees through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, served as a board member on many community boards and was a role model and inspiration to many. To thank Linda for the positive effect that she has had on the Labour council, an award will be given each year in her honour. The award is called the **Linda Jones Women's Activist Award**. This year was the first year that the award was named in her honour and it was fitting that one of her apprentices (Sandi Corrigan) from ETFO was the recipient.

Linda joined RTO/ERO and immediately became involved. She began as 2nd VP, 1st VP for a 2-year term, and last May just completed 2 years as President of Halton District 15. Linda was active both at District and Provincial RTO/ERO. At the District level, Linda served as Past-President and was the Chair of the Political Advocacy Committee. She was also a member of the Political Advocacy Committee at the Provincial level. She championed many causes for seniors and RTO/ERO members. She joined Third Age Learning, worked on issues related to the LHINs and the Ontario Health Coalition. She started a Relay for Life Team of District 15 members. At Provincial RTO/ERO Senate Linda challenged issues that concerned all retired teachers.

Linda was a formidable ally, a keen and observant lady and a loyal and true friend. I loved our impromptu afternoon lunches at restaurants in downtown Burlington where we lingered for hours just talking of everything and nothing. There were many times she dropped in to pick up something quickly and ended up staying and chatting for hours. I will miss those times.

Linda leaves behind her husband Ron, her son David, her brother Ewan in Scotland and many, many friends and associates. Her daughter Ceri, and her parents predeceased her.

Linda will be sadly missed and long remembered. Donations to the RTO/ERO Charitable Foundation can be made in her memory, through the RTO/ERO website www.ero-rto.org/rtoero-charitable-foundation.

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

Jim Baker, Shares His Story

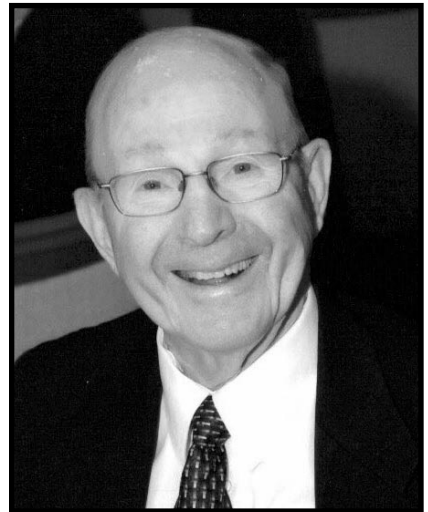
Former RTO/ERO Provincial And District 15 President

By Marina Lloyd, Chair of Goodwill



What did you want to be when you grew up? How many of us do realize the dream we had as children? When Jim was in Grade Five and living in Toronto, he wrote an essay in which he said that he wanted to be a farmer. He must have been a good writer even then, for the teacher asked him to read his essay to the class. The next student to read an essay, was his neighbour Helen and her dream was to be a farmer's wife. Jim immediately felt a burning desire to pursue a career in teaching!

Growing up in a family of eleven children, it was important for Jim to find several after-school and summer jobs to finance his education. He delivered papers, worked in his father's business, clerked in a store and built houses. During three summers, he gave sight-seeing lectures on Grey Coach Line buses, an experience which gave him the confidence to stand in front of a class of children. In 1945, with so many gone to war, he harvested carrots on the Holland Marsh. And he did have some farming experience after all - caring for prize Clydesdales and Guernsey cows at Valley Crest Farms in Oakville.



After earning a BA from U of T's Victoria College and completing a year at the College of Education, he was offered a position in Parry Sound. When, after two years, he realized that he was the lowest-paid but not the last-hired teacher on staff, he presented himself at the "cattle market" held in a hotel in Toronto. Wallaceburg was the next stop, until in 1954, Jim joined the staff of Burlington Central HS, teaching English and Social Sciences. He became Head of Student Services, then Vice-Principal, garnering aliases along the way - Jimmy Gillette and Jungle Jim to mention just two. From Central, he went to Nelson HS as VP for two years. After ten years at Aldershot as Principal, he was moved to Perdue HS, retiring in 1985.

(Jim Baker... continues on Page 12)

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

(Jim Baker... continued from Page 11)

He immediately became active in RTO District 15 and went on to lend his expertise to the Provincial RTO/ERO, serving on the Pensions and Recruitment and Political Advocacy Committees and Board of Directors. Jim is still a member of our District Board keeping us informed of pension matters.

Jim is father to two and grandfather to four. One daughter and one granddaughter followed in Jim's footsteps - his daughter is a retired teacher and his granddaughter is in her last year of Continuing Education at Brock. The second daughter is a Human Resources Specialist at the Veterinary College in Guelph. A grandson is in the catering business and a granddaughter is enrolled in Environmental Engineering at the University of Northern BC. Jim's youngest granddaughter just completed Grade 11 at Westdale HS.

A desire to experience the unfamiliar has resulted in a major trip once a year. The time he explored Peru and Ecuador including the Galapagos Islands stands out in his memory as one of the best! On his most recent trip, he cruised the Danube River from Budapest to Nuremburg, travelling then by bus to Prague. But he's just as enthusiastic about the activities he and a friend co-ordinate in his condo complex-the bridge and euchre games, the snooker contests and the bus excursions. Pinedale Estates has no better ambassador. In recognition of his distinguished service to his Rotary Club, Jim was honoured to receive the highest Rotary award - the Paul Harris Fellow Award. He is a longtime and highly valued member of Wellington Square United Church.

Jim describes himself as a "contented" man and he has good reason to say so. He is surrounded by a loving family and good friends. His good health enables him to continue to explore the sights and sounds of our amazing planet. He has the satisfaction of knowing that he made a significant contribution to the teaching profession, both locally and provincially. Through his volunteer activities, he has touched the lives of so many people. If Jim had pursued his Grade Five dream, no doubt he'd have been a good farmer, but we can be grateful that he didn't!

**"A child needs a grandparent, anybody as a grandparent,
to grow a little more securely into an unfamiliar world."**

To Hell With The Bell Breakfast

This yearly event was held on September 6th for newly retired teachers - and there was another very good turnout. Do you recognize any of the faces in the photos below? If so, encourage them to join District 15 RTO/ERO if they have not already done so.



Welcome New RTO/ERO District 15 Members!!!

Our membership is now over 2300. Below are the names of retired teachers and other education staff who became members since September, 2012. Please welcome and invite them to join you at one of our many activities.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Lynda Anstett | Glenn Austin | Elizabeth Basciano |
| Kenneth Boichuk | Patricia Borrelli | Victoria Bragg |
| Cindy Burns | Linda Cairns | Margaret Camani |
| Marie Dhue | Maureen Donaldson | Louise Donnelly |
| Pauline Dotchin | Helene Ellison | Carol Gallimore |
| Doreen Gentleman | John Gerrard | Carol Gilchrist |
| Pedro Gomes | Kay Goodwin | Ina Gowan |
| Bonnie Grant | Michael Hawkins | Helene Hellier |
| Ailine Hess | Anthony Hughes | Joanne Ingram |
| Beverley Jacobs | Catharine Jensen | Marilyn Lee |
| Heather Lethbridge | Linda MacDonald | Joan Malone |
| Marie Marozzo | Kerry Marsh | Sandra Jane McCleary |
| James McConvey | Della Mees | Harald Moras |
| Paul Mouradian | Dorothy Nicolson | Ida Pivar |
| Robert Purnell | Brenda Richmond | Virginia Seeliger |
| Bob Stacey | Marian Start | Karen Stothart-Page |
| Lynne Swanson | Silvana Terry | Susan Vidal |
| Jeanne Woodcroft | Margaret Young | |

E.C. Drury Retirees Visit the New Craig Kielberger High School for Breakfast



Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

Program Committee

By Penny Hambly



Our Fall Meeting and Lunch was held on November 8, 2012 at the Atrium Conference Centre. We had a record number of people who attended due to the popularity of our guest speaker **Maureen Jennings** who writes the Murdoch Detective books which is now a TV series. She spoke about how she gets ideas for her characters in her books. It was a very entertaining talk and afterwards she answered questions. Her books were also available for purchase and after the meeting she autographed them.

At the lunch we also had questionnaires on the tables requesting ideas for future topics for lunches and Wellness Meetings. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete them. Your suggestions will help us in planning future events. Our first **Wellness Meeting** of the year on Diabetes was held in late October at the Quality Inn on Bronte Road. See the detailed report which follows below. We will be having more Wellness events in the future.

We will be having a **Valentine's Day Lunch and Meeting** on Thursday, February 14, 2013. It will be held at the Teatro Conference and Event Centre in Milton and promises to be a fun afternoon with entertainment by the **KooGle Theatre** presenting a **Couple of Swells**, a movie musical revue. It will be a wonderful way to celebrate Valentine's Day with your loved ones or friends. Get your registrations in (see the flyer inserted with the Halton Herald) as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our future events. It is a great way to meet former colleagues and make new friends.

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.

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

Wellness Workshop on Diabetes

By Phyllis Kingsley

On October 30, a group of our members attended an RTO/ERO District 15 Wellness session entitled *Lifestyle Strategies for the Prevention and Management of Diabetes* at the Quality Inn in Oakville. The presenter was Ms. Ashen Chetty, Program Director at the Aboriginal Health Centre in Hamilton. Ms. Chetty is also a Registered Diabetes Nurse Educator.



The presentation was excellent – an assessment unanimously shared by all participants. Ms. Chetty was able to explain the physiology of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes in clear layman's terms that increased our understanding of this disease. She discussed the treatment options available and outlined the pros and cons of each option. Most importantly, she outlined the kind of lifestyle changes, such as diet and exercise, that can stave off or reverse the onset of Type 2 diabetes, which is a growing epidemic in Canada. Every one of us learned something new during the session. At the end of the workshop we had the option of having our blood sugar level checked. As Ms. Chetty provided her services free of charge, District 15 made a donation of \$200 to the Aboriginal Health Centre.

**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 Phone: 1-800-361-9888 Ext. 223 or 1-416-962-9463 Ext 223

or by e-mail at dvezeau@rto-ero.org

or **Contact Hilary Barber** by telephone 905-637-7067

or by e-mail at hilaryjpbarber@cogeco.ca

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

We Love To Read - A Call For Submission!



One of our members, Wendy Ernst, suggested that we have a regular book review column so that others can discover what people are reading and recommend. We thought this was a good idea so we are going to give it a try. Those who send in submissions that are used can earn a \$10 gift certificate to Tim Horton's - good enough for a coffee and a muffin to dig into while reading the next novel!

The details:

1. *Write a report* of no more than 500 words on a book you have read.
2. *Give some details* but don't give the "punch line" away.
3. *Explain* why you liked the book and why others might enjoy it.
4. One submission will be chosen for publication in the next issue. All other submissions will be kept for future issues.
5. *Send* the entries
 - By Canada Post to Peter Gnish, 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton, ON L8M 2K4 (All hard copies will be returned) ***OR better still,***
 - By computer, as an attachment to an e-mail message to pgnish@cogeco.ca.
6. There is no deadline for this project.
7. Each printed submission will receive a \$10 gift certificate to Tim Hortons. You will be notified if and when your submissions is used.

If you have questions please contact me at 905-547-1628 or pgnish@cogeco.ca.

Contribute to the Herald!

The next *Halton Herald* will be distributed in April, 2013.

- **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. The full version of longer articles will be published on the District website.
- **Share a funny story** with our many readers.
- **Provide us with pictures** to share with our members.

Send your article or correspondence to the Editor, Peter Gnish by e-mail: pgnish@cogeco.ca, by mail to 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton L8M 2K4 or telephone: 905-547-1628. Deadline - February 15, 2013

How I Started Teaching

By Jack Leadbeater

During World War Two, I spent six years as a supply technician in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Sometime during the War I was told that I was to take a course to become a trade instructor. During the course each of us was required to teach two lessons on any subjects of our own choosing, to the other trainees. I taught the worst two lessons I have ever taught. I did not pass the course.

On my discharge from the Air Force at the end of the War, I now had to decide what I was going to do with the rest of my life. I decided to go back to school and complete my high school education. I was told that a grade thirteen class was starting at Central Collegiate in Hamilton and that I could enroll in this class. A fellow student was Lincoln Alexander.

Two weeks after the class started, the school burned down. Now a decision had to be made where to accommodate us. A portable classroom was set up on a lot of a factory on Kenilworth Ave. North in Hamilton. Because time was running short, we were given a cram course so that we could enroll at university in the fall. We were excused from studying a language.

After graduating from McMaster, I went to the Hamilton Normal School to learn to become a teacher. I now found that I liked teaching. While teaching I learned to fly gliders and airplanes and became a gliding instructor. As an instructor I taught a number of people how to fly.

When I retired from teaching I took a course to become a driving instructor. While I did not teach any in car driving, I did teach a number of classes in driver education. Shortly after this I was asked by the Air Cadet League if I would help train their glider pilots to become instructors. Each year I would train four air cadets to the Ministry of Transport standards for their instructors rating. I continued to fly for the air cadets as a tow pilot and instructor until I was eighty years of age at which time I decided to resign from the Air Cadets. I did continue to fly our own airplane until I was eighty-five years of age and only stopped flying then because Don Sawell and I sold our last airplane.

Over the years I made many mistakes, but the one mistake I did not make was my decision to become a teacher – a decision I have never regretted.

9-11 Remembered

By Rick Burgin, District Chief WNFS Station 7 and Halton Retiree



On Sept. 11, 2011, the tenth anniversary of the attacks on the Twin Towers, members of the West Nipissing Fire Service, Station 7 dedicated and unveiled their 9-11 Memorial. The memorial is a piece of steel from the remains of the Towers.

In 2009, an opportunity to apply for a steel artifact from the World Trade Center went out to all emergency responders through the website, *firefighter-closecalls.com*, a site dedicated to improving safety for firefighters by detailing “close calls” and tragic deaths in the line of duty. The project was sponsored by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the 9-11 Families Association. With the approval of our unit, I wrote a letter requesting a piece of the WTC. We were required to detail in the letter the plans and goals if granted a piece of steel as well as public accessibility to the artifact, how it was to be displayed and any other pertinent data. In January of 2010, we received notification that our request had been approved and that we had “proposed a fitting testament to those who lost their lives on 9/11 that will help assure that future generations will not forget.” The piece of steel arrived on Easter Monday of 2011 after months of e-mails, printing out legal documents, returning them and a few mix-ups, including shipping red tape between Canada and the United States.

We then determined that the steel needed a proper display case, so I enlisted the talents of my son Warren. He was able to repair a cedar box and paint it in the colours of the Fire Department of New York fire apparatus. The number “343”, signifying the number of firefighters who lost their lives that day, was painted in gold on the inside of the lid. The steel was placed in the box, resting on two white fire department officer’s uniform shirts, with gold buttons. Attached to the shirts are USPS stamp pins of the United We Stand and Heroes 2001 stamps.

From April until September, all firefighters were immersed in preparing for the dedication: flower gardens were revamped and replanted; rooms in the station were painted, as was the entrance door; the exterior of the building and the brick walkway were power-washed; the flagpole was repainted and a new flag obtained; the memorial structure itself was constructed; fire apparatus was power-

(9-11 Remembered ... continues on Page 20)

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

(9-11 Remembered ... continued from Page 19)

washed and waxed. Meetings were held to check on progress and plan the service. Every firefighter was assigned a role in the service itself. All was ready on September 10th for the next day's event.

Media coverage of the event was extensive, including Moose FM, CBC's Morning North program, Radio Canada, CTV News, the North Bay Nugget, the West Nipissing Tribune, the North Bay Nipissing News and Yahoo Canada news. In attendance at the service were our MP, candidates in the upcoming provincial election, our local councillor and approximately one hundred local residents. Uniformed representation included firefighters from Township of Georgian Bay, Essa Township, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Greater Sudbury, Office of the Fire Marshal, representatives of eight of the nine West Nipissing fire stations and the West Nipissing Police Service.



Total attendance was just over one hundred and fifty. Of special note was the attendance of a retired firefighter from North Bay, whose brother had been a passenger on Flight 11.

Attendees were able to get a close-up view of the piece of steel or were allowed to touch it. Many of the them had their picture taken in proximity to the steel. Everyone then proceeded to a wine and cheese reception hosted by the Centre Communautaire de Lavigne. The memorial is available for viewing 24/7, being positioned in a main window of the fire station and illuminated. Each artifact recipient was required to send a full report to the Port Authority for the book being created depicting all memorials worldwide. Lavigne has the distinction of being one of only eleven communities in Canada to possess a piece of WTC steel.

Book of Remembrance

We remember with fondness



Herma Bailey

Irene Bleaken

Olive Boydell

Thomas Ferguson

Linda Jones

Jacobus Kooy

Ronald Tamaki

Morris Wernick

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

Recreation Committee

By Dave Wright



The three events this past fall, “Ragtime” at the Shaw, the Alder-shot Players dinner theatre, and breakfast in Oakville were well attended and Janet Carter-Wright, Paul Durnan and I would like to thank you for your support.

By the time you receive this edition of the Halton Herald tickets for the first two theatre events of 2013 will have already been purchased. But, if you would like to join us, contact me. Sometimes tickets are available at the last minute. This also applies to our trip to Stratford in May as someone may drop out at the last minute.

A lecture series is being offered by Wilfred Laurier University at the new Milton Centre for the Arts. I have entered the March and April lectures on the Events Calendar on page 24. Both look interesting and I hope you can join us. Admission is free and both run from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. To see what is on at the Centre go online to www.miltoncentreforthearts.ca and click on What’s Happening to see the activities for each month. You can register for the lectures online but I can do that for you if you like. I’m already registered, so if you register, let me know and I will arrange for group seating. The sooner you can do that the better as seats fill up early.

Have a look at the Events Calendar and join us when you can. If you know of an event that you would like us to put on the calendar contact Janet or me. We need your input. There are two events for June that I will say more about in the April edition. Also, I will try to arrange a lunch cruise on Hamilton Harbour in May or June and will give you the info on that in the April Herald.

R.C.

Halton Catholic District School Board Retirement Club

A Social Club for ALL Board Retirees

***Contact: Penny Hambly, Chair
hamblyp@cogeco.ca***

This is a Paid Advertisement

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

Health Services Committee

By George MacRae



As we get older, many retirees consider winter to be the ideal travel season – time to escape from snow and chilling temperatures. (How things have changed since the days when I was a skier.) With this in mind, here are a few reminders about health issues when you are away from home.

- Members of our extended health plan are protected when out of the province or country as described in the Out-of-Province/Canada Travel Booklet.

- Coverage is intended to cover sudden or unforeseen medical emergencies. See the back of the front cover of the Out-of-Province/Canada Travel Booklet to determine if your emergency is not sudden and unforeseen.
- A physician's clearance for travel does not override the RTO/ERO policy.
- In the event of a claim, Allianz will require proof that you were in your province of residence the day of or the day before your day of departure. The proof must confirm that you were in your province of residence and not the date you arrived at your destination. If you are travelling with your spouse and/or eligible dependent, each insured person must retain proof of his/her departure.

Proof of departure can take any form as long as it:

- Identifies you (that is, your name is shown or it bears your signature);
- Indicates that a transaction (see below) took place in your province of residence before your trip; and
- Specifies the date.

Examples of acceptable proof include, but are not limited to, a border crossing receipt; duty free receipt; airline ticket or boarding pass; credit card receipt; signed and dated bank or financial institution documents; receipt for services performed (i.e., paramedical services, dental treatment, ocular examination) that proves you were in your province of residence the day of or the day before your scheduled day of departure.

- Before going on a trip, it might be useful to consult the Travel Health Kit Checklist prepared by the public Health Agency of Canada – you may find a link to it on our website at www.rtohalton.org It is also included in the latest issue of Health Matters, which is also available on our website.
- Certain pre-trip services are provided by Allianz to help insure a worry-free experience:
 - Travel advisories that may be in effect;
 - Inoculations required for that country;
 - Local currencies and exchange rates;

(Health Services... continues on Page 23)

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

(Health Services... continued from Page 22)

- Visa requirements;
 - Allianz's emergency contact phone number(s).
- Allianz also offers a number of additional services to assist you while you are travelling. These include:
- Assistance with the replacement of necessary travel documents or tickets if lost or stolen. The cost is your responsibility;
 - Referral to a local legal advisor;
 - Assistance with arranging for advances from your personal credit card, and arranging for family/friends to post bail and pay legal fees. The related expenses are your responsibility;
 - Interpretation services in most major languages; and
 - Message service where telephone messages to/from you or your dependents, while travelling, are held for 15 days.

Shaw Festival Report

Janet Carter-Wright



On October 3, forty RTO/ERO members attended the musical *Ragtime* at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake. It was a beautiful day and many made a day of it, sightseeing, shopping and just enjoying the ambience of the quaint village.

In this powerful musical portrait, an era of innovation and unrest is set to the rhythms of ragtime. It is a saga of turn-of-the-century America seen through the eyes of three very different families, based on novelist E.L. Doctorow's fusion of suburban New Rochelle, Harlem and New York City's Lower East Side, with surprise appearances from the likes of Houdini, Emma Goldman and J.P. Morgan. A tale of love lost and won, lives lost and saved and a country struggling to define itself. The stage set, costumes, music and choreography swept us away into another era. The show takes us on an emotional roller-coaster ride with dazzling entertainment, a serious story, and sparkling musical performances. The play runs for 2 hours and 45 minutes with one intermission, but the time seemed to whiz by so quickly. Members came out of the theatre humming and feeling elated at the story and music. Once again, Shaw has produced a fascinating musical.

Next year Shaw will be presenting the musical *Guys and Dolls* and we will be making reservations for this fall production. Look for details to come in future issues of the Halton Herald.

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

Calendar of Events - January to June, 2013

- Jan 18 Oakville Theatre for the Performing Arts, Navy St. Oakville. 8:00 p.m.
A mystery/suspense ***Hide and Seek***. Cost \$ 26.00. Contact Dave Wright
at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca.
- Jan. 31 Breakfast at El Spero Restaurant, Hopedale Mall, Oakville. 9:00 a.m.
Contact Paul Durnan at 905-630-2285.
- Feb. 7 Drury Lane Music Hall, 2269 New St. Burlington. 8:00 p.m. Cost \$25.00.
Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca.
- Feb. 14 ***Valentine's Day Lunch and Meeting***. Teatro Conference and Event
Centre, Milton. See the enclosed flyer for details and to register.
- Feb. 28 Breakfast at Sunnyside Grill, Appleby Square, Burlington. 9:00 a.m.
Northwest corner of New St. and Appleby Line. Contact Paul Durnan at
905-630-2285.
- Mar. ***Mystery Dinner Theatre***, Innsville Restaurant, 1143 Hwy 8, Stoney
Creek. Date and time TBA. Cost: \$48.50 plus tax and gratuity. Contact
Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca by Feb 1.
- Mar. 13 Milton Centre for the Arts. 1010 Main St. East. Wilfred Laurier Lecture
Series. 7:00 p.m. ***Indigenous Peoples and Archaeology in Southern
Ontario***. Free. Register at miltoncentreforthearts.ca or contact
Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca.
- Mar. 28 Breakfast at The Symposium Cafe, Milton, 611 Holly Ave. off Derry Rd.
East of Hwy 25. 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-630-2285.
- Apr. 10 Milton Centre for the Arts. Wilfred Laurier Lecture Series. 7:00 p.m.
***Optimization of the Balance Control System to Avoid Age-related
Decline***. Registration info as for Mar. 13.
- Apr. 25 Breakfast at El Spero Restaurant, Hopedale Mall, Oakville. 9:00 a.m.
Contact Paul Durnan at 905-630-2285.
- Apr. 28 ***Nordic Pole Walking***, Beamsville. 11:00 a.m. Cost \$5.00 charitable
donation to RTO/ERO Charitable Foundation. Contact Jan Murdoch
at janmurdoch@gmail.com or 289-956-0613.

Calendar of Events - January to May 2013 (continued)

- May 13 Stratford Musical Matinee ***Fiddler on the Roof***. Festival Theatre. 2:00 p.m. Cost TBA. Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca
- June 9 ***Canadian International Military Tattoo***. Commemoration of the War of 1812 and the Battle of Stoney Creek. Copps Coliseum, 2:30 p.m. Massed pipes and drums, bands, drill teams and dancers from home and abroad. Cost: Seniors \$30.00, Veterans \$20.00. Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca by May 1.
- June 18 Burlington Performing Arts Theatre. ***Gotta Sing Gotta Dance*** with the Burlington Footnotes. 7:00 p.m. Cost \$25.00. Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca by Apr 15.

Communications Committee

By Peter Gnish



SHARING, that's what Communications is all about – it's a two-way street. And, I'm delighted with the way people are responding to our encouragements for you to share with us. 12 members sent in material for this issue's *We Get Letters, Emails & Calls* section; 10 others responded to the "Grandparents" contest; we received numerous submissions to both the *Surviving the Winter* and the *Photography* contests which we ran previously. In addition, many members send in unsolicited articles and pictures which we love to publish. Well, we're doing it again – trying to draw you in! See the advertisement on Page 17 detailing the ***We Love To Read!*** call for submissions. Maybe this is your passion. If so, we would love to hear from you.

On another note, we are still looking for members who would like to become involved in putting together the Halton Herald. If you have a computer, can type, are willing to do a bit of editing or proof-reading you can help. Or, if you are interested in using Photoshop (we can teach you) or doing some desktop publishing (we can teach you this as well). Please get in touch with me at pgnish@cogeco.ca. I would love to have you join the Communications Committee (we don't hold meetings) as a helper.

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

RTO/ERO District 15 Contact List

Executive 2012 – 2013

Past President	Cecile Leach	905-634-8027
President	Janice Murdoch	289-956-0163
1st Vice President	Phyllis Kingsley	905-845-6911
2nd Vice President	Penny Hambly	905-639-6193
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, Eleanor McCulloch, George MacRae, Marilyn MacRae, Cate Roberts (Design), Ray Smith and Dave Trueman.

Goodwill Chair	Marina Lloyd	905-637-6030
West Convenor	Cecile Leach	905-634-8027
East Convenor	Warren McBurney	905-845-8219
North Convenor	Marg Megelink	905-877-7135
Out-of-Region Convenor	Peter Gnish	905-547-1628

Health Services	George MacRae	905-315-8581
-----------------	---------------	--------------

Membership/Recruitment Chair	Hilary Barber	905-637-7067
Committee Member:	Judy Sloan	905-336-5538

Pension	Jim Baker	905-639-1292
---------	-----------	--------------

Political Advocacy	TBA	
--------------------	-----	--

Program	Penny Hambly	905-639-6193
---------	--------------	--------------

Recreation	David Wright	905-639-5093
------------	--------------	--------------

Tours	Jan Murdoch	289-956-0163
-------	-------------	--------------

Member Without Portfolio	Carolyn Hilton	905 844-2984
--------------------------	----------------	--------------

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

My Time As Trustee

By Erica Andrew

I retired from teaching in 1997. My last role was as the full-time President of Halton Women's Teachers Association and H.E.T.A. It was the "worst of times" to be an educator in Ontario. Mike Harris was Premier and teachers were under attack. Minister of Education was Snowbelen – remember the "tool kit." The office was inundated with phone calls from teachers wanting to know when they could retire. In social situations, teachers were not admitting to teaching as a vocation. It was a very stressful time to be president of a teachers' union. Before I retired, teachers and trustees alike were asking me to run for trustee – my response, "do I look crazy – I'm retiring and want to have more fun, less stress."

However, in September, 1997, the telephone started ringing with people repeating the request. At that time one of the candidates registered to run had actually (it was rumoured) put brown paper bags over books in the library in Milton that, according to this person's opinion, should not be read by the general public. After discussion with my family I decide to run for trustee for Milton, The two terms I spent in the role were "the best of times and the worst of times" in my life. I had just retired as a "union boss." I was of the opinion that the Harris government was decimating education and that it would probably take a decade to undo the harm they had wrought. I had to prove to the Halton Board administration, as well as to my fellow trustees that I sat at the Board table as an advocate and supporter of the whole system – taxpayers, parents, students and teachers. It was very hard to walk a middle line sometimes straddling the wishes and needs of all groups. Often, I was at odds with "the Board office." One conflict - I thought trustees needed to be represented on the board's negotiating team by having an actual trustee at the table. I lost that battle. I learned to "pick my battles" and for me the six years I spent as a trustee were a constant balancing act, trying to accomplish what I thought was good for the whole system. I knew that sometimes my decisions and the way I voted on certain issues were not supported by teachers and I lost friends. It was sometimes a lonely role – for me "in camera" meant just that and I refused to discuss those issues outside of the Board table. I had to live with myself and my own personal integrity at the end of the day.

There were many aspects of the role of trustee that I really enjoyed. It was generally speaking, a positive learning experience for me. I found it very rewarding to be involved in strategic planning for the system, In my role as a director of Ontario Public School Boards Association it was exciting to be involved in edu-

(My Time As Trustee... continues on Page 28)

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

(My Time As Trustee... continued from Page 27)

educational issues at the provincial level. For example, through OPSBA, I lobbied the government to have environmental issues reinstated as a “teachable” at the faculty of education level. I also lobbied to have the provincial government held accountable for the results of the funding cuts to education. Locally, I worked hard to have JK implemented in Halton. I enjoyed working with the various parent councils, trying to have their needs and concerns answered. I have a specialist in special education so for six years I was the trustee’s rep on the Special Advisory Council and brought their concerns to the Board table. I loved visiting schools, talking to students, classroom teachers and administrators. Addressing the graduates, their teachers, relatives and friends was always a highlight of each year as was attendance at “Awards of Excellence” evenings. I had worked very hard to have the “Retired Teachers Dinner” reinstated and attendance at that event was also a highlight.



As I look back, there were many rich, positive moments in the role that certainly outweighed the conflict aspect. And we did have some fun. Between 1997 and 2001 Ethel Gardner and I went out “shelling out” at Halloween to the director and superintendents three years out of the four. The first year nobody recognized us (see the picture to the left). Because we were members of the “Committee of the Whole - COW” which met every other Wednesday, we dressed up as cows. The second year they were ready for us. It became a tradition. I loved it when they all

told Barry Findlay they were going to come to the door in under shorts and, of course, nobody did except Barry - did they ever set him up! Dusty was the director then and we had a great group of superintendents.

When I retired as trustee at my last Board meeting, Superintendent Al Greyson gave me a gift, a beautiful glass etching of a humpback whale with the inscription, “To Erica – a dear colleague, mentor and friend – thank you for caring so much. Yours, Al.” It lives on my mantelpiece in London and reminds me of all the good times over those six years. Would I run again and do it over- you betcha!

Life

By Flo Gray, A Former RTO/ERO District 15 Member

The circle of nature
 Always brings new hope
 And leads to lasting memories
 Like the seed, we float along
 The winds of time change us
 But when we put down roots
 The sun and the rains help us flourish.
 We team up with change
 To be forever remembered.
 Our perfume, colour and texture
 Are added to the tapestry of life.
 We continue to grow
 Adding to the warp and woof of nature



THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE by Arlene Charters, RMT

A Registered Massage Therapist, Arlene specializes in massages and remedial exercise for clients 50 years and over.

A former Math teacher, Arlene is an Ironman triathlete with a uni-

versity background in Anatomy and Physiology. She is a graduate of the Canadian Therapeutic College and has additional qualifications from Sutherland Chan School in Toronto.

Her clinic is located in her West Hamilton home near McMaster University, a quiet and relaxed setting. She offers a free assessment of your needs and very reasonable rates. You can book an appointment or get more information by calling Arlene at **905-928-9754**; or by email at **archarters@gmail.com**.

Rates: \$75.00 for 1 hour; reduced rate of \$65.00 for those 65+ years of age.

Stay fit! Stay healthy!

This is a Paid Advertisement

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

Pension and Retirement Concerns Committee

By Jim Baker



Pension Retirement Concerns

Although the Teachers Pension Plan earned \$11 billion in 2012, it faces a deficit of \$9.6 billion.

Reasons

1. There are approximately 180,000 active teachers and 120,000 retired pensioners. At one time the average length of pensions was 20 years; today it is 30 years. We are living longer with 28 members over the age of 100. The number of retirees is increasing while the number of active teachers is declining putting additional pressures on the fund.

2. Interest rates have dropped dramatically. A ¼% decrease in interest rates equates to a \$1 billion deficit.

Temporary Solution

Those who retired before 2011 have pensions that are fully indexed to inflation. Assuming the inflation rate is 2%, the teachers who retired after 2010 receive partial indexing of 1.6%. The Teachers Pension Plan is based on a 70 year period of time. An actuarial study is done every 3 years and adjustments are made at this time to ensure solvency.

Supply Teaching

A substitute teacher is permitted 50 days of paid supply for the year. If the 50 days occurs during the month he/she may continue to the end of the month without penalty. Be cautious if you are volunteering at a school. The nature of the volunteering is dependent on the type of task the person is assuming and must be unpaid. If this is uncertain it should be discussed in advance with the OTP at 1-800-668-0105.

Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security

There have been numerous changes in these plans over the last year and they are fairly complete. If you have questions on these plans as they may affect you, get in touch with Service Canada. There is probably a branch in your community.

District Handbook

The Pension and Retirement Concerns District Representative (me) has a copy of the handbook. It covers all topics associated with Teacher and Government Pensions and retirement sources. It includes a listing of approximately 70 fact sheets available on line at www.rto-ero.org (members only section) or by phoning the Provincial office at 1-800-361-9888.

Tours Committee

By Jan Murdoch



We have not been successful lately with some of the excursions we have offered. Since these are group excursions, we need to appeal to a few more people in order to obtain the big discounts. We will continue to offer excursions in the hopes that they will appeal to our members.

Montreal/Quebec City Excursion by Highway Motor-coach

May 27-31, 2013: Price: \$849 (includes \$97.67 HST) Accommodation based on double occupancy; (4 Breakfasts included & 1 dinner)

Day 1: We depart from Burlington for Montreal at 7:00 a.m. with a stop in Kingston for lunch and a walk. In Montreal we will do a walk through Old Town Montreal and Place Jacques Cartier. While in this historic area we will find a location to dine before heading back to the bus and our hotel.

Day 2: We visit the Biodome and the Olympic Stadium & Sports Centre, then head to the Bonsecours Market. Following that we will go to the Museum of Fine Arts and the Underground City before returning to our hotel.

Day 3: We depart for Quebec City arriving in Upper Town in time for lunch. This will be followed by a guided tour of Upper and Lower Town visiting the Promenade des Gouverneurs, Artist Alley, Notre Dame Basilica, Place Royal and Quartier Petit Champlain. Following our tour we will depart for the Observatoire de la Capitale before arriving at our hotel. In the evening we will visit and dine at the Le Relais Des Pins Sugar Shack. Here we will enjoy an All-you-can-eat French Canadian Dinner and Entertainment. (Dinner is included)

Day 4: We depart for Montmorency Falls for a guided tour of the Sainte-Anne-Beaupre Area which includes the chapel, bread ovens and wood carver's shop. Then it is on to Canyon Sainte-Anne for lunch on your own before having a guided coach tour of the Old Kings Road and Island of Orleans. After returning to the hotel, the evening is yours to explore Les Galeries de la Capitale.

Day 5: We depart Quebec City for home with stops en route.

For any pole walkers there will be many opportunities for some great walking on this trip.

A deposit of \$ 300.00 per person is required by February 1, 2013, the balance is due on April 1, 2013.

(Tours ... continues on Page 32)

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

(Tours ... continued from Page 31)

If you have questions contact me at janmurdoch8@gmail.com.

San Antonio, Texas and the Grand Canyon

So far we have a small group of people who are interested in visiting San Antonio, Texas and a small group who want to visit the Grand Canyon. We are trying to find a way to blend the 2 trips together to make either, or both of these trip viable. If you are interested in visiting either or both please send me an email as any group trips require a minimum of 20 people or 10 couples.

Africa

Africa is a destination that is a must on my bucket list for 2014. I am planning for 3 weeks beginning in Cape Town but from there I am open at the moment. I plan to host a meeting to examine Africa as a destination of choice. I will have representatives attend from companies that offer land packages, river boat tours and other types of excursions attend and they can help us understand what options are out there for us. The size of the venue I book for this presentation will depend on the level of interest I arouse. I anticipate having this information session during the last week in April, 2013 when the snowbirds are back. Attending the information session in no way obligates you to participate in our 2014 trip. It is merely to learn what Africa has to offer us as potential visitors. There may be a small fee if I have to rent a hall, but I can advise you of that later. All I need to know is if you are interested in attending an information session on Africa and will you be coming alone. Send me an e-mail or call me if you wish to attend at

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**.

Jual Travel (Judy & Al Wilson) Presents:

A 10 day New York and Bermuda Adventure
July 5 - 14, 2013
From only \$2100 pp. including taxes

Itinerary:

- July 5 -Air Canada from Toronto to La Guardia (8:15 – 9:40 am.).
- transfers and a ½ day tour of New York including Harlem & Bronx.
- July 5-6 -Accommodation at New Yorker Hotel includes breakfast.
- July 6 -Personal day in New York.
- July 7-14 -7day cruise to Bermuda on Celebrity Summit.
- July 7 -Cruise departs Cape Liberty N.J. at 5 pm.
- July 8-9 -At sea.
- July 10-12 -King’s Wharf Bermuda (arrives at 8:30 am.).
-Enjoy Bermuda.
- July 12 -Departs King’s Wharf 4:30 pm.
- July 13 -At sea.
- July 14 -Arrive Cape Liberty N.J. at 7:00 am.
-Newark to Toronto on Air Canada (2:50 – 4:16 pm.).

**Cost of Package: (Air, Transfers, Hotel, Cruise, Taxes)

Inside Cabin	\$2100 pp.
Outside Cabin	\$2230 pp.
Veranda Cabin	\$2530 pp.

** Subject to change until final payments made.

Deposit required: (refundable until March 30, 2013)

(Credit cards or cheques payable to Uniglobe Enterprise Travel)

Cruise	\$265 pp.
Hotel	\$230 pp.
Air	\$ 50 pp.

Final Balance is due by April 1, 2013.

(Credit cards or cheques payable to Uniglobe Enterprise Travel)

For further information and to apply or request insurance quotes contact **Judy** at:

jualtravel@cogeco.ca or 905-529-5825 FAX: 905-529-8496

This is a Paid Advertisement

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

Archives Committee

By Judy Sloan



Our Halton District 15 scrapbook continues to fill up with newsletter photos and clippings of members. Congratulations to **Penny Hambly** and her husband Larry on their 40th Wedding Anniversary. The Anniversary section of the Hamilton Spectator featured two very lovely photos of the happy couple on both their wedding day and now. Penny is our second vice president as well as chair of our Program committee. Wishing you and Larry many more years to come Penny!

While we are on the subject of Penny, the Burlington Senior Centre's fall newsletter entitled "The Centre Piece" displayed a photo of three of our members **Carroll Goodwin, Penny Hambly and Judy Sloan** (yes me) on their cover. We are performers with the Burlington Footnotes and were working that day at our Footnotes Booth (in costume of course!) during the Seniors' Centre 15th Annual Health and Wellness Show. Needless to say, we were there promoting the art of staying fit, healthy and young through song and dance.

Tim Horton's locations across Burlington recently raised \$40,245 for Partnership West Food Bank through the restaurant's Smile Cookie fundraiser. The Burlington Post took a photo of our member **Mary Gowan**, a volunteer at the food bank, taking part in the presentation of a gigantic cheque from Tim Horton's to them. In the photo Mary is shown with a huge smile on her face as she helps to hold up the cheque. I don't blame her!

During the summer our RTO/ERO member and very talented actor **Ian Downie** (from all those TD Bank commercials) appeared at the Lighthouse Festival Theatre in Port Dover in the play "The Fisher's Companion." Gary Smith, the theatre and dance critic with the Hamilton Spectator, wrote a very positive review of the play and Ian in his column. Gary wrote that at the axis of this tender intermittently comic play are two performances that elevate it from commercial fodder. Downie's character Wes, tender-eyed and glowing, is the idealistic writer who battles for the pursuit of goals less commercial than financial success. Gary also writes that the play provides a tender vehicle for two strong Broadway-worthy talents. Congratulations Ian for another very successful performance.

District 15 members **Carol Leppan, Mary Lyons, and Jean Simpson** recently competed with the North Metro Chorus at the Sweet Adeline International Competition in Denver, Colorado. The chorus competed against 32 top choruses from

(Archives ... continues on Page 35)

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

(Archives ... continued from Page 34)



around the world and with a score of 3058 out of a possible 3280 won their 4th Gold Medal. The chorus will be attending next year's competition in Honolulu, Hawaii in November of 2013 to perform their outgoing package and to present an education session for the thousands of people attending the competition. "Congratulations ladies on such a fantastic achievement!"

On a sad note, the name of one of our most well-known, highly respected and accomplished members is being added to the Obituary section of our scrapbook. **Herma Helen Bartlett Bailey** died on Thursday, September 20, 2012 in her 101st year. Her obituary stated that Herma's life was remarkable, with generosity and understanding as its hallmarks. While she remained single, as a teacher she cared for and guided many hundreds of children over the 38 years she spent in her profession, both in Saskatchewan and Ontario. She started teaching in a little one-room school house in the far distant countryside in Saskatchewan arriving early to light the stove on the coldest of mornings to ensure a warm place of welcome and learning. On January 4, 1938 she boarded a train for Ontario. Her first school was in Canboro near Dunnville. Then in 1944, she came to Fishers Corners School where she taught the Junior School and **Florence Meares** was with the Seniors on the other side of the partition. They became close friends and shared many experiences.

While travelling with her many friends she was always a Prairie girl at heart visiting and keeping in touch with her relatives and close friends in Saskatchewan. Herma was a living crossroads for the different generations of her families. She was a reliable source and advocate for her family's history going back well over 100 years. The lives of her parents, Herman and Esther Bailey and their families, have been lovingly remembered and recorded by Herma. She continued to collect a coterie of friends after retiring as she went about her days quilting on Thursdays, lunching with the retired women teachers, having a close association with Wellington Square United Church where she enjoyed being involved in the United Church Women, the Dot Gow Group and advocating for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Herma was a woman blessed with so many gifts including an inquiring mind, a spirit of adventure and a zest for life. Her life continues to be an inspiration to us all.

PLEASE keep those newspaper articles and photos coming to me at 1446 Brenner Court, Burlington Ont. L7P 2Z2. You may also contact me by email at judymsloan@yahoo.ca or by phone at 905-467-2363.

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org



LIVE, LOVE, AND LAUGH WITH LOCAL THEATRE

Be sure to catch Burl-Oak Theatre Group's remaining two plays
for the winter and spring season!

Performances are held at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts in Oakville. Tickets are \$28.00 regular nights, Wednesday evening and Sunday Matinee are only \$20.00. Groups of 10 or more receive a \$2.00 discount.

BOX OFFICE: 905-815-2021 or www.oakvillecentre.ca

JANUARY 10-13 and 16-19, 2013 SHOW - *HIDE AND SEEK* by Lezley Havard
Have you ever thought of forsaking the urban life for the simple charms of the countryside? You may reconsider after seeing how the Crawfords, a pair of ex-Manhattanites, encounter some unsettling events in the farmhouse which they have recently purchased. The house has been deserted for years yet once renovated it will be ideal for raising the child that they are expecting. Richard, the husband, commutes each day to the city while Jennifer supervises the restoration and the shambling handyman and cook who work for them. The appearance of a mysterious little girl playing in their yard arouses Jennifer's curiosity. It seems that the child Jennifer keeps seeing, however, matches the description of a neighbour's daughter who vanished five years ago! A fast-paced thriller that puts the audience at ease and then races quickly to the startling ending.

APRIL 25-28 and MAY 1-4, 2013 SHOW- *THE KITCHEN WITCHES*
by Caroline Smith (David Wright LOVES this play!)
The Kitchen Witches is all about Dolly Biddle and Isobel Lomax, whose individual cable cooking shows, "Baking with Babcha" and "Busy with Izzy" have both been cancelled by the network. When the two women are forced to work together on a new cooking show, "*The Kitchen Witches*," the competition for attention takes centre stage. The show becomes a ratings smash hit as Dolly and Isobel top both Martha Stewart and Jerry Springer! The play is a proven audience favourite with lots of hilarity and a fun time for all.

Would you be interested in volunteering some time with our community theatre group? Both retired and currently working individuals participate in various capacities. Please visit our website www.botg.ca or drop a line to Micki Clemens, President of the Burl-Oak Theatre Group at president@botg.ca or call the BOTG Studio, Unit 12, 1290 Speers Rd. Oakville, ON L6L 2X4 at 905-825-0138.

TREAT YOURSELF TO THE MAGIC OF LIVE THEATRE!

This is a Paid Advertisement

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

Your experience begins at CruiseShipCenters.



The Best Deals on the Newest Ships:

Cruising is the fastest growing segment of the travel industry. With so much demand the cruise lines are bringing many new and innovative ships to market and Expedia CruiseShip Centres has the best prices and exclusive amenities on many of the newest and exciting new ships. Don't "miss the boat" on these great deals...

Our Top Picks

7 Night Eastern Caribbean Cruise from Fort Lauderdale

from **\$699. CAD**

Sailing Dec 15, 2013 aboard *Royal Princess*



PRINCESS CRUISES

escape completely®

7 Night Bahamas Cruise from New York

from **\$599. CAD**

Sailing Nov 10, 2013 aboard *Norwegian Breakaway*



NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE
FREESTYLE CRUISING®

7 Night Eastern Caribbean Cruise from Miami

from **\$699. CAD**

Sailing Nov 16, 2013 aboard *Celebrity Reflection*

Celebrity X Cruises®

Unless otherwise stated, all prices are per person and are based on double occupancy for an "interior" stateroom. Subject to availability at the time of booking for selected departure dates. Airfare, transfers, and government fees are additional unless otherwise specified. Rates are subject to change without notice. Restrictions and blackout periods may apply.



Marlene Soroko
Cruise & Vacation Specialist

Retired from HCDSB in 1999

www.cruiseshipcenters.ca/marlenesoroko



Chuck Rattray
Cruise & Vacation Specialist

Retired from HCDSB in 2002

www.cruiseshipcenters.ca/chuckrattray

Local: (905) 331-7331

Toll-Free: (888) 331-7331

2025 Guelph Line, Burlington, ON, L7P 4M8

Registrar of Travel #50015886



Expedia®
cruiseshipcenters®

This is a Paid Advertisement

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

Recruitment & Member Services Committee

By Hilary Barber



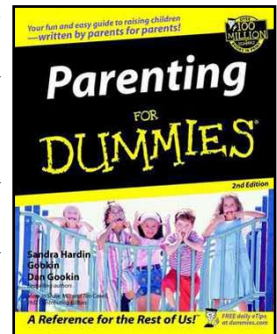
We enjoyed a very successful **To Hell with the Bell Breakfast** in September attended by a number of newly retired teachers from the Public, Catholic and some Private schools as well as some current members. I am pleased to announce that our membership has now grown to over 2,340. Thank you those of you who encouraged others to join.

Please send any changes in your name, address, phone number or email address to me at 905-637-7067 or hilaryjpbarker@cogeco.ca. I will notify the Provincial Office and make changes on our database.”

The Great Book of Parenting

By Marilyn Ortwein

My daughter and son-in-law often refer to the imagined **Great Book of Parenting** when disciplining their sons. Ben, the eldest boy telephoned me one day to ask my opinion on the latest suggestion gleaned from that book. Ben had lost his bike helmet and he was going to have to pay for the new one. He said that Mommy and Daddy had received that advice from the **Great Book of Parenting**, but he didn't think that was fair. Ben was very disappointed with my response as I supported the decision of his parents thoroughly.



A couple of weeks later, I was visiting that family in Canmore, Alberta. Sam, my 2 year old grandson had rolled his ball under the deck and as I was retrieving it, I noticed a thick trade paperback entitled **The Baby Whisperer**, which was heavily damaged by rain from the night before. I took the book inside and asked my daughter why it was under the deck. She called Ben and Andrew immediately and as they entered the room and spotted the book in her hands, their jaws dropped. Alison asked them to explain why this book was under the deck. They were very honest and told her that they wanted to get rid of the **Great Book of Parenting** forever. Alison told them that they had destroyed a wonderful book that she was planning to donate to the sale held at the library and that the **Great Book of Parenting** was stored in a place where they would never find it.

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org



Join Us!

BURLINGTON RWTO/ERO

Luncheon MEETINGS

JANUARY 28, 2013

Sharing in the Neighbourhood
Sharon Banks

MARCH 25, 2013

Titanic Era Fashions
Mobile Millinery Museum
Oakville Branch will join us

MAY 27, 2012

Annual General Meeting
10 am

Luncheon following
Speaker: RWTO President
Leslie Uttley

All meetings held at:
Burlington Golf and Country Club
422 North Shore Blvd. E,
Burlington
Each luncheon: \$26.00

ONGOING GROUPS

Book Clubs

Heather White 639-2922
Charlotte McLean 574-5686

Euchre

Third Tuesday, 12:30 pm
1201 Northshore Blvd., Burlington
Pam MacDonald 659-5967

Lunch & Movie

Matinee,
last Tuesday of the month usually.
Kelsey's Meadowlands Plaza,
Ancaster/Silver City
Ruth Ferguson ruthferg@lara.ca

Photography

Pam MacDonald 659-5967

Scrapbooking

First Tuesday of the month
Jan Moxey 637-1025

INTEREST SESSIONS

Watch for sign up closer to events

FEBRUARY 13, 2013

Travel Tips

Members Sharing \$10

CONTACT

PRESIDENT
Moiria Plexman 845-1977
SECRETARY
Bev Balch 335-7046
1st VICE PRES.
Bev Pickard 659-1096

www.rwto.org/branches/burlington.asp

This is a Paid Advertisement

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

Political Advocacy Committee

By Marie Jacobs: *FUNDING HEALTH CARE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST*

On Sunday, November 18, in a packed room in historic Hart House at U of T, speakers addressed delegates to the second day of the 2012 Health Action Assembly of the Ontario Health Coalition (OHC) on the topic *From Tax Loopholes to the 1% - Funding Health Care in the Public Interest*. The previous day's theme was *Protecting Health Care in the Face of Austerity*.

- Michael Rachlis, MD, is Co-ordinator of Doctors for Fair Taxation (D4FT). D4FT lobbied the NDP and provincial government to implement a more equitable tax system with the new Ontario surtax on the highest income earners a step achieved in that direction. D4FT believes Medicare was and is good public policy, but recommends changes in Ontario's "antiquated process of care."
- Toronto Economist Hugh Mackenzie outlined the history and negative impacts of the austerity movement internationally and in Canada. He says, while Medicare is a boon to business, naysayers don't want to be confused with facts. Through unrealistic revenue and expenditure assumptions, Don Drummond, hired to analyze Ontario spending, converted a 'manageable' structural deficit into a theoretical 'fiscal crisis' ignoring the revenue deficit caused by more than a decade of tax cuts and loopholes such as those in the Employer Health Tax.
- Neil Brooks, professor of tax law and policy at Osgoode Hall law School and co-author, with Linda McQuaig, of **The Trouble with Billionaires**, believes that the tax system should ensure a more just society in which corporations and the rich pay their fair share. Austerity doesn't save money since public services (e.g., health care) must then be individually purchased, a boon for the private sector.

Evidence disputes claims that increased taxes will stifle entrepreneurialism and that cuts in tax rates will lead to economic growth with benefits for all. While the rich lobby for "less government," they benefit greatly from government intervention/protection; e.g., through contract, copyright, property, and other laws. The superrich have an increasing ability to defend themselves politically and change the rules for their benefit, meanwhile hiding much wealth offshore to avoid tax.

The highest taxing countries (e.g., in Scandinavia) enjoy a better quality of life and better social and health outcomes than does North America. Our society seems to lack collective responsibility, even though data clearly demonstrate that unequal societies do worse.

(Funding Health Care... continues on Page 41)

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

(Funding Health Care... continued from Page 40)

Presenting persuasive data from Canadian and international sources, all three guest speakers debunked the myths that public health care is unaffordable, that the 'silver tsunami' is driving costs up, and that the only alternative is privatization. They cited substantial evidence that for-profit care costs more, is more difficult to access and is of poorer quality than publicly-funded health care. Speakers also demonstrated how a fairer tax system would reduce the increasing income inequity that leads to negative social and health outcomes while making revenues available for valuable public services - including health care - without harming the economy.

When regressive sales taxes are included, poorer Canadians pay proportionately more taxes than the highest earners. Successive individual and corporate tax cuts and tax loopholes at both provincial and federal levels have starved governments of billions of dollars of revenues which could have funded services from free university tuition to pharmacare. Tommy Douglas' dream of removing all financial barriers to health care could have been completed and his "Phase 2" goal of building a health population realized.

The shrinking economy has changed the optics of health care costs in relation to the GDP, making Medicare appear less affordable. However public resistance to further cuts in public health care and education has slowed the austerity agenda. Still, more public dollars are now going into the private health care system, which is flexing its lobbying muscle to influence policy to its advantage.

Speakers outlined issues and offered solutions. All argued for a fairer and more progressive tax system and the elimination of tax loopholes to provide funds for public services. Some speakers called for reform to health care resource allocation, delivery, and management to address gaps and issues in areas such as post-hospital care, home care, long term care, wait times to see specialists, rural health access, and centralized services. Changing the conversation around health care can help people see the link between fair taxation and social justice and democracy.

- OHC Chair Ross Sutherland and Director Natalie Mehra focused on concerns identified through conversations with Ontarians, including governance. Neither the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) implemented by the Liberals or the hospital-centred management system proposed by the Conservatives were seen to be effective, efficient, or acceptable regional health supervision and management options.

OHC's aim is to define the issues and (Funding Health Care... continues on Page 42)

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

(Funding Health Care... continued from Page 41)

create and communicate a vision of reform. Accordingly, they seek non-partisan debate on the issues and advice as to how to package the OHC message in order to stimulate reform.

OHC Principles for Change:

Finance:

- Close the employer health tax loophole.
- Meet the average health care spending of other Canadian provinces
- Curb over-prescribing and over-testing to contain costs and enhance patient safety
- Enforce financial accountability in the Long Term Care sector, which saw record profits in the midst of widespread concerns about patient care.
- End “P3’s” which have been proven to inflate costs by billions of dollars

Capacity:

- Meet the need for care at all levels
- Implement and enforce clear standards for care, access, and integration of services
- Ensure the right to access care outside of hospitals (e.g., end discharging to “no-where”)
- Address the governance issue

Quality health care is essential for all of us. The truths about public health care’s affordable cost and the true cost of privatization are often obscured by political rhetoric. Catchy but false sound bites are repeated without evaluation in many media. OHC is effective in bringing health issues to the fore and stimulating discussion and action. While it is difficult for any individual to influence policy, collectively, we can make a difference: supporting OHC is one way to do this. I encourage RTO/ERO members to support OHC’s efforts through membership, input, donations, or active involvement in the group.

For more detailed information, consult:

www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca

www.michaelrachlis.ca

<http://doctorsforfairtaxation.ca/>

<http://www.web.net/ohc/>

www.equalitytrust.org.uk

A Pilgrimage to Perwez, Belgium

By LeAnne Taylor



A rainy November afternoon, a chance encounter on the Internet searching for information leading to family members of the crew of a downed Lancaster Bomber, and a year and half later, I stood in the rain in Belgium as a monument was dedicated to that crew, piloted by my uncle, **Robert Roy Haw**.

The Lancaster Bomber was returning from a bomb raid on Hagan, Germany on March 15, 1945. For five of the seven crew members, this was their 35th and last flight. Unfortunately, their plane crashed just beyond the town of Perwez, killing all on board. The scattered, unidentified remains were buried in a communal grave in the churchyard of St. Martin in Perwez, beside that of an RAF fighter pilot killed in 1941. Finally, in 1948, the plane was identified, and the graves were marked accordingly. In 2010, a small group of people in Perwez decided that a monument should be built to honour this crew near the spot where the plane had crashed. The hunt was on for surviving family members to attend the dedication.

My Internet discovery led to several months of documents, photographs and letters sent back and forth. Eventually, family members of all seven crew were found. The date to dedicate the monument was set for May 4-6, 2012. Those of us who attended had no idea what a remarkable tribute was being developed to honour these men. The city of Gembloux is the closest centre to Perwez with a sizeable hotel – and on Friday, May 4, 25 family members connected to five of the men had arrived. Alfred Harris was best represented – a daughter, two sons, five grandchildren and assorted spouses from England Scotland and Australia. Three of the crew from Canada were represented by daughters, their spouses, and grandchildren. My uncle had married just ten days before leaving for England in 1941, so he had no children, but my cousin, my daughter and I attended in his honour.

The weekend began with a fabulous concert at the Perwez Cultural Centre by the Musique Royale de la Force



(A Pilgrimage... continues on Page 44)

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

(A Pilgrimage... continued from Page 43)

Aerienne and included classical music such as Van Campenhout's "La Brabanconne" and Tchaikovsky's "1912 Overture" in the first half and "Beatlemanina" arranged by D. Vanhaegenberg and "Benny Goodman's Memories" arranged by N. Iwai in the second half. During the evening, tribute was paid to the crew of the plane in French and English.



On Saturday morning, three vans and a car picked up all the family members and drove us to the churchyard of St. Martin's Church so we could lay flowers on the graves. Heylen Schepmans, 83, stands beside me at the monument. She was 16 when she witnessed the crash of KB815 on the night of March 15, 1945.

For at least half of the group, this was the first time we had visited these graves, so it was an emotional moment. In spite of light rain, we placed Canadian flags, Air Force Flags, Remembrance Crosses, and our own

personal flower wreaths.

After time at the cemetery, we were whisked off to the Market Square for an "appertif" and a wonderful concert by a Belgian Pipe and Drum Band. Here we learned the story of the plane crash. From eye witness reports taken at the time of the crash, there is a strong belief that the plane was attacked by a German Junker about 80 miles to the north, that the crew sought to find a safe place to land the plane, and that they struggled to keep it aloft until it cleared the town so no civilian lives would be lost. By the time it cleared the town, it banked left and then crashed in a ball of fire. The next morning, only a few remains could be gathered up by the Burgomaster. These were placed in a box and buried in the churchyard. The plane, and therefore the crew members, was not identified until 1948. We met and spoke with people who had witnessed the crash, and we were all declared citizens of Perwez.

(A Pilgrimage... continues on Page 45)

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

(A Pilgrimage... continued from Page 44)



After a wonderful lunch, where we were all presented with a commemorative plaque, we headed to Beauvechain Air Base which is also the site of the First Wing Air Museum. This base passed from Belgian to German to Canadian to American and then back to Belgian hands between 1936 and 1948. It was also

a central NATO base during the Cold War and now trains Belgian's NATO troops assigned to Afghanistan. The museum held a great deal of information and situational displays from WWII. Outside were a number of small military planes, mostly from the Cold War. Our next stop was the Musée Du Souvenir 40-45, a privately owned museum, filled to the brim with situational displays of life in Perwez before, during and after the German occupation and the liberation of Perwez on September 6, 1944. The owner of the museum, Benjamin Heylen, is a 25 year old chemical engineer who began collecting memorabilia at the age of 9. The museum is housed in several small rooms attached to his family home. A visit to the website (www.museedusouvenir.be) is worthwhile.

Sunday morning dawned wet and windy – a disappointment for the group that had worked on this project for over three years. Once again, our flotilla of vans headed for the cemetery, this time for a Last Post Ceremony and the laying of wreaths by Belgian officials. When we marched to the graves from inside the church, we found a line of young Belgian airmen standing behind the graves, each holding a photograph of one of the crew. At the end of the Last Post Ceremony, we sang “O Canada” and “God Save our Queen” (since the Flight engineer was from the RAF) with deep emotion.

Then we were back in the vans and headed to the crossroads near the crash site. The rain had picked up, but there were over 300 people in attendance besides the various officials and the family members. The monument was covered by the flag

(A Pilgrimage... continues on Page 46)

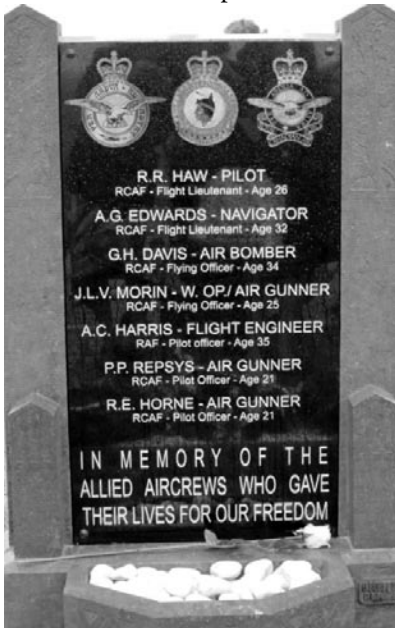
Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

(A Pilgrimage... continued from Page 45)

of the Belgian Soldiers Association. It was unveiled and the story of the Bomber Command and Lancaster bomber was told in French and in English. Flowers were laid by officials from the Belgian Military, the Canadian Military and the Canadian Embassy as well as the Commune of Perwez, the Patriotic Association, the Canadian Air Force Association and the families of the crew. Again there was a Last Post Ceremony with the music provided by a military band. Beside the monument is an information board similar to what we might find at a historical site in Canada.

Cold and wet, we repaired to a reception tent where large display boards had been erected detailing information on each of the air crew, Croft Air Field in Yorkshire which was the air base from which Lancaster flew, Belgium during the war, and the role of the allies in freeing Belgium. This gave us a chance to say goodbye and thank you to the many people who had organized the event, to those who participated, and to those who took us into their hearts and made us so welcome over the three days. Sadly, it was time to return to the vans and go back to the hotel. Some of our number had trains to catch for the airport that afternoon. But there was one last stop – a spontaneous trek through a muddy field to the actual spot of the crash, marked by a flag of the Patriotic Association

of Perwez. The picture below shows the breadth of the group – me, the niece of the pilot Robert Haw; Maureen Handsford of England, daughter of Alfred Harris, RAF, the Flight Engineer; and Kathy Dolman of Kelowna, B.C. daughter of the navigator. Albert Edwards.



It had been three days packed with events, a sense of deep pride and humility, tears and laughter, and new friendships forged across the country and across the ocean. Since our return, e-mails continue to pass between the east and west coasts of Canada, to Australia and England, and most often, to Belgium. Being able to be a part of the dedication of this monument was truly an honour.

(A Pilgrimage Pics ... continues on Page 47)

A TRIBUTE to

My Uncle

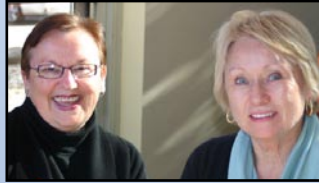
Belgium



Those who gave their lives for Freedom



2012



Fellowship!

Fall Luncheon, November 8, 2012