



# Halton Herald

RTO/ERO DISTRICT 15  
September 2007

## Retirement Means...

*Celebrating*



Edith Bielby... Page 7

*Committing*



**New Executive: 2007 - 2008**

From left to right: Jim Baker, Chub Baxter, Linda Jones, Cecile Leach, Mary Lyons, Colton Roberts.

*Travelling*



China Tour... Page 2

*Volunteering*



Teaching in China... Page 22



*Experiencing New Cultures!*

# Grand Tour of China 2007

Submitted by Ray and Elaine Smith

On a hot, humid and smoggy June day, eight energetic RTO members and friends landed in Beijing, a bustling, growing and clean city, not unlike any large city in North America. We toured all the major sites: Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace and Ming Tombs. We can all say “I’ve climbed the Great Wall”.



We also explored the Old City - very small houses close together separated by alleyways (Hutongs), only traversable by Rickshaw. A highlight was a typical Chinese dinner prepared by city residents and served in their own home (talk about immersing yourself in the local culture). We also enjoyed the Beijing Opera and a traditional Peking Duck dinner.

Next we were off to X'ian, home of the “Terra Cotta Warriors;” a truly inspiring experience. A royal welcome greeted us at the ancient city gates where we were given keys to the city by the Emperor himself. Shanghai was our next stop, a modern city only 200 years old with many different styles of western architecture. We visited the peaceful Yu Yuan Gardens considered one of China’s finest We ascended the Pearl tower (Shanghai’s version of the CN tower) which gave us a panoramic view of the city. We were also dazzled by



*(Grand Tour of China continues on Page 21...)*

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

# President's Report

By Mary Lyons



I hope everyone had a good summer. Welcome back to what promises to be a great year for District 15 RTO/ERO. I am looking forward to being your President this year and to have the opportunity to work with a talented and dedicated executive. The experience and expertise of these members will be a real asset in our discussions and planning. A special welcome to **Linda Jones** who joins us as our Second Vice – President.

As the new President of District 15, I attended the Provincial RTO/ERO Spring Senate in Toronto with **Colton Roberts** and **Cecile Leach**. What a great opportunity it was to meet the people from the Provincial office who work hard on our behalf, to learn more about our organization and to network with members from other Districts. **The Honourable James K.**

**Bartleman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario**, gave a very inspiring presentation which focused on literacy programs for First Nations communities. At the business meeting, governance was a major issue for discussion especially in the area of the Health Services and Insurance Committee. It was approved “to expand the mandate of the Health Services and Insurance Committee to increase its governance role in order to better reflect the fiduciary responsibilities necessary to manage an \$80 million health plan and protect the interests of RTO/ERO and its members. Under its Terms of Reference, the Committee is now responsible for the oversight of the operation, administration, interpretation and application of the RTO/ERO Health Insurance Benefits Program on behalf of RTO/ERO, including plan design and premiums and it can develop and approve policies and procedures as

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

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

necessary to provide for the governance of the Benefits Program.” By now you have received the Summer edition of **Renaissance**, the RTO/ERO magazine which has a summary of this resolution and the other business discussed at the Spring Senate.

Congratulations to Appleby United Church. Its Global Outreach Committee was presented with a cheque for \$3800 to support a literacy program in Ecuador. This was a grant from the Provincial RTO/ERO based on District 15's **Project Service to Others** application. If you know of an organization that is working on a worthwhile project or activity and would like to submit an application on their behalf, it must be submitted by January 2008. Please contact me for further information if you are interested.

Included with this newsletter is a member survey. By reading the survey, members will get a better understanding of what our organization has to offer. By completing the survey, you will give the Executive direction on how we can best serve your needs. Although there is a hard copy of the survey which can be returned by mail, we are encouraging all who have access to a computer to visit our District Website to complete and submit the survey electronically

Some of our committees have met already to plan activities and programs for this year. You will find the details listed in the Calendar of Events. We would like to encourage your participation and attendance at these events this year. We hope that you will not only participate but that you will take the opportunity to invite others to come with you. It is a great opportunity for fellowship and fun and a chance to reconnect with former colleagues and friends. Besides being published in the newsletter and on our District website, you can expect a call via our Telephone Call System as a reminder of upcoming events. These activities are planned with your interests and needs in mind, so please let us know if you have any ideas for future events. Thank you so much to the members who volunteer their time to plan these programs for the members. If you would like to become more involved with District 15 by serving on one of our committees, please call me and I would be happy to talk to you about your specific interests.

I would like to extend a special welcome to the new members of District 15. I hope many of you were able to attend the **Hell With The Bell Breakfast** and are planning to come out to future programs. Please consider volunteering to serve on a committee. It is a great way to learn about our organization and to have a say in the issues that affect you.

## We Get Letters, Emails & Calls

By Peter Gnish



It's always nice to receive any sort of communication from people one hasn't heard from in a while. That was particularly true for me during the 5 months I was in China. Cecile Leach, the interim editor did not receive much that can be shared with you here. People tell me they love to read about their fellow colleagues especially those they have lost track of. So, help us out - send me your little tidbit and let everyone know what is going on in your life. See Page 9 for the contact details.

• **Don and Eleanor McCulloch** are pleased to have celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 26, 2007. The event was hosted at the Scottish Rite Club of Hamilton in the Round Room. Over sixty family members and good friends attended the festivities which included a reception, dinner, song, dance and tour of the facilities of the Rite.

The entertainment was provided by "B2D" (plus Anne). This is our own group of retirees who often perform at our Annual Spring Meeting/Luncheon. They captivated the guests with their songs, stories, sing-a-longs and fine renditions of "golden oldies." A great time was had by all!!!

### 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, Flo Gray, Cecile Leach, Eleanor McCulloch, Marilyn MacRae, Cate Roberts (Design) and Ray Smith. This issue of the Herald was printed and supported by

**Astra Graphics, Burlington**

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

We now have almost 2000 members. Below are the names of retired teachers who have become members since February, 2007. Give them a warm welcome and invite them to join you in one of our many activities.

Hugh Anderson	Friederike Ballaban	Debra Berry
Kathryn Brink	Katherine Burt	Nancy Capstick
Robert Coverdale	Cathy Cumming	Barbara Eadie
Cathy Fadyshen	Norman Feigen	Susan Fleming
Mary Fraser	Steve Fraser	Joseph Galea
Peter Gardiner	Charles Gera	Ludi Habs
Jennifer Hagglund	Deborah Howard	Carol Hyde
Marilyn Jarrett	Ronald Johnston	Jacqueline Johnstone
Pamela Kavanaugh	Dianne Ketko	Charlene Keuhl
Barbara Lennox	Vita Lescius	Jane Lonergan
Phyllis McGeorge	Edward McGeragle	Edna Morgan
Jennifer Peace	Jane Petrie	Elizabeth Pollard
Robert Pollard	Tim Price	Leon Priede
Maureen Rainey	Cliff Read	Lynda Rodgers
Jacqueline Sullivan	Elizabeth Tamas	Grace Tapics
Elizabeth Taylor	John Turcott	Marilyn Turner
Carole Twiss	Linda Walker	Diane Warren
Mary Waters	Ellenor Winslow	

## Cuba Through Artists'



### *Cuban Art Tour*

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E-Mail: [frances.oflynn@sympatico.ca](mailto:frances.oflynn@sympatico.ca)  
or Call: 905-528-1487(Hamilton)

## Accepting Change With Grace and Humour -

### A Profile of Edith Bielby (submitted by Marina Lloyd, Goodwill Chair)



Gloria Simchuk, a member of the Goodwill Committee, visited Edith Bielby in June and convinced her to share some of her life story with Halton Herald readers. At that time, Edith was preparing to move from her Poplar Drive home into a retirement facility. She didn't have to move unless she chose to. She was in good health but she felt that the time was right. As she said to Gloria, "I want to be involved as to where and when I move. If I wait too long, perhaps others will decide for me. That's not how I want to live my life."

By the middle of July, Edith had settled into a bright, two-room suite at Heritage Place where she has room for much of her own furniture and treasures and plenty of room in her mind for memories. She is enjoying piano concerts, conversations with new friends, exercise classes, delicious meals and a magnificent view of the sky from not one, but two, balconies. She expected to experience a period of mourning her losses as she'd been in her home for close to fifty years, but to her surprise, this new phase of her life has given her a sense of adventure, of beginnings rather than endings. Edith attributes her optimistic nature to her mother who always looked on the bright side of a situation and who often said that one shouldn't tell one's troubles and complaints to others, as other people had enough of their own!

Edith welcomed Gloria with enthusiasm that June day. Her sense of humour, ready wit and zest for living became contagious as she talked about her life and her passions. Edith Lott was born in Wingham, Ontario in 1910, into a large family of "long livers" known for their healthy attitudes to life and for their good genes. After a year at Toronto Normal School, she taught in a small country school near Huntsville. The school looked like a cottage with a verandah. A creek ran close by and one noon hour, the pupils decided to immerse themselves in the creek so they'd be unable to return for classes in the afternoon. But Edith had a collection of costumes for plays and instructed each pupil to select a costume to wear while the wet clothes were drying. The pupils' plans were foiled but the afternoon proved to be a lot of fun.

*(Edith Bielby continues on Page 8 ...)*

*(Edith Bielby continued from Page 7 ...)*

There was only one student in Grade 8 that first year. Edith was pleased for both of them when the girl passed her entrance exams. Many years later, that same girl phoned Edith in Burlington. Good teachers are seldom forgotten.

She met and married **Art Bielby** while teaching in Huntsville. The young couple relocated to Hamilton where Edith also taught school before moving to the house on Poplar Drive in Burlington in 1959. The Burlington teaching years were spent in Grade three classrooms in Lakeshore and Mountain Gardens Public Schools. She retired in 1974 after thirty years of teaching. As well as being a teacher, a wife, a mother, a grandmother of two and a great-grandmother of three adorable young boys, Edith spent many years in the role of caregiver for aging and ill family members.



Edith likes to say that she has had two great loves in her life and they were both spelled Art. She comes by her creativity naturally as both her mother and her sister were artistic. She could “turn her hand” to painting, sketching, sewing, knitting, embroidery, all manner of handiwork. Several of her watercolours of flowers are displayed on the walls of her new home. She studied under Burlington artist **Isobel Page** and attended summer school in Toronto at the OCA, where she was privileged to have had a class with **Arthur Lismer**.

Edith Bielby, you are an inspiration to us all. May you continue in good health in order to enjoy the many adventures that still await you.

## FLORIDA CONDO RENTAL

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**FULLY FURNISHED-TWO BEDROOMS-TWO BATHS**

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**POOL-TENNIS COURTS-RECREATION**

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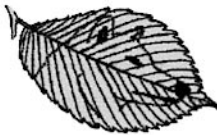
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# Golf Tournament

By Bill Caldwell

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament, followed by a luncheon was held at Hidden Lake on a very warm May 30th day. The number of golfers attending this year was disappointing compared to the first two years. I would ask all participants in that tournament to contact me by phone or e-mail to suggest what might be done to “crank up interest in this tournament” and how we may improve it. Perhaps a return to prizes may be a suggestion worth pursuing. All comments will be passed on to the convenor for next year’s tournament.



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### Contribute to the Herald!

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

- Share a line with our readers and let them know what you are up to.
- Complain or congratulate someone by writing 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 by email: [pgnish@cogeco.ca](mailto:pgnish@cogeco.ca), by mail to 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton L8M 2K4 or call 905-547-1628. The deadline is November 30, 2007.

## Recreation Committee

By Dave Wright



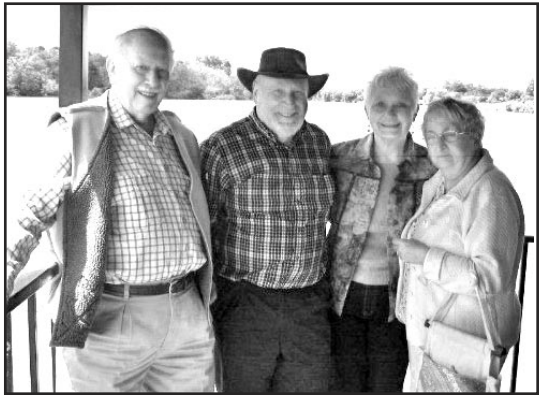
The **Grand River Cruise** was an enjoyable way for 42 District 15 members to get together and learn about the history of the river. The river was an important transportation corridor in that part of Ontario before the railways and roads evolved. After the presentation we were entertained by three lively fiddlers and a piano player that, some said, was worth the price of admission. As we cruised from Caledonia up to Middleport we enjoyed a tasty roast beef lunch. We will look for another waterway to cruise next June.



As always, **Stratford** was a good outing. We saw **Oklahoma** from stage side seats. Rumour has it that the musical next year is "**The Music Man**" so consider joining us for a good time. On June 26th we saw the Burlington Footnotes perform "**Gotta Sing – Gotta Dance**" at the Oakville Theatre. What a great show! That troupe includes five of our members - dancers **Marg Daniels, Mary Hopkins, Judy Sloan, Joan Wilson** and crooner **Butch Rogers**. They are looking forward to seeing many more of us next year.

Check out the Calendar of Events in this issue of the Herald and keep updated through our RTO/ERO Website. Note the sign-up deadlines and call the convenor. Your spouses and friends are always welcome.

And it is essential that you give us your ideas for things to do so we can meet your needs and interests. Note the changes in the breakfasts. Your suggestions for frequency and location are welcome. We can change the suggested plans at any time. Lastly, I would like to



thank you for patronizing our events and special thanks to **Paul Durnan** and **Janet Carter-Wright** for their help.

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

## Communication Committee

By Peter Gnish



Let me begin by giving **Cecile Leach** a huge “Thank You” for taking on the task of producing the April issue of The Herald while I was in China. She did a superb job particularly since she had a relatively short timeline and a very sharp learning curve. **George MacRae** is representing us admirably at the provincial level as Chair of the Provincial RTO/ERO Communications Committee. At the local level he manages the

District 15 website and updates it on a regular basis. If you haven’t visited it in some time, you should. There is lots that is new and of interest on the site.

George has also been instrumental in putting together the District 15 Membership Survey that is included in this mailing. Other members of the committee who worked on this document were **Cecile Leach, Mary Lyons, Marina Lloyd** and **Colton Roberts**. The group has been working on the survey for several months. They hope to present the results to the Board by early 2008. In order to facilitate the processing of results the committee would appreciate having members who have access to a computer completing the survey online on the District 15 RTO/ERO website – [www.halinet.on.ca/district15](http://www.halinet.on.ca/district15).

Now that I am back, I am looking forward to receiving all kinds of information from you about yourself, your family, what you have been up to, your comments on the newsletter, any gripes or kudos you want to give about anything, pictures, funny stories or other interesting articles. The Herald would love to run stories about your early teaching experiences – make us laugh, make us cry, help us remember those “good old times.” Call me at 905-547-1628, or email me at [pgnish@cogeco.ca](mailto:pgnish@cogeco.ca) or send me a letter by Canada Post to 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton, ON L8M 2K4. I look forward to hearing from you.

### Hard of Hearing

Morris, an 82 year old man, went to the doctor to get a physical. A few days later the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young lady on his arm. A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, “You’re really doing great, aren’t you?” Morris replied, “Just doing what you said, Doctor, ‘Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.’” The doctor said, “I didn’t say that. I said, you got a heart murmur and be careful.”

**Calendar of Events - September 2007 to January 2008**

- Oct 10 Shaw Festival - Niagara-on-the-Lake  
**“Mack and Mabel”** - 2:00 p.m. Cost: \$37.00  
Contact Janet Carter-Wright 905-336-5328 or  
email [jcwright@on.aibn.com](mailto:jcwright@on.aibn.com) by September 7.
- Oct 17 Tour/Walk and Lunch at the new Burlington Waterfront  
10:00 a.m. Contact Dave Wright by September 15.
- Oct 20 Dinner Theatre - Aldershot Players,  
West Plains United Church, Burlington  
**“Love, Sex and the IRS”** - Dinner 6:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$30 - Contact Dave Wright by September 1.
- Oct 25 Breakfast at the El Spero Restaurant,  
Hopedale Mall, Oakville - 9:00 a.m.  
Contact Paul Durnan 905-631-8939.
- Nov 1 Fall General Meeting and Dinner - 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$10  
St. Paul’s Parish Hall, 2265 Headon Rd., Burlington  
Topic: Planning for the Future,  
Dealing with the Special Needs of Aging Family Members  
See the enclosed Flyer and Registration Form
- Nov 29 Breakfast at Johnathan’s Family Restaurant,  
4121 Fairview Street, Burlington - 9:00 a.m.  
Contact Paul Durnan 905-631-8939.
- Jan 18 Oakville Centre For The Performing Arts, Navy Street  
**“Charley’s Aunt”** - 8:00 p.m. Cost: \$22.00  
Contact Dave Wright by October 3.
- Jan 30 Stage West Dinner Theatre,  
Dixie Road and Matheson Blvd, Mississauga  
**“70’s Fever, Musical Revue”** - 11:00 a.m. Cost: \$47.00  
Contact Dave Wright by October 19.

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

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

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

**Calendar of Events – February to June 2008**

- Feb 19 Winter Luncheon Meeting, 11:30 a.m - 2:30 p.m. Cost: \$10  
Milton Sports Arena, Derry Road and Highway # 25  
Speaker: **Janet Matthews**, Author of **“Chicken Soup for the Canadian Soul”**
- Feb 28 Breakfast at The Fifth Wheel, Milton - 9:00 a.m.  
Contact Paul Durnan 905-631-8939.
- Mar 27 Breakfast, Burlington, location to be announced - 9:00 a.m.  
Contact Paul Durnan 905-631-8939.
- Apr 3 St. Jacob’s Farmers’ Market, St. Jacob’s  
Contact Dave Wright by March 27.
- Apr 12 Dinner Theatre - Aldershot Players, West Plains U.C.  
**“Office Hours”** - Dinner 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$30  
Contact Dave Wright by February 1.
- Apr 24 Breakfast, Oakville, location to be announced - 9:00 a.m.  
Contact Paul Durnan 905-631-8939.
- May 7 Annual General Meeting and Luncheon  
Burlington Convention Centre - details in January Herald.
- May 9 Drury Lane Theatre - 2269 New Street, Burlington  
**“Nonsense”** - 8:00 p.m. Cost: \$24  
Contact Dave Wright by February 28.
- May TBA 6th Annual Golf Tournament - Check the District 15  
Website and the January issue of the Herald for details.
- May TBA Stratford Musical - Matinee. Check the website for details.  
Contact Dave Wright by December 1.
- June TBA Outdoor Excursion/Cruise - Check the District 15  
Website and the January issue of the Herald for details.
- June TBA Oakville Centre For The Performing Arts, Navy Street  
**“Gotta Sing - Gotta Dance”** -  
Contact the Theatre at 905-815-2021 or 1-888-489-7784  
or Contact Dave Wright by April 25.

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

**RTO/ERO District 15 Contact List****Executive 2007 – 2008**

Past President	Colton Roberts	905-335-0027
President	Mary Lyons	905-336-5744
1st Vice President	Cecile Leach	905-634-8027
2nd Vice President	Linda Jones	905-336-5785
Secretary	Janet Carter-Wright	905-336-5328
Treasurer	Chub Baxter	905-643-3732

**Committees**

Archives	Judy Sloan	905-336-5538
Book of Remembrance	Marina Lloyd	905-637-6030
Communications Chair	Peter Gnish	905-547-1628
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
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	Irene Chalupka	905-637-0887
Volunteer Management	TBA	

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

## Political Action Committee

By Marg Daniels



Members are reminded that there is a provincial election coming up on October 10, 2007. Later this summer I will be receiving a memo from the Provincial office with a sample list of "Election Questions" that can be used when meeting with your local candidates. If you would like a copy of those questions please contact me at [margdaniels@sympatico.ca](mailto:margdaniels@sympatico.ca).

There was a political action insert in the summer issue of Renaissance that covered issues that the Provincial Political Action Committee has addressed this year. The topics covered include Health Care; Current Value Assessment; Sustaining Seniors' Independence and Safety; the Environment; Education; Long Term Care and Home Care; and Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs). Extra copies for sharing with non-members in the community, as well as with election candidates are available by contacting Brigitte Boily, Administrative Assistant, Communications 1-800-361-9888 ex 231 or [bboily@rto-ero.org](mailto:bboily@rto-ero.org).

The Fall edition of Renaissance will include a similar political action insert encouraging members to participate in the provincial election and vote. As well, a detailed explanation of the proposal suggested by the Citizen's Committee on electoral reform to change the way members are elected to Provincial Parliament in future elections will be included in this insert. As this is a complicated issue members are urged to read the explanation carefully.

REMEMBER TO VOTE



### 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, Bev Pickard  
(905) 659-1096, [bevrn484@aol.com](mailto:bevrn484@aol.com)

## Health Services Committee



The Health Care Representative Conference was held in Toronto recently. We learned that Johnson Inc. will be providing each member of the plan a new RTO/ERO Group Benefits Program booklet for February 2008. I am convinced that our Health Services Committee is listening to the input from retired teachers and communicating with Johnson Inc.

Please be aware that you can phone World Access prior to going overseas (pre-trip assistance) to get information on currency, visas, shots and Department of External Affairs warnings or Travel Advisories for certain countries. Trip cancellation and trip interruption insurance information is in the book. These have worked well for some Halton retired teachers. I believe we have a very good contract. For this kind of travel insurance alone some people are paying more in other places. Please keep proof of out-of-country travel for each person (i.e. airplane tickets). Only a very few people request benefit entitlement review (a formal review). The new benefit entitlement review has replaced the former claims appeal for claims processed by Johnson Inc. on or after April 12, 2007.

If you retire from teaching and are covered by your spouse's slate of group benefits then decide you both want to join the RTO/ERO Johnson Inc. plan, you have 60 days to do so. If this is not done within the 60 days you will have to pass a medical test and, traditionally, 50% of people do not pass. Please deal with this in a timely fashion. If you retire from teaching to other full or part-time work, your Johnson benefits will continue. It is possible to coordinate two sets of benefits. If you have any questions or comments please phone me at 905-631-8939.

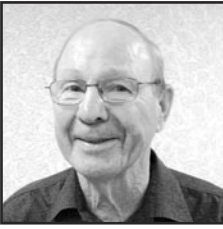
**Two patients limp into two different Canadian medical clinics with the same complaint. Both have trouble walking and appear to require a hip replacement. The first patient is examined within the hour, is x-rayed the same day and has a time booked for surgery the following week. The second sees his family doctor after waiting a week for an appointment, then waits 18 weeks to see a specialist, then gets an x-ray, which isn't reviewed for another month and finally has his surgery scheduled for a year from then.**

**Why the different treatment for the two patients? The first is a Golden Retriever; the second is a Senior Citizen.**



# Pension Committee

By Jim Baker



## Teacher Scholarships

These scholarships are intended to encourage and provide financial assistance to applicants who are pursuing full or part-time careers in teaching from an accredited teacher training facility. Ten scholarships are awarded annually each having a value \$1,000.

### Eligibility

- (i) A resident Canadian Citizen or a landed immigrant.
- (ii) A child, grand-child, niece, nephew, grandniece, grandnephew, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or step-child of an RTO/ERO member.

### Application

Eligible students must complete and forward all pages of the application form by the close of business on July 16, 2008. Contact Provincial RTO/ERO for an application or download a form from the Provincial Website.

### Pension Fund Deficit

Because of the Spring Triennial review, the valuation places the deficit at \$6.5 billion, not the \$32 billion previously estimated. The deficit has been substantially reduced because of the estimated increase of 1/2 % on investments over the next three years and an increase in both active teacher and government contributions.

### Pension Splitting for Seniors

Commencing 2007, pensioners over 65 are able to split income with their spouse. Couples will be able to transfer some of the highly taxed income of higher earners to the lower earning spouse, smoothing the household income and lowering the tax bite. Similarly, income derived from R.R.I.F's will be eligible for splitting with a spouse.



## Book of Remembrance

(For the period Feb. 1, 2007 to July 31, 2007)

We remember with fondness

Audrey Barnett	John Bigham	Mae Broadbent
Joan Galea	Aileen Gordon	June Holland
Shirley Holt	Sylvia Howe	Geraldine Hughes
Carl Leblanc	Verna MacLeod	Alan McBurney
Mary Marsh	Vincent Patrick	Alma Wicks

## Social Committee

By Colton Roberts



Your Social Committee has plans well under way for 2007-2008. While we are still seeking a chair, the committee has undertaken to find interesting speakers and topics relevant to our needs and interests. As you read this, the **To Hell With The Bell Breakfast** will have taken place. We welcome new members and trust that they will enjoy and participate in the many activities planned for our members.

The **Fall Meeting** has been planned to meet the immediate needs of those of us in the “Sandwich” situation, especially those who are contemplating future direction with an older parent, spouse or significant other who needs care. One member said that they wished this had been offered earlier to assist in exploring options for a family member needing special assistance. In addition, this workshop can help us to become informed about dealing with our own potential future needs. The member of CCAC will indicate the options available through the social system. A representative from Johnson Insurance will explain the long-term care insurance available through the RTO/ERO Insurance Plan. Hope to see you on Nov. 1st for this informative session. See the extra insert in this mailing for further details and a registration form to attend.

The **Winter Meeting** will feature an excellent speaker, **Janet Matthews**, author of **“Chicken Soup for the Canadian Soul”**. Janet is much sought for speaking engagements because of her keen wit and writing background. The meeting is planned for February 19th at the Milton Sport Centre. This will be a luncheon meeting beginning at 11:30 a.m. extending into the afternoon. Janet will make her Chicken Soup book available for sale for those interested. More information on this session will be provided in the January issue of this newsletter.

Plans are afoot for the **Annual General Meeting** in May. We expect this to be at the Burlington Convention Centre on Wednesday, May 7th. Please watch this space for further details.

Should you have any suggestions for possible topics or wish to join the committee, please do not hesitate to contact me. This is a great committee of which to be a part and your input is essential to make the programs effective.

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

## Archives Committee

By Judy Sloan



Hello again to all of our RTO/ERO District 15 members. Hope that you had a relaxing summer and are now energized enough to resume the various activities that you are involved with throughout the coming year. I am also hoping that the newspaper articles and photos will start coming in to me again. I have only had two items to add to our scrapbook since our last Halton Herald publication.

I received a fascinating article and two photos from member **Libby Baird** who was a Phys. Ed teacher at M.M. Robinson High School in Burlington for 30 plus years. Libby spends the winter on Sanibel Island in Florida and is known down there as “Miss Libby, the Bird Lady”. Libby is a volunteer at Periwinkle Park where she is a “treat and cuddle” person for the parrots there. She also gives a free one hour educational Parrot Show every morning at the park. During the show Libby teaches the audience how to hold the parrots and invites the people to do so if they wish. One of the photos that Libby sent to me shows her with Sonny and Cher perched affectionately on each of her shoulders. These cute parrots are from South America. In her other photo Rico, who comes from Australia and is the best talker in the group, is relaxing happily on her hand. Eighteen years ago Libby had never thought much about birds and today she has a deep understanding of them and has become their special buddy and advocate. What a wonderful and rewarding way to spend your retirement “Miss Libby”!

This past June the SignPost vacation page of the Burlington Post featured a photo of our member Judy Sloan (okay me!) and her husband Ken on a hilltop overlooking Florence, the city of statues in Italy. Ken and Judy went on a tour of ten countries in Europe beginning in London, England and ending in Paris, France. It was a very memorable experience and they have nine DVDs that they took to prove it!

That's all for now and PLEASE keep those newspaper articles and photos coming to me at 1446 Brenner Court, Burlington ON L7P 2Z2. You may also contact me by email at judymsloan@yahoo.ca or by phone at 905-336-5538.

**A man was telling his neighbor, “I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect.”**

**“Really,” answered the neighbor. “What kind is it?”**

**“Twelve thirty.”**

## Recruitment & Member Services Committee

By Bill Caldwell



At the time of issue of this Herald we will be approaching the end of summer and moving toward a fall season. Our **Hell With The Bell Breakfast** will be held on Sept 6 at which time we will welcome new retirees, who hopefully will join RTO/ERO District 15.

I have advised your Executive that I will be relinquishing my duties as Chair of Membership Services effective May 2008. Members interested in taking on this role may contact the new President, Mary Lyons.

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## Let's Vote For Rather than Against (A Personal Opinion)

Excerpts From an Article By Donna Reid, Member of Provincial PAC

I am tired of negative politics, votes given to political parties out of frustration and watching my friends decide their vote by who they don't want to win an election. It doesn't take a majority vote to win an election in Ontario. Most governments have been formed with less than 50% of the popular vote.

Ontario needs electoral reform to revitalize voter interest and to elect governments that represent the voters' wishes. The Citizens' Assembly, set up by Premier Dalton McGuinty, recommends that Ontario adopt a new system of a Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) that allows voter choice, fair election results and strong local representation. Voters will have two votes on the ballot. One is to select your constituency choice and the other is for the party of your choice. This allows you to vote for the person you feel best represents your interests locally as well as a second vote for the party of your choice even if the two votes represent differing parties. Voter choice means the end of strategic voting to keep out a party and the beginning of voters using a positive approach to the selection of their preferred candidates.

Elections will be fairer and will represent the wishes of the voters. The party votes will determine the proportionality of each political party in the legislature. Politicians will need to work together. Governments will be forced to negotiate to address Ontario's political issues and find solutions that many MPP's of various stripes can support. Find out more about MMP at the following addresses [www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca](http://www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca) or [www.yourbigdecision.ca](http://www.yourbigdecision.ca). It just might make a world of difference.

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*(Grand Tour of China continued from Page 2...)*

an amazing evening performance by Chinese acrobats.



Near Shanghai we toured Tongli, a small town with lots of bridges, narrow streets, teahouses and intriguing shops. Then on to another gem, Suzhou, known as the Oriental Venice, with beautiful gardens. We were entertained with folk songs, dancing and acting and a demonstration of the ancient Chinese art of embroidery.

In Yichang we boarded a river boat for a 4 day cruise up the Yangtze River. Breathtaking views greeted us every day as we passed through five different Gorges along the river and its tributaries. Disembarking at Chongqing we visited the Dazu Rock carvings completed around 650 AD which included 50,000 Buddhist, Taoist and Confucian rock carvings. One of nature's highlights occurred when we visited the Chongqing Zoo and 'ooed and awed' at the Panda Bears including an eight month old baby.



Next we flew to Guilin, a city which is encircled by over 3000 limestone hills and mountains with unusual and bizarre rock formations and caves. A cruise down the Li River brought us to Yangshuo, a small city with many interesting shops. Before leaving this picturesque city we visited a typical Chinese Tea Farm and took part in a formal Chinese Tea Ceremony.

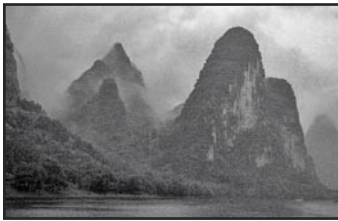
We concluded our 20 day tour with 2 days in Hong Kong, a city with a breathtaking cityscape. Our last night included an evening harbour cruise aboard a Chinese Junk where we enjoyed a laser show using the skyscrapers as backdrops. Overall, the cities of China were very clean with lots of construction everywhere. So much so, that the local joke in China is that the national bird of China is 'the crane'. The people were warm, friendly, courteous and very helpful. All of our guides and bus drivers were fabulous. I would caution anyone travelling to China to leave their driver's license at home as they are all crazy drivers who do not believe in the rules of the road. It was a great trip which we would all highly recommend.

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# Teaching in China: A Superb Way to Experience a New Culture Hal-

By Cate Gnish Roberts

*Sixty-three high school students in each classroom, laughing, cheering, clapping as they engage in hands-on English classes. Twenty-five women gathered around interested in seeing what 'the foreigners' were about to buy from the market – all willing to offer help and advice when we seemed perplexed. Sending e-mails home describing the latest food that we'd been treated to by other teachers, friends, in homes and restaurants. Talking on the telephone arranging local outings with new friends whose response to our many thank you's was always, "It is my pleasure – you are our guests." Walking at night through our small town of just under one million – to stroll amongst others gathered in public places where grandparents lovingly play with children, or wandering down to see the lights on the bridge across the Yangtze. Communicating with others with a dictionary, our Point-It picture book, the little Chinese we know and sign language. Planning a two week excursion then a month long tour of China that would take us from the east to the west in our cosy, three room dorm apartment and being interrupted by a call from the kitchen telling us that our meal was ready or a knock on the door from students anxious to practise their English. Repeating Chinese after our mentor, Mr. Liu, a teacher and Cultural Revolution survivor. Preparing lessons for teachers eager to learn new techniques and learn about different pedagogical methods.*



These are some of the vivid memories I have of five months spent in China. My husband Peter and I thrived as volunteer English Language teachers in Jingjiang City, Jiangsu Province - two hours from Shanghai. I was at the prestigious Jingjiang High School and Peter, 37 years out of the classroom, was in the elementary Foreign Language School. Both are modern complexes, with all the amenities needed to house 7,000 students! We had western schedules – easy compared to the 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. ones worked by Chinese teachers.

To acclimatise to our new culture, we celebrated the Chinese New Year for three weeks in February on the southern island of Hainan. To celebrate the end of our teaching stint, we spent a month seeing the tourist hot spots all the way to Tibet and back. And everywhere we went, we celebrated the friendliness, affability, warmth and generosity of the Chinese people – many who will



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remain friends for life! China is a great country with fabulous scenery, wonderful food, marvellous arts and culture, welcoming people and a very positive attitude to the future. It is moving quickly into the 21st century and changes are coming at a fast pace. We would heartily recommend a visit to China and would love to go back ourselves. We miss it already. We hope our pictures let you share some of our feelings.





Explore China

