



RTO  
ERO  
District 15

# Halton Herald

January, 2021

**2020**

***Quite the year, but...a new one is on its way.***



*Canmore Mountains, Alberta...Photo contest submission by Marilyn Ortwein*

# ***Welcome 2021!***

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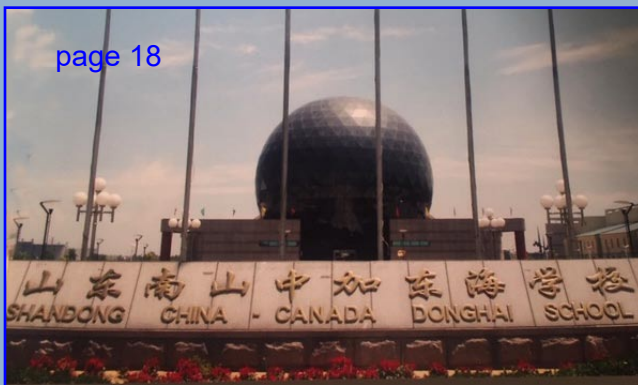
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## President's Report

By Micki Clemens



Since our last issue in September, we have welcomed autumn in all its colourful glory, tolerated the more sombre days of November, celebrated the seasonal holidays in new and wondrous ways, and witnessed with brave and fearless optimism the launch of 2021!

We hope that this issue of the *Halton Herald* finds you and your loved ones safe and well. We appreciate that your health and safety are your top priority. As I write this report, COVID cases are rising alarmingly in the province and it is my most earnest hope that we can demolish this second wave soon.

My fellow District 15 board members and I miss seeing you and welcoming you in person to our various events. We look forward to hosting our variety of membership, program, and social events some day again in the future. In the meantime, we're exploring ways to stay in touch.

So it was very cheering and encouraging to receive articles and stories in response to **Nanci Wakeman's** and **Peter Gnish's** request to hear MORE FROM OUR MEMBERS for future editions of the *Herald*.

### LET'S KEEP YOUR SUBMISSIONS COMING!

For the *Halton Herald* APRIL 2021 issue please consider how YOU MIGHT SUPPORT us with your personal anecdotes, tales, reports, articles and stories. What are the things that are meaningful to you during this lengthy COVID journey we are all on? Have you taken up a new pastime? Perhaps you are writing a memoir? Are there fun reminiscences of past school experiences you might share? Have you tried your hand at baking? How about a recipe? Maybe you have unleashed a creative side and are knitting, or painting or sewing or making music or writing poetry, perhaps a haiku or sonnet or two? If you surf the net, are there travel sites that members would like to visit virtually? What are your favourite books right now? And your photographs are always wonderfully uplifting to share! We would LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

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**Marilyn MacLennan** has been communicating with those who have NO E-MAIL ADDRESSES and those whose E-MAILS continually BOUNCE BACK. We are trying to ensure that all those D 15 members who wish to stay in touch and receive our communications can do so effortlessly with our electronic communications – *Rapport*, District 15 website, and Facebook.

**Jeannie Woodcroft**, our Webmaster, continues to update our District 15 website as we await a generous volunteer to step into this role as Webmaster/Web manager. Check it out! <https://www.district15.rto-ero.org>

**Patricia Mateja**, our Social Media Manager, has tended vigilantly to our Facebook page, keeping it vibrant with her visual and textual contributions. Check it out! <https://www.facebook.com/RTOERODistrict15Halton>

**Brad Fisher**, our Coordinator of *Rapport*, works assiduously to gather and compile our monthly E-newsletter, so that it is attractive and easy to read with our timely announcements. Ensure that you receive this communication by confirming your current e-mail address with RTOERO in Toronto. Call the Membership Department at 1-800 361-9888 or e-mail [membership@rtoero.ca](mailto:membership@rtoero.ca)

Our Goodwill team under **Toni Pizzigrilli's** guidance and leadership exemplifies the importance of human



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connection for the general well being of our members. Our local Goodwill team provides the following outreach to our members throughout Halton:

- Birthday Cards to our members 80 years of age and older.
- Holiday Cards to members over 80 years of age.
- Where possible, we send sympathy cards or carry condolences on behalf of RTOERO to visitations and funerals of deceased members, if we have been notified.

We all need to work harder to help many of our members deal with even more social isolation in their lives than perhaps they were already experiencing. Take a moment to think about how each of you individually might reach out to friends, neighbours, and former colleagues to check on them and to have a brief chat.

Thanks to all of you for continued support and enthusiasm during this incredibly challenging period. As always, in these rapidly changing times, keep yourself well informed. Look after yourself, your family and friends and try to assist all those people you can in their personal COVID-19 challenges. Again, we are all in this together (by staying apart and looking after each other).

### Contribute to the *Herald!*

The next *Halton Herald* will be distributed in April, 2021.

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

Send your article or correspondence to the Newsletter Coordinator,

**Nanci Wakeman** by e-mail: [nanci.wakeman@gmail.com](mailto:nanci.wakeman@gmail.com).

Deadline - February 15, 2021.

## We Get Letters, E-mails & Calls

By Peter Gnish



We received a number of responses this time as you can see below. With the pandemic in full bloom members must be reading the *Halton Herald* in greater detail and have more time to send in their comments and updates. It is all good. Thank you for sharing. Send your messages to me at [pgnish@gmail.com](mailto:pgnish@gmail.com) or by mail sent to 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton, ON L8M 2K4 or call me (905-547-1628). Hope to hear from you soon.

**Micki Clemens** wrote, upon receiving the September Issue of *Halton Herald*, "Thanks to you, Cate and Joyce Frank. It is a superb issue!!!"

**Ian Downie** sent this e-mail: "Many thanks for your birthday card. You do a wonderful job for RTO. I hope you and Cate are surviving our current incarceration in good health and good spirits. It always helps to share a cell with a soulmate.

As a token of my gratitude I attach a recent ditty that Noel Graybone recorded. You may use it to entertain retired educators, union employees and indeed, any audience without royalty payment."

(Editor Notes: To see and hear Ian singing this ditty, copy the link below and paste it into your browser. When the .mp4 file downloads, click on it and enjoy hearing a 92 year old retired member of RTOERO District 15 playing the banjo and singing. <http://shorturl.at/uGRUV>)

**Joan Drummond** wrote, "I would appreciate your consideration to include the message below in your section of the *Halton Herald*. After Den died of a brain tumor July 24/20, his good friend and fellow teacher at Nelson, **Mary Shepherd**, wrote a tribute to Den and sent it to the Nelson retired teachers. Heartfelt thanks to Mary and retired Nelson teachers for your kind tributes and memories of **Dennis Drummond**. Your thoughtfulness was very comforting for our family. I am so grateful for their kind response."

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

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

**Judy Eberspaecher** sent an e-mail saying “Thanks for another issue of the *Halton Herald*. In spite of the cancellations, there was lots of news, pre-Covid and everyone made their contributions interesting.

Perhaps this is being done but I'd like to make a suggestion: Is anyone calling regularly on people who are living alone or are perhaps in long-term care? I do this for the Toronto Police Pensioners' Association and I can hear the joy from people, just talking to someone when they haven't heard from anyone for so long during the lockdown. It is sad to know that such a small effort can make such a difference to someone who is alone. Many times I have talked to a spouse who is alone at home because their partner is in a seniors' residence or has passed away and they are very lonely. This is a time when we have to think about others more than ourselves.

Stay healthy and keep up the good work, even though there are so many changes.”

**Margaret Gray** sent a letter to bring us up to date regarding her situation. As a French teacher at MDHS she began with, “Bonjour, comment allez vous? I always tell people how much I enjoyed teaching at Milton District High School for over 30 years. It was a wonderful experience. I have been at Seasons Milton since April 2019 after my husband, Wallace, passed away.

Many of my MDHS students came to visit their grandparents before the pandemic. Of course it was great to see them and they were happy to see me. My sons, Stephan and Bruce live in town. It is great to see them sometimes and they take me out once in a while. My daughter, Kathy, lives in Peterborough but comes about once a month. They don't often come inside, but when they do wearing masks, of course.”

She ended by saying “I use a walker now, but I stand up straight and walk quite fast.”

**Marina Lloyd** sent this e-mail: “As soon as I saw the photos in the last *Halton Herald*, I knew where you were. In January of 2014, Ken and I made our Magnificent Mekong Journey. I've dug out my binder and see that January 24th was Angkor Wat Day. We also saw Ta Prohm Temple

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(Jungle tree Temple?) that day. I expect you saw tree roots/trunks encircling 300 year old temples. In Hanoi, people were celebrating the Lunar New Year- it was the Year of the Horse. It truly was a magnificent journey for you and Cate and also for us. Hope the family are keeping well and staying safe. What a nerve-wracking/difficult time for teachers, principals, students and parents.

**John Perkovich** wrote to say, “Just wanted to thank you for recognizing the passing of my wife, Moira Perkovich, in the *Halton Herald*. Even though Moira and I have never been active, we always enjoyed reading the latest news. We commend you for your time and contribution to the magazine.

When Moira was receiving treatments for her cancer, I was not allowed to accompany her for support inside the hospital. This continued when Moira was admitted as a patient. Moira was alert for one conference meeting with the surgeon when we decided on the operation. My daughters joined me for a visit a couple of days later to discover how helpless she looked. So frail and weak. That evening Moira passed away, but at least the girls saw their mum once.

The next time we saw Moira was for the ID visit. I was never so angry with the COVID19 restrictions, the cruelty and meanness of being separated from your true love and friend of +60 years. People should realize that sacrifice comes in different degrees. But as social animals we need to abide by the restrictions so that we will again enjoy a normal life when ‘we stay apart together’ ”.

**Colton Roberts** e-mailed me to bring us up to date on what is happening to him. He wrote “This has certainly been a challenging time. I find that I get through it better with minimal exposure to the news. Emphasizing the positive has become even more important to me.

Activities I have undertaken include clean-up on the Ireland House Museum grounds. Since beginning this project, I have had the opportunity to interact with more people than I can count. The museum is next door to me and has been part of my life for over 40 years as a neighbour and volunteer for many years. While the house has had to be closed

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

for some time due to the virus, the grounds, all 4.6 acres need some maintenance. The hired hand has to share upkeep at this Museum and at Joseph Brant Museum which is open on a limited basis. The grounds have become overgrown with vines and I have been working several hours a week at dealing with some of the mess. Not only is it therapeutic to weed and clear the property of debris and weeds, but interacting with nature and the neighbours who are walking their dogs and children has been encouraging.

The community dinner I helped with at a neighbourhood church cannot be held at present. But, we are participating with a Meal in a Bag program. So, every Wednesday evening, I work with 4 others to package meals for up to 320 people while respecting the need for social distancing.

I have ghost-written a book about the development of Sundrim Golf Course from a text which my late father-in-law had written. We have to add photos and get it published for distribution among interested members of 5 different families who shared in the life of the course. It is interesting work for sure.

Thanks for all your work with the *Herald*. As usual this one is excellent, especially your travels.”

**Terry Ryan** e-mailed to say, “As usual a well done production!”

**Jeannie Woodcroft** sent an e-mail saying, “I’ve just finished reading the newsletter - wow! I loved Cate’s article; please share my appreciation of it with her. Well done on the September issue!”

### Have You Heard This One?

1. What rock group has four men that don’t sing? Mount Rushmore.
2. Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? Great food, no atmosphere!
3. A cheese factory exploded in France. De brie was everywhere!
4. A guy goes to his doctor because he can see into the future. The doctor asks him, “How long have you suffered from that condition?” The guy tells him, “Since next Monday.”

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# **STAYING HEALTHY DURING A PANDEMIC**

## **From Canadian Nurses Association**

The COVID-19 pandemic may cause significant levels of stress. It is normal to experience worries or anxieties that may result in increased physical or psychological stress. Coping with this stress and promoting emotional well-being are important. Here are 6 strategies you can use:

### **1. TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY**

Rest, eat healthy and stay active - all can support your physical and emotional well-being. If possible, avoid substance use such as smoking, vaping and consuming caffeine and alcohol - all can have negative effects on your health.

### **2. TAKE CARE OF YOUR MIND**

Find a daily self-care or wellness activity or create a routine that you can do at work or home. For example:

- Relaxation and breathing exercises
- Checking in with colleagues for a laugh or talk
- Journal-writing, reading, dancing or drawing

### **3. STAY CONNECTED**

Connect virtually with family and friends through routine calls, check in and talk with your neighbours (from a distance). You are not alone; we are all in this together.

### **4. SET BOUNDARIES WITH THE NEWS**

Staying informed is important, but watching, reading and listening to the constant newsfeed about COVID-19 can make you feel anxious or distressed. Take breaks or set a couple of designated times to tune in.

### **5. CHOOSE YOUR INFORMATION AND SOURCES WISELY**

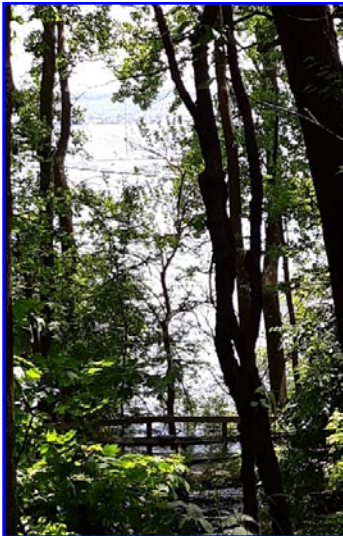
Seek information that has practical value and focuses on meaningful facts. Steer clear of news or language that sensationalizes events. Also, use trusted sources of information to ensure you get facts instead of myths and rumours.

### **6. ASK FOR HELP**

Reach out for support if you are overwhelmed or experiencing increasing stress. Everyone experiences and copes differently with stress. Seeking help may lead to new strategies to support your well-being.

## “Sittin’ on the Dock of the Bay” and Volunteering with Burlington Able Sail By Jeannie Woodcroft

In June of 2019 I was enjoying a walk in Burlington’s beautiful LaSalle Park. I like to take a pocketful of birdseed and feed a few chickadees and chipmunks along the trail by the water at La-Salle Park Marina. Nearing the end of my morning stroll I noticed a poster addressed to me! I am a senior and a retiree so I stopped and read the details. I love being around water and boats. My



family had summer fun in a speedboat and enjoyed waterskiing and fishing. But my secret desire was to be a sailor. I was also on the lookout for a new volunteering opportunity.

Following up with phone calls and emails I found out more about volunteering with Burlington Able Sail from Jim Casey and David Groves. My granddaughter who was about to start high school in September was also looking for volunteer hours. She was as excited as I was about this shared opportunity to volunteer together and spend Thursday mornings throughout the summer ‘sittin’ on the dock of the bay’ (a favourite old song by Otis Redding)!

Burlington Able Sail provides sailing opportunities and instruction for individuals with a physical or cognitive disability to enhance their quality of life and promote integration of sailors with disabilities with able-bodied sailors.

“If you can breathe, you can sail!”

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The Burlington Able Sail program uses 3 Martin 16 sailboats, which are equipped to cater to physically/cognitively challenged people of all ages. The boats are extremely stable and can be sailed with either a companion instructor in the stern seat or solo by individual sailors who have attained enough experience to "go it alone". The Martin 16 is a keelboat design, easy to maintain and stable in all conditions. The Martin is famous for being "un-tippable and unsinkable".

These boats are very competitive, so sailors who want to advance their skills from casual day sailing to racing are taught the fundamentals of sailboat racing under the tutorship of our trained CYA instructors.

As volunteers, my granddaughter and I greeted our clients at the gated entrance to the docks ensuring that they were wearing a life jacket and escorted them to BAS's private dock. We were trained on the manual lift so that we could transfer our client from a wheelchair to the sail boat, as in the photo. When their 45 minute sail was over we assisted them out of the sail boat and safely into a wheelchair and walked with them back to land. We got to know our clients as they returned weekly for the summer program. It was such a rewarding experience meeting people, seeing the looks of pure joy as they enthused about their experience of sailing on Burlington/Hamilton Bay!



While the clients were sailing, the volunteers who weren't in the sailboats or coach/safety boats sat on the dock enjoying conversation and getting to know other volunteers. I learned that 3 other District 15 Halton members also volunteered with BAS: Mary and Hugh McCully and Diana Zimmer.

During a conversation with David Groves, President of Burlington Able Sail, I learned that the 3 Martin 16's were in need of new sails. I told David about the RTOERO Project Service to Others (PSTO) grants that were available to local RTOERO districts. In April, May and June

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of 2020 I worked on the grant application with David. It was approved by our District 15 Board and in late October, District 15 Halton was informed that we had submitted a successful application. We were awarded the full amount of \$4000! The new sails are on order.

Sadly, the restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 prevented Burlington Able Sail from providing the program in the summer of 2020. We hope that if all goes well in the coming months, the sailors will be back on the water in 2021 enjoying the fair winds that will billow their new sails courtesy of RTOERO District 15 Halton. And, hopefully, my granddaughter and I will continue to spend pleasant Thursday mornings volunteering together and 'sittin' on the dock of the bay'!

For more information about Burlington Able Sail and volunteer opportunities visit their website at <http://burlbay.com/able-sail-2>.

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## Goodwill Committee Report

By Toni Pizzingrilli



Greetings from the Goodwill Committee! It is hard to imagine that at the time of writing this report it is November and we have just experienced a week of the warmest temperatures recorded for this month since the mid 1970's. Of course by the time you receive the *Halton Herald* it will be January and, I am sure, our climate will be much different. You will also have celebrated the holidays and it is our hope that the joy of the season has at the very least "warmed your heart".

Since the last communication, a new member, **Dianne Visschedyk**, has joined the committee. Dianne will be doing double duty as she is also the RTOERO District 15 Board secretary. Dianne is an exemplary model of the values of the Goodwill mission. She is caring, compassionate and a valued addition to our Committee. Welcome Dianne!

In the last several months, the Goodwill convenors have continued to connect with our Super Senior members through the regular sending of birthday cards, holiday cards (just under 500 holiday cards), other special occasion cards and, at times, via telephone calls. We hope that those of you who received birthday wishes enjoyed the vibrant colours

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(Goodwill...continued from Page 13)

of the new RTOERO cards that we have started to use. We also hope that receiving these communications has brought some comfort and joy to you particularly during these challenging and uncertain times.

We encourage all members to use the “contact us” feature on our RTOERO District 15 website if you know of anyone who would benefit from receiving a friendly phone call or a “thinking of you” card. The Goodwill Committee members would be thrilled to hear from you and to reach out to those in need.

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## Awards & Service to Others Report

By Penny Hambly



### Project Service to Others Grant

Congratulations to **Jeannie Woodcroft** and her District 15 Halton Service to Others project team. This project, entitled **Burlington Able Sail**, was awarded the \$4000 RTOERO grant. It is a sailing program which runs in July and August giving sailing opportunities to individuals ages seven and up with physical or cognitive disabilities. This program enables the participants to enhance their quality of life. The grant will be used to purchase three new sails and replacements of the worn ones for the 2021 season.

If you have a project and would like to explore some funding, look for **new information** about the Application Process and the Application Form posted on the RTOERO website at the beginning of 2021.

### RTOERO Scholarships

RTOERO will again be awarding student scholarships. This year they will be awarding 20 scholarships valued at \$3000 each to post secondary (college or university) students enrolled in specific programs. These include fields such as sciences, medicine, nursing, personal care, geriatric health care, research and healthy living for seniors, architects and designers of age-friendly spaces. For full details and applications go to [scholarship@rtoero.ca](mailto:scholarship@rtoero.ca). **The deadline is January 29, 2021.**

### RTOERO District 15 Halton Academic Spirit Award

Our District 15 Board offers a \$1000 scholarship to a graduating student, who has overcome a challenging situation in order to succeed. We provide this scholarship to one student from the Halton District School Board and the Halton Catholic District School Board. More information can be found on our District 15 website.

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# Caramelized Onion and Goat Cheese Tarts

Submitted by Marilyn MacLennan

**Ingredients** - Makes approximately 24 mini muffins

## CARAMELIZED ONIONS

You can make these or use store bought from a jar

1 large red onion thinly sliced

2 tsp sugar

2 tbsp red wine

1 tbsp dark balsamic vinegar

1 tsp finely chopped rosemary

¼ tsp salt

Nicoise (or Kalamata) olives halved

4 ounces goat cheese, room temperature

1 large egg

2 tablespoons heavy cream

1-teaspoon freshly chopped thyme leaves

non-stick mini muffin tin and muffin papers



## Directions

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.

In a bowl combine the goat cheese, egg, cream, and thyme. Pour the mixture into a small resealable plastic food storage bag. Snip off a corner of the bag to use it for piping.

Pipe goat cheese mixture into the paper cups in the mini-muffin tin. Fill each cup ¾ full.

Put caramelized onions on top of the cheese. Add half of an olive. Bake the tarts until the filling is set, about 15 to 20 minutes. Let the tarts cool. Do not remove the paper. Serve cool.

For the onion:

Slice onion thinly. Combine onions and sugar in a heavy non-stick skillet. Cook, uncovered, over medium-high heat for about 25 minutes until onions turn golden and start to caramelize, stirring frequently.

Stir in wine and vinegar. Bring to boil over high heat, reduce to low and cook for about 15 minutes or until most of the liquid has evaporated, stirring frequently. Cool.

Before using for the tarts, chop onions finely.

**RTOERO District 15 Halton Contact List**

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

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

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

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

**Executive 2020 – 2021**

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

**Committees****Archives**

Blaine Adams

**Awards**

Penny Hambly

**Book of Remembrance**

Marina Lloyd

**Communications**

Webmaster

Jeannie Woodcroft

*Rapport* Coordinator

Brad Fisher

Newsletter Coordinator

Nanci Wakeman

Newsletter Editor: Peter Gnish - Design: Cate Roberts

Editing: Nanci Wakeman

Proofreaders: Micki Clemens, George MacRae, Marilyn MacRae,

Eleanor McCulloch, Jordan Palmer, Ray Smith

**Foundation Champion**

Moira Plexman

**Goodwill**

Toni Pizzingrilli

West Convenors

Ruth Roberts and Marina Lloyd

East Convenors

Warren McBurney and Dianne Visschedyk

North Convenors

Judy Rose and Susan Spencer

Out-of-Region Convenor

Peter Gnish

**Health Benefits**

Colton Roberts

Committee Members: Paul Harper, Bonnie Cummings

**Membership/Recruitment**

Chair Marilyn MacLennan

Committee Member: Claudia Stewart

**Members at Large**

Bonnie Cummings and Susan Stavin

**Political Advocacy**

Claudia Stewart

Committee Members: Bev Balch, Olga Shewchun, Paul Sousa

**Program**

Jerry Powidajko

Committee Members: Penny Hambly, Paul Harper, Lynda Kozak,

Toni Pizzingrilli, Moira Plexman, Colton Roberts,

**Social**

Vacant

Committee Members: Lynda Kozak, Marilyn MacLennan, Patricia Mateja

Carol Pashkievich, Claudia Stewart,

Diona Szczerbak, David Wright

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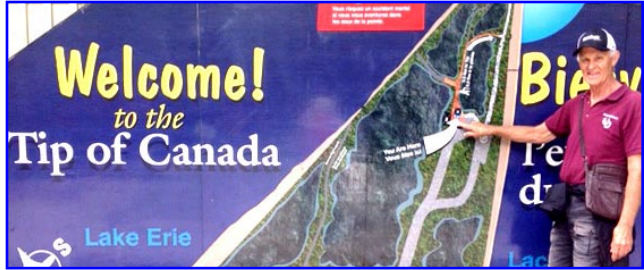
## Butterfly Migration at Point Pelee

By Gerry Blosser

This annual event takes place from the last two weeks of September to the first week of October. It involves mainly Monarch and Swallow Tail butterflies and is a wonderful event to witness.

The butterflies congregate in the forest of the park. Then, when favourable southern winds arrive, they fly to the point which is a sandbar. There the winds carry them across Lake Erie to their wintering destination of Southern California and central Mexico. What an amazing feat for such tiny creatures.

*(See more photos on Page 2 and on the back cover.)*



## Welcome New RTOERO District 15 Members!!!

**Our membership is now over 2900 people. Below are the names of retired teachers, other education staff and surviving spouses who became members since September 2020. Please welcome and invite them to join you at one of our activities, when we are permitted to gather once again.**

Annette Ainsworth

Fabio D'Agostino

Sally Fairs

Steven Gray

Margaret Hood

Debra Jackson

Leslie MacKay

Larry Morden

Diana Pinkney

Linda Roganowicz

Gregory Vol

George Chisholm

Jane Decloe

James Galea

Margaret Hatala

Barbara Hryskiw

Catherine Long

Marjorie McArthur

Marjory O'Keeffe

Brian Pogson Kimberley Redmond Hannah

Lynda Saberton

Lori Waugh

Ronald Ziegel

Sharon Creelman

Joan Drummond

Barry Glass

Helen Hills

Brian Idenden

David Longmate

Gail McDonald

Eric Pahapill

Kimberley Redmond Hannah

Elizabeth Tkalec

Karen Worlidge

# An Earlier Pandemic

By Nancy Sorenson

Splendid isolation! Quarantine! I've done it before!

In 2003, while teaching in Longkou, China, staff members were quarantined on campus for eight weeks along with approximately one thousand students. SARS had arrived.

Chinese schools are well cloistered with high wrought iron fences and gate houses, complete with guards at every entrance. Anyone leaving the grounds during quarantine could not return. The Shandong China/Canada Donghai School was brand new with impressive facilities designed to house, feed and educate



students from pre-school to Grade 12. Plans were to build a university across the road enabling future students to complete all educational needs in one massive enterprise.

Longkou, in Shandong province, lies between Beijing and Qingdao. Although it has a million citizens it is not always on a map, considering the sizes of better known Chinese cities. Regardless of SARS, classes continued with staggered timetables. On weekends parents would gather at the fences waving to their children across the walkways, a rather emotional scenario. Food trucks came and went. Handlers in white coats, masks and gloves would spray the trucks upon arrival and again, when leaving. Temperatures of everyone were recorded twice a day. Quarantine does work! Nobody became ill.

(The Pandemic...continues on Page 19)

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(Pandemic...continued from Page 18)

With my tenure over, I could not fly to Toronto via Beijing as ticketed. Both cities remained SARS “hot spots” so I was rerouted through Shanghai. While awaiting new flight arrangements in a hotel medical staff took my temperature twice daily. At Shanghai airport I was thoroughly scanned before being allowed to check in.

More China assignments followed without incident. In 2009 I was sent to Tongzhou, north of Shanghai. This time it was H1N1 (avian or bird flu)! Medical personnel boarded the aircraft upon arrival and our temperatures were checked before we could deplane. Our Canadian group, transferred to a hotel, were quarantined for a week before being allowed into the school. We were isolated in our rooms and communicated with each other by telephone. Meals were announced by a knock at the door and there would be a plastic bag containing breakfast, lunch or dinner. It was rather amusing to see the delivery people, masked and gloved, running like the dickens down the hotel corridor to escape as quickly as possible. Our temperatures were recorded morning and evening. After being pronounced “healthy” our teaching duties began.

Our Covid-19 situation has been lengthier and more infectious but quarantine procedures do work when administered and monitored diligently. I chalk up our current grumbles to everyone having grown tired of social distancing, no hugs, the damper being the social animals we are.

Benefits? By being house bound I spring cleaned everything. Let it be known that I absolutely hate wielding the dust cloth and vacuum cleaner. My filing cabinet is organized, having rid itself of tons of paper. Do I really need my 2011 hydro bills? Thingamabobs and doodads took a ride to the Salvation Army Thrift Shop. My closets are purged of clothes I no longer want, need or fit. This has been a catharsis! I've read a million books, enjoyed my garden and made pesto from herbs in my window box. The sewing machine still works.

My son told me that, with family having been at home, they ate supper together every evening and took turns deciding what movie to watch. Somebody made popcorn and they hunkered down in the den. This “togetherness” hadn't happened in years with everybody constantly going in all direction! Neighbours, working parents, deposited their toddler at day care every morning. Now, still employed at home, they take

(The Pandemic...continues on Page 20)

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(The Pandemic...continued from Page 19)

turns being with him while the other works. They are thrilled with getting to know him as the little person he is. Grandparents, in their "bubble," visit to give the parents a break.

The pandemic has forced us to stay put, look inward at where we are and what we have. Of course, back to normal times will be welcomed. Perhaps this virus has taught us to appreciate our lives. Maybe we are closer to our families in spite of social distancing. Is mankind learning a lesson here?

I've finally discovered how that pesky grey squirrel manages to raid my bird feeder. Blue jays are stealing seed caches hidden by the chipmunks. Now, excuse me while I sip my coffee and admire the resident cardinal posing on a branch of my crab apple tree.

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## Fond Recollections!

By Ian Downie

I started cleaning out my filing cabinet as one of the necessary actions of old age and I turned up the attached photograph. It has Senator Landon Pearson shaking hands with me and Gilbert Parent, Speaker

of the House of Commons looking on. I had just acted as L.B. Pearson in a play, *THE GREAT CANADIAN FLAG DEBATE*, in the House of Commons. The play was written by an Ottawa University professor, Jean Herbiet. Gilbert Parent hoped to stage it in the Commons in the summer as an opportunity for visitors to sit in members' seats as



the debate featuring Pearson, Diefenbaker and the Speaker unfolded.

(Recollections...continues on Page 21)

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(Recollections...continued from Page 20)

A well known Ottawa actor had been cast as Pearson but he had gotten a big part in a movie and had withdrawn from the play. One Saturday morning in the late 1990s I received a call from my agent asking if I would be interested in auditioning for the part. I jumped at the chance. Later that day I got another call asking me to go to Sandra O'Neill's apartment on Bay Street in Toronto the following morning to audition. In the early evening I got a call from Sandra asking if I could drive up to Ottawa on Monday morning to read for the director. I did, and after my reading Jean Herbiet said, "You're in."

Two weeks later the first public performance was a great success. Senator Landon Pearson told me, "You had everything of Pearson but the lisp." (That omission was deliberate.)

When I found the photo, I looked up Senator Landon Pearson on Google and had a little surprise. She was the wife of Geoffrey Pearson, Lester Pearson's son. She and Geoffrey Pearson had come to the first Commencement at L.B. Pearson H.S. in Burlington. **Dave Katz**, the Principal, had invited Geoffrey Pearson to speak at the Commencement. I had been appointed by Dave as their guide for the evening.

When I met her in the Commons I did not realise that she was Geoffrey's wife and that I had met her in an earlier incarnation. Gold embossed invitations had gone out to all the VIPs in Ottawa for a gala opening of the play the following day. I had visions of a steady summer job for the next few years. But the Bloc objected that the play was in English only and were not moved by promises that a French version was on the way. In fact, the debate had been held in English. An election was coming up and the Liberals did not want any controversy to threaten their election chances. So the performance was cancelled "For technical reasons."

## Get the *Halton Herald* Electronically!!!

To date almost 200 members have made the environmentally friendly choice to receive our magazine electronically only. This has resulted in savings of more than \$350 in printing and mailing costs. If you would like to change your subscription preference from print to online only, please e-mail **Peter Gnish** at [pgnish@gmail.com](mailto:pgnish@gmail.com).

## Health Benefits Committee Report

By Colton Roberts



Best wishes for good health to you, our members of RTOERO District 15, in this unusual and trying time. We are encouraged to learn how many of our members are coping with the times. Good for you! I trust that you are maintaining a healthy routine of exercise and involvement. Perhaps, you are taking increased advantage of social media. Many of us have learned how to use Zoom, Whatsapp, Facetime and other avenues to bring friends and relatives into our presence virtually.

The members of your benefits committee were able to meet at a webinar on October 5th. This online experience replaced the annual meeting of District Health Benefits Representatives usually held in June. We each received an updated manual in the mail along with materials for the meeting.

Our guest speaker, Dr. Nathan Stoll, a prominent geriatrician, spoke on the timely topic *Long-Term Care: Family Presence During Covid-19*. He reviewed the epidemiology of Covid-19, particularly as it affects LTC residents. He reviewed the lack of preparedness of LTC facilities for this pandemic, exposing the long-standing vulnerabilities in these residences. The importance of a family presence in these residences was emphasized. Collateral damage, as Dr. Stoll called it, included dehydration and malnutrition during what has come to be called, 'The Confinement Syndrome'. He has been a member of a significant group of health care providers that has provided guidance on re-opening Canadian LTC residences. Their recommendations were largely accepted by the government on September 2nd. We shall see how well they are implemented in coming months.

The update from the RTOERO provincial benefits committee focused on travel. There was a review of Global Excel which provides assistance to members who are traveling. Royal Sun Life is the insurer for our travel plan but leaves it to Global Excel to deal with medical problems that may arise for our members when we travel. You are reminded to know the coverage and process for dealing with a health emergency when our travels resume.

(Health Benefits...continues on Page 23)

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(Health Benefits...continued from Page 22)

Richard Harrison from Johnson Insurance outlined several amendments to our policy to improve our coverage. Most of them addressed improvements to the exclusion provisions when dealing with the stability clause. An example is that the language has been changed so that a reduction in medications does not trigger the stability clause being revoked. Only if a dosage has to be increased, can it invoke the stability clause being applied. The former language indicated that any change of medication would result in the member being excluded from travel. A communique released in early December informed all members of the change.

Regarding coverage during COVID-19, you should have received a report that members who can show that they are not affected by the virus are free to travel and will be covered should they contract the illness while they are traveling. Members who are planning a trip are strongly advised to follow the travel advice on the government website when planning your trip. While this is always advisable, it is much more important at this time.

Our continued best wishes in these unusual and constantly changing times. As this is being written Halton has been declared a Red Zone. We have no idea what will have transpired by the time you read this. Stay safe; stay well. If we can be of service do not hesitate to call.

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## **Out of the Mouths of Babes**

**By Glenda Benton**

Every time I tell this story there is always laughter. I thought maybe teachers would enjoy it. I often think I should have written down all the cute things children said and did when I was teaching in Limehouse and Acton.

My 50-year-old niece is a director in Durham Day Care. One day, before COVID-19, her school was closed for a teacher walk out. She had to go to another school where she had worked before. One excited little girl ran up to her and threw her arms around Tracey and told her she loved her. She asked Tracey if she could draw a picture of her. After doing so Tracey told her a couple of times how nice it was. The little girl insisted it wasn't very good because, she added, "I don't know how to draw wrinkles!"

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# Foundation Report

By Moira Plexman



*The Mission of the Foundation is to fund research and invest in innovative programs to support healthy, active aging, with a special focus on helping end social isolation among older adults.*

Thank you to our members who supported October's Social Isolation Awareness Month Fundraising drive.

Our District page raised \$700. Many of our members responded directly to the e-mails sent out from the Toronto office and sent in donations.

Although the intense focus on social isolation was in October, this is a year-round challenge for many seniors. With the isolation caused by trying to stay safe from Covid-19, many seniors are even more isolated than ever as they self-isolate in their homes. You can help. Make a commitment to be part of the solution and contact one senior in your contact list each day. Write a note, send a card or make a phone call to someone you have not seen in a while. If your friend has a computer arrange a Face Time or Zoom meeting with them. This is a very challenging time for everyone. Your call to an old friend could brighten their day and yours.

## Foundation Webinars

The foundation offers interesting and useful webinars geared to you. You can access information on up-coming webinars by following the RTOERO Foundation on Facebook.

### Do You Know Your English?

Some people can't distinguish between etymology and entomology. They bug me in ways I can't put into words.

If an English teacher is convicted of a crime and doesn't complete the sentence, is that a fragment?

I invented a new word today: Plagiarism!



# Report on RTOERO’s Virtual Annual Meeting and Forum – October 20 & October 27, 2020

By Micki Clemens

## 1. Update on the Annual Meeting Oct. 20, 2020

a) Elections were held for the RTOERO Board of Directors for the coming year. The successful candidates are:

Jackie Aird, re-elected for a 3 year term

Martha Foster

Louise Guerin, re-elected for a 3 year term

Martin Higgs

Bill Huzar, re-elected to a 3 year term

David Kendall

Claudia Mang

Gayle Manley

Rich Prophet

b) The new board elected the following Chair and Vice-chair on Oct. 21 to serve for two years:

Rich Prophet – Chair

Bill Huzar – Vice-chair

c) The **RTOERO Strategic Plan for 2021-2025** was passed along with a small number of Bylaws. The Strategic Plan outlines the Vision, the Mission and the Values of the RTOERO organization along with Success Indicators for each of the Strategic Goals:

- Be the trusted voice for the broader education community
- Improve the lives of members and seniors
- Broaden the membership base.

**To read the full contents of the Strategic Plan 2025 go to [rtoero.ca](http://rtoero.ca) and search the title.**

## 2. Update on the Forum held on Oct 27, 2020

The **RTOERO Budget for 2021** was passed and we heard reports from all the RTOERO Committees.

The key decisions on THE RTOERO Budget were as follows:

### a) The RTOERO Board of Directors and Committees

- Minimum grants will increase to \$14,500 a year.
- Geriatric training scholarship grants of \$22,000 will fund two research

(Virtual Mtg Report...continues on Page 26)

scholarships and two senior resident awards for advocacy on health care for older adults.

- \$15,000 has been added to the Student Scholarship program bringing the budget to \$60,000. There will now be 20 scholarships of \$3,000 each to post secondary students enrolled in programs that benefit RTOERO members and seniors.
- N. B. VENNGO has been decoupled from the Extended Health Care plan. So this benefit will now be available to **ALL RTOERO** members. \$203,400 is designated for the Venngo subscription annually.

### b) All RTOERO Districts

- PSTO allocation has been reduced to \$2500 per district in order to assist all districts with greater equanimity. Projects will still have to be submitted for review by the central PSTO Committee. This decision was made for a three- year trial period but can be reviewed at the next Annual Meeting.
- \$10,000 has been allocated for workshops and materials to support districts in diversity, equity and inclusion.
- The bilingual grant for District 51 is increased by \$5,000 to meet the specific language requirements in Quebec.

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## RTOERO Provincial Scholarship Winner

### Anterra Vsetula Sheffield

By Penny Hambly

Congratulations to Anterra Vsetula Sheffield who won one of the RTOERO scholarships. Her grandfather, RTOERO Halton District 15 member, John Sheffield, who sponsored her, described Anterra as follows:

“Anterra is a young agrarian from Guelph, Ontario who is passionate about regenerative agriculture and building resilient communities. She graduated with high distinction in April 2020 from Trent University in Peterborough, with a B.A.H in Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems and an emphasis on community development. She won several awards related to agriculture and horticultural



(Scholarship...continues on Page 27)

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(Scholarship...continued from Page 26)

ture throughout her degree. She appreciates learning about land stewardship, ensuring that seed lineages are thriving, and making sure she eats well. She loves seasonal and bioregional plant medicines, spring weather, backcountry camping, playing music, preserving food, and being in forests. She values creativity, optimism, healing, social justice, and a fresh pot of tea. Her future plans include farming, and pursuing a Masters in social and ecological sustainability.”

RTOERO District 15 are very pleased to see such a talented, interesting student who exemplifies a unique understanding and desire to continue to develop knowledge in agriculture which is so important to our world. We wish Anterra the best of luck in her continued studies.

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## Political Advocacy Committee

By Claudia Stewart



The site **VibrantVoices.ca** is a community-based advocacy campaign supported by nine organizations representing more than two million older adults and their families. The key issues for our political advocacy are: developing a National Seniors’ Strategy, Geriatric Healthcare - Physical and Mental Health for Older Adults and Environmental Stewardship. A coordinated National Seniors’ Strategy with dedicated funding and

accountable goals will ensure that we meet the evolving needs of seniors who are the fastest growing segment of our population. Our healthcare system must address the needs of older Canadians in terms of both physical and mental health. Creating a sustainable future with our use of resources, conservation and protecting our environment is the third issue the Political Advocacy committee is researching to enhance our awareness and understanding.

You can learn more about the issues through the GivingBack button on the [rtoero.ca](http://rtoero.ca) website. Please take a look at the summary sheets and the White Papers RTOERO has prepared to help us present to our members and local politicians. In Halton, we are focusing on the Physical and Mental Health for Older Adults because of concern about the

(Political Advocacy...continues on Page 28)

(Political Advocacy...continued from Page 27)

conditions in long-term care facilities which have come to light due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Please go into the website and complete the Long Term Care Advocacy Form to add your voice to express your concern about the troubling conditions. Thank you for helping with this letter writing campaign.

If you are interested in supporting our Political Advocacy Committee locally in Halton, please contact Claudia Stewart through our e-mail [district15halton@gmail.com](mailto:district15halton@gmail.com) - we need ideas and energy to inform our work.

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## REPEAT NOTICE RE DISTRICT 15 HALTON

RTOERO District 15 Halton postponed until 2021 its Annual General Meeting, originally scheduled for May 2020.

We learned from RTOERO that we were not obliged legally to undertake an annual meeting. Rather than try to communicate and organize a ZOOM session with potentially 3000 members, we felt that it was more practical to keep people informed via our several forms of communication – *Halton Herald*, *Rapport*, Facebook, and our District 15 Website.

As well, the Executive agreed to extend the term for the current District 15 Executive team from June 2, 2020 until June 10, 2021. However, if pandemic restrictions are lifted in the spring of 2021 and we can meet in person, then we have the option to hold an Annual General Meeting earlier and allow for an Executive election.

*NOTE: Information on the postponement of our 2020 District 15 Annual General Meeting to May 2021 and the extension of the term for the Executive team until June 2021, was originally shared with our members in the September Rapport and was also posted on the D15 website and on Facebook.*



Visit us on the Internet at [district15.rto-ero.org](http://district15.rto-ero.org)

# Webmaster's Report

By Jeannie Woodcroft



RTOERO District 15 Halton is seeking a volunteer from among our members to assume the role of Webmaster/Web Manager.

In the coming months, District 15 expects to transition to a new digital platform that will conform with RTOERO's bright and colourful design. The new platform, Word Press, will be far easier to manage and so the role only requires that you be relatively computer proficient and interested in learning. RTOERO will provide personalized training on Word Press and the new district microsite functionality (Time: 4-6 hours) and on going support as needed.

As the current volunteer Webmaster I have decided to step down from this role on the Board. I am more than happy to discuss the role with you and am willing to work alongside you until you feel comfortable in the role. If you have a desire to exercise some project management skills and support all the members of RTOERO District 15 with our communication goals you will be heartily welcomed!

Contact **Jeannie Woodcroft** or **Micki Clemens**, the president, at [district15halton@gmail.com](mailto:district15halton@gmail.com)



## Book of Remembrance

*We remember with fondness*

- |                 |                  |                |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Robert Aiken    | Janet Babinetz   | Norma Bennetts |
| Dennis Drummond | Bernice Galea    | Pedro Gomes    |
| Frances Gray    | Alexander Hatala | Douglas Hood   |
| Paul Hryskiw    | Dawn Idenden     | Jane Longmate  |
| Ann Morden      | Albert O'Hearn   | Luba Podolsky  |
| Willard Price   | Peter Saberton   | Betty Walsh    |
|                 | Jessie Windsor   |                |

## Season's Greetings for 2020

By Peter Gnish – Goodwill Committee

*"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."*

-Desmond Tutu

It goes without saying that we all have been living through some trying times over the past many months. In addition to having to deal with all of the normal trials and tribulations of daily life we have had the dark shadow of the pandemic over our heads. This has not only caused us to look at how we deal with daily activities, but also to think about how we spend or spent time with our family, close friends and neighbours. The result - a sense of frustration, anxiety and fear for the future.

But we are fortunate in many ways. Reading this message you can give thanks that you have survived everything so far and that the end of the darkness may be near with the hope that a vaccine will soon be available. Hope keeps us going. We need to cling to it to keep our sanity.

However, that may not be the case with many of our former colleagues and friends. Those living in Long Term Care homes or on their own to a large extent have been isolated and may be feeling the darkness more vividly than others of us. But, we can help. We have the ability of providing hope simply by picking up the telephone, writing a letter or sending an e-mail, even if we can't visit directly. Do you know someone in these circumstances? Why not reach out and make the contact! This is particularly appropriate during this holiday season that celebrates light and reaching out to others works throughout the year!

By sharing this Season's Greetings message with all of you I trust that, in some small way, a ray of hope comes your way, especially if you feel depressed, concerned or lonely.

May you continue to be in good health and enjoy retirement to the fullest. If you are in need of any assistance or if you know of a Halton District 15 RTOERO member who could use help, please get in touch with me ([pgnish@gmail.com](mailto:pgnish@gmail.com)) or with one of the other members on the Goodwill committee.

During this Holiday Season, know that friendships survive through the years and that old friends have not forgotten you. And, may the joy of life remain with you as our world brightens and expands throughout 2021!

## Membership Committee Report

By Marilyn MacLennan



Welcome to the new retired and active members of RTOERO District 15.

The focus of the last few months has been to improve communication with all members. Having correct contact details is important as some communications from RTOERO and District 15 are only available electronically. Just under 600 members did not have e-mails on file. Letters were sent to them inviting them to share their e-mails, and as I write this many are providing us with that information. The other issue is with “bounce back” e-mails, mostly due to Cogeco. It seems that bulk e-mails are not accepted by most of those using Cogeco. They have been contacted with suggestions to correct this. One suggestion is to add the RTOERO District 15 and the membership@rtoero.ca their e-mail addresses to your contacts.

You may choose to have the *Halton Herald* and *Renaissance* magazine sent electronically. Contact us if that is your wish.

Please remember to send us any changes in your status: e-mail, mailing address. This can be done by contacting District 15 at [district15halton@gmail.com](mailto:district15halton@gmail.com) using the subject line “Change” and I will ensure that the change is made with RTOERO. Alternatively, you can do this directly with RTOERO using their e-mail membership@rtoero.ca.

### WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL

If you have not been receiving our monthly e-Newsletter *Rapport* or other RTOERO e-mails, then we don't have a correct e-mail address for you.

Please update this information by sending us your e-mail to:

[district15halton@gmail.com](mailto:district15halton@gmail.com) subject line “New e-mail”

## Residents Come Together In COVID-19 Lockdown

By Bruce Shapka

Brazolot Drive is a short street in the south end of Guelph with 50 homes. Residents range from newborn to senior citizens. We have a multicultural neighbourhood. Householders have come from China, Philippines, Belgium, South Africa, Greece, the Caribbean, England, and Bulgaria. Our neighbours consist of single mothers, students, middle-aged people, older neighbours, and some shut-ins who need help for shopping, getting prescriptions, etcetera.

To help bring the community closer together in times of the lockdown a couple of neighbours decided to create a newsletter, the "*Brazolot News*". The first issue came out in April. To date (Nov) there have been ten issues. Recipes, puzzles, family profiles and history, contests, photographs, bird watching, cartoons, and street history make up some of the content.

One of our neighbours is an active sewer. She has a large stash of fabrics from which she has made over 600 masks. She shares these with neighbours, friends and family at no cost. Each person gets two masks, one to wear while the other is in the wash.

Since the initial newsletter came out fifteen people have volunteered to help anyone on our street. Also there is a shared contact list of phone numbers and e-mail addresses. It has helped bring our neighbours closer together during the COVID-19 lock down.

### CHANGE IN CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

- E-mail RTOERO at [membership@rto-ero.org](mailto:membership@rto-ero.org)
- Phone RTOERO 1-800-361-9888
- Contact Marilyn MacLennan (District 15) with the change [district15halton@gmail.com](mailto:district15halton@gmail.com)
- Use the contact form on the District 15 website – choose Membership

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



## Home Hosting Travel

Submitted by Irene Hayworth

The desire to travel and meet new cultures through complete immersion experiences drew my husband, Robert, and me to the Friendship Force Club of Greater Hamilton and Burlington. Friendship Force is an international home hosting organization based out of Atlanta for people who love to travel and meet other people, stay with them and explore their lifestyles while experiencing their environment, usually over a period of five to seven days. The aim is to provide friendship to people within the club and across the barriers of distance, culture, language and religion. This is done in a non-political, non-religious and non-racial way.

In the fall of 2019, several of our Hamilton/Burlington club members chose to participate in a journey to Belgium and Hungary. In addition to personal tours to local tourist destinations, we stayed in the home of a Belgian and Hungarian family. This was an incredible opportunity to learn first-hand about their cultures! Members experienced everyday life, sharing in the preparation of meals or simply relaxing with our hosts, enjoying a glass of wine and engaging in conversations about our respective countries. We came as strangers and left as friends who learned that the similarities in our lives far outweighed any differences in our cultures.

In June of 2019, we hosted a group from Fort Worth, Texas. This was an opportunity for one of our newer members, **Colton Roberts**, to host a wonderful 91-year old fellow from that group, one of the oldest people we have had join us! In addition to tours of Toronto, St. Jacobs, and Niagara Falls, we entertained our Texan guests with dinners and found out more about the culture of that part of the USA. Later in the fall, we escorted a group of Taiwanese to a variety of interesting places in the GTA including attendance at a live production at Stratford. In return we were treated to performances of traditional Taiwanese dance and song. Since several of them were much younger than our members, some of us found ourselves adopted as honorary parents into a culture that venerates seniors. During the time of Covid-19, I became connected virtually with a member from the Egypt Club who regularly posts photos of artifacts from that country along with an explanation about that object. Such is the nature of our organization.

(Home Hosting..continues on Page 34)

(Home Hosting..continued from Page 33)

With the onset of social isolation due to COVID-19, we, like everyone else, have been forced to curtail much of our travel. Our focus has shifted to caring for our local members. To this effect, we have planned a variety of activities to entertain our local group as we prepare for the day when things open up again. We are also exploring interactions with other districts including those in Stratford, Toronto, and Haliburton. In the coming year we hope virtually to be able to visit Friendship Force groups in other provinces as well as throughout the world.

Our thirst for opportunities to learn about and experience other cultures has prompted Colton and me to assume the role of co-presidents of our local club next year. If you have an interest in learning more about other cultures, please do not hesitate to contact Colton or me. You can use this time to experience other cultures through virtual cultural experiences even as we have to practice social distancing. Once we can safely travel again, you will be able to join us as we experience other cultures firsthand. We know that teachers are life-long learners. Friendship Force offers opportunities to fulfill those dreams.

(Home Hosting...photos on page 2 and the next page)

### ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION POLICY

It is the policy of RTOERO Halton District 15 that all advertising and promotion to or by its members must have prior approval by the District Executive. In this context advertising and promotion includes signage, verbal presentations, handouts, distributed material, and display table material.

RTOERO Halton District 15 may accept advertising for the following purpose: To offer information to members about programs, services, and products of potential interest and benefit.

RTOERO reserves the right to edit or reject any advertisement.

RTOERO districts do not accept paid advertising. Paid advertising is not permitted in district newsletters or on district websites. Districts are permitted to recognize sponsorships by trusted partners for events or special activities.

Publication of any advertisement by an outside group in the *Halton Herald* or other District 15 printed material, on the District website, or our e-letter, *Rapport*, or at any District function or event, does not constitute endorsement of the product or service by RTOERO Halton District 15.

# Home Hosting Travel... in Belgium and Hungary



**Befuinage-Tongereren, Belgium**

## Yum! Apple Strudel



**Making Apple Strudel!**

## Another pastry? No...



**Herend Porcelain, Hungary**



## ***Butterfly Migration, Point Pelee - ahh!!!***

Photos by Gerry Blosser



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

