

RTO  
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# Halton Herald

RTO/ERO DISTRICT 15  
SEPTEMBER 2006

**Look!!**  
at  
what we've done  
since April



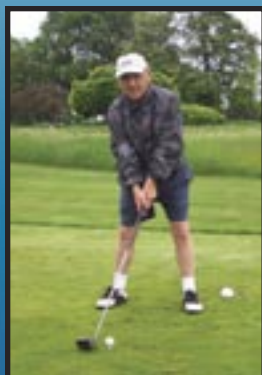
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*Working Together For A Better Retirement!*  
*RTO/ERO District 15 Executive 2006-07*



**Colton Roberts**  
*President*



**Mary Lyons**  
*1st Vice-President*



**Cecile Leach**  
*2nd Vice-President*



**Irene Chalupka**  
*Past President*



**Janet Carter-Wright**  
*Secretary*



**Chub Baxter**  
*Treasurer*

**New Committee Chairs**



**Marina Lloyd**  
*Goodwill*



**Lore Mehta**  
*Social*



**Paul Durnan**  
*Health Services*



**Peter Gnish**  
*Communications*

## President's Report

By Colton Roberts



When I returned from the Orient in late June, I found it very difficult to get back to the routine of normal life. The Spring Senate in Toronto which ended

the day before we left on our trip seems a dim memory. I hope that you have had a good summer and are ready for the challenges that the new season will bring. I am looking forward to the coming year as your President. I am also grateful for the talented and dedicated group of individuals on our District 15 Board. By the time you receive this newsletter, the annual **"The Hell with the Bell"** breakfast may have taken place. Welcome new members!

We have a number of interesting events planned for your enjoyment. Check the **Calendar of Events** on Pages 16 & 17 to see the entire list. We hope that you will find items of interest that will tempt you to mix with your former colleagues.

The most significant event this year will be our first health and wellness conference, **"Aging with Pizzazz!"** on Thursday, November 2, 2006. We expect 200 participants and space is still available. The topics have been carefully chosen to provide information to enhance your retirement years. We expect our Provincial President, **Arnold Hull**, to be in attendance. If you have not signed up, why not do it today. See the enclosed ad and Registration Form or download it from the District 15 website: [www.halinet.on.ca/district15](http://www.halinet.on.ca/district15).

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Visit us on the Internet at [www.halinet.on.ca/district15](http://www.halinet.on.ca/district15)

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

In addition, your Social Committee has been hard at work planning a winter activity for February 14, 2007, **"More on Digital Photography"** as a follow-up to our very successful session last year. See the ad and Registration Form on Page 13. Plans are already under way for the **Annual General Meeting** in May. We look forward to an increased attendance this year.

In lieu of the fall general meeting we are holding a **Wellness Day**. However, members of the Board will still be attending the Provincial Senate in October. If you have any issues which you feel should be presented or which require clarification, please let me or another member of the Board know.

If you are involved with a non-profit group that is planning a worthwhile project or has one on the go, please consider making an application to the Provincial RTO/ERO **Project Service to Others**. Up to \$4000 is available. However you must start the application process now.. Please contact me for the application form which must be submitted to the District 15 Board for approval in January. We are available to assist you in making the strongest possible submission.

My goal as your President is for all of us to work together to provide enjoyable and rewarding experiences for everyone. Best wishes in the coming year!

## Welcome New RTO/ERO District 15 Members!!!

We now have over 1850 members. Listed below are the names of retired teachers who have become members since March, 2006. Give them a warm welcome and invite them to join you in one of our many activities.

Anne Andrews	Margaret Armstrong	Beverley Balch
Marguerite Birett	David Candow	Larry Chud
Cynthia de Lhorbe	Sandra De Montmorency	Joanne Dear
Valerie Dowdell	Genevieve Dowson	Sandra Dyer
Rosemary Farnsworth	Joyce Frank	Cate Gnish Roberts
Lorraine Hawes	Paul Hynds	Anne-Marie Joki
Annemarie Krudwig	Pauline Laing	Hazel R Langdon
Thomas Marston	Wenda McCook	Paul O'Brien
Carol Phillips	Wilma Rankin	Albert Richardson
Terry Ryan	Delmas Simmons	Ronald A Simmons
Katherine Stephenson	Irene Stefanyk	Jo-Anne Tregunno
Terry Uhrin	Scott White	Gayle Withers

Visit us on the Internet at [www.halinet.on.ca/district15](http://www.halinet.on.ca/district15)

## We Get Letters, Emails & Calls

By Peter Gnish



After receiving a plethora of letters, emails and cards during the winter there has been a bit of a dry spell this spring. However, I did hear from the five people noted below. People who comment on the newsletter indicate that one of their most favourite sections is this one, where they get to find out about former colleagues - what they are doing, where they have moved to, how they are feeling about life.

Your friends in District 15 RTO/ERO want to hear about you. Why not take a moment this week to drop me a line in a letter or card, or send me an email, or even just telephone me. Pictures are also wonderful and I will send them back to you if you mail them to me. Now it's your turn to **Keep In Touch!** Send your letters and cards by Canada Post to me at 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton, ON L8M 2K4 or by email to [pgnish@cogeco.ca](mailto:pgnish@cogeco.ca) or call me 905-547-1628. I hope to hear from you, soon!

- **Bob and Lynn Gapes** sent me a lovely email in response to the Holiday greeting letter that is sent to all Out-of-Region members. They moved to Marmora 20 months ago and have become very involved in the community. Bob curls with the seniors in the village club and they both joined the local golf scene. There is wonderful live theatre in Stirling where they enjoy many of the ongoing productions. Also, grandchildren are a great draw so time is spent going to L'Anse St.-Jean about an hour up the Saguenay River from St. Simeon.

They write, "We love our new location. Our house is 30 feet from the river - a very clean, lovely, swimming river. Our house is a dream come true and we cannot imagine being back in the GTA at all. We return to visit friends often and since we are only a 2 1/2 hour drive from Burlington we have many, many visitors who enjoy our wonderful vacation home."

These include District 15 members, **Rod & Bev Pullen** and **John and Cathy Greven** who left their Yellow Lab while they do three months or so of travelling.



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

Visit us on the Internet at [www.halinet.on.ca/district15](http://www.halinet.on.ca/district15)

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

Bob and Lynn have also been dog-sitting their great-niece's Black Lab/Border Collie cross for over a year now. They ended the email by saying, "It was wonderful letting you... know what we are up to - enjoying life all in good health."

- **Jeanette and Gunter Schade** emailed me to say, "We did receive the April edition of the Herald with that special report and would like to thank you for your kind efforts - it was great and I am sure our many friends did appreciate reading about our unusual venture. We are now looking forward to some warmer weather and we would like to wish you all a wonderful and healthy remainder of 2006.
- **Jeff MacIntyre**, who now lives in Okotoks, Alberta, sent an email to say how much he enjoys reading the Halton Herald.
- **Linda and Vince Weeks** wrote to say they were heading out to the South-Seas again – Cooks Island this time – and would be sending a report when they got back.
- **Pauline Weber** emailed to say "I'm finally semi-retired and enjoying the flexibility of contract work with various companies. This leaves me free to enjoy events like the Montreal Jazz Festival next week, Cape Cod in August, and Florida next winter."

### **BULLETIN: Group Seeks Change in Pension Plan Survivor Benefit**

If you were single when you retired or lost your spouse during retirement and married again, you do not have a right to a survivor benefit! A new spouse acquired after your retirement began is not eligible for the survivor benefit unless you agree to accept a lifetime pension reduction.

Do you fall into this category? Are you concerned? The Ontario Teachers' Survivor Benefit Group seeks a change in the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan to ensure that all pensioners have the right to at least a 50% survivor pension benefit for an eligible spouse, and that eligible spouse would be the spouse at the time of death of the pensioner.

The group seeks to identify other pension plan members who are in the same circumstances. You may wish to join in this cause! If so, contact them by e-mail at [otsbgroup@sympatico.ca](mailto:otsbgroup@sympatico.ca) or by surface mail at:

Ontario Teachers' Survivor Benefit Group, 7305 Woodbine Avenue, Suite 398, Markham, Ontario. L3R 3V7.

# Vintage Automobiles – What A Way To Go!

Edited By Peter Gnish

In the last issue you read an article that encouraged people with an interest and/or hobby in cars to send in articles and pictures - and here's who we heard from.

## Jim Diell

Jim wrote, "It's a Greenbrier. The vehicle in this article is a 1962 Chevrolet Corvair Greenbrier Sports Wagon. In 2002 Norma and I went to the Corsa Convention in Flagstaff, Arizona. Norma went on all the tours



and I toured the parking lots. Woody Thomas from Waco, Texas brought this air cooled and air conditioned van to Flagstaff and we struck a deal in June. In October I flew to Dallas to meet Woody.

The next day we went to the vehicle registry office to get an ownership replacement document as the original had wandered away. Seven dollars and seven minutes had me on the road home. Thirty-two hours later I pulled into our driveway on Beechwood here in Burlington.

Like all Corvairs, the engine is air-cooled and is hidden behind the rear axle. Our Greenbrier has 6 doors and seats for 8. Woody installed an aftermarket air conditioning system front and rear. The front bucket seats came from a Toyota donor.



You can see the graphic "VAIR-FORCEONE" on the side as the van had a queen size bed in back. Insurance laws for an antique vehicle won't let me use it as a camper so the bed is gone, replaced with original style bench seats. This van has a four -speed transmission and a highway axle. On a long trip 28 mpg is possible."

(Vintage Automobiles... continues on Page 8)

(Vintage Automobiles... continued from Page 7)

### Herman Star

Herman's love affair with the automobile goes back many years. He bought his first car, a used 1927 Model T Ford when he was a young man. Then it was a 1928 Chev Coupe. In fact, over the years he has owned a total of 59 different vehicles, mostly bought used and lovingly fixed up. His most beautiful car was a 1931 McLaughlin Straight 8 Buick. In 1952, Herman bought his first new car, a Pontiac Chieftian. He has also owned a number of "different" cars including a Willy's Jeep, a Morris Oxford, a Cadillac and a Saab 900 sedan.

The car pictured here is a 1959 Ford Fairlane purchased new and still in service. It is original inside and out, with white and black upholstery, and stainless steel trim. Herman recently gave the car to his son and they both look after keeping it in peak condition. Last year, the car took first prize at the Ford Motor Company Show in Oakville.



### George Worrone

George's 1927 Studebaker Commander Rumble Seat Coupe is featured on the front cover of this issue of the Herald. The fact that he bought it in 1971 and worked on it until it was completely restored in 2004 attests to the fact that vintage car owners are a dedicated and committed bunch. According to the Antique Studebaker Club of America, it is the only one of its kind known to still exist. Although he drives it, the car still only has 15,000 miles on it.

The 1934 Plymouth 4-door Sedan pictured here was acquired in 1970. George rebuilt all the mechanical parts of the car. The body has not been touched since 1956 when it was last painted. It has a total of 52,000 miles on the odometer.



(Vintage Automobiles... continues on Page 9)



(Vintage Automobiles... continued from Page 8)

George bought this 1966 Valiant Signet Convertible with a V8 engine in 1979 for \$250. He became only its 3rd owner. It had been driven for 70,000 miles. It now has 107,000 and is well used since George completed the restoration.



### Golf Tournament

By Bill Caldwell

An eager group of 40 golfers were most disappointed to have the 2nd Annual District 15 RTO/ERO golf tournament being held at Hidden Lakes rained out on May 14. However, on June 1st a group of approximately 27 golfers participated in much better weather enjoying a great day of golf and good fellowship.



As part of the entry fee a hearty lunch was served promptly as the golfers came to the clubhouse dining room. The day was enjoyed by all.



Your committee looks forward to planning the 3rd Annual Tournament for next Spring. Please watch the Halton website and the Halton Herald for the date in the New Year, for further details and an entry form.

### The Weekend Golfer

**Golfer:** "Think I'm going to drown myself in the lake."

**Caddy:** "Think you can keep your head down that long?"

# Annual General Meeting

May 10, 2006

If you attended the session on May 10th you shared a fine speech from **Helen Bailes**, the Past President of Provincial RTO/ERO, applauded the special recognition of **Flo Gray**, enjoyed a very good meal, listened to and sang-along with a wonderful band made up of teacher retirees from North Halton, and enjoyed good times with former colleagues. Also, your new Halton District 15 Executive was installed. The members are pictured on Page 2. We wish them the best in the coming year. It was a great day! The pictures below say it all. Be part of the action. Mark your calendar now for next year's meeting on **Thursday May 10, 2007**.



Visit us on the Internet at [www.halinet.on.ca/district15](http://www.halinet.on.ca/district15)

# Wine & Cheese For Future Retirees

April 13, 2006

Teachers considering retirement enjoyed wine, cheese and information along with expert advice from those of us who have already retired. The event was held at Tansley Woods Centre after school on April 13th. Thanks to the organizing committee for another excellent forum for discussion. We look forward to many of the participants joining in upcoming activities as District 15 RTO/ERO members.



## Just For Today!

**Just For Today**, I will live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all my problems at once. I know that I can do something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

**Just For Today**, I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

**Just For Today**, I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things I can correct and accept those I cannot.

**Just For Today**, I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. I will not be a mental loafer.

**Just For Today**, I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I will not speak ill of others. I'll improve my appearance, speak softly, and not interrupt when someone else is talking. Just for today, I'll refrain from improving anybody but myself.

**Just For Today**, I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I'm overweight, I'll eat healthily – if only for today. And just for today, I'll get off the couch and take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block.

**Just For Today**, I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

### Really Good Tips!

- Candles last longer if you put them in the freezer for at least 3 hours prior to burning.
- Spray your Tupperware with non-stick cooking spray before pouring in tomato based sauces and there won't be any stains.
- To clean artificial flowers, pour some salt into a paper bag and add the flowers. Shake vigorously. The salt will absorb all the dust and dirt and leave your artificial flowers looking like new. Works like a charm!

Visit us on the Internet at [www.halinet.on.ca/district15](http://www.halinet.on.ca/district15)

You are Invited to the **RTO/ERO DISTRICT 15**  
**WINTER GENERAL MEETING & LUNCHEON**  
**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2007**

Milton Sports Arena  
 Derry Road, Milton  
 (Just west of Highway #25)

**Theme**

*"More on Digital Photography!"*

**PROGRAM**

- 11:00 a.m. Registration and Refreshments
- 12:00 noon Lunch is Served
- 12:45 p.m. Presentation and Question Period
- 1:25 p.m. Wrap-up and Door Prizes

To attend, complete the registration form below and mail with your cheque by Monday February 5, 2007 to:

**Chub Baxter 14 Cope Lane Stoney Creek, ON L8E 5C1**

.....Cut Here.....

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Winter General Meeting & Luncheon - February 14, 2007**

I/ We want to attend the meeting on February 14, 2007.  
The cost is \$10.00 per person.

Person1: \_\_\_\_\_

Person 2: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We require a ride to this event.

Please phone me at \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 15

**Contact: Chub Baxter: 905-643-3732**

## Archives Committee

By Judy Sloan



I'm delighted to report that the following newspaper articles have been added to our scrapbook.

The well-known professional Burlington actor and RTO member **Ian Downie** appeared in a stage production of "The Gin Game" at the Twenty Valley Playhouse in Vineland this past May. Ian's voice and face are also familiar through a number of popular TV commercials. We also took a tap dancing class together!

King's Road Public School's recent 50th anniversary celebration reunited **Jim Morrison**, Vice Principal in 1956; **Doug Campbell**, Principal '85-'89; **Cliff Goodwin**, Principal '77-'82; and **Carl Hamilton**, '92-'95. Congratulations to the school.

A special praise goes to our own **Carolyn Mayeur** who was named Burlington's newest Citizen of the Year! Carolyn is the founder of Danielle's Place, an eating disorder support and resource centre named in memory of her daughter. It was a promise this courageous and determined woman had made to her daughter while Danielle was battling anorexic bulimia. Sadly, Danielle died in her mother's arms at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in 2001. She was 25 years of age and weighed barely 55 pounds. Besides founding Danielle's Place, Carolyn has since written a yet-unpublished book about her and Danielle's experience. For more information visit her website at [www.daniellesplace.org](http://www.daniellesplace.org).

The Globe and Mail published an article in May concerning a former member **Jim Babinetz** who died Nov.12, 2005 at the age of 65. The article explained how in 1959 after being expelled from a teacher's college for "gross obesity" (he weighed 278 lbs.) Jim went on to challenge the Board of Education's ruling ultimately appealing to the Premier of Ontario. His challenge provoked petitions, inspired editorials and resulted in the support of seven other provinces, the Ministry of Transportation, the army, navy, air force and even the Times of London. His battle was also profiled in Time magazine. As a result, Jim returned to the college and graduated two years later to begin his successful teaching career in Oakville. Jim's wife is a member of our RTO and I wish to thank her for graciously talking to me on the phone.

That's all for now and keep those articles coming to 1446 Brenner Crt., Burlington On. L7P 2Z2 or contact me at either [judymsloan@yahoo.ca](mailto:judymsloan@yahoo.ca) or 905-336-5538.

Visit us on the Internet at [www.halinet.on.ca/district15](http://www.halinet.on.ca/district15)



# A Brighter Future

*Halton Learning Foundation's 3rd Annual Celebration Dinner*

*Thursday October 26, 2006*

**Featuring:**

**David Phillips**

*Canada's Most Renowned  
and Humorous Weather Expert*

**Mike Ford**

*Juno Nominated Artist,  
Member of Moxy Frivous*

**Emcee:**

**Ann Mulvale**

*Mayor, Town of Oakville*



*Reception: 5:30pm - Dinner: 7:00pm*

*Location: Oakville Conference Centre, 2515 Wycroft Road, Oakville*

*Tickets: \$85 each or \$600 for a table of eight*

**For more information, please contact Pat Wright, Executive Director,  
at 905-333-3499, Ext. 123 or via e-mail at [wrightp@hdsb.ca](mailto:wrightp@hdsb.ca)**



**Halton District  
School Board**



**HALTON  
LEARNING  
FOUNDATION**

*Charitable Number: 88997 5223 RR0001*

## Calendar of Events – September 2006 to January 2007

- Sept 28 Breakfast at The Golden Griddle**  
Burlington – 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan 905-631-8939.
- Oct 20 Dinner Theatre, “Lend Me a Tenor”**  
Aldershot Players, West Plains United Church, Burlington.  
6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$30.00 Contact Dave Wright by Sept 8.
- Oct 12 Visit to an Ecovillage in Caledon, Ontario**  
Hosted by Brenda Dolling. 10:00 a.m.  
Contact Dave Wright by Sept 14. Visit the District 15  
RTO/ERO website for a description of the Whole Village.  
Contact Dave for directions.
- Oct 26 Breakfast at The Golden Griddle**  
Oakville – 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan 905-631-8939.
- Nov 16 Shaw Festival, Niagara-on-the-Lake**  
Matinee “High Society” – Tickets: \$ 37.00  
Contact Janet Carter-Wright by Sept. 6th.  
905-336-5328 or jcwright@on.aibn.com  
Cheques payable to Retirement Club and send  
to Janet at 4491 Appleby Line, Burlington ON L9T 2Y1.
- Nov 30 Breakfast at The Fifth Wheel**  
Milton – 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan 905-631-8939.
- Dec 14 Theatre Aquarius Musical, “Cats”**  
7:00 p.m. Tickets: \$38.00  
Contact Janet Carter-Wright 905-336-5328 or  
jcwright@on.aibn.com by October 1.
- Jan 18 Burl-Oak Theatre Group, “Dark at the Top of the Stairs”**  
Navy Street, Oakville. 8:00 p.m. Tickets: \$22.00  
Contact Dave Wright by October 1.
- Jan 25 Breakfast at The Golden Griddle**  
Burlington - 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan 905-631-8939.



## Calendar of Events – February 2007 to June 2007

- Feb 7 Stage West Dinner Theatre, “California Dreaming”**  
In Mississauga at Dixie Rd and Matheson Blvd. Good time of year to relax on the beach. Lunch and matinee. Tickets: \$47.00  
Contact Dave Wright by Nov 1.
- Feb 22 Breakfast at the Golden Griddle**  
Oakville – 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan 905-631-8939.
- Mar 29 Breakfast at The Fifth Wheel**  
Milton – 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan 905-631-8939.
- Apr 18 Visit to EcoHouse and Environmental Demonstrations.**  
22 Veevers Dr. Hamiton. For more information visit [www.greenventure.ca](http://www.greenventure.ca). Contact Dave Wright by Apr 1.
- Apr 26 Breakfast at The Golden Griddle**  
Burlington – 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan 905-631-8939.
- May 5th Annual Golf Tournament**  
Details to be announced. Check the District 15 RTO/ERO website and January issue of the Halcyon.
- May Stratford Matinee Musical.**  
Details to be announced. Check the District 15 RTO/ERO website. Contact Dave by December 1, 2006.
- May 24 Breakfast at The Golden Griddle**  
Oakville – 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan 905-631-8939.
- May Musical Comedy**  
Walton Street United Church. Details to be announced.  
Contact Flo Gray 905-639-4850.
- June 6 Grand River Lunch Cruise**  
Caledonia – 11:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Tickets: \$36.00 (tax included). Contact Dave Wright by Apr 1.

**To contact Dave Wright, Chair Recreation Committee**

**Telephone: 905-639-5093 or**

**E-mail: [wandave@sympatico.ca](mailto:wandave@sympatico.ca)**

## RTO/ERO District 15 Contact List

### Executive 2006 – 2007

Past President	Irene Chalupka	905-637-0887
President	Colton Roberts	905-335-0027
1st Vice President	Mary Lyons	905-336-5744
2nd Vice President	Cecile Leach	905-634-8027
Secretary	Janet Carter-Wright	905-336-5328
Treasurer	Chub Baxter	905-643-3732

### Committees

Archives	Judy Sloan	905-336-5538
Book of Remembrance	Marina Lloyd	905-637-6030
Communications Chair	Peter Gnish	905-547-1628
Newsletter	Peter Gnish	905-547-1628
Website	George MacRae	905-315-8581
Goodwill Chair	Marina Lloyd	905-637-6030
West Convenor	Pam MacDonald	905-336-3280
East Convenor	Warren McBurney	905-845-8219
North Convenor	Iona Lobb	905-877-0767
Out-of-Region Convenor	Peter Gnish	905-547-1628
Health Services	Paul Durnan	905-631-8939
Recruitment & Member Services		
Chair	Bill Caldwell	905-633-9506
West Convenor	Margaret Steedman-Turek	905-335-3767
East Convenor	TBA	
North Convenor	TBA	
Out-of-Region Convenor	Peter Gnish	905-547-1628
Pension	Jim Baker	905 639 1292
Political Action	Marg Daniels	905-634-7371
Recreation	David Wright	905-639-5093
Social	Colton Roberts	905-335-0027
Tours	Al Wilson	905-529-5825
Volunteer Management	TBA	

## **Travelling? Here's What You Need To Know!**

From the Ontario Ministry of Government Services

### **Travel Industry Compensation Fund**

Dealing with an Ontario-registered agency is your guarantee of protection under the Travel Industry Act, 2002 and by the Travel Industry Compensation Fund. The Ontario Travel Compensation Fund protects consumers who purchase travel services from an Ontario-registered travel agency and who do not receive their travel services due to the bankruptcy or insolvency of an Ontario travel retailer, wholesaler, airline or cruise line. You may claim up to \$5,000 per person for a reimbursement from the fund.

### **How to Make a Claim**

To make a claim under the Ontario Travel Industry Compensation Fund, call 905-624-6241 (toll-free: 1-888-4518426) or email [tico@tico.on.ca](mailto:tico@tico.on.ca) within six months of the event that caused you to file the claim. Be sure to keep all receipts, invoices, credit card slips and statements and any unused travel documents. To find out if an agency is registered or to learn more about travel, contact the Travel Industry Council of Ontario at 1-888-4518426 or use the website [www.tico.on.ca](http://www.tico.on.ca).

### **Protect Yourself**

1. Purchase travel services from a registered Ontario travel agent.
2. Talk with your travel agent. Understand what you are buying, the terms and conditions of your trip, including refund policies and penalties.
3. Ask your agent if s/he charges a non-refundable travel-counselling fee.
4. Don't let illness or the unexpected cost you the price of your vacation - consider travel and cancellation insurance (such as the RTO/ERO plan).
5. Get it in writing - before you buy, always get a written confirmation with all the details of your trip.
6. Protect yourself from fraud and identity theft. Do not carry personal documents, like your social insurance number, unless you know you will need them for your trip. Keep them safe.

### **For More Information**

Visit the website of the Ministry of Government Services at [www.mgs.gov.on.ca](http://www.mgs.gov.on.ca) or call 416-326-8555 or toll-free 1-800-268-1142.

## **Why The USA is in Trouble**

A U.S. Senator's aide called to inquire about a trip package to Hawaii. After going over all the cost info, she asked, "Would it be cheaper to fly to California, and then take the train to Hawaii?"

## Taking A Vacation? Extended Leave Checklist

Courtesy of the City of London Police

Things you should consider doing:

1. After being careful not to broadcast the fact that you will be away, inform a trusted neighbour of your departure and return dates. Try to choose the neighbour who has the clearest view of your home.
2. Where possible cancel deliveries and ask a trusted neighbour, good friend or relative to pack up newspapers and mail.
3. Arrange to have a friend or trusted neighbour put garbage to your curb on collection day. The more you do to make your house look "lived in," the less likely a criminal will identify it as a target.
4. Where practical, remove valuables from your home, storing small items in a safety deposit box.
5. Use clock timers to activate lights and radio at intervals. Mount motion-activated lights over dark areas around the outside of the house.
6. Arrange to have your lawn cut or driveway cleared of snow as needed while you are away.
7. Unplug garage door opener and lock the garage.
8. Unplug appliances and electronics to reduce risk of fire and damage from lightning.
9. Get someone you can trust to take responsibility for your home, and instruct him (or her) about the operation of any security system. Provide him with preferred repair companies in the event of damage, and advise him to contact police in the event of a criminal occurrence at the home.
10. Check with your insurance company to be sure you have provided for all its requirements for coverage during your extended absence.



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## Goodwill Committee

By Marina Lloyd



As Chair of the District 15 Goodwill Committee, **Flo Gray** accepted a volunteer position and shaped it into a vocation. Those who, over the past few years, received her visits, calls, cards and gifts, were truly blessed.

Although she has officially retired from the Goodwill Committee, I know that she continues to keep in touch with many RTO/ERO members that she came to

know as friends. She has encouraged me greatly as I assume the position of Chair. **Iona Lobb** (905-877-0767) continues to act as Coordinator for the North. **Warren McBurney** (905-845-8219) is Coordinator for the East and **Peter Gnish** (905-547-1628) looks after the Out-of-Region members. I am very grateful to **Eva Edgeworth**, **Jackie Reed (DeNew)** and **Gloria Simchuk** who have offered to team with me in the West Area. Please contact me at 905-637-6030 if you know of a District 15 RTO/ERO member who would appreciate a call, a card or a visit.

## The Safe Living Guide – A Guide to Home Safety For Seniors

Health Canada has produced an excellent guide to home safety for seniors called The Safe Living Guide. Falls are the main cause of injury, hospitalization and invalidity among Canadian seniors. One half of all injuries occur at home. This revised edition of the Safe Living Guide presents a step-by-step guide to making your home safer and reducing your risk of falls, injury and loss of independence.



It includes articles and checklists on keeping your home safe, keeping yourself healthy and active, keeping track of your medicine, keeping safe with safety aids and by adapting your home.

The document is available in alternative formats upon request. Contact:

Division of Aging and Seniors, Health Canada

Postal Locator: 1908A1

Ottawa, ON K1A 1B4

Telephone: (613) 952-7606

E-mail: [seniors@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:seniors@phac-aspc.gc.ca)

Website: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/seniors-aines](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/seniors-aines)

Visit us on the Internet at [www.halinet.on.ca/district15](http://www.halinet.on.ca/district15)

## Health Services Committee

By Paul Durnan



Please remember that out-of-country/out-of-province is the same thing in many ways. Some aspects are not reciprocal within Canada. World Access in Waterloo knows about world health situations. In the event of an emergency you must phone them within 48 hours (24/7) or they could be much less committed to you. They have language capabilities, an air ambulance service and the ability to direct you overseas to the best hospital. The toll free North America number is 1-800-244-6556. Some other countries have toll free numbers as well. Or you can call collect at 1-519-742-6683. Check out the World Access website at [www.worldaccess.ca](http://www.worldaccess.ca) before you travel.

The Group Benefits Booklet of January, 2005 is a good overview. You should keep it handy. Inside is a separate booklet on travel plans which you should take with you when you travel.

The Ontario Government has a new walking wellness programme to get 55% of Ontarians physically active. You can get further information at [www.active2010.ca](http://www.active2010.ca). I have a quantity of free better quality pedometers (Minder Wandern '31) available to District 15 RTO/ERO members. When they are gone I can order more at a substantially reduced price. If you would like one call me at 905-631-8939. I am happy to be of service as your new District 15 RTO/ERO Health Services and Insurance Representative.

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***February 28 to March 10, 2007***

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### Book of Remembrance

(For the period Feb. 1, 2006 to July 31, 2006)

We remember with fondness:

Bonnie Candow

Phyllis W Cartwright

U Gladys Cook

John S Molesworth

John Phillips

Susan Scrimgeour

Marjorie Simmons

In the April edition of the Halton Herald, John Berriman's name was inadvertently listed in the Book of Remembrance. We sincerely apologize for this error.

## Retirement & Member Services Committee

By Bill Caldwell



This issue comes at the end of another summer when our thoughts turn to fall and winter activities. At this time we welcome many new retirees to District 15 RTO/ERO and look forward to meeting them at our annual **“The Hell With The Bell”** breakfast on September 8, 2006. This event takes place at 9:00 a.m. at the Quality Inn which is located on Bronte Road in Oakville just south of the QEW. If you know some-

one who retired during the past year, remind them of the free breakfast and that they are welcome to bring a retired District 15 RTO/ERO member with them as a guest.

Once again, it is necessary for me to remind members to notify me of address and phone changes as soon as they occur. We have had many Halton Herald newsletters returned as not deliverable. Thanks for your prompt attention to this matter.



## RWTO Burlington Branch

Retired Women Teachers of Ontario  
“Caring, Sharing and Having Fun”

Bi-monthly meetings:  
The Atrium Conference Centre  
5420 North Service Road

Membership Information  
President, Mary Lyons  
(905) 336-5744, mlyons3@cogeco.ca

## Pension Committee

By Jim Baker



The Teachers' Pension Plan has assets of approximately \$ 97 billion. However, the actuarial deficit has increased from \$ 19 billion on Jan 1, 2005 to \$32 billion on January 1, 2006. In an attempt to resolve the problem, active teachers will see their pension contributions increase from 9% - 12%, 1% per year over the next 3 years. The government's contribution will be increased by \$310 million per year. All benefits have been retained, including indexing of pensions for retirees. The issue will be considered again in 2009 with the hope that the pension deficiency will be resolved within 15 years.

## Danielle's Place Needs Your Help!

Provided By Carolyn Mayeur, District 15 RTO/ERO Member

Last year, with the support of District 15 RTO/ERO, Danielle's Place received a \$4000 grant from the Provincial Service to Others Fund. This grant, along with funds from several other sources, helped Carrie get the program for young women with eating disorders off the ground. Since then, Danielle's Place has provided direct help to nearly 350 individuals, and phone and email support to many others. An awareness-prevention program reached nearly 4000 people and brochures were distributed bearing the RTO/ERO logo. But, Carrie states, help is needed right now. "The recent Senate proposal re a 5 cents per drink booze tax towards mental health care funding has many objectives directed at children, seniors, the homeless, but the one that would make us viable is the recommendation that the proceeds from such a tax also go to providing annualized sustainability to peer-support facilities such as ours."

Carrie is worried that, despite her 60 hours of volunteer work a week, and the many volunteer clerical hours a week by others, this valuable service that provides help both for patients and overburdened care-givers will perish. She has asked that RTO/ERO members make a brief call to a federal MP about this proposal since Danielle's Place still has no annualized sources of revenue. If you can help, please do.

You can also help by attending the Harvest of Hope Brunch and Silent Auction at the Burlington Golf & Club, 12:00 noon on October 15th. Contact Carolyn Mayeur at 905-333-5548 for more information.

***"Hope is the fuel of change."***



## Political Action Committee

By Marg Daniels



The Provincial PAC committee was directed by a resolution from the Senate to study the matter of mortgage fraud in Ontario. Interesting points from the draft report include:

- Mortgage fraud is any act that convinces a lender to grant a mortgage that would be rejected if the truth were known.
- One can be victimized with a mortgage on one's property and not be aware of it.

The report will be finalized at the September PAC committee meeting and presented to the October Senate.

The idea of a seniors' card with a picture that could be used to identify you is being pursued. It has been sent from the RTO/ERO Executive to Member Services for study and report. This card could be valuable to members who no longer hold a driver's license.

The PAC committee will be producing a paper on Childcare for the September meeting. The committee is concerned that quality childcare may not be available for our grandchildren.

Bill 36 gave significant powers to the 14 Local Integrated Health Networks (LIHNs) to plan and fund health care services. Each LIHN will be converted from a letters patent corporation to a crown agent. The plans for LIHNs are being developed as integrated health service plans (IHSPs) and should be in place by the fall of 2006. Our district will monitor the IHSPs and the regulations that follow the passing of the bill. The legislation facilitates privatization. Cabinet is expressly given new powers to order wholesale privatization of non-clinical services. There are concerns about contracting out of "non clinical" health services to the private sector without any protection for current workers.

We are continuing to push the issue of pension splitting with the government. There will be a conference on "Pension splitting" in Ottawa on October 3rd. Several seniors groups and Garth Turner MP are organizing it. The president, Arnold Hull advised that at the recent Canadian Association of Retired teachers (CART) AGM, a resolution was passed requesting members to contact their local MP's and the Minister of Finance requesting support for the issue.

(Political Action... continues on Page 26)

Visit us on the Internet at [www.halinet.on.ca/district15](http://www.halinet.on.ca/district15)

(Political Action... continued from Page 25)

The municipal elections will be held in early November and I urge you to be sure to vote. Please be aware of the issues and inform yourself of the platforms of candidates – especially those who are running for School Board. Traditionally, turnout for municipal elections is low and a candidate may be elected by a very small number of voter.

## Recreation Committee

By Dave Wright



The **Hamilton Harbour Cruise** wasn't clear sailing as we experienced a few rain showers, but it was a very relaxing lunch (see pictures below). And, we got a view of Hamilton and Burlington that only the local sailors get to see. Next June 6th we will be cruising up the Grand River. So mark that date on your calendar of things to do.

Between now and then a number of special events and theatre engagements have been lined up that we hope you will attend. In particular, **Brenda Dolling** has invited us to visit her Whole Village just north of Halton on October 12th. That should be one



event you won't want to miss. We have also added two new theatre events, the **Shaw Festival** in November and **Stage West** in February. These will add some variety to our offerings. Check out the Calendar of Events on Pages 16 and 17



for the full list of all offerings planned to next June.

Be sure to call me and the event convenors to register or to receive more information. Some of the activities have deadline dates that are noted in the Calendar of Events. Re-

member, your spouses and friends are more than welcome to join us at any of the events.

Visit us on the Internet at [www.halinet.on.ca/district15](http://www.halinet.on.ca/district15)

## Social Committee

By Lore Mehta



Thank you to everyone who filled out the survey distributed by the Social Committee at the Spring General Meeting. The results indicated that the main topic of interest was for more information on digital photography. Many of the respondents to the survey had attended the presentation last February on that topic and were eager to learn more. The Social Committee is organizing a follow-up to that workshop. The presentation will again take place at our


**Winter Meeting and Luncheon** at the Milton Sports Arena on Valentine's Day. Look for the exact details on the registration form located on Page 13 of this newsletter. It was a highly informative, practical and enjoyable event last time and we look forward to the next one.

Everyone on the Social Committee has been working enthusiastically on making our very first Wellness Conference on November 2th the best experience ever. **"Aging with Pizzazz"** (our theme) promises to be a day filled with a variety of topics of interest, good food and fun. The response has been good and we encourage you to send in your registrations if you have not done so yet. For this year, this conference will replace our Fall General Meeting.

Please remind anyone you know who is about to retire to be sure to sign up for the **"The Hell With The Bell"** breakfast on Thursday, September 7th. New members are invited to bring a guest with them.

## RIDE OUTSIDE

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## Communications Committee

By Peter Gnish



**George MacRae** is now Chair of the Provincial Communications Committee. Although he will remain as the Webmaster for the District 15 website, he asked to be relieved of his role as Chair of the Communication Committee within the District. I am now the new chair.

At the local level we continue to try to provide all members with timely and interesting information. You should be receiving three editions of the Halton Herald – in September, in January (The Halcyon) and in April. If you are being missed please contact me so that the problem can be remedied. As a result of a short article in the April issue related to helping to keep our printing costs down, I heard from 14 members who agreed to receive the three newsletters by email rather than by Canada Post. If you would like to be added to this list please contact me by email. Thanks to those who responded.

In addition to the newsletters, members who submitted their email addresses to **George MacRae** via the website receive regular monthly email letters updating them on current activities. Have you visited the District 15 Website lately? You should – [www.halinet.on.ca/district15](http://www.halinet.on.ca/district15). George keeps the site current with all kinds of interesting tidbits, bulletins and photo displays.

And, don't forget the **Provincial Website**, there is a Members-only section with additional information such as fact sheets related to government benefits, health, financial, insurance, legal, and surviving spouse considerations; tax tips; and regular updates provided to the districts. You can visit the Provincial Website by connecting to our district website and selecting Provincial RTO-ERO from the menu. To enter the members-only portion of the website, you will be asked to enter your RTO/ERO membership number.

### Contribute to the Herald!

The next Halton Herald (Halcyon Edition) will be distributed in early January, 2007. Why not

- Share a line with our readers and let them know what you are up to.
- Be the first to write a Letter to the Editor.
- Write an article on any topic that may interest our retired colleagues.
- Share a funny story with our many readers.

Send your article or correspondence to the editor, Peter Gnish at [pgnish@cogeco.ca](mailto:pgnish@cogeco.ca) or mail to 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton, L8M 2K4, or call me 905-547-1628. The deadline is Nov. 15, 2006.

Visit us on the Internet at [www.halinet.on.ca/district15](http://www.halinet.on.ca/district15)

### Editorial Policy

The Halton Herald Newsletter is a non-partisan newsletter published by RTO/ERO Halton District 15 and is distributed to members and prospective members three times a year. Materials or letters from members, charitable or volunteer organizations that are 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. Your cancelled cheque will be your receipt. Advertisements 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.

### Communications Committee

Peter Gnish (Chair & Editor), George MacRae (Website), Chub Baxter, Marie Campbell, Flo Gray, Eleanor McCulloch, Marilyn MacRae and Ray Smith

This issue of the Herald was printed and supported by **Astra Graphics, Burlington**

At New York's Kennedy airport, an individual later discovered to be a school teacher was arrested trying to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a set square, a slide rule, and a calculator. At a morning press conference, Attorney General John Ashcroft said he believes the man is a member of the notorious Algebra movement. The FBI is charging him with carrying weapons of math instruction.

"Al-gebra is a fearsome cult," Ashcroft said. "They desire average solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on tangents in a search of absolute value. They use secret code names like 'x' and 'y' and refer to themselves as 'unknowns.' But we have determined they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country."

When asked to comment on the arrest, President Bush said, "If God had wanted us to have better weapons of math instruction, He would have given us more fingers and toes."

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## Our Trip to the Orient

By Susan & Colton Roberts



*If you are flexible, in good health, have the ability to walk, (sometimes on uneven surfaces) and possess a sense of adventure we would encourage you to pursue such an opportunity.*

Experiencing China and Mongolia in the way we did seems almost surreal. A short-term ESL experience in China became an opportunity to tour Beijing, to visit Ulaan Bataar, Mongolia and to sightsee and interact with the locals.

Beijing is already gearing up for the 2008 Olympics, and although the site is just in its beginning stages the first-line taxis are all new Hyundai Elantras with a smattering of Buicks.

No tour of Beijing is complete without seeing the Great Wall, built from the 3rd century B.C. until the beginning of the 17th century, the Forbidden City, listed by UNESCO as the largest collection of preserved ancient wooden structures in the world, and the Summer Palace, the archetypal Chinese garden, ranked amongst the most noted and classical gardens of the world. These sights are truly spectacular.

But the best experience was the opportunity to interact with children. I was with our guide who went to collect his son getting out of school and the classes came out singing a Chinese poem. The chance to discuss the school system and a single mother's concerns for her son were other unique experiences.

Everywhere we went in the city, the food was delicious. Our first meal was made up of several dishes served at a round table, shared with a group from the Philippines. To fill or refill our plates with our favourite things we merely turned a huge lazy susan. (The only dish we were not sure about - and didn't have, was the tube-like worms living in an aquarium.) One day we ate a very delicious meal in a tiny back-alley restaurant with an interesting ambience, where we were the main attraction of the day!

Our train trip to Mongolia was postponed from Tuesday until Saturday. What to do? No fear! We took an overnight train to Xi'an to see the Terra Cotta Warriors Museum. What a treat!

(Our Trip to the Orient... continues on Page 31)



Life size terracotta figures of warriors and horses arranged in battle formations from 246 B.C. are the star features at the museum. Each was unique in appearance and dress. We were in awe of what we saw. The site is vast – many buried treasures and sacrificial objects accompanied Emperor

Qin Shi Huang into his after life. Future generations have at least 60 sites to investigate.



Mongolia is a developing nation where most of the people have a difficult time eking out a living from the land. We were overwhelmed by the vastness of the Gobi Desert. Church-based organizations are helping with existing problems by establishing, for example, a Kitchen Garden program to encourage farmers to grow crops to improve their diet. Efforts are also being made to combat alcoholism, a major problem in all parts of the country. I lectured church leaders on possible programs to assist them in dealing with the issues created by alcoholism, drawing on my

Halton Employee Assistance Programme background.

Tours in Mongolia included visits to museums, a monastery and a traditional dwelling, a ‘ger.’ We also attended a church retreat in the countryside outside Ulaan Bataar.



(Our Trip to the Orient... continues on Page 32)

(Our Trip to the Orient... continued from Page 31)

One of the most fascinating experiences was a musical program which featured a variety of musical instruments and allowed us to experience ‘throat-singing’ – a cultural treat.

For an ESL experience, either China or Mongolia would be fascinating, although Ulaan Bataar with its very changeable weather and short summer season would need careful consideration.



We certainly are grateful for this once-in-a-lifetime experience. We had a great time.