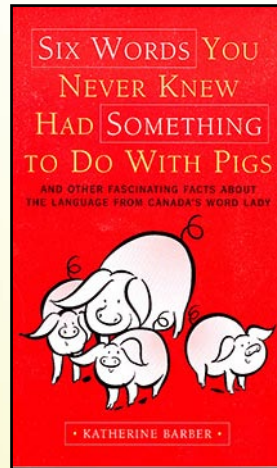


At the Annual General Meeting: May 7, 2008

“Canada’s Word Lady”

Our Speaker, Katherine Barber
On Her Latest Book ...

and
Some
Attendees



Leslie Renfrew



Marina Lloyd & Gloria Simchuk



Herma Bailey & Betty Stubbs



Executive Members 2008-09

L to R: Jim Baker (Pension); Janet Carter-Wright (Sec.); Cecile Leach (Pres.);
Linda Jones (1st VP); Mary Lyons (Past Pres.); Chub Baxter (Treasurer)



Halton Herald

RTO/ERO DISTRICT 15
September 2008

"Working Together for a Better Retirement"



THE RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO
LES ENSEIGNANTES ET ENSEIGNANTS
RETRAITÉS DE L'ONTARIO

Together for ...



New Retirees - see P 27

Fun and Adventure - see P 10



New Learning - see P 28



Information and Friendship - see P 28

Nonogenarians & Centenarians

...On the Go!



Lillian McLean - see the article P 9



Congratulations to Halton's Two Original Founding RTO/ERO Members

RTO/ERO since 1968...

Lelia Lindsay (pictured)

and

Alice Walmer



Lelia Lindsay - see the article P 7

Wine and Cheese - April 10, 2008



Retirement Workshop - April 24, 2008



(Archives Committee... continued from Page 21)

The last two items in the scrapbook are photos from the Summer 2008 edition of Burlington's *City Talk*. In late spring, the Burlington District RWTO and the Halton Fire Fighters together held a Pretty In Pink Fashion Show Fundraiser. Funds were raised for Breast Cancer Support Services. In one photo, **Joan Wilson** is shown gracefully modeling a stylish outfit. In the other photo, **Bonnie Johnstone** is shown entertaining the audience by doing a tap dance "upside down." Both of these talented women are members of our Halton District 15 as well as the Burlington Footnotes. You are to be commended ladies along with the RWTO members and our handsome Fire Fighters for giving of your time to support such a worthy cause.

That's all for now BUT PLEASE keep those newspaper articles and photos coming to me! Remember if you are not sure if someone is a member, send the item to me anyway at 1446 Brenner Court, Burlington Ont. L7P 2Z2. I will check it out. You can contact me by email at judymsloan@yahoo.ca or by phone at 905-336-5538.

Health Briefs

From CanWest News Service

- *Good social network thwarts dementia in elderly.* Socializing with friends and family improves cognition and possibly prevents dementia, according to a five-year study that tracked 2,200 elderly women, all initially dementia-free. Of the 456 with low "socialnetwork" scores, 18 per cent developed dementia over the study. Of the 1,793 women with stronger social networks, 10 per cent developed dementia.
- *Memory loss in seniors linked to diet.* Dwindling memory in seniors is associated with a high saturated fat and cholesterol diet, according to a University of South Carolina study. As humans age, memory might be preserved, and brain functions improved by restricting the consumption of cholesterol and saturated fats, researchers say.
- *Vitamin D prolongs colon cancer survival.* Patients diagnosed with colon cancer but with high vitamin D levels were less likely to die than those deficient in the vitamin, according to a joint Harvard and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute study in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. Previous research had shown that higher levels of vitamin D reduce the risk for colon and rectal cancer by about 50 per cent, but its effect on outcomes wasn't known until this study.

Visit us on the Internet at www.halinet.on.ca/district15

President's Report

By Cecile Leach



Welcome back! I hope everyone had a marvelous summer! This is my first report as your new President. I look forward to working with a superlative executive this year.

Linda Jones, Mary Lyons and I represented District 15 at the Spring Senate in May. It was a great opportunity to meet the people from the provincial office who work on our behalf and also to renew friendships made last year.

Our guest speaker was **Brian Thwaite** who talked about "The Brain." I was intrigued, and as he continued I felt more and more at ease. He spoke about the top 10 things people forget - names (83%), where we put things (60%), a phone number just checked (57%), faces (42%), directions we've just been given (41%), what we just started to do (41%) and I forget the rest. Am I making you feel better?

At the business meeting, a motion was put forth that a chart re: Membership, Rights and Privileges be added to the provincial constitution. This I will share with you as soon as I receive it. The meeting also focused on our 40th anniversary. The tribute to **Bob Lamb**, one of the founders of RTO/ERO who had written a history of the organisation, was very moving. Did you know that two of the original founders are here in Halton - **Lelia Lindsay** and **Alice E. Walmer**? Lelia was contacted by our Goodwill Committee and is highlighted in this newsletter.

We were just informed that First Vice-President Clarice West-Hobbs has tendered her resignation from the Provincial Executive, effective July 1st, 2008.

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

New members will be honoured at our September **"To Hell With the Bell"** breakfast. I am looking forward to this event as I missed mine when I retired. Then, **Linda Jones** and I will be attending a President's Workshop in Toronto to assist new presidents to understand their duties in the District.

Our Recreation and our Program Committees have been hard at work preparing activities for you for the coming year - listed in our Calendar of Events on Pages 14 & 15. We encourage your participation and attendance at these events. We have read the surveys from last year and have attempted to bring some of your ideas to fruition - a great opportunity for friendship and fun and a chance to reconnect with some former colleagues.

Welcome New RTO/ERO District 15 Members!!!

District 15 membership is now nearing 2100 strong. Below are the names of retired teachers who have become members since April 2008. Give them a warm welcome and invite them to join you in one of our many activities.

Gwyneth Austin	Carol Anne Carr	Patricia Blake
Rick Boychuk	Nancy Brunelle	James Cavasin
Susan Clarke	Hendrika Cheah	Nancy Cook
Domenico Corsini	Paul Cowan	Anne Curran
Marie Dennis	Mary Lou Denny	Raymond Denny
Margaret Faherty	Linda Frey	Patricia Gordan
Jane Gould	Joan Holenstein	John Hanrahan
Ann Hier	Joan Harding	Pranial Joshi
Bruce Keays	Murray Kilby	Raymond Kulig
Rosina Laughlin	Eleanor Lawrence	Andrew Lee
Olena Lisecky	Christina Lo Presti	Jennifer Lobo
William Lofts	Ann Logan	Michael MacNeil
Donna Maslanyk	Lois McNally	Brian Melton
Linda Melton	Mary Jean Monte	Janice Murdoch
Theresa Naccarato	Susan Nicholson	James Noble
Sandra Oram	Patricia Page	Joan Pallet
Kay Peak	Joanna Psarska	Michelle Quinn
Richard Redshaw	Sharon Riutta	Nancy Rogers
Paul Rozon	Marie Schaefer	Gayle Skrien
Muriel Smith	Joan Spares	Jane Stephens
Barbara Stevenson	Noreen Taylor	Suzanne Theriault
Diane Titford	Dave Tomlinson	Wilfried Tschofen
Beverly Turner	Dean Watson	Mark Wickens
Patricia Wilson	Marion Wilson-Lindars	Karen Woodruff
	Elizabeth Young	

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ESL Cuba Volunteer

An inspirational and rewarding experience for retired educators!

Established in 2005, this three-week program is for Canadians who want to help Cuban youth learn English. Enrollment is limited to 15 teachers per session and happens only twice a year in November and February.

Week One is an unprecedented orientation tour of Havana and environs. You'll witness history, architecture, nature, music and dance and become familiar with Cuba's unique educational, social and political culture.

Weeks Two and Three consist of classroom teaching. In the mornings you'll help University of Havana foreign language students learn conversational and technical English, pronunciation and grammar.

In the afternoons you'll teach primary students beginner level English at a remarkable community-run neighborhood school in Havana.

The program is coordinated by Cuba Education Tours of Vancouver BC. Call 1-877-687-3817 toll free.

For dates, itinerary, photos, testimonials, costs see

CubaVolunteer.com

Visit us on the Internet at www.halinet.on.ca/district15

Social Committee

By Colton Roberts



The committee is recommending to the Constitution Committee that the name of the committee be changed to **Program**, from **Social** Committee. The rationale for the suggested change is that the name is more descriptive of what the committee does. While there is a social aspect to the committee's plans, it arranges the AGM, membership events and is often confused with the Recreation Committee by new members. The Social Committee plans events, usually within Halton and most often involving a meal. The committee continues to work to provide interesting events for the membership of RTO/ERO Halton District 15.

The **Fall Event** will be at the Burlington Seniors' Centre and will provide members with an opportunity to explore programs that are offered to our members by several of the seniors' centres in Halton. This meeting will be timely in that the Winter programs will not have started, so if you find something of interest there will be an opportunity to sign up early. Come out, enjoy the fellowship and explore this little-known resource designed to meet the interests of retired people in the various parts of Halton.

Our **Winter Meeting** will take place at the Milton Sports Centre on Tuesday, Feb. 17th. You will not want to miss the presentation of **Robert Knuckle**, award-winning author and **Carl MacLeod** who will provide a unique insight into the life of an undercover RCMP. There will also be an opportunity to purchase their acclaimed book, *Master of Deception*, about Mr. MacLeod's interesting experiences dealing with criminals in high-profile cases in his role as an undercover agent for the Mounties.

Please note that the date of the **AGM** in May has had to be moved to Tuesday, May 5th, 2009. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. We know that you will want to be aware of the date change well in advance.

Lastly, we are excited to be planning another **Wellness Day** for November, 2009. We invite your input for topics and would encourage you to participate in the planning committee to be headed up by **Jan Moxey**, one of our newer committee members. If you have suggestions or would like to join the committee, please contact me. Our first meeting will be in September, 2008. This is a very busy committee but a most rewarding experience.

Visit us on the Internet at www.halinet.on.ca/district15

We Get Letters, Emails & Calls

By Peter Gnish



It's always a pleasure to hear from our retired colleagues whether by phone, letter or email. Thanks to the three District 15 members who contacted me this past session and for the interesting pictures and details they submitted. How about you! Isn't it time you dropped me a line or gave me a telephone call with an update so that we can let your friends and former colleagues know how and what you are doing?

Rena Ghose sent a card that included pictures of how she survived the winter. She wrote, "I thoroughly enjoy reading the Halton Herald. April's edition was most interesting, especially the photographs." She intended to send in some of hers for that contest but got so busy they never got sent. "I thoroughly enjoyed this snowy winter," she said, "and I do love shovelling. I take my time to enjoy the beauty of snow and also get in some exercise." Rena went on to say that her garden is now "resplendent with brilliant yellow daffodils, pink, yellow and purple fragrant hyacinths and red tulips."

Jack Leadbeater sent a letter that summarized what he has been doing since he retired 30 years ago. Many of you will remember Jack as an elementary school teacher, Vice-Principal and Principal most recently in Glenview and Tecumseh Public Schools. He included this picture in uniform taken in the summer of 1941. What a great portrait! Here is an excerpt of what Jack wrote:



"Following six years in the RCAF during World War Two I had to decide what I was going to do with the rest of my life. I decided to become a teacher, a decision I never regretted. While a teacher, I was able to enjoy my love of flying. I joined a glider club and learned to fly gliders and then became an instructor. When I retired I did volunteering for the Red Cross and the Childrens' Aid...served on the Board of Directors for Carrie House under the excellent leadership of Len Kay, (became) a driving instructor and taught driver education in several schools in the area.

Because of my involvement in gliders, I was asked by the Air Cadets to train their glider pilots to become instructors. I did this for many years both as

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

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

an instructor and tow pilot (and) continued to fly for the Air Cadets until I was 80 years of age. This past February my pilot's medical expired and at 89 years of age I decided not to renew it. Over the years **Don Sawell** and I owned 12 different planes and enjoyed flying to distant airports including Florida a few times.

This June, Joan and I (celebrated) 66 happy years of marriage. We have three children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. I am a very lucky person as I have enjoyed a long and healthy life."

Ann Marie Nickerson called to say that her husband had retired and they were moving from Oakville to a brand new custom built bungalow in St. Catharines. They used to live in St. Catharines and still have many friends there. The pace is slower there and they will be closer to their daughter who lives in Hamilton. However, she promises that they will still return to Halton on special occasions and to visit friends.

Cuba: mysterious, passionate, rhythmic, vivid, soft white beaches, mojitos, salsa, safe, welcoming, modern/ancient, gentle turquoise sea...

**Find your own description, join us...
www.cuba1tours.com**

**Art & Culture Tour
March 18 to 28, 2009**

**Garden & Hort Tour
December 5 to 19, 2008; January 9 to 23, 2009**

Retirees: The Whole Truth, Nothing But...

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

Answer: The term comes with a 10% percent discount.

(Lillian... continued from Page 22)

Lillian has two great-grandsons. Each member of her family is so precious to her - and all are so good to her. She is also grateful for her faith community at East Plains United Church where she taught Sunday School, was instrumental in beginning the very successful Artisans' Show which continues to this day, initiated a Senior Bible Class and began the marathon bridge group. She confesses to being a bridge addict which partly explains why her mind is so keen. Watching Jeopardy and American and Canadian political programs on television must also contribute to furnishing that active mind. Her curiosity about the wider world led to several memorable trips - to Europe where Rome's Vatican museum enthralled her and to Israel where biblical history came to life. It is her openness to considering new knowledge and new ideas that impressed me greatly. She belongs to a Seekers Group at East Plains. The members of this group strive to acquaint themselves with modern biblical scholarship, struggle with important life questions and, where answers to the questions cannot be found, celebrate the mysteries. Authors she finds helpful as she reflects upon issues of faith include John Shelby Spong, Karen Armstrong and Marcus Borg.

She has been known to be too honest.

When I asked Lillian about the quality she prized most highly in others and herself, she immediately answered, "Honesty". She has been known to be too honest, if that's possible. Bill would often say to her, "Lillian, did you have to say that?" and she was warned by her father, "Your tongue will hang you one day." But, isn't it refreshing to meet someone who has the courage to say what she thinks? In the photo On Page 2, which accompanies Lillian's story and which was taken on the occasion of her 90th birthday, you can see, in that smile, a zest for life, a vibrancy which has not diminished over the years. Just another quality of spirit that each of us can learn FROM Lillian McLean.

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work.

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, 'I'm drawing God.'

The teacher paused and said, 'But no one knows what God looks like.'

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied,

'They will in a minute.'

(Lillian... continued from Page 9)

For her labours that first year, she earned the princely sum of \$400. She received a raise the following year and her salary stayed at \$425 until September of 1939 when she moved to Waterdown Public School to teach Grades Three and Four where ‘baby’ sister Ann was one of her pupils. While we’re on the subject of teachers’ salaries, it’s interesting to note that in 1972, when Lillian had been teaching Family Studies for 5 years at Burlington Central, she was earning \$11,000!

In 1941, she married Bill Emery. Bill was managing his father’s market garden in Aldershot and the couple’s first home was the upstairs of a house on the North Shore at King Road. The house belonged to the Filman family and was known as Willowbank. Eventually they moved to the Emery home farm across from St. Matthew’s Anglican Church on Plains Road. Longos bought the land in the 70’s. Bill and Lillian had two daughters - Brenda and Janice. Lillian was a role model for her “girls” as both became teachers in Halton. In fact, she was the first woman in the area to continue to teach after marrying. Each time she planned to retire, another opportunity was presented to her. When Brenda was ready for Kindergarten, she was asked to teach for a half-day in Waterdown. She spent a year at Maplehurst when Brenda and Janice were there and then came the dream of a job when Principal Norm Dalgleish asked her to set up the Home Economics room at Glenview. Students from four area schools came to Glenview for her classes in all aspects of home management - sewing, cooking and entertaining. Each Spring, in each of the area schools, her students presented a fashion show wearing their own creations. All the while, she was attending university classes extramurally until she completed a BA in Religion and Sociology.

In 1961, when Brenda and Janice were still teenagers, her husband Bill died. Lillian married Jim McLean in 1972, and they were privileged to spend four years together before Jim’s death in 1976.

Learning FROM Lillian:

Now that you know a bit ABOUT Lillian McLean, I want to share some of the valuable things I gleaned FROM getting to know her better - attitudes of mind and qualities of spirit that we would all be wise to emulate. Although she’s suffered her share of losses, still she maintains an attitude of gratitude, particularly for her family which includes two stepchildren - Janice McLean Rowe and Rob McLean as well as daughters, Brenda and Janice. Brenda and Jim McMaster have two sons. Janice and John Quinn have three daughters and

(Lillian... continues on Page 23)

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Lelia Lindsay - 105 Years of Age and Still Going Strong!

By Warren McBurney (Goodwill West Area Convenor)

You have heard of the good old days in the early 1900s from your grandparents. But what if you actually lived through them, and started school yourself a hundred years ago? This is the claim that Lelia Lindsay can make at age 105! Growing up near Welland, Lelia took her teacher training in Hamilton, and spent her teaching life with kindergarteners. She refers to the fun of being with them when they were “too young to know enough to come in out of the rain” still needing help with their boots and coats, and therefore very lovable. She could even hug them in those days.

Now a resident at Wyndham Lodge in Oakville, Lelia's remembrances of her classroom days are rather sketchy. She does, however, have a granddaughter, **Brenda Spaulding**, and several other relatives who were able to fill in a few details about their long-living ancestor. Her musical ability stood her in good stead with her young students. She could play the piano by ear, and we can just imagine her little ones breaking out into song when they needed a change of pace. She was a big user of existing items rather than buying a lot of play equipment for her students. They benefited too from her having co-written several books on teaching mathematics.

She wore custom tailored clothing - always perfectly fitting and flattering.

Relations remember Lelia as wearing custom tailored clothing - always perfectly fitting and flattering. A devout member of St. John's United Church in Oakville, she still has a strong faith. At night she hopes the Lord will take her, and in the morning she thanks Him for keeping her going. Her church friends are still faithful in visiting her at Wyndham.

In Oakville Lelia taught at Old Central School. After her retirement, she continued to enjoy her cottage near Bobcaygeon where she had a collection of driftwood that she found and finished for her rustic decor. She was always very careful about the appearance of her home, and in January, 1949, a picture of her living room appeared on the cover of *Your Garden and Home*. She was never a gardener, but enjoyed curling and golf - she even played with Marlene Stewart Streit! - and still lives outside vicariously with Tiger Woods and his golf. She played duplicate bridge until she was 92, and continued having teas for her bridge-playing friends.

(Lelia Lindsay... continues on Page 20)

Long-Term Care and Your Independence

A Special Notice From Johnson Inc.

What is Long Term Care?

Assistance is needed when someone has lost his or her ability to independently perform at least some of the activities of daily life - eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, transferring positions, and continence. Or, he or she may have a cognitive impairment such as Alzheimer's. RTO/ERO has developed a Long Term Care Plan to provide members and their families with the financial assistance they need to help protect their independence, and their assets in retirement. The **RTO/ERO Long Term Care Plan** offers three different levels of daily benefit and lifetime maximums - \$50/day to \$50,000/lifetime, \$75/day to \$100,000/lifetime, and \$100/day to \$200,000/lifetime. You choose the coverage level you need.

What is a Care Coordinator?

Members and their families have their own Care Coordinator - your patient advocate. They will assess your needs, develop a plan of care to access benefits under your RTO/ERO Plan, and provide you with information about community resources and providers. The Care Coordinator will work with you and your family to ensure that as your needs change over time your plan of care is adjusted to meet your evolving needs.

Who is Eligible for Long Term Care Insurance?

As a member of RTO/ERO, you and your family members (spouse, adult children, and parents) ages 18 to 89 can apply. Persons applying for coverage must complete an application that includes questions about health. For more information, contact Johnson Inc. at 1-877-LTC-PLAN (1-877-582-7526).

Editorial Policy

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

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

Archives Committee

By Judy Sloan



Hello everyone! I hope that you had a chance to peruse our Halton District RTO/ERO scrapbook at our Spring AGM at the Burlington Convention Centre. I am happy to report that there are now a few more items added to the scrapbook.

I have received a touching letter addressed to all our District 15 members. The letter was from one of our members, **Jeanne McDowall** and her sisters Pat, Mary and Dorothy concerning their parents Laura and Bob Barr. Enclosed were two lovely photos of Laura and Bob. One was from their very early years as a couple and the other a recent picture. The daughters wanted to let our membership know that Bob died on March 16, 2008. The letter stated, "As you probably know, dad had been suffering with advanced Alzheimer's disease. Having this disease meant that our dad had lived away from his home and away from Laura for the past two years." The letter mentioned that their mom also suffers from Alzheimer's now and she is presently living at Burloak Long Term Care Centre, Triller House, 5959 New Street, Burlington On. L7L 6W5. The daughters ended the letter to our membership by saying, "We want to ensure that you know how important you have been in our parents' lives. Thank you for your support and friendship throughout the years. Mom thoroughly enjoyed all the years she was involved with the RTO." Thank you ladies for your thoughtful and informative letter.

I also have two clippings from the Burlington Post to add to our scrapbook. The first is a photo of our member **Wendy Anderson** and her husband **Rob** looking over items that they purchased at a charity auction. The event was held by the Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital auxiliary at King's Court Banquet Centre in Burlington. Proceeds were to go to the purchase of specialty stretchers/systems for the hospital's emergency department. Congrats to Wendy and any of our other members who supported this charitable event.

The other clipping is a photo of RTO/ERO member, **Lesley Weins** and five other members of the St. Stephen United Church congregation. The group had travelled to Chingola, Zambia to visit their partner church, St. Mark, to take part in 50th anniversary celebrations. One of the highlights was a stay at the Chimfunshi Chimpanzee Orphanage and Wildlife Centre where the photo was taken. By the smile on Lesley's face, I can tell that she had a fantastic time!

(Archives Committee... continues on Page 26)

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(Lelia Lindsay... continued from Page 7)

Even today in her retirement home, she has no complaints: "I would be selfish if I had." One aspect of her life that Lelia does not remember is that forty years ago she was one of the founders of what is now RTO/ERO. This achievement was noted at a recent meeting of our RTO/ERO Senate. How fortunate we current retirees are, that pioneers like Lelia had the foresight to lay down the foundation of our current benefits. Thank you, Lelia.

Recruitment & Member Services Committee

By Bill Caldwell



Here we are coming to the close of the "summer of the umbrella" and beginning to think of the return to our regular routines as retirees. At this time we welcome into our ranks a number of retiring teachers and hopefully we'll have the opportunity to meet many of them at the annual **The Hell With Bell Breakfast** on Sept 4. We hope they will become participants during the year in the many activities offered by our District. On behalf of the membership I wish them many happy healthy years of retirement. In closing I wish to express my continued appreciation in receiving notifications of address changes from members on the move.

IF YOU ARE MOVING...

IF YOUR ADDRESS INFORMATION IS INCORRECT...

Please Contact **Dianne Vezeau** at the Provincial RTO/ERO office -
 In Writing: 18 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON M5R 2S7
 By Telephone: 1-800-361-9888 Ext. 223 or 1-416-962-9463 Ext 223
 By Email: dvezeau@rto-ero.org

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, 'When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah'. The teacher asked, 'What if Jonah went to hell?' The little girl replied, 'Then you ask him'.

Learning ABOUT Lillian - Learning FROM Lillian

By Marina Lloyd (Goodwill Chair)

To learn ABOUT Lillian McLean, it's best to begin at the beginning. It was April 14, 1915, on a farm on Snake Road in Waterdown, when Winnifred and Charles Rankin welcomed the second of their eight children, Lillian May. Right next door, on land which now belongs to Notre Dame Convent, lay Lillian's grandparents' farm and in your mind's eye, you can see her skipping through the fields between the two farms, barefoot in summer, or dressed in her Sunday best on her way to Sunday School at the Methodist church in Waterdown. Childhood memories are bathed in golden light. On hot summer days, the children cooled off with a swim in Grindstone Creek which ran along the back of the farm, but by the time they walked home, they were as hot as before.

Their friends loved to play at the Rankin farm as there were swings and even a tennis court. The land was used for market gardening so there was always work before and after school, picking and sorting vegetables and cutting the asparagus. The produce was taken to the Guelph market first by horse and wagon and later by truck, although Lillian remembers riding in a surrey before her father owned a car or a truck. In 1921, she entered the Junior First class at Mary Hopkins School where Mr. Riddell was both teacher and principal. He was a forward-thinking educator who introduced Household Science into the curriculum and hired a Music Supervisor to visit the school regularly. Always an honour student, Lillian skipped a grade, entering Waterdown High School the year it was opened. After Grade 13, she trained to be a teacher at Hamilton Normal School but teaching jobs were scarce as hens' teeth, so she stayed at home for a year looking after her baby sister Ann, who is well known to many Halton teachers as **Ann Robbins**.

When she did "land" a job it was a big one! She was responsible for 55 children from Grades One to Five in Flamborough Centre Continuation School. So young and so many pupils and yet there were no discipline problems even when the principal was away and she was in charge of the whole school. Memories from that first job, include driving to school in winter when the road was tunneled out of a snowbank, getting stuck and struggling the rest of the way through snow that came up to her armpits. To get a permanent certificate in the 30's, you needed to obtain five university courses within five years. Her interest in Home Economics had already been sparked in public school so she included summer school courses in Family Studies as well.

(Lillian... continues on Page 22)

Recreation Committee

By Dave Wright



The group you see in the picture on the front cover are about to board a **Mariposa Cruise Boat** for lunch on Toronto Harbour. We had an enjoyable two hours cruising Toronto's waterfront and Toronto Islands. Our trip to Stratford to see *The Music Man* was a great success as well. As in all our events District 15 members and their spouses and friends have a great time. We enjoy your company, so please join us for some of

these wonderful events.

The Calendar of Events on pages 14 & 15 list what is planned up to June 2009. The first of our fall events is the **Bicycle Tour** of Niagara Wine Country. **Dave Trueman** will lead a **Historical Tour** of Downtown Burlington in October followed by lunch. If it is a warm autumn day we will have



lunch on the patio of Benny's Restaurant. In November a trip by **Go Train to Toronto** and a walk to the Eaton Centre on the PATH is planned - great place to do some Christmas shopping. Plan to be with us for one or all of these fall events.

Seven theatre events have been planned for the coming season. In the past few years we have had good plays and musicals and what is coming up looks just

Seven Theatre Events to choose from!

as great. Be sure to check the deadline for ordering tickets. Thanks to **Janet Carter-Wright** for organizing the trip to Shaw Festival to see *Wonderful Town*. A new wrinkle

has been added to our breakfast program. The first breakfasts in Oakville, Burlington, and Milton are free. Let Paul Durnan know you will be coming.

Keep posted on the events by viewing the District 15 website. There will be more to say about the plans for the winter and spring in the January issue of the *Halton Herald*.

Visit us on the Internet at www.halinet.on.ca/district15

Health Services Committee

By Paul Durnan



A conference was held in Toronto in June for all District Health Services representatives. Here are some of the items that were discussed:

- World Access has changed it's name to Mondial Assistance. You can call them prior to travelling for information on shots needed, doctors and hospitalization for the area you are going to.

- Remember to get receipts for health services rendered. Any additional bills coming to you after coming home go directly to Mondial Assistance.

- Carry your RTO/ERO card with you when travelling. It has the toll free direct phone number to the office in Waterloo.

- People who are switching health plans and wish to join the RTO/ERO Health Benefit Plan should remember that this must be done within 60 days of leaving the former plan in order to avoid having to take a medical.

- Please be advised that if your permanent residence is outside of Canada, your RTO/ERO Health Plan is not in effect.

- Trip cancellation insurance provided by your plan has certain deadlines. You must notify Waterloo within 48 hours of your medical emergency.

- Be sure to use the latest 2008 Health Benefit Plan booklets when checking for the rules. The 2005 booklet is no longer in effect and must be discarded.

Travel coverage beyond 62 days now available!

- As of September 1, 2008, people travelling outside of Canada may now purchase extended health coverage beyond the 62 day coverage period. These are offered in 5 day increments at a rate of \$65 for a single person.

- Remember, just because you are a member of RTO/ERO this does not mean that you are automatically a member of the health plan. You must apply for this coverage.

If you have any comments or questions please call me at 905-631-8939.



Book of Remembrance

(For the period March to July 31, 2008)

We remember with fondness

Mary Clow

Ruth Dempster

Leslie Dorans

Roy Gatenby

John Hier

Klaus Holenstein

Elaine Lynd

Douglas McKay

Ralph McKeown

Lauretta Mills

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A Brighter Future

Halton Learning Foundation's 5th Annual

Celebration Dinner

Tuesday, October 21st, 2008



Featuring: **Arlene Duncan**
Actress/Singer: *Little Mosque on the Prairie*

Oakville Conference Centre

Reception: 5:30 p.m. - Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$100

For tickets, contact:
tel.: 905.335.3665. ext 3408
e-mail rowej@hdsb.ca



**HALTON
LEARNING
FOUNDATION**

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

Your Chance to Contribute!!

How To Survive The Winter Contest Extended

We feel that most of you have been too busy thinking about summer and fall activities to dwell on the inevitable return of Old Man Winter and how to outsmart Him. So, we're giving you another chance to enter your recipes, photos or reminiscences on **HOW TO SURVIVE THE WINTER**. Add your submission to the excellent ones we've already received.

Here are the details. Send me your entries by email (pgnish@cogeco.ca) or by mail (Peter Gnish, 153 Fairleigh Ave. S., Hamilton ON L8M 2K4). The final deadline is **November 15, 2008**.

There will be one winner in each of three categories. A cash prize of \$25 will be awarded to each winner.

Category 1: Anecdotes

Submit a written article describing how you spent your time surviving the snow, rain, slippery roads, and the cold. You might indicate the activities you took part in to pass the time, special places you visited, humorous or interesting situations that you were involved with or anything else that might be of interest to our readers.

Category 2: Pictures

Send in your pictures that show this winter at its best, or worst.

Category 3: Heart-Warming Recipes

Send me your favourite recipes, the ones that you consider to be true "comfort foods", new recipes that take you beyond the snow or others that you may have used to weather the storm.

Contribute to the Herald!

The next *Halton Herald* will be distributed in January, 2009.

- Share a line with our readers and let them know what you are up to.
- Send a Letter to the Editor on any topic that concerns you.
- Write an article on any topic that may interest your retired colleagues.
- Share a funny story with our many readers.
- Provide us with a picture to share with our members.

Send your article or correspondence to the Editor, Peter Gnish by email: pgnish@cogeco.ca, by mail to 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton L8M 2K4 or telephone: 905-547-1628. Deadline - November 15, 2008.

Political Action Committee

By Linda Jones



Provincial RTO/ERO is encouraging all District Political Action Committees to monitor the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs). In our case, this means monitoring two separate networks - Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant, which includes Burlington and Mississauga; Halton, which includes Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills. Monitoring both of these will take quite a few interested members in order to fulfill the task efficiently.

The decisions these bodies make are very important. Consider the case in Hamilton of the VON and Hamilton Home Care, whose staff came close to losing their jobs caring for patients at home, because of the LHIN's decision to use a bidding process to contract for services, which took no notice of past performance. Patients and the public were outraged and by vehemently protesting forced the McGuinty Government to step in to change the process. Even if you are not interested in other areas of political action, keeping track of what an appointed government body is planning for our local health care may pique your interest. If so, please contact me at ljroux13@hotmail.com or 905-336-5785 for further information and/or to volunteer your assistance.

Other health related items which may be of interest are:

- a Town Hall Meeting on the topic of the Public Private Partnership (P3) hospital planned for Oakville on Wednesday, September 10th at the 707 Galaxy Club, North Service Road, Oakville.
- a protest rally at Queen's Park about the lack of government attention to Ontario's health care on Saturday, September 27th, organized by the Ontario Health Coalition.

Health issues have proven to be of considerable importance to our members so our immediate focus will be on these. Please plan to participate if it is within your power.

Want To Clean Green? Try This!

Make your own Furniture Polish

* 1/4 cup (60 mL) olive oil

* 1/4 cup (60 mL) white distilled vinegar

* 20 to 30 drops lemon essential oil

Visit us on the Internet at www.halinet.on.ca/district15

HDSB Retirees Can Now CHATT Friends

Submitted by Bryn Davies

The Halton District School Board will be piloting an HDSB Retirees' Conference on their CHATT system this month in partnership with the Halton Learning Foundation, the charitable arm of the Board.

HDSB retirees will be able to contact all staff currently on the wider CHATT conference in addition to having access to the Staff Room Conference which offers sub-conferences dealing with buy/sell/trade, births, retirements, bereavements, book club, film and TV club, and staff matters. Additional retirees' conferences will be established as the project unfolds. Retirees will also have access to the CHATT Help Conference. As well, a group of knowledgeable volunteers including retired staff have been recruited to provide more personal support to members on an "as needed" basis.

The membership fee is a \$50 annual contribution to the Halton Learning Foundation. A \$35 tax receipt will be provided to the member. This initiative is available solely to Halton District School Board retirees.

The Halton Learning Foundation was established six years ago to raise money and resources to support programs and projects not normally funded by the Ministry. A more recent addition and focus has been the Barriers Fund, which has been created to support individual students whose learning opportunities have been disadvantaged by their family's financial situation. Over 10% of Halton students live below the poverty line.

For more information on how you can join the HDSB Retirees CHATT please contact Janice Rowe at the Halton Learning Foundation at rowej@hdsb.ca or 905-335-3665 ext. 3408.



RWTO Burlington Branch

Retired Women Teachers of Ontario
"Caring, Sharing and Having Fun"

Bi-monthly meetings:
Burlington Golf and Country Club
422 North Shore Blvd. East

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

Pension Committee

By Jim Baker



Ontario Teachers Pension Plan Update

Assets: end of 2007

Total: \$108.5 billion; a \$2.9 billion increase

Positives

The annual return was 4.5%, beating the composite benchmark of 2.3% despite the huge hit in public equities (stocks). Private equity (investments directly in businesses) increased from \$7.3 billion to \$9 billion, a 9.8% rate of return.

Challenges

Payments to retirees is now double the contributions by active teachers and government. There is an actuarial deficit of \$12.7 billion (shortfall between the plan's assets and liabilities).

Strategies

1. Reduction in public equities to 45% US; at one time it was 60%. This takes some of the risk out of portfolios and reduces volatility.
2. The funds are being placed into more sensitive areas such as real estate, commodities, infrastructure and timberlands.
3. Investing in so-called emerging markets such as China, Brazil and Chile is on the increase.

Conclusions

1. The fund is being managed in a successful, professional manner.
2. Our pensions are guaranteed by the Pension Benefits Act 1997. We nevertheless should all be concerned about the challenges facing the pension fund.

If you have general questions re pensions, please phone me (905-639-1292). If the questions are of a personal nature about your pension contact the Teachers Pension Plan Board (416-226-2700 or 1-800-668-0105 or by email at inquiry @otpp.com).

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America .

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America ?

CLASS: Maria.

RTO/ERO District 15 Contact List

Executive 2008 – 2009

Past President	Mary Lyons	905-336-5744
President	Cecile Leach	905-634-8027
1st Vice President	Linda Jones	905-336-5785
2nd Vice President	TBA	
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
Website	George MacRae	905 315 8581
Newsletter	Peter Gnish	905-547-1628

Assistants: Chub Baxter, Cecile Leach, Eleanor McCulloch,
Marilyn MacRae, Cate Roberts (Design), Ray Smith & Dave Trueman.

Goodwill Chair	Marina Lloyd	905-637-6030
West Convenor	Gloria Simchuk	905-637-7340
East Convenor	Warren McBurney	905-845-8219
North Convenor	Iona Lobb	905-877-0767
Out-of-Region Convenor	Peter Gnish	905-547-1628
Assistant	Flo Gray	905-639-4850

Health Services	Paul Durnan	905-631-8939
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Recruitment and Member Services

Chair	Bill Caldwell	905-633-9506
Committee Members:	Bev Hilton	905-632-4528
	Carolle Twiss	905-632-8036

Pension	Jim Baker	905 639 1292
Political Action	Linda Jones	905-336-5785
Recreation	David Wright	905-639-5093
Social/Program	Colton Roberts	905-335-0027
Tours	Irene Chalupka	905-637-0887

Calendar of Events – September, 2008 to February, 2009

- Sept 4 Shaw Festival Musical. *Wonderful Town*. 2:00 p.m.
- Sept 10 Bicycle Tour of Niagara Wine Country. Contact Dave Wright at 905-631-8939 or wandave@sympatico.ca by Sept 5.
- Oct 22 Historical Walk in downtown Burlington. Meet at the new Brant Street Pier at 10:00 a.m. Lunch at Benny's. Contact Dave Trueman at 905-632-9887 or truemand@hotmail.com by Oct 15.
- Oct 25 Dinner Theatre, Aldershot Players. *Romantic Comedy*, a play by Bernard Slade at West Plains United Church, Burlington. Cost \$35. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca by Sept 5.
- Oct 30 Breakfast at El Spero Restaurant, Hopedale Mall, Oakville. 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-631-8939.
- Nov 6 Fall RTO/ERO District 15 Meeting at the Burlington Seniors' Centre, 2285 New Street (just West of Guelph Line). Theme: *What's Happening at Your Seniors' Centres*. A 5:00 p.m. start. See the flyer and registration form enclosed with this mailing.
- Nov 19 Walk and shop the PATH under downtown Toronto. Meet at the Appleby GO station at 10 a.m. for the GO ride to Union Station. Contact Dave Trueman by Nov 12th at 905-632-9887 or at truemand@hotmail.com .
- Nov 27 Breakfast at Johnathan's Family Restaurant, 4121 Fairview St., Burlington. 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-631-8939.
- Jan 29 Breakfast at A Catered Affair, 140 Main St. East, Milton (by the Municipal Parking) 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-631-8939.
- Feb 6 Oakville Theatre For The Performing Arts, Navy Street - Musical *Hair*. 8:00 p.m. Cost \$29.00. Contact Dave Wright by Dec 1.
- Feb 17 Winter RTO/ERO District 15 Meeting at the Milton Sports Centre. Robert Knuckle, award-winning author of the acclaimed book *Master of Deception* and undercover agent Carl MacLeod will provide a unique insight into the life of an undercover RCMP. Please look for the flyer in the January edition of the *Halton Herald*.

Calendar of Events – February, 2009 to June, 2009

- Feb 26 Breakfast at El Spero Restaurant, Hopedale Mall, Oakville.
9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-631-8939.
- Mar 26 Breakfast at Johnathan's Family Restaurant, 4121 Fairview St.,
Burlington. 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-631-8939.
- Apr 25 Dinner Theatre, Aldershot Players, *Key for Two*. West Plains
United Church, Burlington. Cost \$35.00. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or
wandave@sympatico.ca by Feb 1.
- May 5 RTO/ERO District 15 Annual General Meeting.
- May 14 Drury Lane Theatre, 2269 New St., Burlington, *HMS Pinafore*.
8:00p.m. Cost \$24.00. Contact Dave Wright by Feb 27.
- May TBA Stratford Musical Matinee. Check the District 15 website for
details. Contact Dave Wright by Dec 1.
- June TBA Visit the Distillery District in Toronto. Check the District 15
website and the January issue of the *Halton Herald* for details.
- June TBA Oakville Theatre for the Performing Arts, Navy Street.
Gotta Sing-Gotta Dance with the Burlington Footnotes. 2 p.m.
Cost \$23. Contact the theatre at 905-815-2021 or Dave Wright.

**To contact Dave Wright, Chair Recreation Committee
Telephone: 905-639-5093 or email: wandave@sympatico.ca**

Bring a Friend! *People who are not members of RTO/ERO are more than welcome to accompany you at any of the activities listed.*

FLORIDA CONDO RENTAL

On the Gulf coast in Venice just south of Sarasota

FULLY FURNISHED-TWO BEDROOMS-TWO BATHS

A GOLF COURSE COMMUNITY

POOL-TENNIS COURTS-RECREATION

CLOSE TO BEACHES

Rates depend on Season. Available now through Oct/08, Dec/08 and Jan/09

Call 905-335-3767

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