



Love Given

Erica Andrew and William

“On Being Grandparents”



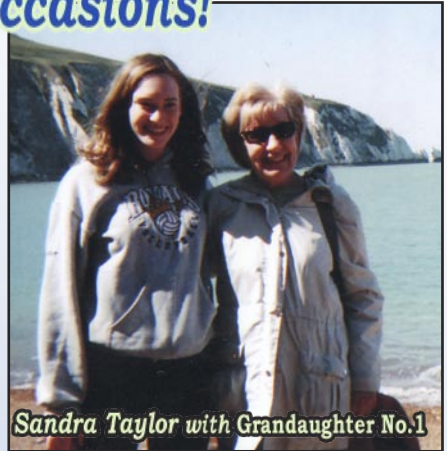
Love Received

Jacob and Irene Roberts

Sharing... Special Occasions!



Penny Hambly's Hunter & Raine



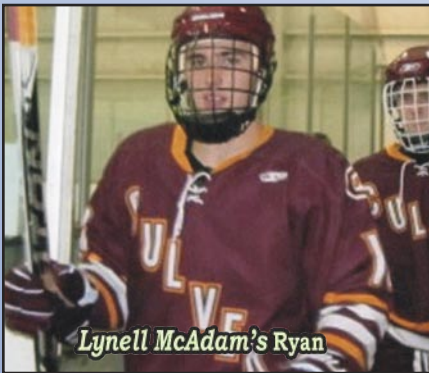
Sandra Taylor with Granddaughter No.1



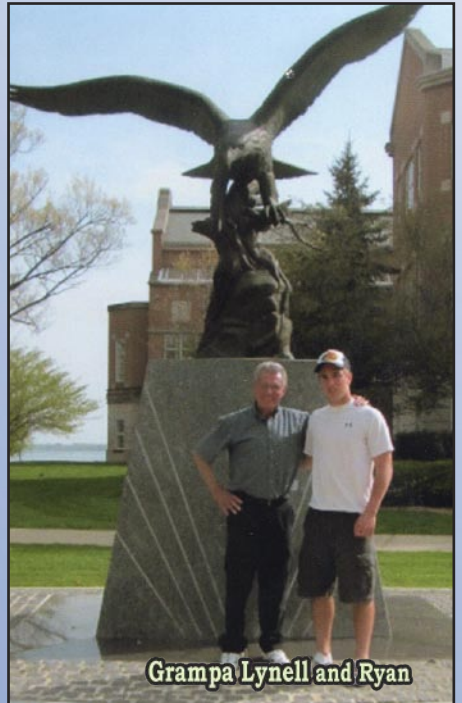
Erica Andrew's William



Sandra Taylor's Grandkids No.2, 5 & 6



Lynell McAdam's Ryan



Grampa Lynell and Ryan



Marilyn Ortwein's Rowan Andrew and Ben

President's Report

By Jan Murdoch



I love to visit other countries to experience the culture, the cuisine and the varied physical surroundings. On my 39th wedding anniversary in July, I celebrated by walking on the equator in Ecuador - it was a unique experience. But, staying in touch with friends, family and colleagues from a distance is a challenge. Members who have moved out of Halton to new communities, provinces or countries still want to stay connected. Some may have found the solution with the help of social media that is available thanks to the Internet such as Facebook, FaceTime, Skype, Twitter, Messages, Blogs and web pages. But, I am not sure if I am taking advantage of all the features that each technology offers. So, I am searching for two groups of people: those who know how to use different forms of social media and would be prepared to share their expertise; and those, like me, who would like to attend a training session to take full advantage of the technologies that are readily available. If you fall into either of these categories please contact me at janmurdoch@cogeco.ca.

Nordic Pole Walking continues to be one of the most effective means of intervention for those interested in body and brain fitness. RTO/ERO members who are pole walking regularly have reported very positive changes - from weight loss to reduced pain in joints and lower back. There are many qualified instructors in the area. If you are interested in trying the sport let me know and I can hook you up with someone.

Also, I would like to extend an invitation to have you join me on one of our end of the month wine tours in Beamsville. Each Sunday we raise funds for an organization or charity by charging participants \$5. On September 30 we are raising funds for the "Halton Learning Foundation" and on October 28 we are raising funds for the "RTO/ERO Charitable Foundation," both excellent organizations. The Halton Learning Foundation was established in 2001, the year I retired, so I only recently became aware of its existence and the wonderful impact it is having on the students in Halton. Although they offer scholarships and enrichment grants to purchase teaching resources and equipment and fund educational programs and experiences which are having a profound impact, their focus on "Breaking Through Barriers" really impressed me. 46% of the Foundation's funds helps children in need (elementary & secondary) offering basics like proper clothing, food and school supplies. I wish such a funding resource had been available during my career with Halton. I am more familiar with the

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RTO/ERO Charitable Foundation and support it strongly. I believe that with a new Geriatric Chair at the University of Toronto there will be an improved focus on the ageing process which will benefit our generation and future generations. Each vineyard we visit has something special to offer. Rosewood won a "blind taste test" in London, England last May for one of their merlots. Angels Gate

has an amazing sparkling wine which can be used as an alternative for Champagne. On the October 28th wine tour we will be joined by members from other Districts including Hamilton, Niagara, Brant and Norfolk. So put these dates on your calendar. It's a fun way to get some good exercise with a group of upbeat, fun people.

I would like to welcome **Carolyn Hilton** to our RTO/ERO District 15 Board as a "Member Without Portfolio." If you would like to get involved, please contact any member of the Board. Being a Board Member is not a significant time commitment and you can often participate from a distance. For example, I live in the Niagara area but thoroughly enjoy meeting with colleagues, engaging in great discussions and planning interesting events for members.

Congratulations to Harold Brathwaite, Executive Director of RTO/ERO on receiving the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal and on his appointment to the Accepting Schools Expert Panel.

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RTO/ERO District 15

We strive to live up to our motto!

Here for you now...

...Here for your future!

You can help by getting involved.

We Get Letters, E-mails & Calls

By Peter Gnish



I received a very nice combination of messages from the people below covering not only details about their personal lives but also augmenting this information by submitting articles and pictures. Our members love to read about their former colleagues and friends. Now it's your turn to send something in to me to let us know how you are doing.

Ian Downie: sent an e-mail to say, "You have, as always, produced an entertaining and highly informative newsletter. Doesn't the Spec have an opening for you?" He went on to say that he spent a week in Puerto Rico where he and Ben (his partner in the TD commercials) made an appearance at a TD conference for top branch managers. Then he is off to Guernsey, Channel Islands on a research trip for Jill's next whodunit, her second in the *Moretti and Falla Mystery* series which comes out in the fall. She needs to take another look at the island for other books.

Paul Dennis: e-mailed me to say, "Thank you for a great magazine. I enjoy reading through it to see if I remember any of the people involved. My memory isn't exactly "good" but at times it does respond and it brings back good memories of being a part of the Halton Board." He goes on to say that for the last two years he has been traveling to Belize, not the sunny beaches, but the back country along the Guatemalan border to help a group from the USA build houses for locals. Paul did a write-up on the project and sent pictures. See his article on page 38 in this issue of the Herald.

(Editor's note: Thank you Paul for an excellent submission and congratulations on your good humanitarian work.)

Gerry Sill: sent an e-mail after hearing of Lloyd Berryman's death. Lloyd was a former mayor of Burlington and "...was the husband of Brenda Price who taught at BCHS in the History department back in the day. When she married Lloyd, **Don McCulloch** was welcomed into our department and admirably took over her teaching duties as the Sociology instructor. I had the pleasure of teaching both of Lloyd's sons, Dave and Tim at Lawrie Smith P. S. when Lloyd was the Mayor of Burlington and later when Brenda and Lloyd got hitched. As a past history teacher, I take great pride in fellow Canadian achievements and Lloyd Berryman is one who certainly deserves recognition. And, Brenda was a great friend back in the day. Having a son as a career soldier tends to make one cognizant of military affairs."

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As for Gerry, the Gimp, as he calls himself, he says that his days connected to football (both playing and coaching) plus daily hikes with one of his Labs over the years has caught up with him. He has had one knee replaced and spinal surgery with sciatica issues "...tends to make one port sided."

Herman Starr – telephoned to thank us for the April edition of the Halton Herald. He said that he appreciates the stories that are included and reads them all. Although he is over 80 now, he is still in good health and able to take good care of his wife who has a health problem.

(Editor's note: Thank you Herman for the support.)

LeAnne Taylor: e-mailed me to say that she and her daughter, Rachelle travelled to Belgium in the spring to attend a special ceremony on May 6th at the Menin Gate in Perwez. The municipality was dedicating a monument at the crash site of a Lancaster bomber in which her uncle was killed. The crew is buried in a common grave in the churchyard of St. Martin's in Perwez. Over 30 family members of the crew were in attendance. Look for a more detailed description of the trip in the next issue of the Herald.

On another topic she wrote that her husband **Bill**, had major surgery for a perforated bowel in October. At that point, the surgeon removed part of his small bowel, which resulted in an ileostomy. On March 26, he had follow-up surgery to remove the perforated section of his colon and reverse the ileostomy. He is recovering well from his second surgery and will not need a third. We all wish Bill a speedy recovery.

Welcome New RTO/ERO District 15 Members!!!

Our membership is almost 2300. Below are the names of retired teachers and other education staff who became members between April and August, 2012. Please welcome and invite them to join you at one of our many activities.

Patricia Beer, Cecilia Benson, Donna Boyko, Anthony Buzzelli, Michael Clancy, Harvey Collison, Lilli Crowther, Trudy Culver, Jane Davis, Martha Disher, Oresta Druska, Elizabeth Dutra, Allan Evans, Shelley Gaylard, Susan Gibbons, Mary Gowan, Barbara Haskett, Anne Hlebko, Jacqueline Huffman-Krisza, Kathleen Hulton, Reet Epp Kazakoff, Lois Khan, Henry Larsen, Morley Leeking, Mary Lilliman, Francesca Maggio, Randal Marinangeli, Mary McEwen, Carl Melo, Thomas Mitchell, Margaret Neale, Louise Nelson, Charlene Nusca, Susan Roszell, Mary Rutty, Carol Rydzewski, Carolyn Scarrow, Carole Smitko, Lili Stewart, Nancy Szabo, Anne White, Cathy Wirick, Lurlene Winter, Donna Zarnke

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On Being a Grandparent: Sharing Your Experiences and Photos

In the April issue of the Halton Herald you were challenged to share an anecdote or a story about your involvement and experience with your grandchild and to include a photo if possible. Well, a number of you picked up the challenge and didn't disappoint us. We received a total of ten responses. As promised, the contributors will receive a \$10 gift certificate to Tim Horton's. These are in the mail so look for them to come soon. After reading the articles, check out the colour photos found on the Back Page and Front Inside Page.

Grandchildren Are The Joys Of Life

By Penny Hambly

My husband Larry and I live for our grandchildren, **Hunter** (4) and **Raine** (almost 3). We take care of them everyday while our children are at work. Our guest room is now their room with two car beds side by side. Our family room is full of every possible imaginable toy. Look outside and you will also see the swing set, huge trampoline, ATV's, bikes, etc. Our grandchildren keep us feeling young. We volunteer once a week at their preschool with the other young parents. It brings back memories of when our children were little. It is a joy to watch them play; read with them; teach them Math and printing etc. But I must confess that it is not me, the teacher, who does this as much as my husband, the engineer.

It is so much fun to go with them to the Pumpkin Farm, the zoo, the beach, visits to Santa, and watch them swim and play soccer. They say such funny things which keep us laughing. This summer I can hardly wait to ride with them on Thomas the Engine who is coming to St. Thomas, Ontario. At the end of the day we are tired as they are very active boys but they bring so much happiness into our lives. They are the joys of life.

Grandkids Can Be Finicky Eaters

By Bruce Shapka

Our oldest grandson, George, is a finicky eater. One of his favourite foods is chocolate. My wife, Marilyn, decided one day to create a dessert that had tofu as its base. To disguise the tofu, chocolate was added. Well, George started into the dessert but noticed it wasn't quite the same as the chocolate pudding he was used to eating. He stopped eating and you can see by his reaction in the photo, he didn't like it.

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On Being Ryan Coulter's Grandfather

By Lynell McAdam

As Ryan developed as both a hockey and lacrosse player, I have been so proud and honoured to attend Ryan's competitions and events. As a result of his efforts and talents, in 2011 Ryan was drafted to the Erie Otters OHL team. However, he chose the academic route through the NCAA. So this past year he attended a prep school, Culver Military Academy, in Indiana on a lacrosse, hockey, academics and leadership scholarship. His year was very successful. He was voted MVP of his 16 and under hockey team, played on the 19 and under prep lacrosse team (nickname "Nails") which won the North American championship, was on the honour roll, received advanced qualification in English and Composition and a continuing scholarship for the 2012-13 academic year. Ryan was offered a lacrosse scholarship by the University of Maryland, but opted to accept a full 4 year hockey scholarship for 2014 at Bowling Green University in Ohio.

None of this would have happened if not for Ryan's incredible work ethic and determination. It has been wonderful to tour Ryan's campus and watch him compete in various cities at such an elite level. A final note, Ryan's school colours, maroon and gold, are the same as M.M. Robinson's, where I taught for 32 years. PS. Ryan is the son of Debbie Coulter, Kilbride Public School

GRANDPARENTS are "Grand Parents"

By Sandra Taylor

It seems that I am duplicating my Mother's desire to travel with grandchildren; travelling with them is rewarding (as well as an eye-opener) experience. Not only that aspect, but the number of times I organized, guided, and led students to La Belle Province and to Nice, France, did aid my relationship with them.

I began the travelling trend last year, in deciding to have the eldest granddaughter accompany me to the UK, specifically to Freshwater, the Isle of Wight. Why there? To give her, and thence each grandchild, the background of my parents: where they lived, where they worked, the locality, the culture, the architecture and in general everything. Moreover, to visit the places their parents (my sons and daughter) worked and lived during Summer and Christmas vacations. It was no mean feat to understand what would be of interest to each grandchild. Number 1 was easy. Hiking to the various areas of the island, or walking along the

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streets of Freshwater, or boarding the Rover bus to bounce along the back roads (beautiful countryside, so she said) were acceptable ways to pass the time. During our stay, we became closer, became more aware of likes/dislikes, food choices and personalities. What more could I ask!! Oh yes, and a stronger bond. The last few days of this rewarding trip were spent in London. Yes, museums, Brick Lane market, walking, walking and more walking, around Kensington Gardens, the Serpentine, jumping on and off the Big Red Bus. She was excited to see and feel everything. I allowed her to adventure on her own (grocery shopping, finding an internet café - which she did, visiting several museums). In this way, she could be independent. It also allowed me time for myself. More importantly, was the fact that she brought her school work with her! Such a responsible young lady who even left me a note on the door of the flat indicating where she had gone (internet café). I was indeed happy to have her with me and to see her behaviour in London, on the Isle of Wight and my behaviour with her. Companionship at the best - both on a give and take basis. I was not just a grandmother but a friend as well. Or a tourist guide?

This year, the opportunity existed for grand-daughter number 3 who experienced the Isle of Wight (as usual) and London. However, the itinerary became a bit different for the London part. She preferred the shopping aspect (Oxford Street, Covent Garden and any market) and the West End shows. As long as the same principles became evident, I can be happy that we both appreciated the different personalities, likes/dislikes, foods, as well as a stronger bond and love. I looked forward to having Number 3 to myself; no parents telling anyone what to do. What one could say as female bonding. That made me appreciate her own character! One afternoon, we visited the Victoria and Albert Museum for the Ball Gown exhibition. Another afternoon, we left the theatre humming the Mamma Mia songs. A highlight was the Duck Tour (amphibian) around London followed by a splash down in the Thames River. Such excitement for her! The Isle of Wight demanded patience on her part (waiting for buses to take us to various cultural locations), walking in the rain, finding and experiencing pub food, café food, and of course shopping! No complaints, no grumbles!! I was impressed with her questions as to "what next, what do I do now"? At the age of 15, and her first time in the UK plus first time for long flights, she accepted all instructions. Moreover, she had 3 projects to complete before we returned to Canada. And yes, my charming Number 3 granddaughter took the responsibility to do the work in between our agreed itinerary.

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Relations with 2,5,6, were slightly different. In March, a trip with grandchildren Numbers 2,5,6, allowed me to witness their personalities and emotions and to appreciate their behaviour during the Medieval Times banquet. Quite astonishing to view such reactions while watching them watching the horses, the knights, the sword fights, the jousting! The outcome of this togetherness? Great success - a learning experience for them and for me. All in all, a profound insight into these three American Grandchildren.

Of course, numbers 2&4 (grandsons), Numbers 5&6 (granddaughters) will have to wait until each reaches a more mature age and can appreciate the heritage of their great grandparents. That is assuming that my body does not collapse between now and ... however, I can hardly wait for next year!! Who will be accompanying me for another exciting 2 week school-less learning trip. The learning is beyond the books. The learning is between each grandchild and me, a "Grand Parent."

Good Times With Our Grandchild

By LeAnne Taylor

Chudleigh's is a favourite summer spot for us to take Aleck. There is a petting zoo, a huge sand pile, a wonderful climbing structure, four old tractors to play on, tire swings and a corn maze. You can take a picnic or buy a lovely lunch. We always have a great time at Centreville as well - and a day pass allows Aleck to ride each ride as many times as he wants. You would think 10 times on the electric roadsters would be boring, but he smiles as broadly the 10th trip as he does the first trip.

A Maturity That Rivals Mine

By Peter Gnish

I know I'm the one with much more in life experiences than my granddaughter, (Jenna is only 10 years old) but she amazes me with her "adulthood." She has a positive respect for good health through regular exercise (swimming, track and field, gymnastics), is a voracious reader and top student and shows a commitment to helping others through her volunteer work. Jenna loves travelling and learning about new cultures. And she loves restaurants - opting for the more stylish ones and always ordering from the "adult" section of the menu. But the quality I like best about her is that she loves to teach - as evidenced by the number of sessions my wife Cate and I have been subjected to. Maybe she will follow in our footsteps.

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Quotes from My Grandsons

By Marilyn Ortwein

I keep a daily journal and often record quotes uttered by my grandsons. As Ben is 8 and the eldest, I have more quotes by him than the other 4 boys. As Jackson is 2 and Sam only 1, their time will come.

(Editor's note: Only a selection of Marilyn's quotes are shown due to space limitations)

4 years of age:

"Ben, are you still hungry?"

"No. Nana, I'm full of beans."

Alison, my daughter and Ian, my son-in-law had gone to Ian's sister's wedding. Ben said, "Mommy and Daddy have gone to see Tanta Bets grow up."

I went over to Alison's to drop off a couple of items. Ben said, "Mommy, do you have any tea?"

"Yes."

"Nana might like a cup of tea."

Alison replied, "Anything to keep you here, Mom."

I was having dinner at Alison and Ian's. Ben said, "Our plates are hot."

"How do you know, Ben?"

"The rice is steaming."

"You're intelligent like your Daddy," said Ian.

"No, like Nana."

6 years of age:

Ben and I were talking about mosquitoes and I told him that I thought that I had become immune to their bites. He responded, "They only like fresh blood, Nana."

7 years of age:

I spoke a touch sternly to Ben and after a few moments of quiet reflection, he said, "You're very aggressive for an older person."

Andrew, Ben's younger brother has made some interesting comments as well.

Andrew at 4 years of age:

Andrew had done a favour for Ben and I said, "What a good brother!"

"Don't call me names, Nana. My name is Andrew."

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Butterfly Boys

By Erica Andrew

As a teacher I always collected monarch butterfly larvae late in August, put them in big pickle jars with sand, fresh milkweed and a good solid twig. When I took them to my class, and later as a trustee to the schools in North Halton, the students would tell me that watching the metamorphosis had a profound impact on them and led to a great respect for nature.

I repeated the process for my two grandchildren, Jonathan and William. Much to my delight Jonathan decided that he wanted to go out dressed as a monarch butterfly on Halloween and William was made up as a larva. I was fortunate enough to be there to see their costumes when they went out. One of the sweet aspects of the “golden years” is becoming a GrandMum and having these two sweethearts as GrandKids.

WHAT COLOUR IS THIS?

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her by pointing out something and asking what color it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun so I continued. At last she headed for the door, saying sagely, 'Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these yourself!'

Contribute to the Herald!

The next *Halton Herald* will be distributed in January, 2013.

- **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. The full version of longer articles will be published on the District website.
- **Share a funny story** with our many readers.
- **Provide us with pictures** to share with our members.

Send your article or correspondence to the Editor, Peter Gnish by e-mail: pgnish@cogeco.ca, by mail to 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton L8M 2K4 or telephone: 905-547-1628. Deadline - November 15, 2012.

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Nordic Pole Walking Wine Tour

By Peter Gnish



Jan Murdoch mentioned in her President's Report the she conducts a Nordic Pole Walking Wine Tour in the Niagara Region the last Sunday of the month during the good weather. My wife, Cate and I and some close friends (**Ann MacDougall** and **John Belisario** in the photo below) joined the group in May.

What a wonderful afternoon - good exercise, great company, excellent wine tasting at the five wineries we visited and we came home with 10 bottles of great wine!

Who could ask for more! Give it a try! For more information on how to get involved contact Jan at janmurdoch@cogeco.ca or by phone at 289-956-0163.

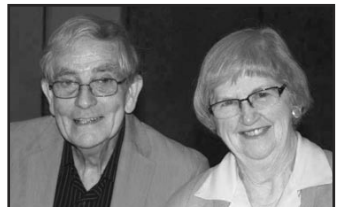


Sex Education!

A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said. "How do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."

Annual General Meeting and Luncheon

As mentioned in **Penny Hambly's** Program Committee report, this year's AGM was held on May 8th. Do you recognize any of the members who were in attendance? Plan to attend the next session. Entertainment was provided by **Rick Rossini the Magical Motivator**.



And Your 2012-13 RTO/ERO District 15 Executive was installed!



Sec.	Member-at-Large	1st VP	President	Past President	2nd VP	Treasurer
Janet	Jim	Phyllis	Janice	Linda	Penny	Chub
Carter-Wright	Baker	Kingsley	Murdoch	Jones	Hambly	Baxter

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Wine and Cheese Session - For Potential Retirees!



On April 24th we had another good turnout of potential retirees wanting to know more about the benefits of belonging to RTO/ERO.

If you recognize any of those pictured below, be sure to encourage them to join District 15 should they decide to retire this year.



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Recreation Committee

By Dave Wright



We would like to thank all those who join us for the theatre and other events. Your support is much appreciated and you make it fun. I especially want to thank **Janet Carter-Wright** for organizing the Shaw Festival and Theatre Aquarius events. Those are two big events in our theatre season. And, thank you Paul Durnan for looking after the breakfasts. We have lots of theatre lined up for the fall and winter. The venues are the same but each time we go the actors put on a good show. As I have said before local theatre is first class.

The upcoming Aldershot Players play, *Dearlly Departed* is a comedy about how a family in the backwoods Bible belt copes with the death and funeral of the father in the midst of other distractions. This group is good with comedy, so I look forward to this show. Also, the Drury Lane singers' fall production of *Fiddler on the Roof* should be a treat. In the past we have combined the Burl-Oak Theatre Group play with supper and we will do that again in January. The play is a mystery and suspense drama *Hide and Seek*. If you enjoyed the rock music revue at Theatre Aquarius last December you will enjoy this season's *Top of the Pops* which was put together by the same writers. It features music of the Beatles, Rolling Stones and British groups of that era. Should be a "dancing in the aisles" show. Look for the ticket cut-off dates in the Calendar of Events on pages 24-25. To get good tickets we have to call well in advance.

Jan Murdoch has been leading a group of pole walkers on wine tours in the Niagara district since April. The last two Sunday walks/tours are listed in the Calendar of Events. The group meets for breakfast at 11 a.m. and then, after a short clinic on how to use the poles, the wine tour is from 1 to 3 in the afternoon. This is a good way to learn about a fitness activity as well as discover some good wines. Get in touch with Jan for all the info.

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.

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Stratford : Ta ran-ta-ra

By Dave Wright



Gilbert and Sullivan's "*Pirates of Penzance*" was the production that we saw at the Avon Theatre this spring. The story and music is the same as it was when it opened in New York in 1879 under the direction of Richard D'Oyly Carte. However, Stratford has made some changes.

While waiting for the show to begin, actors dressed in what one might call Victorian costume drifted onto the stage with props, humming tunes and cavorting with each other. The backdrop was a thin curtain that had a word on it that would read from the other side so we were made to feel like we were on the back side of the stage. As the cast took their positions it looked like they would face an audience on the opposite side of the stage. When the curtain went up with the pirates singing their opening "Pour, oh pour the pirate sherry" they turned towards us and the show and the hilarity began.

The stage was the deck of a pirate ship with superstructure, rigging and ropes on either side which the pirates used to slide down to the main deck. There was lots going on in the songs and dialogue that tells the story of Frederic and his indenture to a pirate. When Fredric leaves the pirates he peddles a small craft that has "side wheelers" to propel it - unusual. Fredric lands on the seashore and happens to see young ladies. The ship now becomes a rocky seascape. And, as the ladies sing their opening song "Climbing over rock mountain...." led by Edith, they use a rope to descend from what was the ship's superstructure (which is now a mountain) to the beach. Frederic reveals his presence when the girls decide to remove some of their clothing so that they can go for a dip in the sea. In the ensuing scene Mabel appears and Fredric falls in love with her. The pirates appear and capture the ladies and then the ladies' father, Major General Stanley, descends to the stage from a hot air balloon and sings his "I am the very model..." and is captured as well.

The pirates aren't very successful at their profession because they get thrashed by stronger crews. But when they do overcome a ship they claim they are orphans, the pirates' conscience gets the better of them and they let them go. The Major General says he is an orphan and so the pirates let him and his daughters go.

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However, the pirates find out that he isn't an orphan and that sets the stage for the climax of the show - extermination of the General and the clash between the pirates and the policemen.

Now the stage becomes the ancestral home of General Stanley and what was the ship's superstructure and mountain becomes a mezzanine/balcony on which some of the antics take place- like the pirates trying to drop sand bags on the General's head while he sings his "Sighing softly to the river...."

The costumes to this point in the production have had some variations from what one might suspect. Frederic and the Pirate King and the Major General are traditionally dressed and most of the ladies are dressed in typical Victorian dress. However, the pirates are in what has been termed steampunk or futuristic Victorian costume. Edith, first appears on stage dressed like an adventuress of the Victorian age - a long skirt, tailored jacket and a hat that looks like it was inspired by Sherlock Holmes. She is not dressed like a Victorian lady. Near the finale, Fredric's nursemaid Ruth, appears in a divers rig.

I thought the most hilarious part of the show was the policemen and their costumes. They were dressed in Bobbies' helmets and tunics but from the waist down wore kilts and white spats. Perhaps not in keeping with true Scotsmen, they had on underwear with a Union Jack on the seat. They had a piper as well as the traditional billy clubs which they flung about sometimes at their own peril. Their antics in their Ta ran-ta-ra songs and "A policeman's lot is not an 'appy one..." were "show stoppers." The finale was the clash between the pirates and policemen as in all of the usual Pirates productions. In this one, Queen Victoria herself appears to forgive the pirates and restore them to their nobility.

Stratford has turned a musical that has for years been produced and costumed in a predictable way into a unique, entertaining show. Pirates is on until the end of November and well worth a trip to see.

Book of Remembrance

We remember with fondness

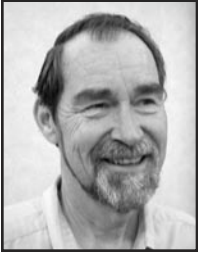


Violet Balfour	Thomas Beer	Bev Bowra	Florence Eason
Donald Gentleman	Margaret Haines	Joan Hermans	John Hulton
Donald Jolley	F S Lilliman	John MacIntyre	Richard Neale
	Eleanor Nickilo	Douglas Rowbottom	

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

Health Services Committee

By George MacRae



It is a pleasure to be taking on the role of the RTO/ERO District 15 Health Services representative. In June, I attended a workshop provided by the Provincial Health Services and Insurance Committee which has equipped me with information related to our Health Plans. Although I am not the ultimate expert on our plans, I can provide some information that may be useful. Most details of our plans are clearly explained in the Insurance Plans Booklet. The most recent version was distrib-

uted in 2011.

Did you know that:

- Out of Province/Out of Country health benefits are now administered by Allianz Global Assistance. This has no impact on members – essentially Allianz is Mondial's parent company – all details of coverage and contact numbers remain the same.
- Unlike the majority of travel plans currently available, a change in medication, dosage or usage does not normally mean that the condition would be excluded from coverage under the RTO/ERO Travel Plans. If in doubt, contact Johnson for clarification. Better safe than sorry.
- Be sure that you understand the medical stability clause located in the inside front cover of your Out-of-Province/Canada Travel booklet and familiarize yourself with the exclusions and limitations. A physician's authorization to travel does NOT override the RTO/ERO policy.
- Our Semi-Private Hospital Plan not only covers semi-private room accommodation but also covers convalescent home care upon your discharge from hospital. Convalescent home care can be provided to you in your own home or in a long term care facility for the purpose of assistance with activities of daily living.
- The Provincial Health Services and Insurance Committee publishes a regular newsletter, Health Matters. Although the cost of mailing it would be prohibitive, it is made available to members on our District Web site. The latest issue focused on the issue of organ donation. Other articles provided information about Allianz's Pre-trip Services, Helping More Seniors Live at Home Longer, Federal Government Cuts Access Delays to Over-the-Counter Drugs and more.

What is the single best thing we can do for our health? You might be interested in viewing a short video entitled **23 and 1/2 Hours** linked to the District Web Page (www.rtohalton.org) to hear what Dr. Mike Evans suggests as the best intervention for many conditions.

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org



Presents its 36th Season for 2012-2013

The Burl-Oak Theatre Group (www.botg.ca) proudly presents three plays for the forthcoming season 2012-2013 at the Oakville Center for the Performing Arts (Box Office: 905-815-2021 or oakvilledrama.ca).

NOTE: Tickets are \$28.00 regular, Wednesdays and Sunday Matinees are \$20.00. Groups of 10 or more receive a \$2.00 discount per ticket.

***Rope's End* by Douglas Bowie: Directed by Greg Porter; Oct. 4-7 & 10-13, 2012**

When we meet Tobias Boone, a 45 year old former film critic, he is at the end of his rope – literally. He retrieves an old shoe box filled with Boy Scout memorabilia, including instructions on how to tie ropes. In the box he discovers something far more valuable - a long treasured photograph of a girl he loved when he was only 13. They had agreed to meet again 31 years later – and that's the very next day! Love prevails and he woos her, wins her, and takes her off to Italy! Or does he? Of course not – he's just imagined it. The reality of meeting Marisa, however, rewards Toby with a deeper purpose and true life connection! Produced through special arrangement with Core Literary Inc.

***Hide and Seek* by Lezley Havard: Directed by David Nash; Jan. 10-13 & 16-19, 2013**

After 18 years of marriage, Richard and Jennifer Crawford have moved from the city to an old farmhouse, which they are trying to restore before the baby arrives. He commutes each day, while she stays in the country supervising the shuffling handyman and cook who work for them. At first it is mostly the slow pace of restoration which nags at them, but a general sense of unease begins to build as the old house seems to be resisting their intrusion. But it is the silent little girl whom Jennifer claims she has seen swinging in the backyard who brings on the chilling climax of the play – in which the real and the supernatural clash with disturbing and breath-stopping results. Produced through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

***The Kitchen Witches* by Caroline Smith: Directed by Byron McKim; Apr.25-28 & May 1-4, 2013**

Dolly Biddle and Isobel Lomax have had their individual cooking shows, "Baking with Bab-cha" and "Busy with Izzy," cancelled by the network. But during the final broadcast of Dolly's show, Izzy shows up with a spite on. The sparks fly between the two women, the barbs dig and the producers love it! Presto: a new cooking show, "The Kitchen Witches" is born! By the time "The Kitchen Witches" hits the air, the food takes a backseat to the snarling on stage. The show becomes a ratings smash hit as Dolly and Isobel top both Martha Stewart and Jerry Springer! Produced through special arrangement with Samuel French Inc.

Interested in volunteering with our community theatre group? Please visit our website www.botg.ca, drop a line to Micki Clemens, President of the Burl-Oak Theatre Group at president@botg.ca or call the BOTG Studio, Unit 12, 1290 Speers Rd. Oakville ON L6L 2X4 at 905-825-0138.

TREAT YOURSELF TO THE MAGIC OF LIVE THEATRE!

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Political Advocacy Committee

By Linda Jones



In politics things change so rapidly that anything I report on now will be old news before you read it. For example, the passing of the Ontario Budget seems like old news but there are still many details to be ironed out with regard to the collective agreements of many sectors of the Public Service. As you know teachers and doctors have been singled out for very drastic cuts.

Prior to knowing how the talks with the doctors would go, I attended a meeting in Hamilton on May 12th, one of the first of a series of Town Hall meetings sponsored by the Ontario Health Coalition. Many of the points made by the speakers seem to have relevance in many aspects of the health care debate. Dr. Gordon Guyatt, a professor at the McMaster Medical Centre, spoke of the sustainability of our health care. Health costs grow at 3-4% per annum but seem to swing up when the economy slows. In reality, in 2011 costs went down. Public Health Care spending is currently less than 8% of the GDP, the second lowest in Canada after Quebec and is only up 1% since 1990. In 2005, health costs as a percent of the GDP are only 6% higher than since the very beginning of medicare. Therefore, it would be a big lie to try and move us to privatization. What is really needed is an increase in revenue since public income has gone down since 1991. The loss of manufacturing jobs, low corporate taxes and the rapid expansion of low paying service industry jobs have all contributed to this. Dr. Guyatt is a member of Physicians for Fair Taxes who are prepared to pay more taxes to better fund our system.

Natalie Mehra, the Executive Director of OHC, spoke of the LHIN plan to move out patient clinics to another entity and close more hospital beds. There are still 30,000 people waiting for Long Term Care (LTC) with the median wait time of 5 months likely to increase. Mr. McGuinty has promised 6000 more LTC beds but they are not happening. She said home care is also broken. Home Care workers are paid \$10 per hour less than LTC workers and CCACs contract out this work often to private agencies with shareholders resulting in lower levels of care.

A representative of the Service Employees International Union explained how cases in LTC are more complex as a result of hospital downloading but there has not been a corresponding increase in staffing. Her members are often working 10 hour days but are only being paid for 5 hours because there is travel between sites. Two hours of care per day is the norm for one patient but ideally it should be 3.5 hours per patient. This is causing huge stress among these service providers.

(Political Advocacy... continues on Page 23)

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(Political Advocacy... continued from Page 21)

The Vice-President of the Ontario Nurses Association told us that over 200 nursing jobs had been lost over the last 2 years. Every new patient a single nurse takes on increases the chance of death of all patients by 7%. RNs are working 10,000 hours of unpaid overtime. A home care RN makes much less than one working in a hospital setting. This makes it very difficult to attract new nurses. The system is funded by disease and there is no thought for family support. She was really worried that many seniors are going to have to travel much farther for health care. She felt that there were places to save, not in front line care but in management e.g. especially where companies and agencies do the hiring. There are 5 levels of bureaucracy – the Government, Ministry of Health, LHINs, CCACs and agencies – the management are all very well paid. She said that what we need is an integrated not-for-profit home care employed directly by the CCAC. In addition, she spoke of the fact that pharmaceuticals were the fastest growing health costs. But if we had a referenced based pricing system, as they do in B.C., we could be paying 8% less for drugs. She concluded by saying that if the Ontario Government had the same tax structure as 15 years ago the government would not know what to do with the money. She felt that the Ontario Government also needs to be more democratic, stop paying high consulting fees and stop the privatization in areas such as Ornge, P3s and labs.

Some of their concluding remarks:

- we are reluctant to spend money on preventing people from being sick, we should have a “wellness system” instead of an “illness system”
- better income equality leads to better health since one of the key determinants for poor health is poverty
- we need to move to being a more compassionate society
- we need to apply health promotion methods such as assistance to seniors with daily living
- public health needs to be maintained at 100% funding

As you can see, there is no shortage of suggestions for improving our health care system. Hopefully, the Provincial and Territorial Premiers who met recently to discuss these very issues return with some workable solutions.

Central Public School in downtown Burlington is turning 100 years old and is planning to celebrate! The “100” event is planned for September 29, 2012. To prepare, alumni and their stories and memorabilia (photos, etc) are sought. For further info check the school’s site at cen.hdsb.ca or email centralturms100@hotmail.com.

Calendar of Events - September to December, 2012

- Sept. 15 North Metro *Sweet Adelines* Show, Global Kingdom Ministries, Markham Rd. & Hwy 401. At 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Cost \$35. Contact Mary Lyons at 905-336-5744 or mlyons3@cogeco.ca
- Sept. 30 Nordic Pole Walking Wine Tour, Beamsville. 11:00 a.m. Cost \$5.00 charitable donation to RTO/ERO Charitable Foundation. Contact Jan Murdoch at janmurdoch@gmail.com or 289-956-0613.
- Oct. 3 Shaw Festival *Ragtime*, Niagara-on-the-Lake. 2:00 p.m. Contact Janet Carter-Wright at 905-336-5328 or jcwright@explornet.com.
- Oct. 19 Dinner Theatre, Aldershot Players. Comedy *Dearly Departed*. Living and dying in the Bible belt. 6:30 p.m. Cost \$35.00. Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca by Sept 7.
- Oct. 25 Breakfast at El Spero Restaurant, Hopedale Mall, Oakville. 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-630-2285.
- Oct. 28 Nordic Pole Walking Wine Tour. Beamsville. Info same as Sept. 30.
- Oct. 30 Wellness Workshop on Diabetes. See the enclosed flyer for details and to register.
- Nov. 8 Fall Meeting and Lunch. See the enclosed flyer for details and to register.
- Nov. 15 Drury Lane Musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. 2269 New St. Burl. 8:00 p.m. Cost \$25.00. Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca by Sept. 7.
- Nov. 29 Breakfast at Supreme Restaurant, Appleby Village, New St. Burlington. 9:00 a.m. Contact Paul Durnan at 905-630-2285.
- Dec. 13 Theatre Aquarius Christmas Musical, *Top of the Pops*. A revue of Beatles era British rock. 7:00 p.m. Cost \$49.00. Contact Janet Carter-Wright at 905-336-5328 or jcwright@explornet.com. Cheques to be made out to Retired Teachers of Ontario, District 15 and sent to Janet at 4491 Appleby Line, Burlington L7M 0P3 by Nov. 1.

Calendar of Events - January to May 2013

- Jan. 18 Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts, Navy St. Oakville. 8:00 p.m. A mystery, *Hide and Seek*. Cost \$25.00. Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca by Nov. 1.
- Feb. 7 Drury Lane Music Hall, 2269 New St. Burlington. 8 p.m. Cost \$25.00. Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca by Dec. 1.
- May 27 Stratford Musical Matinee *Fiddler on the Roof*. Festival Theatre. 2:00 p.m. Cost TBA. Contact Dave Wright at 905-639-5093 or wandave@sympatico.ca by Dec 1.

Communications Committee

By Peter Gnish



Communications is all about sharing - and we do our best to try and keep in touch with you through our website and newsletter, our events and by telephone and mail. This time I was overwhelmed with more than twenty members sending in articles. It was such a bonanza that we had to add 4 extra pages to this newsletter and had to delay printing several articles until the next issue. Thanks to all who sent in material and my apologies to those people whose articles are delayed until January.

HELP!!! We are seeking a new webmaster as our present webmaster, George MacRae has taken on the role of Health Services Chair. George is prepared to work with the new person for a while as they move into the job.

Want To Help With Printing/Mailing Costs?

We already have a small number of members who, several years ago, opted to receive their Halton Herald newsletters and inserts by e-mail. Some savings to the District have accrued and every little bit helps! So, if you would just as soon receive your newsletter and inserts by e-mail rather than by Canada Post let me know. Contact me by e-mail at pgnish@cogeco.ca or phone me at 905-547-1628.

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

RTO/ERO District 15 Contact List

Executive 2012 – 2013

Past President	Linda Jones	905-336-5785
President	Janice Murdoch	289-956-0163
1st Vice President	Phyllis Kingsley	905-845-6911
2nd Vice President	Penny Hambly	905-639-6193
Secretary	Janet Carter-Wright	905-336-5328
Treasurer	Chub Baxter	905-643-3732
Assistant:	Daliah Brown	905-825-8470
Member-at-Large	Jim Baker	905-639-1292

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, Eleanor McCulloch, Marilyn MacRae, Cate Roberts (Design), Ray Smith and Dave Trueman.

Goodwill Chair	Marina Lloyd	905-637-6030
West Convenor	Cecile Leach	905-634-8027
East Convenor	Warren McBurney	905-845-8219
North Convenor	Marg Megelink	905-877-7135
Out-of-Region Convenor	Peter Gnish	905-547-1628

Health Services	George MacRae	905-315-8581
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Membership/Recruitment Chair	Hilary Barber	905-637-7067
Committee Member:	Judy Sloan	905-336-5538

Pension	Jim Baker	905-639-1292
Political Advocacy	Linda Jones (Interim)	905-336-5785
Program	Penny Hambly	905-639-6193
Recreation	David Wright	905-639-5093
Tours	Jan Murdoch	289-956-0163

Member Without Portfolio	Carolyn Hilton	905 844-2984
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Sophisticated Swing

By Carl Hamilton

After 33 years as an elementary school teacher and principal with the Halton District School Board, I retired in 1998 and returned to my musical roots playing with several different bands in the GTA area and with the Oakville Wind Orchestra. I am still playing with 2 bands in the Burlington area but my prime focus is operating my big band called *Sophisticated Swing*. This 19-piece big band has performed professionally throughout Ontario for the past 13 years with notable award-winning performances at Big Band Festivals in Thornbury, Port Elgin, Barrie, Hamilton, Toronto and the CNE. At the last Canadian Band Association Big Band Competition held in Toronto in 2004, *Sophisticated Swing* was awarded first prize overall and took 6 of 10 individual performance awards. Currently the band has 3 retired teachers playing in it – **Jim Heaslip**, **Ralph LeFevre**, and myself.



In addition to private functions, concerts, weddings and school reunions, we have participated in fundraisers for many charities such as the Ronald McDonald House, President's Choice Children's Charity, Grimsby McNally House Hospice, Chatham Mayor's Gala, Credit Valley Memorial Hospital, St. Peter's Hospital and others. This August we will have performed our 11th year at the Joseph Brant Day celebrations for the Museums of Burlington. In December, 2011, we performed for our 12th consecutive year at the Scottish Rite Club's New Year's Dinner Dance.

Our next performance is at the new Burlington Performing Arts Centre on Saturday, October 27th where we will be providing the music for a show called "Broadway Binge." We would love to see you there.

(Editor's note: The group's website is www.sophisticatedswing.net where you can see where they have performed, hear their music and get information on up-coming events as well as CD's they have produced.)

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

Goodbye Ernest-Hello Craig: E.C. Drury High School (1980-2012)

By Dave Wright

E.C. Drury High School officially closed its doors this past June and the staff and students have moved to the new Craig Kielburger High School which is located at 1115 Ferguson Drive on the east side of Milton. The weekend of May 24-26 was the last Home Coming for the staff and student alumni - a time to meet again and reminisce about the fun and good times we had.

To celebrate and commemorate the closing, staff and students made a lip dub video and it can be seen on Google at lipsyncedrury.com. **Eleanor Adam** said, "I think every kid, and nook and cranny of the campus is featured." Congratulations to those who pulled this one off especially Cates, Shep and Spragge. The weekend celebrations started with Steve Keane's coffee house presentation of readings, poetry and music on Thursday evening - lots of young talent at Drury. Friday's big event was a student assembly in which the lip dub video was shown and the principal **Donna Taylor** honoured five staff members who were graduates of E C Drury. Saturday was the time for the open house and social events.

An alumni staff party was held early Saturday evening. The photo shows those in attendance. **Al Finlayson** came all the way from Lake of Bays with a new edition of Wormmeat full of "worn out" stuff and he picked up **Andy Smith** at Wasaga Beach on his way down. So they were probably from farthest away and fortunately had their better halves with them to keep the car on the road. Many of the alumni in attendance were originals. The event was catered by the Food School and, as usual, the food was outstanding.



Then staff and student alumni all got together at a big barbecue to party, share memories, and meet with people we hadn't seen in years. Former students came from far and wide. One came from as far away as Texas. That was a special treat for me because he and two class mates had gone to Kingston to take engineering and when they graduated I went to Kingston to give them their iron rings. The

(Goodbye Ernest... continues on Page 29)

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(Goodbye Ernest... continued from Page 28)

Food School did the barbecue and to celebrate the home coming baked a big cake. Hats off to Dean and Shirley and their helpers for the excellent food.

The last commencement took place on June 28th. I had been at the first commencement so decided to go to the last one. It was much larger than the first and there were many more awards including some that were instituted 31 years ago. The atmosphere that is part of a commencement was still in the gym as it was in 1982 - graduates, parents and staff all proud of the achievements that were being recognized.

In September of 1980 the late Al Nicholls opened an academic, vocational and TMH high school on the site of the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf. The staff was given the challenge of integrating the two student bodies as much as possible. **Donna Taylor** was given the honour of closing E. C. Drury High School and what was a successful venture in education. Besides the individual academic and vocational achievements there have been others that made Drury special. There was a series of integrated musicals like Oliver, Fiddler on the Roof and Godspell in which the leading roles were played by both hearing and deaf actors. These were very moving performances and alumni still mention them when we get together. Also, we had a student who had a first place at the International Science & Engineering Fair. Mooch's boys' wrestling team won six OFSSA championships and set two Ontario records - five championships in a row (2000-2004) and thirteen consecutive OFSSA team medals from 1998 to 2010 (6 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze).

Staff alumni will continue to have breakfast the first Thursday in November of each year. Former staff not on the list can be listed by e-mailing Larry Jaroslowski at moochski@hotmail.com or Dave Wright at wandave@sympatico.ca.

R.C.

**Halton Catholic District
School Board Retirement Club**

A Social Club for ALL Board Retirees

**Contact: Penny Hambly, Chair
hambly@cogeco.ca**

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

Conrad Poole: A Passion For Literature and Linguistics

By Warren McBurney - Goodwill Oakville Convenor



When I visited Conrad Poole recently, he was sitting on his chesterfield, surrounded by some of his favourite books. What a cosmopolitan collection it was: reams of critical work in his own handwriting, scrapbooks of his favourite poetry, a reproduction of a beautifully illustrated work by William Blake and his own MEd thesis. What a lover of literature he still is.

A native of South Africa, Conrad earned his BA and MA there, and spent several years as a high school teacher, a vice-principal and finally a high school principal. He and his wife Marie left South Africa with their young daughter Nerine in 1966. They came to Toronto where he knew several teachers and followed his profession there for two years.

In 1968 we welcomed Conrad to the White Oaks Secondary School English staff. His linguistic ability - a specialist certificate in each of the three languages - was soon obvious, as he taught English, Latin and German. He ensured that his students took good notes in his classes, and had them handed in for evaluation. He encouraged them to expand their reading horizons, tempting them with summaries of extracurricular books, often giving them copies to read. He shared his love of poetry with them and challenged them to write some themselves.

Meanwhile, Marie continued her elementary school teaching in Dufferin/Peel, and their daughter, Nerine graduated from White Oaks. Conrad left teaching in 1982. He has already enjoyed 30 years of pleasant retirement with his view of Oakville as it grew below his home above the Queen Elizabeth Highway.

When we went to Iceland several years ago, he asked me to bring him back an Icelandic Bible if I could. I asked why, and he shared his Berlitz/Rosetta Stone secret with me. He has learned several European languages by reading his English Bible simultaneously with a foreign translation. The outcome: he has a reading knowledge of Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese, Dutch and German, as well as being at home in eleven South African dialects. Each linguistic group there has its own language! His wide biblical reading gives a polyglot foundation to his own Christian convictions.

(Conrad Poole... continues on Page 31)

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(Conrad Poole... continued from Page 30)

Memories of his teaching years? Students, of course, whom he still meets now and then, sometimes providing books for their enrichment. His success in passing on his love of reading and discussing works with fellow-retirees at a seniors' drop in centre. His satisfaction of knowing that he has made some difference in the lives of many people, young and old.

I asked about his day-to-day reading. Magazines and Chinese poetry of the twelfth century, he said, particularly that of the Oriental scholar Rumi and his Book of Love. Those of you who have visited Macchu Picchu will enjoy this story. In Rome, Conrad discovered a book of Pablo Neruda's poetry, in its original Spanish. Fortunately for our bibliophile, he found an English translation in an Oakville book store, and has been able to enjoy the power of this poetry in his armchair:

And so I scaled the ladder of the earth
amid the atrocious maze of lost jungles
up to you, Macchu Picchu.
High citadel of terraced stones
at long last the dwelling of him whom the earth
did not concede in its slumbering vestments.
In you, as in two parallel lines,
the cradle of lightning and man
was rocked in a wind of thorns.
Mother of stone, sea spray of the condors.
Towering reef of the human dawn.
Spade lost in the primal sand.

Truly books and his love of them sum up much of this scholar's current life. Best wishes, Conrad, as you pursue these interests.



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 McCully (Membership Convenor)

(905) 333-0826, mlmccully@sympatico.ca

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Tours Committee

By Jan Murdoch



The Tours Committee is busy working on two trips for 2012-2013. The first is scheduled for Nov 5-9, 2012 in beautiful San Antonio, Texas. This will be a seven day trip staying at the Marriott hotel with opportunities to visit the Alamo, the Natural Bridge Cavern System and the Spanish Missions. There will also be a River Walk and a Historic Walking Tour of San Antonio.

We include group travel opportunities as well as time to visit your own individual destinations. In the Spring of 2013 we are planning a trip to the Grand Canyon and then on to the Painted Desert and Monument Valley.

I was in Ecuador recently and managed to secure a remarkable travel opportunity for anyone interested in visiting this interesting part of South America - accommodation at a B&B for \$25 US per night (breakfast included and WIFI available) at Marthita's Casa, in Cumbaya (just outside of Quito). Marthy, the owner, speaks fluent English and Spanish and for \$20 US a trip she will act as your guide as you travel by car to Old Quito, the Hot Springs in Papallacta, the markets in Otavalo, the leather shops in Cotacachi, or the bird watching in Mindo. She can also arrange alternative overnight travel for you as well to Banos or Cuenca, at additional costs. Throughout my stay in Ecuador, Marthy was a valued resource, bargaining for me at the markets or shops, teaching me how to deal with taxis and public transit and identifying great places to eat. She also enjoys teaching Spanish for those who want to learn the language. Opening up a B&B is a new concept for Marthy but one she will do well at, as she is truly a people person.

If you would like to take advantage of any of these travel opportunities or be informed of new adventures please contact me at janmurdoch@cogeco.ca or any member of the Tours Committee. We are always open to new ideas. So, if you have a trip in mind let us know. Also, if you enjoy planning travel destinations and want to join our committee we would love to hear from you.

**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 Phone: 1-800-361-9888 Ext. 223 or 1-416-962-9463 Ext 223

or by e-mail at dvezeau@rto-ero.org

or **Contact Hilary Barber** by telephone 905-637-7067

or by e-mail at hilaryjpbarber@cogeco.ca

Visit us on the Internet at www.rtohalton.org

Recruitment & Member Services Committee

By Hilary Barber



I look forward to serving you as your Membership and Recruitment Committee Chair.

Each year in the spring we host a **Wine and Cheese** event to provide teachers, school and board administrators, educational assistants, administrative professionals, custodians, and university and college faculty who are considering retirement, an opportunity to learn about the organization, ask questions and meet with current members. On page 16 you can view pictures of those who were in attendance at this year's event. If you recognize any of your friends or colleagues please encourage them to join RTO/ERO.

In September, we celebrate their retirement with a **To Hell with the Bell Breakfast**, which is again, an opportunity to meet and greet, learn about the organization and promote the vast benefits of joining. Currently, we have approximately 2,280 members and it would be wonderful if we could increase that number to over 2,300. If you know of someone living in our community who has recently retired, maybe from a Board outside of Halton and who is interested in finding out more about RTO/ERO please give them my phone number or e-mail address. With your help we can keep our organization healthy.

Please send any changes in your, name, address, phone number or e-mail address to me at 905-637-7067 or hilaryjpbarber@cogeco.ca. I will notify the Provincial Office and make the changes on our database

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.

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Awards Committee

By Phyllis Kingsley



One of the highlights of the Annual General Meeting for me is the presentation of our annual RTO/ERO District 15 Distinguished Service Awards. Many of our members volunteer tirelessly for the greater good of our organization and these awards are an opportunity to recognize some of these members in a very public way. On May 8, we honoured three outstanding members for their significant and/or long term contributions to RTO/ERO Halton. Congratulations to the following members for their achievements:

Irma Coulson was recognized for her leadership of a number of professional organizations. She was very involved in FWTAO as a teacher and administrator and served as a provincial director for that organization. When she retired and joined RTO, she once again demonstrated her commitment and became the very first President of District 15 after Halton separated from Peel.



David Wright is the long standing Chair of the Recreation Committee. Every year, Dave and his committee plan and



organize all sorts of recreational and cultural activities for the membership. There are theatre excursions to Stratford, Niagara-on-the-Lake and local theatres, visits to art exhibitions and galleries, and interesting bike excursions to name a few. These events are thoroughly enjoyed by the participants. However, they require hours of work to organize and it is very appropriate that Dave was honoured for all his efforts. Thank you to **Jim Baker** for nominating Dave.

Marina Lloyd (picture on next page) was nominated by member **Elizabeth Hamidbasha**. As Chair of the Board's Goodwill Committee, Marina spends many hours of her day keeping in touch with some of our more senior members and shut-ins, recognizing special milestones in their lives with a card, a small gift or a visit. She also interviews some of these members and profiles one of them

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in an article in each edition of the Herald. Marina is also active in other community organizations.

Please remember that the Awards Committee always needs your help in identifying worthy candidates for this award. We are looking for members who have made a significant and/or long term contribution to RTO/ERO either locally, provincially, or both. Nomination forms for the 2013 Distinguished Service Awards will be available in the winter but it is never too early to start

thinking about possible nominees!

In the spring of this year, we applied to the Provincial RTO/ERO for a 2012 Project Service To Others (STO) grant for a new program that Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton is introducing this year. "Adventure Canada Club" is a mentoring program with a focus on newcomer youth aged 9-12. The objectives of this mentoring program are to facilitate integration of newcomer youth to Canada, to build self-esteem and to enhance their English language skills through mentoring. We were successful in getting a grant, albeit not for the full amount for which we applied. If you would like to volunteer some time to this project, please call me at 905-845-6911.

Applications forms for the 2013 STO grant as well as sample applications and a list of previously approved projects can be found on the provincial website: www.ero-rto.org/project-service-to-others. This provincial program provides a grant of up to \$4000 to each District for initiatives that support the concept of "Service to Others." The intent of the grant is to raise the profile of RTO/ERO by encouraging members to participate in local, provincial or international educational/community projects so that we can show active teachers and the public that we care about our communities and are willing to help others who need assistance. If you are actively involved in a project that meets the criteria posted on the website, you should consider applying for the grant this year. All applications must be submitted to the District by December 2012.

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Archives Committee

By Judy Sloan



Hello again. Since our last edition of the Halton Herald I have added three more interesting items to our Archives scrapbook.

Congratulations to **Wanda** and **David Wright** who celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. David is the hardworking chair of our Recreation Committee and is responsible for all the wonderful theatre and other fun events which are offered to our members every year. The photos in the Hamilton Spectator showed the couple on their wedding day and how they look now. They have hardly changed at all!

Congratulations also to Holy Rosary Catholic School in Burlington. The school's staff and students past and present gathered in May to celebrate the Plains Road East School's 60th anniversary. Included in the photo from the Burlington Post were two of our District 15 members. **Bernie Butt** was the school's principal from 1970 to 1978 and **Marie Ricci Nunn** was a teacher there from 1961 to 1972. In the photo Marie is holding a newspaper clipping of the school's opening in which she appears as a Grade 4 student.

I received a note from our member **LeAnne Taylor** which included a newspaper photo and article from the Toronto Star concerning her uncle, Flight Lieutenant Robert Roy Haw who died along with his crew when his Lancaster plane crashed on March 15, 1945. LeAnne, who was born after the war, remembers growing up with stories of her uncle and walking by his house to school every day. By chance, after typing in her uncle's name on Google, LeAnne came across a message board where a Belgium woman was trying to contact families of the men who died in that crash. A monument was erected at the crash site and a ceremony was scheduled for this past May. LeAnne and her daughter left on April 30 to attend the ceremony.

Sadly, five more obituaries have been added to our Archives scrapbook. After continuing to live actively and with admirable grace following her terminal illness diagnosis, **Lesley Marjorie Weins** passed away peacefully at her home on November 23, 2011 at the age of 65. Lesley was a master gardener and a dedicated ESL teacher who dedicated much of her retirement to helping others.

Donald (Doug) Lawless passed away at St. Peter's Hospital in Hamilton on May 9, 2012 in his 89th year. An educator for fifty years, Doug began his career

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in Huron County and taught later in the City of Peterborough and the University of Toronto Schools. In 1954, he was appointed Inspector of Public Schools in Norfolk County and subsequently as Superintendent of Public Schools and Assistant Director of Education in Burlington and Halton County, Director of Education for the City of Ottawa and Senior Official in the Ministry of Education. He co-authored books in mathematics and handwriting used in Canadian Schools. Active in his community, Doug was a member of the Burlington Lions Club, the Burlington Golf and Country Club, Burlington Curling Club and Wellington United Church. Doug faithfully attended many of our RTO District 15 functions throughout his retirement years.

Bev Bowra passed away on May 18, 2012 at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in Burlington in his 74th year. Bev graduated from Stratford Teachers' College, McMaster and Brock Universities. He began teaching for the Brantford Board followed by the Burlington Board of Education. He was an Elementary School Principal with DND schools in Germany and the Halton Board of Education. He also served as Halton District 15 President 1996-1967. Bev volunteered for many years in Palliative Care and the Cancer Clinic at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital. He was a member of Burlington Lakeshore Rotary Club and St. Luke's Anglican Church.

Lorimer Rutty passed away suddenly after a short illness at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital on May 28, 2012 in his 81st year. He was a high school teacher at MM Robinson High School in Burlington since its opening. Peter Gnish remembered that Lorimer did love his Apple computer and became a whiz at using Photoshop on it. Peter also stated that Lorimer helped him with some of the design work on the Halton Herald for a year or so.

Donald James Gentleman passed away on June 12, 2012 at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in his 90th year. Don was with the Halton District School Board as Principal, Vice Principal and teacher at Burlington Central High School until 1969, retiring as Area Superintendent in 1981. Eleanor Adam, a dear friend and colleague of Don and her mentor, stated that he was a visionary creating the Remedial Resource Team in the North long before anyone had thought of the concept of co-teaching and assisting special education students within their own classroom. Don encouraged members of the team to become instructional leaders in Halton and supported them each step of the way. He continued to be a learner with the purchase this past winter of his new Apple computer and his ipad.

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All of the above educators and RTO/ERO District 15 members who have passed away will be dearly missed by those who knew them and especially by those whose lives they touched and enriched in their own unique way. Our sincere sympathy goes out to their families on their loss.

Thank you again to everyone who has contributed to our Archives' scrapbook these past few years and please keep those newspaper photos and articles coming! My address is 1446 Brenner Court, Burlington ON, L7P 2Z2. You may also e-mail me at judymsloan@yahoo.ca or phone at 905-336-5538.

Travels to Benque Viejo, Belize

By Paul Dennis

For years my nephew, Pastor Father Mark Wendling, had been encouraging me to join a group of Americans who were building houses in his parish in Benque Viejo, Belize. Benque is a small village 60 miles west of Belize City on the Guatemalan border where people live very simply, in simple homes, with traditional ways of life. In March of 2011, I decided to join the fun and the adventure began. I flew to Belize City, and then travelled three hours by car over highway and some very interesting dirt path roads, filled with pot holes and rocks, to Benque. I wondered what I was getting into! Once there, I settled into the sparse rectory and met with the build group. Instantly I became one of the "gringos."

The programme, started in 2007, is called "Families Into Homes Partnership" (FIHP) and is based on the "Habitat for Humanity" model. It helps families in the Benque Viejo area to acquire safe, decent, affordable homes. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish selects the families based on need, determines the house size and prioritizes the builds. The overall program is supervised by a local individual, Matt Robinson, who works through and for the Parish. The use of local labor and materials provides some economic development for the area. Funding for the homes is provided by donors in the United States. The non-Belizeans volunteers, spearheaded by Butch Bercher from Dallas Fort Worth, travel to Benque to build the main structure as well as observe the progress.

The build itself is amazing. Before arrival, the local group pours a concrete slab foundation. Then, in only 4-5 days, a fully erected "stick" structure (no prefab components) is built for 2-3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen and bathroom. It's

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then sided with tongue and groove wood siding and completely wired and sheet rocked. In some cases even the windows and doors are installed before the “gringos” leave. Children pop by, curious and eager to make things with our scraps, keep us company and parrot our English.

After we’re gone, the local team then completes the house inside.

To date, FIHP has built or purchased 19 homes. The plan calls for the new homeowner to make no-interest payments to cover the cost of the home. In most cases however, the new homeowners have little or no income, so the repayments are very minimal. Still, all are put back into the program to help build future homes.

Being part of this team has been very rewarding. They are a very humble, dedicated, tireless group of people. I was instantly accepted as the “Canadian” and made to feel as though I had always been there. The most rewarding part of this adventure though, was seeing the look of joy and gratitude of the new homeowners. As the commercial says “priceless.” I returned this year in March and helped construct an entire house in four days. I hope to continue to be part of FIHP as long as my health continues.



For more information on FIHP there is a website: fihomes.org that gives a little more detail and pictures. Our Lady of Mount Carmel is one of the missions of the Society of the Lady of Most Holy Trinity order of priests headquartered in Robstown, Texas.

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Program Committee

By Penny Hambly



Our **Spring Annual General Meeting and Lunch** was held on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at the Burlington Convention Centre. There was a good turnout for this important meeting which also inducted the new Executive. After lunch we were entertained by **Rick Rossini, the Magical Motivator** with a show entitled “It’s Magic: Interactive Audience Fun.” From all the comments

I received it was a very entertaining show with amazing magic that even included levitating his assistant. The audience participation was also very humorous as some of our members assisted the magician. If you did not attend then you missed a great event. See the pictures of the meeting on pages 14 and 15.

Thank you to the thirty-two people who took the time to complete our Questionnaire. They lived in Burlington (15), Oakville (9), Milton/Georgetown (6), and other places (2). Their responses indicated that they have enjoyed our past events, prefer lunch to dinner meetings, and like having the events at the three different locations to accommodate our members. Most would also like to have both speakers and entertainers. These responses will help our committee in planning future events.

The **Fall Meeting and Lunch** will be held on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at the Atrium Conference Centre in Burlington. It promises to be very interesting as our guest speaker will be **Maureen Jennings** who writes the Murdoch Series on television. Quite a few people have already indicated that they are interested in attending so make sure that you send in your registration (included in this mailing) as soon as possible.

We will be having some **Wellness Meetings** this year. The first event will be “*Lifestyle Strategies for the Prevention and Management of Diabetes.*” It will be held on Tuesday, October 30, 2012 from 2-4pm at the Quality Inn on Bronte Road in Oakville. The guest speaker will be Ashen Chetty, Program Director at the Aboriginal Health Centre in Hamilton. Mrs. Chetty is a qualified Diabetic nurse educator. See the registration flyer in this mailing.

I hope that you will support your RTO/ERO District 15 and register for some or all events which you find interesting. Remember that we are always looking for new ideas from our members.

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Sailing Apr 02, 2013 aboard Viking Odin

Africa Cruise from Cape Town, South Africa
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Sailing Jan 15, 2013 aboard Silver Wind

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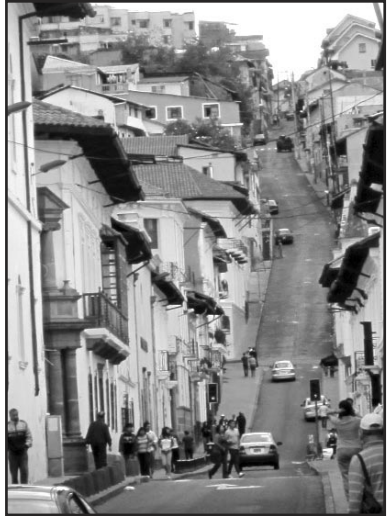
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9,000 Feet Above Sea Level in Ecuador

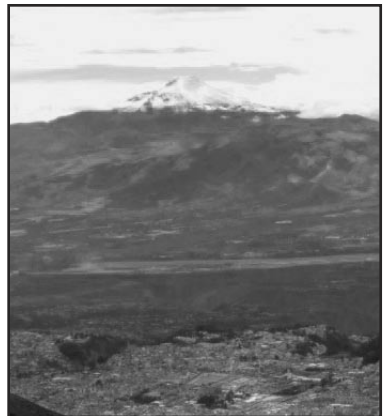
By Jan Murdoch

In Ecuador the sun rises and sets at the same time of the day all year long due to its proximity to the equator. Although you might encounter some rain from time to time, generally it's sunny with temperatures ranging from 12-15 degrees in the mornings and evenings then rising to 19-21 degrees during the day - ALL YEAR LONG!

Initially your body needs a few days to adjust to the high altitude in the Quito area - think about standing on top of 5 CN Towers stacked one on top of the other. If you continue to ascend any of the surrounding peaks you go in stages to let your body adapt to the changes in elevation. In the photo of Quito, I was at an elevation of 14,000 feet ASL.



Visits to the smaller cities or towns gives one a chance to see the traditional Ecuadorian clothing and culture. In the main urban centers however, you will find an evolving group of people heavily influenced by the American culture. Spanish is the spoken language but they are developing an increasing awareness of English and a lot of the younger generation are fluent in both languages.



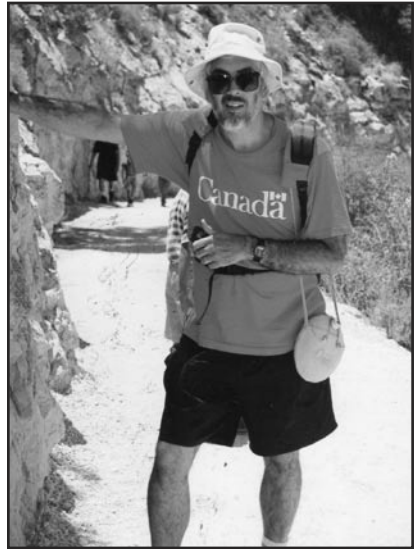
From Quito you can travel west by plane to visit the giant turtles on the Galapagos Island or east to the Napo River and the Amazon jungle. If you choose to drive be ready for some rough roads and crazy driver techniques, definitely an

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The GRAND CANYON: Rim-to-Rim

By Steve Austin

“See those tiny lights on the dark horizon? That’s the South Rim of the Grand Canyon.” The mountain air is so clear we can see them 11 miles from us but 2000’ lower than our present 8,250’ elevation. Twenty-five of us and three organizers are gathered at the rustic Frontier Cabins on the North Rim where crowds are almost non-existent. 90% of the Grand Canyon visitors go the South Rim. We leave in the morning to hike down to the Colorado River, stay overnight and hike up the Bright Angel trail. It’ll be 24 miles, 12 miles and 6250’ DOWN, 2 miles along the Colorado River and then 10 miles and 4,500’ UP! UP! UP!” At this altitude day temperatures are in the 80’s and nights in the comfortable 50’s. But for us, it’s a twelve-mile downhill hike, a sleep-out on the hard ground (night temperature will only drop to the high-90’s). The daytime temperatures down in the Canyon will soar to the 110 degrees Fahrenheit level.



Oh! Oh! Less than an hour on the trail and we’re stopped by the Park Rangers. Overhead we hear the wop-wop-wop of the emergency rescue helicopter. We learn that it’s for a father and son team who had run a few miles down and back up the trail when the father had a heart attack and died. It’s a very sober warning to us. I have some basic rules for all of us - “Pace yourself! Drink lots of water even if you’re not thirsty! Rest when you need a break! There’s no hurry! It’s not a race! There’s no prize for getting there first! Remember we’re over 8200’! ‘Sleep’ is at Phantom Ranch 6000’ lower and 12 miles ahead. You’re only hiking once! Special ... make sure you take time to enjoy the scenery!”

Signs warn us about the ‘drag-out’ price for hikers who need help. The price is \$200+ per person on the back of some very wide-bodied mule being led by a man on another horse. Every one will know you didn’t take all the Ranger warnings. I’ll be the ‘sweeper’ at the back of the group making sure everyone is OK. Now we’re ready and eager to move out.

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The trail drops quickly through forests of Douglas fir, aspen and pine then through a man-made tunnel at the two-mile mark. We're already down 1400' on a 13% grade. At the five-mile point we see a sign to Roaring Springs (elevation: 5220') just off the main trail. It's a beautiful 100' waterfall spouting out of the sheer rock. It's a tempting side trip but we have many miles to go. Trail books advise that the return five-mile hike and 3000' back to the North Rim takes 5-6 hours. That's a good strenuous one-day hike!

Ribbon Falls (elevation: 3700') is still 5.5 miles ahead and down another 1200'. Probably another three hours. As we bypass the Cottonwood Campground, we're already down 4200'. As I hike, I have a unique almost 'spiritual' experience. The main part of the group is far ahead and I'm at the back plodding along. For at least an hour I hike completely alone. I meet no one and I see no one. Thousands of miles from home I have the Grand Canyon to myself. Soon the trail narrows into 'The Box' - four miles of over-hang where thousands of years ago a 'raging river' from the North rim cut through the rock layers. Suddenly my tour-partner, Sid Broomfield, appears coming back on the trail wondering if I had hiking difficulties. He'd already reached Phantom Ranch who tell him they can't reserve this number of dinners without a guaranteed credit card. Who's carrying a card in the middle of the Grand Canyon? But someone volunteers a card to hold dinners - and what an incredible dinner! Home-made beef stew with all the 'fixings', drinks and desserts. It's amazing for us to be dining so well at the bottom of the Grand Canyon with dozens of other hikers from around the world.

This far below the Rim darkness falls early. We don't carry tents because the night temperatures will only drop in the mid-90's. The hard ground is unforgiving even to tired bones and backs; sleep is sporadic; little creatures scurry around us in the



dark; other hikers snore in the darkness; the stars are bright in a magnificent canopy as we lie in the dark staring up. But we're happy that so far we've had no injuries, no slips, no falls. Maybe a few blisters. And we're all well!

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We awaken before daylight. Because of the high temperatures, we have to be as far up the trail as possible before the sun burns the rocks and sand. The first hour in the dark we hike by flashlight crossing a bridge where we can hear the rushing Colorado river below. The steel grating is our special foot-trail because the horses will not walk on it. Then it's two miles west along the hot sandy trail. There we drink and fill our water bottles with good water knowing the next tap is five miles and five hours ahead. We now tell each hiker to set his or her own pace.

This is especially true as we begin the Devil's Corkscrew, a steep trail zigzagging up 2000' on the Canyon wall. Now we're spread out again. Hike a few hundred yards! Rest! Drink! Talk to people from many American States and Europe. Occasionally we meet someone asking how far to the River which they plan to reach then return to the South Rim that day. No number of warnings can persuade them to begin their return. Even the many Ranger signs warn that the uphill hike to the South Rim can easily take more than eight hours of relentless uphill climbing - some of which may be in darkness.

Many of our group have already reached Indian Garden, rested and had their drinks from the cold spring-water tap. Now it's 4.5 miles of continuous switch-backs up to the Rim, at least five hours up! The Canyon maps indicate two 'rest houses and water' - #1 at the mile-and-half and #2 at the three-mile mark (each measured down from the Rim above). It's a continuous upward hike carefully avoiding the droppings left by the many mules carrying people and supplies to and from the Rim. Mules have the right of way so we have to move off the trail as they pass. It's an opportunity to take a few minutes to rest.

Three sections lie ahead, at the 'three-mile-house' and the 'mile-and-half house', we need 4-6 hours. We soon separate even more as we hike at different rates. I find I'm drinking a quart of water per mile of trail! Some of us rest at the 'three-mile-house' (elevation: 4800') and check on each other. Our pace is slowing because of the increasing altitude. At the 'one-and-half mile house (elevation: 5750') we check each other for dehydration and muscle cramp, encouraging each other by pointing out how close we are to the end, how far we've hiked and how much we've bonded together. We've got lots of time!

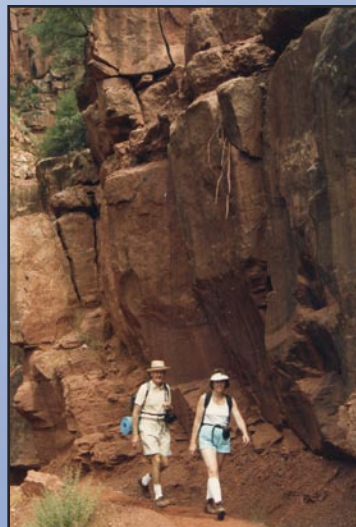
The last few hundred yards of curving trail we drag ourselves to the South Rim - a place to rest weary muscles, to eat good real-cooked food, time to hug and congratulate each other for winning this once-in-a-lifetime achievement. We've succeeded our rim-to-rim hike of the mighty Grand Canyon!!

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*Nature's Challenge:
Trekking the
Grand Canyon
With
Steve Austin*



just ... **Delightful!**



Bruce Shapka's George



LeAnne Taylor's Aleck



Joyce Frank's Water loving Grandbaby



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