



# HALTON HERALD

District 15

September 2010

***New Experiences  
New Challenges  
Sail On!***



**“Fortnight”**

**Crossing the Gulf Stream - Page 42**

**Photo by Vince Weeks**

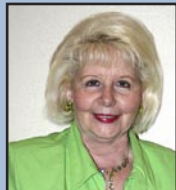
# READ ALL ABOUT...



**Chicago Bound - Page 14**



**Art Crawl - Page 16**



**Welcome Our New Board Member Penny Hambly Page 3**



**Ian Downie at King's Wharf - Page 18**



**Vera - Page 26**



**Peru, Ecuador, Galapagos - Page 39**



**Sailing The Gulf Stream - Page 42**

## President's Report

By Linda Jones



A warm welcome to all our new retirees and to those just joining our membership. We hope all our members had a safe and happy summer in spite of some very humid conditions. I am looking forward to serving as your President and to having the opportunity to work with a dedicated and hard-working Executive. We welcome **Phyllis Kingsley** as our 2nd Vice-President.

In order to institute succession planning, we have added a new position to our Board, that of Member without Portfolio. This position will be held this year by **Penny Hambly**. We hope that she will find this year an informative introduction to how our Board works.

I would like to thank **Cecile Leach**, now our Past President, for her generosity in allowing me and **Jan Murdoch** to attend the Provincial Presidents' Workshop, entitled '*Making a Difference*,' in mid-April, prior to our AGM. We were able to share with other Districts some of the excellent District 15 activities and procedures. In particular, we received high praise from members of the Provincial Executive and other District Presidents for our 3-year long range plans. The praise truly belongs to **Cecile Leach** who steadfastly spearheaded this endeavour and our full Board who are now in the process of implementing these plans.

Representing Halton at the Spring Senate in May were **Jan Murdoch** and **Linda Jones**, with **Phyllis Kingsley** and **Cecile Leach** as observers. This was a great networking opportunity and much sharing of 'best practices' occurred as we met with a wider geographical group than we had in our Liaison groups at the Presidents' workshop. Recently there have also been Provincial workshops for our District Goodwill and Health Representatives, District Treasurers and Webmasters. The Provincial office is providing excellent learning and leadership opportunities.

Congratulations to **Canadians in Support of Afghan Women (CSAW)** on receiving a grant of \$4000 from the Provincial RTO/ERO based on District 15's "*Project Service to Others*" submission for 2010. **Ann Galioto** is pictured receiving the cheque from **Cecile Leach** at the AGM. The money will be used to furnish a library in a newly built Afghan school. If you work with a volunteer community group or you know of one which has a new project that deserves our support, you can make an application for a



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

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)



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

grant in 2011 by December 31st, 2010. The criteria and application forms will be available on the Provincial website in the Fall as they are updated yearly. Please contact me immediately if you need more information.

We are pleased to report that our local District 15 Project STO has been completed. The **Museums of Burlington**, with our support, have produced two amazing portable kits, proudly displaying our logo, which can bring the museum

experience to those unable to visit on their own. One is aimed at the Primary or Junior classroom and the other to seniors in retirement homes. Their availability has begun to be advertised and we only await an appropriate moment for a photo opportunity to herald District 15's involvement. Please read the article on Page 8 that shows the kit and gives more details.

"I thoroughly enjoyed our AGM lunch and speaker. It was fascinating to hear how **Diane Dupuy** became the woman she is today, often celebrated (including the Order of Canada) and an author of books for children and adults. It was a delight to witness the energy which resulted in the formation of the internationally renowned **Famous People Players.**" You will have the opportunity this year to visit a Famous People Players performance, now located in West Toronto, with other RTO members, friends and family. Look for the date in our Calendar of Events. It will be an amazing show suitable for all ages.

We have seen many of the same members at various District 15 events, including our inaugural **Wellness Series** and on short excursions. These events are planned with your interests and needs in mind so please let us know if you have ideas for future events. Thank you so much to the member volunteers on the com-

(President's Report ... continues on Page 5)

**Table of Contents**

<b>Committee Reports</b>	Pages
Archives	32
Awards	20
Book of Remembrance	12
Communications	21
Health Services	28
New Members	11
Pension	29
Political Action	30
President's Report	3
Program	24
Recreation	19
Recruit/Member Services	25
<b>District 15 Events</b>	
A Visit With Vera	26
Annual General Meeting	9
Art Crawl	16
Calendar of Events	22
Contact List	23
Container Gardening	12
Wine & Cheese	13
<b>Articles</b>	
Chicago Trip	14
Ian Downie	18
Museum Kits	8
Peru,Ecuador,Galapagos	39
Retired Women Teachers	37
Sailing The Gulfstream	42
Stride To Turn The Tide	5
We Get Letters	6

(President's Report... continued from Page 4)

mittees who plan these activities for their fellow members. As you can see from our contact list, we have some vacancies that need to be filled. Also, we have several members doubling up on their involvement in Awards, Goodwill, Political Action and Program. We currently have no Chair of the Tours Committee and our Member Services Chair is interim. Please consider volunteering to serve on a committee. It is a great way to learn about your organization and to have a say in the issues that affect you. I would like to leave you with this thought - how can you as an individual make a difference for yourself and others? In recalling the theme of the Presidents' workshop, how can Retired Teachers of Ontario, District 15 as an organization make a difference?

## Stride to Turn the Tide

By Marilyn Ortwein

On Saturday, June 12th, 9 RTO members (**Marg Daniels, Pat Dickinson, Joan Hermanns, Marilyn Ortwein, Linda Rafuse, Emilee Shaw, Jane Stephen, John Stephen and Rosanne Swalwali**) joined 128 Halton Grandmothers, friends and grandchildren as we walked a total of 611.5 km in solidarity with the Grandmothers' groups from across Canada. \$6,781.00 has been raised by the Halton Grandmothers. Nationally the total is \$137,491.64. All these funds will go directly to the Stephen Lewis Foundation to support our African sisters who are raising their grandchildren orphaned by the AIDS' epidemic. Each walker is shown wearing a brightly coloured scarf. These scarves were made in Africa and their production provides work opportunities for many African women.



Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

## We Get Letters, Emails & Calls

By Peter Gnish



Thanks to the people who sent me correspondence over the past few weeks. All messages were emails this time. However, you can contact me by telephone or Canada Post as well. Isn't it about time I heard from you? My contact information is as follows: by email (pgnish@cogeco.ca), by telephone (905-547-1628) or by Canada Post (153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton L8M 2K4).

**Ian Downie** sent this message, "Thank you for your kind words in the Newsletter. In fact Newsletter is something of a misnomer. Bumper Newsbook might be more accurate. A great job on your part. I have another TV episode coming up in the fall. I play an alien with murderous intentions in the first episode of a new sci-fi series *Lost Girl on Showcase*. And this summer I'm back on stage in **On Golden Pond** for Drayton Entertainment. So I'm managing to keep the aged body and mind somewhat busy." (Editor's Note): See the article about Ian on Page 18.

**Octavia Dutzak** wrote, "Hello Peter, I really liked the April Herald. Lots of articles caught my attention. I am a close friend of **Joyce Burnell** who has been getting quite a few write-ups in the Oakville Beaver. Yours was in great depth and a tribute to a wonderful enthusiastic lady. She has shared some of her new poetry writings with me and when they're put into a book it will be amazing. On the web she has a book on Baby Animals which got over a 1000 hits very quickly. I loved **Bruce Shapka's** picture because less than 2 years ago I downsized to move to this condo and I'm still in the state of his picture. During high school I was involved in a school newspaper at Central Commerce and during my teaching career in Toronto (eons ago I feel) with students' publishing at all grade levels. So I would be interested (in helping) to put together a newsletter."

**Margaret Krever's** husband **Arnold** sent an email about his wife. "I am not sure if you knew Margaret, but I seem to remember her mentioning you. Margaret passed away on Apr. 20th in her 87th year. Margaret was one of the true women 'teacher pioneers' in the Oakville/Halton area in the ilk of **Lorna Scott, Liz Hodgson, Ruth Foster**, etc. She came to Oakville in 1948 and taught grade 7/8 at Old Central School in Oakville. In the fifties she became a guidance consultant (one of the few elementary guidance persons in the province). She taught for the Ministry for many years. Her approach was far different from what educators were used to. She reached out to the community: the police, judges, the medical profession, psychologists and psychiatrists, service clubs, the Salvation Army, churches and even store managers to get help for the kids she was commit-

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

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

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

ted to serve. When Halton cut back on the number of consultants, she became a teacher-diagnostician and again called on the vast community resources she knew so well. But Margaret went one step further. She went into the male dominated world of public volunteer service. She was secretary of the Oakville Black Knights ( a semi- pro team at that time) and she was the first woman appointed to the Oakville Parks and Recreation. She served as Chairperson for five years, no mean feat in a world dominated by men. During her period on the Board, Oakville moved from being one of the poorest funded rec departments in the province to becoming one of the best in all aspects of services provided. This positive change was in no small part due to her drive and determination. She was a member of the Centennial Committee that built the Oakville pool and Centennial Library. **Al Fish**, who was a superintendent in Oakville said to me on several occasions that Margaret was the ‘best teacher he had ever seen.’ Whether it is true or not, he really believed that about her.”

**Carolyn Mayeur** wrote, “If you need proof-reading, or editing, I would be delighted to do it. Just send the email over whenever, as I am usually around.”

(Editor’s Comment): Thanks Carrie, the Herald can always use good help.

**Diane Miller** raved, “The RTO Halton Herald has arrived! WOO HOO! What a great bunch of stories! I couldn’t put it down. Very interesting. Thank you for all the work you do to put this informative booklet together. I can’t really call it a magazine or a newsletter it is more like a short story book.”

**Dorothy Richardson** sent an email to say, “It has been so long - almost twenty-five years now since I retired from teaching English first at Milton District High School and then at Oakville Trafalgar - that few will remember me. Nevertheless I want to share the happy outcome of a lengthy and quite quixotic undertaking: writing a dissertation and passing an examination to acquire the degree of Dr.Phil. at the Free University in Berlin. No, not in German, for my work has been under the aegis of the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies there. My dissertation/book probes an early American comedy, *‘A Trip to Niagara,’* by the so-called ‘father of the American theater,’ William Dunlap (1766–1839), and includes an annotated copy of the play in the first appendix. (A summary of the study can be found at **‘Moving Diorama in Play,’** Teneo Press, 2010). The play ends at Niagara Falls on the American side (not far from Lewiston, my home), where a culture-shocked Irish immigrant gazes in delight at Table Rock. So I’m past the stage when I can hike the Bruce Trail or bike in the Netherlands, but at least I can claim that I’ve had some adventures too, with *‘A Trip to Niagara.’*”

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

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

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

**Lorimer Ruty** expressed his displeasure about an article printed in the last newsletter. “We have to assume you were hoodwinked [pressured] to print a political party’s rant albeit some eight weeks old. To make matters much more plausible, this rant was delivered by an NDP activist in a non partisan publication in which she has a stake. Did the 1st VP of RTO Halton get a discounted invoice for the advertisement?”

## Museum Kits - A Local Service To Others Project

By Jackie Poppe

Photos By Mark Stuppel



The Museums of Burlington have taken full advantage of the \$4000 grant from Halton RTO/ERO District 15 to provide for mobile education kits. Those at the Spring luncheon had an opportunity to see the final product of your generosity. For those who didn't see them,

one outreach kit is aimed at children. It contains hands-on artefacts, support materials and an activity resource manual for teachers. A workshop was held for teachers. This resulted in bookings for this kit. The second kit is for adult organizations such as



churches, senior centres and residences. This ‘museum on wheels’ has already been in the community.

The grant allowed for a great deal of input into these kits by the education staff at the museums and they are convinced that it will be a great community resource. They underscore the Museums’ vision of hands-on and life-long learning and the importance of knowing our local heritage. District 15 should be proud to have financed this project.

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)



## Annual General Meeting and Luncheon

By Cecile Leach

Our Spring AGM was held on May 4, 2010 at the Burlington Convention Centre. During the Business portion of the meeting amendments to the Constitution were passed and the slate of officers for 2010-2011 was approved. The photo of the new Executive is on Page 11.



Bev Hilton

Linda Rafuse

Cindy Blades

Two of our approved Service to Others projects were on display in the foyer. Last year's recipient - **Building Stoves for Poor Families in Pazun, Guatemala** was completed this spring with the help of two of our members, **Colton Roberts** and **Susan Osborne**. Our local **Museum Project** was also on display and Craig Wells from Ireland House was present to discuss the Kits that are ready to go on loan to Halton schools and Long Term Care facilities. Presentations were made to retiring Board members **Bill Caldwell** and **Irene Chalupka** to thank them for their years of dedication and service to District 15. Other presentations were made by the Awards Committee (see Awards Cttee Report).

(AGM... continues on Page 10)



Barb Barker

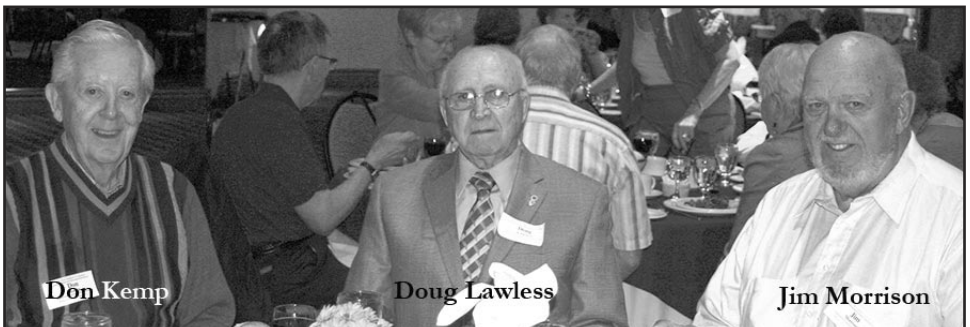
Bev Balch



Jo Moore

Leslie Renfrew

Marnie Rhodes



Don Kemp

Doug Lawless

Jim Morrison

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

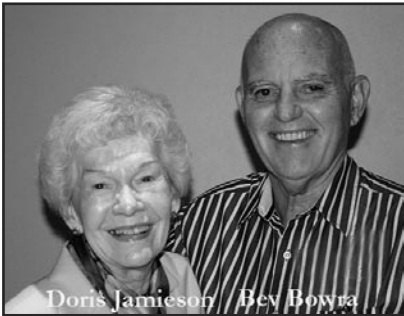
(AGM... continued from Page 9)



Speaker: Diane Dupuy

**Diane Dupuy**, a member of the Order of Canada, and Founder and Artistic Director of the internationally renowned **Famous PEOPLE Players**, enthralled her audience with her quick wit and life stories. Diane Dupuy is also the author of two best-sellers, *“Dare to Dream”* and *“Throw Your Heart Over the Fence,”* which offer a feel for the dedication and passion that it took to take a dream and build the Famous PEOPLE Players into an internationally renowned Canadian treasure.

While enjoying a delicious lunch, colleagues had an opportunity for fellowship and celebration.



Doris Jamieson Bev Boyra



Nancy Johnston

Joyce Sitarski

### *Three Elderly Sisters!*

Three sisters, ages 92, 94, and 96, live in a house together. One night the 96-year-old draws a bath. She puts one foot in and pauses. She yells down the stairs, “Was I getting in or out of the bath?”

The 94-year-old yells back, “I don’t know. I’ll come up and see.” She starts up the stairs and pauses. Then she yells out, “Was I going up the stairs or down?”

The 92-year-old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea and listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says, “I sure hope I never get that forgetful.” She knocks on wood for good measure. She then replies, “Oh, just a minute. I’ll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who’s at the door.”

# RTO/ERO District 15 Executive For 2010-2011



**Cecile Leach**

**Jim Baker**

**Jan Murdoch**

**Chub Baxter**

**Janet Carter-Wright**

**Phyllis Kingsley**

**Linda Jones**

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

District 15 membership is now more than 2100 strong. Below are the names of retired teachers and other education staff who became members between March and August, 2010. Please welcome and invite them to join you at one of our many activities.

Lynne Anderson  
 Shirley Chaisson  
 Brenda De Haan  
 Angela DiCecca  
 Patricia Duxbury  
 Connie Goman  
 Katherine Jansen  
 Elizabeth Mattiussi  
 Hilda Michel  
 Patricia Millar  
 Larry Munden  
 Linda O'Connor  
 Caroline Peasgood  
 Gayle Philp  
 Wendy Ritchie  
 Bonnie Taylor  
 Bryce Walker  
 Louise Young

Gordon Burns  
 Kenneth Clarke  
 Attilio Dell'Anno  
 Susan Doole  
 Sheila Eccles  
 Roberta Hall  
 Lynn Laflamme-Lefebvre  
 Debbie Marinangeli  
 Cecile Mielzynski  
 Barbara Moffat  
 Elaine O'Brien  
 Ruth Parker  
 Marji Peglar  
 Marilyn Pickett  
 Carole Shepherd  
 Gordon Stevenson  
 Karen Washbrook  
 Larry Zavitz

Catherine Briggs  
 Cynthia Clunie  
 Margaret deRyk-Tavani  
 Maureen Downey  
 Karen Fraser  
 Susan Haynes  
 Rita Langenfelds-Dionisio  
 John McGibbon  
 Joyce Milburn  
 Brent Montgomery  
 Judith O'Donoghue  
 Randall Pascoe  
 Lucia Pelletier  
 Linda Puncheon  
 Brenda Smith  
 Doreen Thwaites  
 Stella Webster

# Container Gardening at Terra - For Your Health

By Bev Balch

The morning was sunny and warm - just right for the Container Gardening Workshop held at Terra Greenhouses in Milton. Deborah (from Terra) demonstrated the basics in planting design and caring for a container garden. She knowledgeably fielded questions from the 33 participants as she worked.



There was lots of chatter and laughter as each participant chose a variety of herbs to create his or her masterpiece. Each of us left with a beautiful planter and some even stopped to do some shopping on the way out. The planning team



is starting work on the **Healthy Living** series for next year. We hope to return to Terra, perhaps to design and make a Winter Planter in time for Christmas decorating.



## Book of Remembrance

*We remember with fondness*

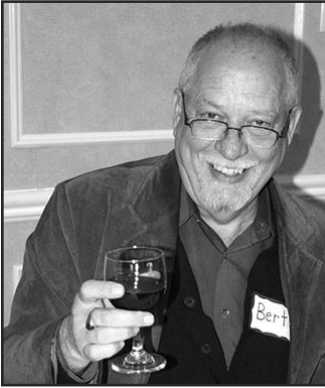
Beryl Clenyg-Jones  
Peter Gardiner  
Margaret Krever  
Marion Miller  
Gerald Moe Pennock  
Russell Thwaites  
Doris Wood

John DiCecca  
Walter Hanson  
Beverley Mallory  
David Mitchell  
Peter Spencer  
Alice Walmer  
Margaret Zavitz

Wayne Fox  
Ulah Hunstein  
Richard Milburn  
Betty Moore  
Nettie Stefaniw  
Robert Webster



# Wine & Cheese For Prospective Retirees - April 13, 2010



Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

## CHICAGO

By Jan Murdoch

I knew about Chicago's amazing skyline, over 25 miles of unimpeded waterfront for all to enjoy, and about its amazing and diverse architecture, especially when seen from the water. What I wasn't prepared for was the warm hospitality that greeted us wherever we went, walking on the streets, riding the buses and the "el" or while shopping. For such a large city, the people of Chicago have managed to retain key personable qualities.

Our trip to Chicago began early Monday morning at the Toronto Island Airport. 32 members of Districts 15, 39 and 28 boarded a flight with Porter Airlines to the Windy City. Can you pick out the 10 members of District 15 RTO/ERO Halton below?



After dropping our luggage off at the Marriott hotel, we headed for the "Willis" Tower for a bird's eye view of the city from the sky deck, a spectacular view. Then, we were off for an Architectural Boat Tour and a different perspective of the city. Although it was a bit chilly, it did allow us to see the defining architecture that was a direct outcome of the famous Chicago fire and the World's Fair. Later at dinner we all agreed that, although Chicago is often compared to Toronto, Chicago's attitude towards the waterfront preservation was diversely different.

Day two was spent on foot with a 3 hour Culinary and Cultural Tour. Walking with a guide through diverse communities and eating in various cultural settings  
(Chicago... continues on Page 15)



Cecile Leach, Vivian Muller, Phyllis Kingsley, Dahlia Brown, Jan Murdoch, Linda Jones, Lorette Kulawic, Doris Southwell, Ruth Law and husband, Bob

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

(Chicago... continued from Page 14)

proved quite enlightening. We got to enjoy an authentic Chicago pizza. But who knew that the first Playboy Bunny House, the original Heffner “Playboy Mansion”, was in the heart of old Chicago? Some of us ended our day with an immersion into the Chicago “Blues” culture while others went to the theatre.



Day 3 was an opportunity to explore museums, visit the Planetarium, shop on the Magnificent Mile or stroll the Navy Pier. The day was spent getting to know Chicago while the evening was spent taking a step back in history to the time when the Mob ruled. “Tommy Gun’s Theatre” offered an engaging interactive bit of entertainment in a 1920’s “Speakeasy.” Pssst...do you know da password?

ment in a 1920’s “Speakeasy.” Pssst...do you know da password?

On Day 4 many took the opportunity to see additional sites or do last minute shopping before boarding the bus for a tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright Prairie Houses in Oak Park. These beautiful structures were unique, large and very progressive. It is hard to believe that they were designed and built in the early 1900s. Late evening, we flew back to Toronto and planned for future city ventures.

The trip was an immense success with just the right blend of planned activities and free time. All agreed we’re ready for more adventures. Boston/Cape Cod in May 2011, San Francisco in September 2011 and New York in the Spring of 2012 to name just a few future opportunities. A group of teachers from 3 Districts got together in the Spring of 2009 and decided to travel together to see the cities of North America. The Tri-District Travel Group has started their quest and you and your friends are welcome to join them. To learn more about future trips please contact **Jan Murdoch** (janmurdoch@cogeco.ca or 289-956-0163), **Cecile Leach** (Cecile.leach@sympatico.ca or 905-634-8027) or **Linda Jones** (ljroux13@hotmail.com or 905-336-5785).

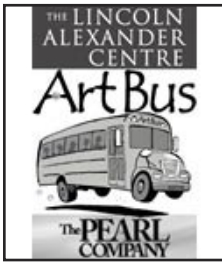
### *Live to Be 100!*

**Reporter:** “So you are 100 years old. How did you manage to live so long?” **Old man:** “Well, son, I got married when I was 21. The wife and I decided that if we had arguments, the loser would take a long walk to get over being mad. I suppose I really benefitted most from the 79 years of fresh air.”

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

# Hamilton Art Crawl

By Dave Wright and The Crawlers



District 15 visited the vibrant art community of north Hamilton on a Friday evening in early April and we found so much to see and experience. Those who had been before said it is always a different and interesting visit. The artisans and vendors have slowly changed the area by careful planning and will continue their efforts over the next few years to make it a desirable location for an artist.

Our tour was hosted by Barbara Milne and began at **The Pearl Company** at the corner of King William and Steven Streets. We received a briefing of what was in store for us and from there were bussed to Ottawa Street to visit **The Earls Court Gallery** and **Under the Moon Fine Arts**. Both are interesting and representative of the renewal of that part of Hamilton.



The next stop was the **Acclamation Bar and Grill** on James Street North for refreshments after which we dispersed for the next hour and a half to explore the area on our own. We all found favourites. The newly opened **Hamilton Hotel** houses a number of studios and a stunning gallery. It has become a hot spot on the street. There were a number of young people on the street and in the buildings. Perhaps that is an indication of the change that has taken place - young people mixing and finding entertainment with the artists on a Friday night and bringing excitement to the area.

One of our group was raised in east Hamilton and bussed to school along James Street. She could see the change. Of particular interest to her was the **Hamilton**



(Art Crawl... continues on Page 17)

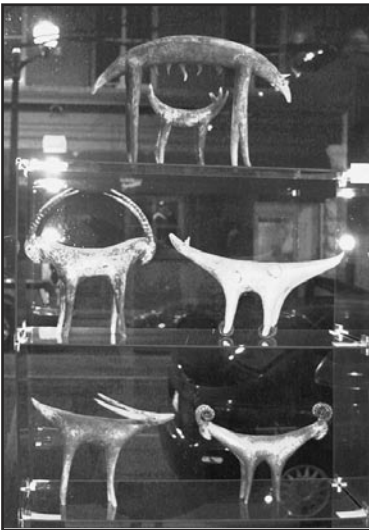
Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)



(Art Crawl... continued from Page 16)

**History and Heritage Gallery.** Using a video display, photographs of the city 30 to 60 years ago were featured. She found the final images of the Century Theatre touching. The first movie she ever saw was *The Wizard of Oz* at the Century.

The daughter of a District 15 member has a third floor studio in the area. **Sylvia Nickerson Illustrations** features her art as well as illustrations that appear in the *Globe and Mail* among other prominent publications. That, plus the fact that the artists in our RTO group met artists they knew, added something special to the evening. One of our members said that she especially enjoyed supporting the renewed spirit of hope that is transforming James North into an artist's and art lover's destination.



The last stop was **The Tiger Group Gallery** on Barton Street. We enjoyed refreshments and the works of five artists. One of the artists has some large and spectacular paintings of ships and locomotives that were in the rail yards and harbour of Hamilton. When we returned to The Pearl Company we were able to enjoy the last part of a musical show put on by a group called the **Marigolds** before we ended a most enjoyable evening.

All events hosted by The Pearl Company are listed on their website [www.thepearlcompany.ca](http://www.thepearlcompany.ca). The art crawls are a regular feature and are a great way to find out about the art community in Hamilton. One of our tourers who has lived abroad for a number of years said she saw a side of Hamilton that she didn't know existed and that it was a treat to see artists with so much talent in the galleries where they work.

### *Grandma's Visit!*

"Oh, I sure am glad to see you," the little boy said to his grandmother (on his mother's side). "Now Daddy will do the trick he's been promising us."

The grandmother was curious. "What trick is that?" She asked.

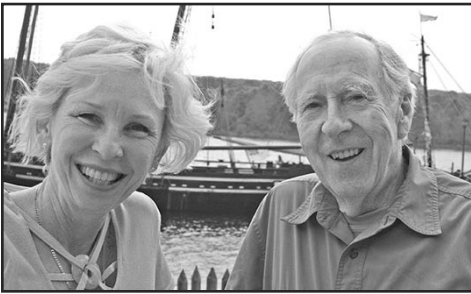
"He told Mommy that he'd climb the walls if you came to visit," answered the boy.

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

## Ian Downie – An Actor in His Prime!

By Peter Gnish

If you watch any television at all, I'm sure you have seen the Toronto Dominion Bank (TDBank) commercials that involve two older gentlemen in a series of sketches where they are astounded at the changes that have taken place in the banking industry over the years. One of the actors is portly, the other taller and slimmer. The slimmer one is **Ian Downie**, an RTO/ERO District 15 member who has been retired for 23 years. During that time he has remained active by taking on acting roles in a variety of venues. His latest role was as the aging husband in "On Golden Pond" that was presented in June at the Drayton Festival and in July at the King's Wharf Theatre in Penatanguishine.



It's always a pleasure to see one of our members on stage. The Hamilton Spectator did a wonderful article on Ian and gave a glowing report of his role in the play. So my wife, Cate, and I decided to journey up to Penatanguishine to take in the afternoon production and to spend some time with Ian. We were not disappointed. The

lovely theatre is in a beautiful setting on the lake with a schooner as backdrop. It was filled to capacity by a very appreciative audience. The cast was very good and Ian did an excellent job as the aging husband in the beginning stages of senility. Unfortunately we did not have a great deal of time to spend with Ian as he was scheduled to do another performance that evening.

How wonderful it is to see our members challenging themselves physically and mentally even into their 80's. Congratulations Ian on a superb effort and we hope to see you in future performances as well as on TV in those hilarious TD ads.

**IF YOU ARE MOVING or  
IF YOUR ADDRESS INFORMATION IS INCORRECT**

**Contact Dianne Vezeau** at the Provincial RTO/ERO office

In Writing: 18 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON M5R 2S7

By Telephone: 1-800-361-9888 Ext. 223 or 1-416-962-9463 Ext 223

or by email at [dvezeau@rto-ero.org](mailto:dvezeau@rto-ero.org)

or **Contact Mary Lyons** by telephone 905-336-5744

or by email at [mlyons3@cogeco.ca](mailto:mlyons3@cogeco.ca)

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

## Recreation Committee

By Dave Wright



At the District 15 Annual General Meeting we were entertained by **Diane Dupuy** and her story of **Famous People Players**. I have listed a February 17, 2011 visit to her theatre in our calendar. The theatre is located a short drive down the QEW on Evans Ave., just south of the Sherway Gardens. Car pools can be arranged for those who aren't keen on driving to the west end of Toronto.

There is another **Christmas Show** at Theatre Aquarius and a **Theatre Event** at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts in November. The events are listed on Page 22 in this issue of the Halton Herald and are posted on the District 15 website. For further information or to sign up, contact me at 905-639-5093 or by email at [wandave@sympatico.ca](mailto:wandave@sympatico.ca). Or you can contact the convenors **Janet Carter-Wright** and **Paul Durnan** directly. To get tickets we need lots of lead time so check the calendar or the website for the dates.

Thanks to all of you who have participated in the events this past year. If you haven't joined us before, give us a try this year and bring your spouse and friends.



## ReStore Volunteers Needed

### Positions Available:

- General Help Personnel
- Salvage Crew Leaders
- Salvage Crew Members
- Product Testers
- Drivers
- Cash and Pricing Personnel

### Benefits:

- Meet new people
- Utilize your skills
- Have fun
- Learn a new skill
- Support your community
- Earn your community involvement hours

### ReStore Hours

**Monday to Wednesday and Friday**  
9:00 am - 6:00 pm

**Thursday**  
9:00 am - 8:00 pm

**Saturday**  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm



**For more information on these volunteer positions, please contact:**

Deanna Smuk, Volunteer Coordinator at  
(905) 637-4446 ext. 223 or email  
[volunteer@habitathalton.ca](mailto:volunteer@habitathalton.ca)

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

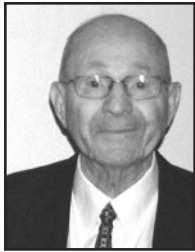
## Awards Committee

By Phyllis Kingsley

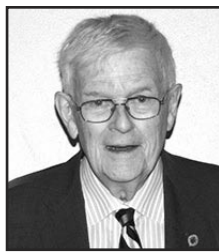


The newly established Awards Committee was pleased to recognize several members of RTO/ERO District 15 who have provided significant long-term service to the organization, either locally and/or provincially. Our very first **Distinguished Service Awards** were presented at the Annual General Meeting in May, 2010 to the following members: **Jim Baker, Chub Baxter, Colton Roberts** and **Ray Smith**. **Irene Chalupka** and **Bill Caldwell** were also honoured as retiring Board members who have volunteered in different capacities to the benefit of District 15. Congratulations to the recipients and our sincere thanks for their many contributions to our organization.

### Distinguished Service Award Recipients, 2010



Jim Baker



Chub Baxter



Colton Roberts



Ray Smith

**Project Service to Others (STO)** is a Provincial RTO/ERO program that provides grants to Districts for educational and/or community initiatives at the local, provincial or international level that support the concept of "Service to Others." RTO Provincial accepted our application again this year for a provincial grant for our Project Service To Others: "*A Starter Library for an Afghanistan School.*" The goal of the overall project is to provide all furnishings necessary for a 12-room school located in a village outside of Jalalabad, Afghanistan. This school was completed in the spring of 2009 through the fund-raising efforts of **Canadians in Support of Afghan Women (CSAW)** and donations from Canadians, many of whom live in Ontario. \$100,000 was raised and used in the construction of the school. Since then, a new project has been started to provide funding for the basic furniture requirements. **Ann Galioto**, a District 15 member and a representative of CSAW, applied for an STO grant to fund the Library in this school. We were pleased to present a cheque from RTO/ERO Provincial for \$4000.00 to Ann for this project which commenced in the fall of 2009 and hopefully will be completed

(Awards Committee ... continues on Page 21)

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)



(Awards Committee ... continued from Page 20)

within a year. Please remember that the Awards Committee must receive all 2011 Project Service To Others applications by December 31, 2010 to be considered. Background information and application forms for the STO Award are available on both the RTO/ERO Provincial and Local District 15 websites.

---

## Communications Committee

By Peter Gnish



Let me begin by thanking all those people who send in articles, pictures, emails, mail letters and cards, telephone, or make submissions to the regular contests we conduct. Usually we get a good response to these challenges to become involved. Unfortunately, the contest in the last newsletter, "I Remember When..." garnered no responses so we can't give out any cash prizes this time. Look for new contests you can become involved with in future issues of the Herald.

We did receive responses to our request for volunteers to assist with the newsletter. **Carrie Mayeur** and **Octavia Dutzak** have agreed to be involved. Thank you ladies! We are still looking for someone with knowledge of Photoshop to assist with the photographs and design. Also, if you would like to learn InDesign and would be prepared to act as Assistant Editor, then contact me to learn more.

Be sure to check out the latest news on our local website. Our webmaster, George MacRae is updating the site regularly with articles, pictures and the latest news.

### Contribute to the Herald!

The next *Halton Herald* will be distributed in January, 2011.

- **Share a line** with our readers and let them know what you are up to.
- **Send a Letter to the Editor** on any topic that concerns you.
- **Write an article** on any topic that may interest your retired colleagues. Please try to limit your article to a maximum of 1000 words.
- **Share a funny story** with our many readers.
- **Provide us with pictures** to share with our members.

Send your article or correspondence to the Editor, Peter Gnish by email: [pgnish@cogeco.ca](mailto:pgnish@cogeco.ca), by mail to 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton L8M 2K4 or telephone: 905-547-1628. Deadline - November 15, 2010.

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

**Calendar of Events - Sept. 2010 to May 2011**

- Sept. 15 10:00 AM, Bicycle Trip Niagara. Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca.
- Oct. 19 Fall Meeting. Oakville Conference Center. Lunch 1:00 PM, followed by guest speaker Sue Stephenson. See the enclosed flyer to register.
- Oct. 22 6:30 PM, Dinner Theatre Aldershot Players at West Plains United Church, Burlington. \$35.00. Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca **by Sept. 15.**
- Oct. 28 9:00 AM, Breakfast at El Spero Restaurant, Hopedale Mall, Oakville. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-630-2285.
- Nov. 12 8:00 PM, Play "*Wait Until Dark.*" Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts, Navy Street. \$27.00. **Contact Dave Wright** at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca **by Sept. 4.**
- Nov. 25 9:00 AM, Breakfast at Country Grill, 470 Appleby Line, Burlington. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-630-2285.
- Dec. 08 7:00 PM, Theatre Aquarius, "*A Christmas Carol: The Musical.*" King William St. Hamilton. **Contact Janet Carter-Wright** 905-336-5328 or jcwright@xplornet.com by Nov. 1. \$51.00. Cheques to be made out to Retirement Club and received by Janet Carter-Wright at 4491 Appleby Line, Burlington ON, L7M 0P3 **by Nov 1.**
- Jan. 27 9:00 AM, Breakfast at El Spero Restaurant, Hopedale Mall, Oakville. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-630-2285
- Feb. 17 11:30 AM, Famous PEOPLE Players: lunch and show. \$52.50+tax. 343 Evans Ave. Toronto. **Contact Dave Wright** at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca **by Dec. 15.**
- Feb. 17 8:00 PM, Drury Lane Music Hall, 2269 New St. Burlington. \$24.00. **Contact Dave Wright** at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca **by Nov 29.**
- May TBA 2:00 PM, Stratford Musical Matinee. "*Jesus Christ Superstar.*" Avon Theatre. **Contact Dave Wright by Dec. 1.**

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

## RTO/ERO District 15 Contact List

### Executive 2010 – 2011

Past President	Cecile Leach	905-634-8027
President	Linda Jones	905-336-5785
1st Vice President	Janice Murdoch	289-956-0163
2nd Vice President	Phyllis Kingsley	905-845-6911
Secretary	Janet Carter-Wright	905-336-5328
Treasurer	Chub Baxter	905-643-3732
	Assistant: Daliah Brown	905-825-8470
Member-at-Large	Jim Baker	905-639-129

### Committees

Archives	Judy Sloan	905-336-5538
Awards	Phyllis Kingsley	905-845-6911
Book of Remembrance	Marina Lloyd	905-637-6030
Communications Chair	Peter Gnish	905-547-1628
Website	George MacRae	905-315-8581
Newsletter	Peter Gnish	905-547-1628

Assistants: Chub Baxter, Octavia Dutzak, Cecile Leach, Carrie Mayeur, 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	Marg Megalink	905-877-7135
Out-of-Region Convenor	Peter Gnish	905-547-1628
Health Services	Paul Durnan	905-630-2285
Membership/Recruitment Chair	Mary Lyons (Interim)	905-336-5744
Committee Member:	Judy Sloan	905-336-5538
Pension	Jim Baker	905-639-1292
Political Advocacy	Linda Jones	905-336-5785
Recreation	David Wright	905-639-5093
Program	Jan Murdoch (Interim)	289-956-0163
Tours	TBA	
Member-at-Large	Penny Hambly	905-639-6193

## Program Committee

By Jan Murdoch



The Program Committee is always looking for new venues, speakers, entertainment and good food. The 2010-11 year will see us in two new venues, one in Oakville and one in Milton and at each the focus will be on something unique and entertaining. Our **General Meetings** are a great place to get updated on RTO issues, get reacquainted with colleagues and simply enjoy the food and entertainment at an affordable price. If driving to the venue proves a problem for anyone, please contact one of our executive and we'll try to locate someone nearby who can car pool.

In 2009-10 we offered a **Wellness Series** which was well received and in the 2010-11 season a new series focusing on different aspects of wellness will be made available to everyone. Check out the selections in the flyer included in this mailing. If the sessions look appealing, book early to avoid disappointment.

If you have any venues, speakers or entertainment opportunities you would like to recommend, please contact one of our program committee members. I am looking forward to seeing you at the **Fall General Meeting** on October 19, 2010 at the Oakville Conference Centre to hear our renowned speaker, **Sue Stephenson** on the topic of *"Laughter for the Health of It"*! See the enclosed flyer for more information and to register.

### 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**.



## Recruitment & Member Services Committee

By Mary Lyons



Welcome to all new members. I hope you will be able to attend **The Hell With The Bell Breakfast** at the Quality Inn in Bronte on September 9th and are planning to attend future events.

Previously I mentioned that **Bill Caldwell** would be staying on as Assistant Recruitment and Member Services Chair. Bill has found it necessary to resign from this role. I would personally like to thank him for all the help he has given me as I take over as Interim Chair. I would also like to thank **Judy Sloan** who helped me by sending out information to the retirees from the Halton Catholic DSB.

We are looking for people to sit on the Recruitment and Member Services Committee. Some of the things that we could use your help with are:

- Sending information packages out to prospective members
- Sending welcome packages out to new members
- Keeping our database current - the Provincial Office sends monthly changes
- Helping with the April **Wine and Cheese** reception
- Helping with the Annual **Hell With The Bell Breakfast**

If you are interested in being on this committee, please call me at 905-336-5744 or email me at [mlyons3@cogeco.ca](mailto:mlyons3@cogeco.ca).

After each issue of the Halton Herald, many are returned because members have moved and we haven't received the new address. Please contact me with any change of address, phone number or email address so you can continue to receive information from the District as well as from the Provincial Office.

Please contact me (see above) if you have any questions or concerns about membership. Also, I would appreciate hearing from you if you know of a retired education worker who is not a member of RTO/ERO so that I could send them information about the benefits of membership in this wonderful organization. I look forward to seeing many of you at our Fall meeting.

### *Never Too Late!*

Old man: "Did you hear about the 89 year-old man and the 85 year-old lady that got married last week?"

Old woman: "Did they throw rice at them?"

Old man: "No, they threw vitamins!"

## A Visit With Vera - A Georgetown Treasure

By Marina Lloyd - Chair of Goodwill Committee



One afternoon this summer, I had the privilege of hearing stories from Vera Macdonald's life - a "life lived large." Vera is blessed with many gifts, gifts which she shares generously with her beloved community. She is an actor, a singer, an artist and a comedian. She planned her own 80th birthday party in October last year but it wasn't a conventional birthday party - perhaps nothing

Vera does is conventional. She called the event, *A Celebration of Friendship*. It took the form of a concert at the home of a musician friend. Several guests sang or played instruments; another prepared the feast. In lieu of gifts, everyone brought items for the food bank. What a joyful way to mark a milestone birthday!

Fast forward to July 1, 2010 and Glen Williams is celebrating Canada Day. Who is riding in the Georgetown Little Theatre convertible? None other than Vera who co-founded the theatre group 50 years ago. She always wanted to be an actor after playing her first role at the age of 5. She was happy enough to be playing Cinderella but wasn't charmed by the boy who played Prince Charming! The drama workshops Vera presented over the years inspired many Halton teachers to introduce theatre arts into their curriculum. She is a member of the Brampton Cardinals, a choral group which entertains in Seniors' Homes, for community groups such as Probus and occasionally presents a public concert. As well as singing with the group Vera welcomes the opportunity to perform her comedy routines. Remember the Halton Raging Grannies, politically active women, whose songs expressed their passion for justice? As MC, Vera's introductions to their songs may not always have been accurate but they were always hilarious. She has also been involved in Halton Globe Musical Productions. Her home is a magical place - a collection of owls stare down from the fireplace mantel; a shelf holds rows of painted ducks; there are two magnificent bronze statues by Rockwood artist Wendy West and all around are assorted pitchers, bowls, pots, statuary and glassware. Shelves crammed with books of all genres are evidence of an inquiring mind. Vera is a watercolourist and several of the works of art which cover the walls bear her signature.

Vera was born North East London, England. On September 1, 1939, nine-year-old Vera was evacuated along with her classmates to Norfolk for six months. A second evacuation with her mother and sister to Lancashire lasted for only three months as her mother was too concerned about her father to stay away longer. So, it was into the Anderson Shelter every night - a tin structure set several feet

(A Visit With Vera ... continues on Page 27)

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

(A Visit With Vera ... continued from Page 26)

into the ground. Her father, an air raid warden, tried to make the shelter as comfortable as possible and even brought little treats to his family. She remembers picking up pieces of shrapnel after a raid, the strict food rationing, the sound of the Doodlebugs and V2s, the destroyed buildings and the lost lives. Vera had done so well in her 10+ exams that she was awarded a scholarship to grammar school. During the Battle of Britain, she was attending school although if she forgot her gas mask, she was sent home. The cloakroom became the students' shelter during daytime raids. At the age of 18 she attended Exmouth Teachers College which was affiliated with the University of South West England and, after two years of training, she was well qualified to teach children aged 7 to 11.

After a stint of teaching in London she sailed with her husband from Southampton to New York in 1952. They had \$12.50 in their pockets and lots of hope in their hearts. Dazzled by the bright lights and the opulence which was such a contrast to England still recovering from the war, they just walked and stared and fed themselves for three days on three 50 cent bags of apples. Living through the Blitz in London must have given them a penchant for survival. Upon reaching Toronto by train, they presented a letter of introduction and were sent to work for a farmer in Belfountain. Her husband, who had graduated from agricultural college, hoped to eventually buy a farm of his own in Canada. What followed for Vera were a series of jobs - housekeeping for the farmer's family, hostessing at the Terracotta Inn, working as a salesperson for a photographer and selling waterless cookware. She would make cold calls to invite the "lucky draw winners" to a dinner for up to 30 of their friends, prepare all the food including roasts and cake in the miraculous pots and then set up appointments so she could further extol the virtues of waterless cooking and hopefully sell the pots.



Teaching in Canada came about as the result of a chance meeting with an administrator who needed a teacher for one term. She fulfilled various roles during her teaching career, including principals' supply, primary classroom teacher and remedial reading teacher. Finally, she joined the North Area Resource Team visiting several schools, assessing students, working with teachers and programming for Special Needs students. From 1983 to 1985, she taught in the Special Education Department at the Secondary level of an International School in Switzerland.

(A Visit With Vera ... continues on Page 28)

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

(A Visit With Vera ... continued from Page 27)

When she retired in 1989, her significant contributions to the children of North Halton were recognized and celebrated. But she also received an unusual award, the Golden Pantsuit Award which commemorated the day she wore (or attempted to wear) a pantsuit to school! The matter of appropriate dress for women teachers appeared on staff meeting agendas soon after. Outside the classrooms, she served as president of HETA and was an active member of FWTAO. As well as being a member of our District 15, she has twice served as president of Peel North RWTO and is involved with the Lydia Snow and Oakville Branches.

While teaching in Switzerland, Vera bought a trailer in the South of France. Until a couple of years ago, she spent her summers in France, taking side trips to England and Switzerland (and a dream-come-true journey to Egypt). Although she missed our Canadian summers, she has vivid memories of Canadian winters. Her home for the last fifty-eight years sits on the banks of the Credit River and she well remembers the ice jams, the ice floes, boats sailing on the road and the time she left in the morning to take her sons to school and couldn't return home for four days! Vera's two sons and an 18-year-old granddaughter live in the Yukon. If she feels nostalgia for ice floes, she can always visit family in the North.

When asked what qualities she most admires in others, Vera listed the following - generosity, a sense of humour, integrity and empathy. Those who know her best would agree that she exemplifies all these attributes. This is how longtime friend Brenda Dolling describes Vera. "I love her like a sister," says Brenda, "She's funny; she's articulate; she's full of joie de vivre. When you're with her, everything seems to come alive. She's interested in other people and others feel an immediate affinity with her." I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet this remarkable woman and to introduce her to readers of the Halton Herald.

---

## Health Services Committee

By Paul Durnan



Recently the Annual Convention for health-care reps was held in Toronto. Some of the frequently held misconceptions about the health care plan were outlined. I felt these were worth mentioning to you.

1. If I wait until the end of the 60-day period before I apply for the RTO/ERO Health Plans can I save 60 days' premiums?

**Answer:** Coverage and premiums are back-dated to the day following the termination of your last group insurance plan. You want your coverage seamless.

(Health Services ... continues on Page 29)

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

(Health Services ... continued from Page 28)

2. If I have one component of the RTO/ERO Health Plans I can apply for the other benefit at a later date without any restriction. **Answer:** The 60-day limitation applies. Applying after 60 days for Semi-Private Hospital or Extended Health Care must be with a medical and is subject to the insurer's approval. The Dental maximum of \$100 per person in the first year of your coverage will apply.

3. My Dental Plan premiums may outweigh what I can claim. **Answer:** The concept of insurance is to share the risk. In a given year there are some who will use the maximum and some who will not. Claims fluctuate and increase with age.

4. RTO/ERO's Long Term Care insurance is too expensive. I'll just wait until I have to pay the expenses. **Answer:** When looking at public and private LTC the numbers of RTO/ERO's past costs and assumptions of the future say "No." I'll continue with the rest of these in the next Halton Herald. Any questions or comments call me at 905-630-2285.

## Pension and Retirement Concerns Committee

By Jim Baker



**Changes have been made to the number of days that retired teachers can teach.** Here are the changes:

1. 95 and 20 day limits are merged to one limit of 50 days effective September 1, 2012. One can still teach to the end of the month.

2. Effective September 1, 2010, the definition of what counts as work has been broadened to include "employed by or otherwise

engaged, directly or indirectly, to provide services for compensation for an employer who participates in the pension plan." Please note that as of September 1, 2010, retirees signing contracts to work for the Ministry in any capacity will need to comply with the employment rule as well.

3. Effective September 1, 2010, employers will be reporting re-employment work to the OTPP. Please note that the responsibility still lies with pensioners for keeping their own records so that the limit is not exceeded.

### Points of Interest

- The number of pensioners has doubled in the last 12 years. 65% of pensioners are under the age of 70.

- Buy-back rules and procedures for active teachers are changing. The details may be found at [www.otpp.com](http://www.otpp.com).

### New Item: Cost of Providing Survivor Pensions For New Spouses

There is interest in determining the cost to the pension fund to provide survivor pension benefits for a new spouse acquired after retirement. The actuarial firm Mercier has estimated this benefit would cost \$7.4 billion. Obviously there will be no new benefit added to the plan until the current deficit is eliminated.

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)



## Political Advocacy Committee

By Linda Jones



Since my last report much has occurred on the political scene including what is probably uppermost in your mind - the effect of the **HST** on you and your family? Your Provincial Advocacy Committee wants to know how it has affected its members. They are asking that you keep a record of the increases in your household budget as a result of its implementation. You will be asked to submit this information so that they can advocate on your behalf with the Provincial Government for modifications to assist seniors. They are also looking for actual accounts of health stories and experiences, both good and bad that you may have had while interacting with the Ontario health system. I am to collect these accounts and forward them to my Provincial liaison.

We are still awaiting the publication of the report by the Ontario Ombudsman on the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN. It has been written and it is hoped that it will answer the 109 complaints from the public about their lack of public consultation on some very important issues such as the amalgamation of hospital services in the area that includes Burlington. It was referred to on page 40 of the Ombudsman's annual report found at [www.ombudsman.on.ca](http://www.ombudsman.on.ca), if you are interested in reading its 88 pages. Fortunately, for those of you in the rest of our District, the Halton-Peel LHIN seems to be functioning better.

I attended the **Ontario Pension Summit** in late March sponsored by the Canadian Labour Congress and the Ontario Federation of Labour. Speakers from unionised and non-unionised workplaces and retirees spoke of their lack of adequate pensions, if they had one at all. Business people, financial analysts, the Vice-President of Advocacy for CARP, journalists and politicians including the Federal Minister of Finance also gave reports on how they would bring about retirement security for all Canadians. The consensus was that significant changes need to occur to the CPP to avoid more seniors slipping below the poverty line. Since then the Federal Government has announced that there will be a modest increase in the CPP but not nearly as much as was recommended by this conference, the Director of the Rotman Centre for International Pension Management and the former Chief Actuary of the CPP. It is not too late to talk to your MPs about this issue.

I also participated in a **'Conversation about the Ontario Women's Health Strategy'** led by Community Development Halton and Echo, a department within the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Echo's mission is greater

(Political Action ... continues on Page 31)

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

(Political Action ... continued from Page 30)

health for women through leadership, productive partnerships and research based action. Its vision is improved health and well being and reduced health inequities for Ontario women. Its values are equity, diversity and inclusiveness. A very diverse group of women including activists, municipal politicians, representatives of social agencies, health care workers and Halton Regional staff attended, shared experiences and made suggestions for possible plans of action. I will report again when their final report is complete after touring the Province.

Be aware that **Municipal Election Day**, is coming on October 25th, 2010. Unlike Provincial and Federal Elections the issues vary from community to community within Halton so you will not be receiving the results of a survey of candidates' views. However I urge every one of you to familiarize yourself with the platforms of your local candidates, attend all candidate meetings and ask questions such as "What plans does this council have for building more affordable housing for the more vulnerable sectors of our community including seniors?" or "How will this council ensure that seniors are not further burdened by tax increases?" I'm sure you can think of many more. Finally get out and **VOTE!** Although in Burlington at least you will be able to vote online in this Municipal Election.

I was invited to attend the Political Action Committee meeting of District 13, Hamilton in the spring. They had nearly a dozen members, many of them past District Presidents, and so they were able to research a great deal of information, especially as regards health matters. Halton needs the same. Since I am now the President of District 15, it is very difficult for me to this. Email me (ljroux13@hotmail.com) or call (905-336-5785) and volunteer to become a committee member.

### **Advertising and Promotion Policy**

**It is the policy of RTO/ERO Halton District 15 that all advertising and promotion to or by its members must have prior approval by the District Board of Directors. Publication of any advertisement by an outside group in the Halton Herald or other District 15 printed material, on the District 15 website or at any District function or event does not constitute endorsement of the product or service by RTO/ERO Halton District 15 and must have Board of Directors prior approval. In this context "Advertising and Promotion" includes signage, verbal presentations, handouts, distributed material and display table material.**

## Archives Committee

By Judy Sloan



Well September is here already. How time flies! I hope that everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing summer.

Speaking about relaxing - the SignPost section of the Burlington Post had a photo of member **Joyce Kapanen** and her husband **Al** aboard the Norwegian Jewel cruise ship while sightseeing in Lisbon, Portugal. I can tell by their smiles that they had a wonderful vacation.

Our indispensable Board member **Peter Gnish** has been sending me many articles for our scrapbook for which I am very grateful. Now I can finally add a photo and article about him! The recent Hamilton Spectator article was titled "*A Significant Celebration – Six Great Hamilton Coaches Feted For Accomplishments.*" Peter, along with fellow members **Vince Franco** and **John MacLennan** were honoured for their coaching achievements at the **Celebration of Significant People** banquet at Michelangelo's in Hamilton. Peter began his coaching career leading the McMaster women's basketball team while still a student at the university. He went on to teach and coach basketball at a number of different Halton high schools. Vince coached football, track and field, wrestling and baseball in a lengthy career that included stops at Aldershot, Cathedral and M.M. Robinson high schools. He's still a recruiter for McMaster football. John started his coaching career at Burlington Central before moving to Nelson High School where his basketball teams won more than 20 City of Burlington, SOSSA, Halton-Peel and OFSAA championships. The dinner also raised funds for the **John Wismer Scholarship Fund** and the **Brain Tumor Foundation**. Congratulations gentlemen. You are certainly three significant people.

This March the Hamilton Spectator featured a very touching article by **Marie Jacobs** who is a freelance writer and one of our members. In the article, called "*Hamilton's Generosity Changed My Life,*" Marie describes growing up poor in Hamilton with her mother from the age of eight. They had moved many times before, fleeing and hiding from an abusive situation as her mother didn't want her husband to find them. Marie describes all the hardships they faced while she was growing up as well as the indomitable spirit of her mother who helped to keep them going. The article focuses on all the very kind and charitable people Marie and her mother encountered along the way who assisted them in many different circumstances and made their life easier. In fact, Marie states at the end of the article that she wrote it as a belated thank you to all the generous and understanding individuals, businesses and organizations who helped a single mom and her daughter in Hamilton which she calls "the city with a heart".

(Archives ... continues on Page 33)

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

(Archives ... continued from Page 32)

On a sad note, I have received many death notices lately so I have added an Obituaries section to the District 15 scrapbook.

**Peter Armand Spencer** passed away on February, 2010 at the age of 83. He was employed by the Halton Board of Education as a French Language Consultant until his retirement in 1984. Peter was a 4th degree Knight, Chevalier de Colomb, St. Antoine-Daniel Conseil 10340 and was very active in his parish.

**Gerald Maurice “Moe” Pennock** died peacefully at his home on March 11, 2010 after a courageous battle with cancer. Moe enjoyed over 40 years as an educator, beginning in Lindsay, Ontario as a teacher and ultimately a principal in the Halton District School Board. A Celebration of Life in his memory was held at Lester B. Pearson High School on April 10, and was attended by former students, colleagues, friends and family.

**Betty Marie Moore** passed away on May 19, 2010 in her 79th year. Betty was a vice-principal at Burlington Central and Oakville Trafalgar high schools, a principal at M.M. Robinson and Acton high schools and Superintendent of Education for the Halton Board 1989-93. She was a member of many regional and provincial Education Councils and active in community service organizations including the Burlington Crime Prevention Committee, YMCA Oakville, Zonta and IODE.

At **Richard “Rick” Allen Kaufman’s** request, a reception was held to celebrate his life instead of a funeral after his death on May 2, 2010 at the age of 65. The event included selected readings and shared memories. Rick retired in 2002 as a principal after 34 years with the Halton Board of Education. He was also a member and past president of the Rotary Club of North Burlington and a member of the New Dundee Board of Trade.

The cover page of the new Obituaries section of the scrapbook states the following which certainly applies to the above four educators: *‘I’d like my memory to be that I have taught my students not just the lessons in a book, but how to know their worth, how to choose the proper path and how to gather all the beauty of a flower or a song. For if I’ve helped my students grow in wisdom, strength and grace, then I shall be content to leave this world knowing that I have fulfilled my place on earth and helped the world to grow, for I was a TEACHER.’*

That’s all for now but please keep those newspaper articles and photos coming to me at 1446 Brenner Court, Burlington Ont. L7P2Z2. You may also contact me by email at [judymsloan@yahoo.ca](mailto:judymsloan@yahoo.ca) or by phone at 905-336-5538.

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

Your experience begins at CruiseShipCenters.



## There Has Never Been A Better Time To Cruise...

Thank you to our many RTO friends that have booked their cruises with Expedia CruiseShipCenters. There are so many incredible deals, wonderful new ships and exciting itineraries being offered by our preferred cruise line partners, so if a cruise vacation is on your list of things to do it's not too late to take advantage of reduced rates, bonus offers and special on-board amenities. Ask about our exclusive 'Top 100' specials.

Celebrity <b>X</b> Cruises®	Holland America Line	Disney CRUISE LINE
<b>Carnival</b>	CRYSTAL CRUISES	AZAMARA CRUISES
THE YACHTS OF SEABOARD	OCEANIA CRUISES®	PRINCESS CRUISES <i>escape completely</i>
<b>NCL</b> NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE® FREESTYLE CRUISING®	<b>CUNARD</b>	<i>Regent</i> SEVEN SEAS CRUISES



**Jan Murdoch**  
*Retired from HDSB in 2001.*  
"I love to cruise and I believe it is the best vacation value around today." Call me to discuss your vacation plans. We have hundreds of incredible cruise specials and bonus offers.

**Jan Murdoch**  
**Cruise & Vacation Specialist**  
[www.cruiseshipcenters.ca/jmurdoch](http://www.cruiseshipcenters.ca/jmurdoch)



**Chuck Rattray**  
*Retired from HCDSB in 2002*  
"I can't think of a better way to relax and see the world than on a cruise." Let me show you why there is no better value for your vacation dollar and how you can take advantage of our many cruise specials.

**Chuck Rattray**  
**Cruise & Vacation Specialist**  
[www.cruiseshipcenters.ca/chuckrattray](http://www.cruiseshipcenters.ca/chuckrattray)

Local: (905) 331-7331  
Toll-Free: (888) 331-7331  
2025 Guelph Line, Burlington, ON, L7P 4M8  
(In the Fortino's Plaza)



Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)



## Provincial RTO/ERO Donation: Pennies for Peace

At the May, 2010 Senate the recommendation of the Provincial Executive that the RTO/ERO Charitable Donation for 2010 be made to Pennies for Peace, an international organization inspired by the book *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson, was ratified. His organization builds schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan and empowers these communities through education, especially for girls. The cheque will be presented to Pennies for Peace at the pre-game ceremony at the RTO/ERO Toronto Blue Jays game on Saturday, August 28. Note that \$5 of each ticket will be donated to the charity.

### *For Your Information:*

## **You Are Entitled To Your Medical Records!**

From The Sarnia Observer

Who owns your medical history? That question comes up a lot when people change health care providers or wonder what is in their medical record. "The short answer is that the physical record belongs to the health care provider or institution - but the information in it belongs to you as the patient," says Jo-Ann Willson, president of the Federation of Health Regulatory Colleges of Ontario.

If you ask for your records, your provider is allowed to charge a fee to reflect the cost of materials used, the time required to prepare them, and the cost of forwarding them. People have the same right to view or get hold of their health records from a hospital, typically through a written request to the health records department. Again, fees may be charged. "You are entitled to your record, so the obligation isn't on you to explain why you want it, but on the provider to pass it along in a timely manner," says FHRCO's Willson.

### ***More Church Bulletin Bloopers!!!***

- **The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.**
- **During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when Reverend Lilley supplied our pulpit.**
- **This afternoon there will be a meeting in the South and North ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.**
- **Weight Watchers will meet at 7:00 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.**



## Retired Women Teachers of Ontario Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario

Join RWTO/OERO to network with friends, get reacquainted with former colleagues and meet new and interesting retirees. RWTO/OERO provides fellowship, friendship, support and communication to retired women teachers.

### **Who are we?**

We are a provincial organization for all retired women teachers, including women from the elementary and secondary panels, from both public and separate school boards and from colleges and universities. Every retired woman teacher is eligible to become a member of RWTO/OERO regardless of where, when or how long she taught.

### **Where are we?**

The Halton area has three RWTO/OERO branches: Burlington, Oakville and Lydia Snow (serving Georgetown and Acton)

### **How to Contact Us:**

Burlington: Mary Lyons (905) 336-5744 [mlyons3@cogeco.ca](mailto:mlyons3@cogeco.ca)

Oakville: Diann Rigg (905) 827-1571

Lydia Snow: Liz Bailey (519) 853- 0585 [erbailey@sympatico.ca](mailto:erbailey@sympatico.ca)

For information on other branches in the province, contact the Provincial Office.

- Phone : (289) 286-0657 or Toll Free: 1-877-607-6696
- E-mail : [info@rwto.org](mailto:info@rwto.org)
- Website : [www.RWTO.org](http://www.RWTO.org)

## Retired Women Teachers of Ontario (RWTO/OERO)

By Mary Lyons

I am often asked why there is a separate group exclusively for retired women teachers. For some background information, I will quote from the brochure put out by the Provincial RWTO/OERO office. It states: "RWTO was formed in April, 1956 as the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers (OASWT) by a small group of retired women teachers in Ontario. They joined together to persuade the government to raise the level of pensions for retired women teachers. Each year a small group of women continued to lobby the government. As their numbers increased, their case grew stronger. In 1967, they became successful advocates of pension reform. We have come a long way since then!"

Many retired women teachers belong to District 15 RTO/ERO as well as to the RWTO/OERO branch in the area where they live or where they taught. RTO/ERO and RWTO/OERO are separate organizations which meet somewhat different needs. RWTO/OERO focuses on programs and issues appealing to retired women teachers with opportunities to use their leadership, creative and communication skills. RWTO/OERO is socially conscious and works to establish a visible outward looking presence among teachers, in particular, and the public, in general, to improve the lives of all women and children. Like RTO/ERO, many RWTO branches develop outreach programs in their local community and provide support for sick and shut-in members.

RWTO/OERO membership benefits include opportunities for sharing experiences with other retired women teachers in an atmosphere of fun and fellowship. Programs vary from branch to branch but have included guest speakers, luncheons, wine tours, fashion shows, musical entertainment and special interest groups such as euchre clubs and gardening. The Provincial Newsletter, *Connections*, is sent to members 3 times a year. Some local branches have newsletters and email updates for members. RWTO/OERO members and spouses have the opportunity to purchase a unique hospital and home care insurance plan. If purchased in the Fall of 2010, there will be no medical questionnaire to be filled out in order to qualify for coverage.

RWTO continues to exist because there is still a need for an organization that cares for the interests and well-being of retired women teachers. We hope you will consider membership in RWTO/OERO. Join us for **"Caring, Sharing and Having Fun."**

**Scotiabank** Presents

# A Brighter Future A Stringed Journey

Date: Thurs., Oct. 28, 2010

Place: Oakville Conference Centre

Time: Reception 5:30 pm / Dinner 7:00 pm

Featuring: *Jowi Taylor*



Halton District School Board



HALTON LEARNING FOUNDATION

Tickets \$125 / Table of 8 \$800

For Tickets Contact: 905.335.3665 x3408 rowej@hdsb.ca

## Peru, Ecuador and The Galapagos: The Most Memorable Trip!

By Jim Baker in collaboration with Jenny Hetherington

Photos By Jenny Hetherington



Are you considering escaping the cold of winter? Then a trip to Peru, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands is for you. The temperature is tropical between 20° C to 25° C with cooler temperatures in the Andes. My travelling companion and photographer, Jenny Hetherington found many reasons to encourage a visit to this area including the history, geography, varying cultures, and unique ecosystems.

The first four days of our eighteen-day trip were spent in Peru. Lima, its capital, is a modern city with strong roots to its colonial past. Most people associate Peru with the famous

Incas. In fact, the reign of the Incas only lasted 100 years, but their skills, knowledge and influence were such that they still persist today. The Spaniards who conquered Peru in the 15th century left many imposing buildings. As you would expect, the National Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology revealed the largest collection of the many cultures that inhabited Peru before and after the Spanish conquest. We saw elaborate and curiously formed stone pottery, delicately woven textiles, multicoloured ceramics, and intricate metal works.



The second largest Peruvian city, Cuzco, possessed the largest number of archaeological remains from the era of the Incas as well as colonial art treasures from Spanish times. It is the stepping stone to reach the place that every traveler who comes to Peru yearns to see: the famous Lost City of Machu Picchu. After a slow journey by train and bus along a small river, we arrived at a train station where we were surrounded by a crowd of vendors. Jenny had visited Machu Picchu in 1986, and at that time, there was no train station and no vendors, though she did buy a hand-woven bag from a small boy. The seeds of vendors had already been planted! However, in those days, travelers were not harassed as they are today.

Machu Picchu was built on the top of a mountain at about 2,400 metres above

(Peru, Ecuador... continued on Page 40)

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)



(Peru, Ecuador... continued from Page 40)



sea level. From a military point of view, it was ideally situated. Depending where a man would have stood, he would have had a 360° view of his surroundings. Thus he could have detected an attack coming from any direction. We visited this memorable city with a knowledgeable guide pointing areas of interest. The Incas had actually built a system of aqueducts so that waste water

would run down through a system of gullies and away from where people lived. Machu Picchu is well worth a visit. However, you should consult a physician first. The air is thin at 2,400 metres. Jenny took medication to prevent altitude sickness; I did not and felt quite well.

As we continued our journey, our guide stopped at a couple of colourful local markets where artisans offered their wares for sale. Jenny and the ladies in the group remember best the array of beautifully-made sterling silver jewellery! A fact we found very interesting that day was that guinea pigs are a staple food in Peru. Some people treat them as pets; they build them small houses with windows, tiny corridors, and tiny staircases with railings. Yet at mealtime, they have no qualm to catch one and serve him for dinner. In one house that we visited, more than a dozen guinea pigs were running around the house quite freely. As a matter of fact, a young girl was preparing one for the evening meal.



We spent the next few days in Ecuador. Quito, the capital, recalls its colonial past with its museums, monasteries and churches with their gilded altars and statues. One of the most unique experiences of the trip was riding the Chiva Express a colourful bus adapted to run on very old railroad tracks. Once aboard we were in for an astonishing ride through the fertile Valley of Latacunga, then up and

(Peru, Ecuador... continues on Page 41)

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

(Peru, Ecuador... continued from Page 40)



down the slopes of Cotopaxy volcano. After a very interesting stop at a rose plantation (that exports roses to Canada) we boarded once more and relaxed with the scent of the roses we had been given wafting through the train. As it went along, the train started to twist and turn, crossing bridges, ravines, and river gorges, taking us on

a track carved out of the side of a mountain. We had begun our journey down the famous Devil's Nose, one of the most impressive feats of rail engineering in the world. Little by little the Chivas Express started its precarious journey through a series of switch backs. This ride is not for the faint-hearted. The tracks are old and rusty, they are twisted in so many places that we held our breath as the wheels slowly made their way where a small landslide had washed away the rotted railway ties. In places, the tracks had to be cleared of rocks. Everyone would get out of the train to help out, the men picking the large rocks, the ladies, the smaller ones. Did I mention that most of the time the wobbly rails seemed no more than 15 to 25 centimetres from the edge of the cliff?

After all this excitement we looked forward to a week of sailing in the Galapagos Islands on a small cruise ship. These sailing days were the most memorable and the busiest days of our trip. We flew to the Galapagos from Guayaquil, the largest city in Ecuador and landed on the island of Paltra where we boarded the Celebrity Xpedition. The ship only accommodates 100 passengers, and it does it with style! Twice a day, pas-

sengers are taken by Zodiac to different islands for a half day's exploration. We rode by Zodiac along the cliffs that offered us a closer look at rarely-seen pelagic birds. A university-trained naturalist accompanied a group of approximately a dozen people on these expeditions talking about the flora and fauna unique to each island. Interestingly, only young men born in the Galapagos may become naturalists.



Jenny and I have reminisced over this particular trip many times. We have been to the South Pacific, challenged Cape Horn, crossed the famous Suez Canal and

(Peru, Ecuador... continues on Page 42)

Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)

(Peru, Ecuador... continued from Page 41)

seen the towering buildings of Dubai, to name a few places. Yet for our winter holidays, our first thoughts invariably go back to our trip to Peru, Ecuador, and the Galapagos. We laugh about the Chivas Express, recalling every twist and turn of that ride. It was not the warmest or the sunniest trip we ever took but it was very educational and informative. As far as memorable and enjoyable trips are concerned, it was the best!

(Peru, Ecuador... continues on Pages 43 & 44)

## Sailing The Gulf Stream

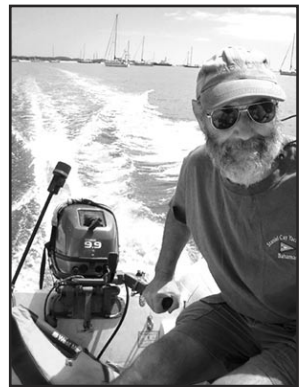
By Vince and Linda Weeks



Linda and I have found a wonderful winter activity to keep us young and active. As I mentioned in an earlier letter, I built a sailboat and took it to the Bahamas. We keep it in Florida right now and cross the Gulf Stream to the Bahamas every year. Once we are south of Nassau we spend all of our time where large cruise boats can't go. We have found the Exumas, south of Nassau, to be the most intriguing so far. There is very little population and some of the time we are the only ones in an anchorage. There is always weather and navigation to be concerned about which keeps our minds active. The physical activity is good for our bodies.

This past winter we spent 3 months anchored and used our dinghy to explore many islands and beaches. The south end of the Exuma islands is where most cruisers end up in the village of Georgetown and where the cruisers have organized all kinds of activities for themselves. It is kind of a day camp for adults. There is beach church, volleyball, bocce, bridge, dances, ham radio club meetings, jewelry making etc. All the skills that cruisers have are put to use in the boating community.

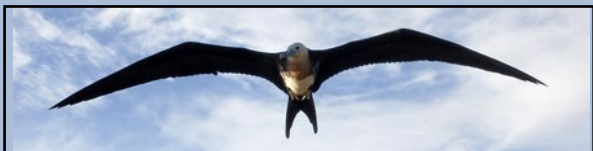
If you are interested in following our adventures every winter, we have a blog [www.fortnight2.blogspot.com](http://www.fortnight2.blogspot.com) that you can visit. The picture on the cover page is of our boat **FORTNIGHT** crossing the Gulf Stream from Key Biscayne to Bimini. More pictures can be found on Page 43.



Visit us on the Internet at [www.rtohalton.org](http://www.rtohalton.org)



## ENJOYING NATURE - IN THE GALAPAGOS



Photos by  
Jenny Hetherington



## ENJOYING NATURE - IN THE CARIBBEAN



# ECUADOR & PERU - A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE

