



Halton Herald

District 15

April 2024



My Favourite Memory...

"Sunsets on Little Lake, Muskoka"

First Place Winner Mary (Stevenson) Baratto



In This Issue...

Favourite Memory Photo Contest... page 33



Photo by Marilyn MacLennan

Honourable Mention

"I love water. The Mackerel Cove in Bailey Island, Maine - a place I have gone to every summer since 2010 (except 20, 21) This cove is beautiful in the sun but much moodier in the fog. This boat is often beached when the tide goes out. I loved the white and grey with the touch of red from the dory."

Vacation Musings by Regan Heffernan ... Page 9



Snowflake Luncheon by Micki Clemens...page 10

President's Message!

By Jerry Powidajko



Welcome to our Spring edition of the *Halton Herald!* I can't say that we had a lot of snow this winter and truly, I didn't use the snow blower at all this year! Weather patterns are changing and we all need to get on the same page when it comes to climate warming. Every voice counts but we need more than talk - action speaks more powerfully for us!

If you didn't have a chance to attend our January Zoom presentation by **GASP - Grand(m)others Act to Save the Planet**, please visit our website - <https://district15.rtoero.ca>. This is a perfect example of a group of grassroots grandmothers and grand'others' who care about what will be left to our descendants!

This presentation and others were brought to you by our amazing and hardworking Program Committee that includes **Micki Clemens, Toni Pizzingrilli, Colton Roberts, Judy Wedeles** and **Penny Ham-bly**. Their organization and their planning for a variety of events make these Zoom presentations and luncheons a great way to learn and stay in touch with friends.

During the **February 20th Luncheon**, we were fortunate to have **Jim Kenzie** a former *Toronto Star* reporter and editor, now a freelance contributor to the *Star's* Wheels section. He's been writing about the automotive world for three decades and has driven pretty much everything in the country. He was the first person to be awarded the Automobile Journalist Association of Canada *Journalist of the Year* title in 1984 and is a judge for the North American Car of the Year Awards. His presentation covered modern day cars, electric vehicles and even what to look for in a future car purchase. Certainly there is a lot more out there with electric, hybrid, gas and hydrogen vehicles! Thank you to the Oakville Conference Centre for the great lunch and venue!

This month we are excited to have **Chris Wedeles** as our guest speaker. This **Zoom presentation, on April 10**, will include a slideshow and talk about birds and bird-watching. This has become a very popular

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

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

Table of Contents

Committee Reports Pages

Archives	20
Awards/Community Grants	23
Foundation	24
Goodwill	22
Health Benefits	14
Political Advocacy	15
President's Report	3
<i>Rapport</i>	16
Social Media	14

District 15 Events/Items

Annual General Meeting	18
Book of Remembrance	22
Contact List	17
New Members	9
Favourite Memory Contest	25
Snowflake Luncheon	10

Articles

Vacation Musings	9
We Get Letters	6

pastime with many people, allowing for engagement with nature and the outdoors. The information is on our website. Plan to attend.

Our **Spring Luncheon and AGM** is being held on **May 29th, 2024** at the **Burlington Convention Centre**. Our special presenter at the luncheon will be **Elizabeth Semmelhack, Director and Senior Curator of the Bata Shoe Museum (BSM)** in Toronto speaking, on "The World at your Feet: A Walk through the Bata Shoe Museum Collection." Drawing from a world-renowned collection of nearly 15,000 shoe and shoe-related objects, join Elizabeth for a fascinating journey through some of the most significant artifacts from the collection. The BSM strives to enlighten and entertain visitors of all ages. For every shoe, there is a story!!! This presentation will be uniquely interesting and worth your presence. Registration information is available on our website and in this issue of the *Halton Herald*.

Many of the webinars presented by national RTOERO are now archived and available at rtoero.ca/resources/videos. Some of the more recent sessions that were added include:

- Living with dementia: understanding the condition and advocating

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



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

for supports.

- 7 quotes from Sheila Watt-Cloutier to open your mind.
- Webinar: Auto and home insurance 101.

District 15 Halton has its own Facebook page, www.facebook.com/RTOERODistrict15Halton, as a way to stay in touch, share information and promote and celebrate events with all members. Also, visit our website <https://district15.rtoero.ca> for up-to-date information, a calendar of events and support documentation. Thank you to **Carey Mollenhauer**, our Web Manager!

Brad Fisher continues to work tirelessly on our electronic newsletter, *Rapport*. This is a great collection of pictures, news and stories, focusing on District 15 Halton, published multiple times a year. Brad would appreciate your submissions sent to rapportd15@gmail.com for possible inclusion.

The *Halton Herald*, our newsletter, comes out three times a year in print and electronic form, thanks to the amazing work of **Peter Gnish**, Editor and **Micki Clemens**, Copy Editor. Although we do send the *Halton Herald* by mail members are invited to consider receiving their edition of the *Halton Herald* electronically. If you would like to save a few trees please send our Editor, **Peter Gnish**, an e-mail stating that you would like to enjoy the Herald digitally. Send your e-mail to District15Halton@gmail.com.

As you can see by some of the volunteers above, these events work because of the help of all the people behind the scenes. Without their help our district work would not be possible including reporting in the *Halton Herald* and *Rapport*, luncheons, presenters, Zoom sessions, posting information on Facebook and our Webpage, scholarships, political advocacy, benefit reports - and the list goes on. We all love our volunteer work but we do need YOU to help us keep up the good work. Please consider donating your time and talents to our District 15 business. Please contact me or **Micki Clemens** at district15halton@gmail.com.

(President's Report...continues on Page 6)

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

(President's Report...continued from Page 5)

Our remaining Board meeting dates for the 2023-24 year are as follows:

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Wednesday, May 29, 2024 - AGM

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at our AGM in May! Have a great spring!

We Get Letters, E-mails & Calls

By Peter Gnish



My wife, Cate and I, are still in Florida enjoying the snow-free weather. And it is nice to hear from so many of you still up north weathering the cold. Thanks to those who sent me e-mails and cards. Keep them coming - members love to hear from you. The next issue will be going out in September. Why not send me an update as to what you are up to for inclusion.

You can send me an e-mail (pgnish@gmail.com) or something by Canada post (to Peter Gnish, 153 Fairleigh Ave. S. Hamilton Ont. L8M 2K4). I need to receive it by July 15, 2024 at the latest. This time we heard from:

Grant Clatworthy wrote, "Hope this e-mail finds you well. I, like many others, thoroughly enjoy staying up to date with many colleagues and friends through reading the "*Herald*." The many photos and stories bring back fond memories of the 42 years I spent working for the HDSB. Anyway, I have attached a couple of photos for the photo contest. Take care - I look forward to the next edition of the Herald."

John Goodman e-mailed, "I am asking if you can now start sending me the Halton newsletter electronically. I have been meaning to do this for a while and it's about time I started. Thanks for all the work you do. You must really enjoy it. All the best for the New Year."

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

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

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

Ethel McClure sent me a note to say, "I really enjoy reading each edition (of the *Halton Herald*). My appreciation to Jerry and his assistants for the wonderful 50th Anniversary Celebration on May 17, 2023. My surprise and gratitude for the Lucky Draw - The Food Bank is the lucky recipient."

Debbie Caldwell McLellan wrote, "Greetings Peter and *Halton Herald* staff, and members, I enjoy reading the *Halton Herald* and look forward to it! Although I taught with Peel for over 32 years I lived in Burlington for 30 years plus where my daughters attended C.H. Norton PS and Lester B. Pearson H.S. (the latter closed several years ago). And I attended a few Halton member meetings at the Burlington Centre. After I retired from teaching (2009) I worked with the City of Burlington as a fitness instructor for Seniors at Tansley Woods Community Centre and Haber Community Centre which I loved! Burlington became so busy and traffic congested that my husband and I moved to the delightful town of Fonthill in the Niagara region three years ago. The people here are so friendly and we can walk everywhere to pubs, restaurants, craft market stores of local vendors. There are many places of interest we are still discovering! Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake are a short trip away. My goal is to discover as many wineries as possible, I know it's a sacrifice but someone has to do it, why not me?! I was tempted to move over to the Niagara Region for the local teachers but I enjoy the *Halton Herald* and how informative it is so much. Thank you for all your hard work putting the *Halton Herald* together, keep up the good work!



Enclosed is a picture of my daughters and me a few years ago!"

Enclosed is a picture of my daughters and me a few years ago!"

Marina Lloyd sent me a Birthday Card in Florida to say, " I wish you health and many moments of joy in the year that lies ahead. So cold here! I'm picturing you lying on the beach, soaking up the sun. Take care, don't get sunburned."

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

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

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

Neil McMahon e-mailed this note, "I just received the January issue of the *Halton Herald* and I read about a group of members who belong to a lunchtime skating group. Can you tell me who I could contact to obtain more information about this ongoing activity? Great work that you do on the *Herald*."

Sarah Munro re (Catherine Munro) sent an e-mail to say, "Thank you for including the blurb in the latest edition of the *Halton Herald*. The family was pleased to see it there in honour our father."

Jim Noble wrote to say, "I remember teaching Todd (Gnish) when he was in Gr. 9 at Nelson and Wendy (Gnish) came to my summer BBall camp. You may recall I topped out at about 5'4" in Gr. 9, had a full length cast on my leg from October to April so that a bone chip in my knee might grow back...it didn't...had surgery in the summer before Gr. 10 to remove it. Joe Young cut me from team in Gr. 10 at Westmount too so no skills basically...late bloomer I think was the term...lol.

Sue & I have 3 sons, each have 2 children ranging from almost 20 (oldest 2 in University) to 8...great fun attending their events...back travelling which we missed big time."

Gerald Sill e-mailed to say, "Happy New Year, As to how I am doing, my motto is *one day at a time*. I no longer live in Burlington as I have moved to Bath to be near my oldest son, Marty. Although he has formally retired from the Armed Services he has been hired back as a contractor for an independent company. He was hired the very next day to head up a project that he was doing prior to his retirement. He and other fellow retired officers just returned from Latvia where they were training Ukrainian Officers. Stay safe, be well.



VACATION MUSINGS

By Regan Heffernan

As I enjoy six weeks in the sun of Florida I have time for reading, reflection, learning, family and exercise. I just finished reading **Build the Life You Want** by Arthur C. Brooks and Oprah Winfrey. The book is designed to teach people to be happier. It is a fast read with some good insights. One can see why Brooks is so popular, both at Harvard and with the rest of the world.

I subscribe to **McMaster’s Optional Aging Newsletter** and its various services. It is a trusted voice on all matters of aging. Each week I listen to the Munk Debate discussions. Janice Stein is so wise that I feel smarter when I listen to her! Also, I am learning German and Norwegian on **Duolingo**. I think it helps my brain but I can’t find enough words for metacognition to be certain.

My wife, Lynn, and I are spending the six weeks with her brother and our sister-in-law. Our daughter and nieces have all joined us for a week. Everyone cooks, everyone cleans and everyone chooses an excursion. It is a wonderful experience to live together as family.

Then my 15,000 steps a day helps offset any dietary indiscretions when the family cooks! See you in May!

Welcome, New RTOERO District 15 Members!!!

Our membership is now almost at the 3000 mark. Below are the names of teachers, other education staff and surviving spouses who became members since September 2024. Please welcome them and invite them to join you at one of our upcoming activities.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Maria Bezely | Ian Brandon | Dana Brooker |
| Sonia Comacchio | Jennifer Diverty | Andrea Gleeson |
| Aileen Hurley | Holly Laird | Milena Laskowski |
| Mary Mastrangelo | Yvonne Messenger | Francine Nadeau |
| Catherine O’Carroll | Jacqueline Philipson | Joanne Platt |
| Anthony Quinn | Marilyn Reid | Sophie ren |
| Christine Robertson | Sandra SandLI | Martina St-Hilaire |
| Julie Warriner | Douglas Wilson | |

Snowflake Luncheon with Jim Kenzie

By Micki Clemens

On February 20, at the Oakville Conference Centre, 65 District 15 members (buckled up safely) went on a thrilling ride with **Jim Kenzie**, Canada's best-known automotive journalist and car racing driver. Jim detailed the incredible story of his life career, test-driving and then writing about some of the most basic and some of the most luxurious cars in the world. Citroen, Ferrari, Range Rover, Volkswagen, Mini Morris, Porsche, Volvo, Saab, Mercedes-Benz - and the photos kept coming.

Members were asked to remember their very first car and we heard a fantastic list of different wheels from different folks. Jim regaled us with stories of his own cars – his first car was a Fiat 600 and his most favourite is the AMC Hornet. What he emphasized throughout his talk, was the number of people who helped him along the way. He believes he has been incredibly lucky in his life. He concluded his talk with a brief commentary on electric cars. His view on electric cars was absolute – hydrogen-powered cars are better for the world.

Our meal was totally delicious beginning with butternut squash soup with savoury chutney topping followed by sesame roast chicken breast with a side of potato cake and fresh vegetables – snow peas, carrots and zucchini and, for dessert, we were served a lovely crème brulee with fruit topping!!

Jim brought along copies of his book, *In the Driver's Seat* – an auto/biography (with the emphasis on “auto”) and had many eager customers as members lined up to purchase and have the books “autographed”! All in all, a witty and fascinating tour around the world in the space of an afternoon! What fun we had!

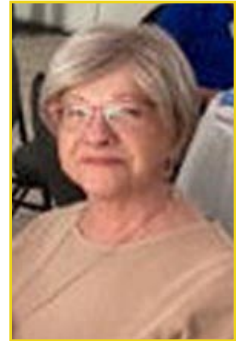
Following Photos by Marilyn MacLennan and Micki Clemens



(Snowflake...continues on Page 11)

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

(Snowflake...continued from Page 10)



(Snowflake...continues on Page 12)

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

(Snowflake...continued from Page 11)



(Snowflake...continues on Page 13)

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

(Snowflake...continued from Page 12)



Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

Social Media Report

By Carey Mollenhauer



Greetings from your Social Media Manager! As I sit at my kitchen table writing my *Halton Herald* piece, I can't help but think that the unusually warm few days in February might just be the type of weather we will be experiencing when this edition reaches your computer or mailbox.

I hope you have enjoyed reading the articles and information which are posted on our website, <https://district15.rtoero.ca> or our Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/RTOERODistrict15Halton>. We have several events in the next few months. If you haven't checked out the website lately, I encourage you to do so.

Past copies of the *Halton Herald*, In Memoriam listings and, future upcoming events, news, and volunteer opportunities may be found here. Our Facebook page is updated regularly and includes a wealth of information on "Optimal Aging" from the McMaster Optimal Aging Portal.

I would appreciate any input, suggestions, or feedback from all District 15 members and will look forward to hearing from you!

Health Benefits Committee Report

By Bonnie Cummings



I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather now that we are in the month of April.



Here in District 15, we are looking into ventures for the fall, and our "Know your Health Plan Workshop" with District 13, is in the planning stage. We are hoping to find a venue for this event that is located a little more central for all of us in Halton. If you have any suggestions for a possible facility, please feel free to e-mail me at bonniecummings.rtoero@gmail.com.

(Health...continues on Page 15)

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

(Health...continued from Page 14)

I wish anyone who is travelling a safe and happy trip. Remember to take your health card with you. All the important numbers you need in case of an emergency are on the back of the card.

Political Advocacy Committee Report

By Claudia Stewart



District 15 Halton was a premium sponsor of The **Dinner Party 2024** organized by WHAM (Women of Halton Action Movement) that took place on the evening of March 6th at the Oakville Convention Centre.

WHAM returned to this live event following three years of a Covid-related virtual (Un) Dinner Party held in honour of International Women's Day.

International Women's Day – It is important to note that WHAM initiated a celebration of IWD in Halton over 20 years ago at a time when there were no events happening locally. The goals were to provide a special but affordable evening for women to celebrate the successes that were taking place, to honour those who had led the way, and to inform people of the challenges that we still face.” (from the WHAM website)

Jully Black, Juno Award winner, singer-songwriter, was the keynote speaker and guest performer. Proceeds from this event, including that from the 50/50 draw were donated to SAVIS (Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services) and CW4WAfghan (Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan).

This event is heavily supported by the individual teacher unions in Halton and offered those of us attending from RTOERO District 15 an opportunity to network with working teachers and potential new members. This in-person event, the first since the pandemic, was a timely celebration of WHAM's 20th anniversary!

Rapport E-Newsletter Report

By Brad Fisher



The *Rapport* newsletter is District 15's connection to the membership throughout the year, sent electronically to our 3,000 members. *Rapport* is published nine times throughout the year in September, October, November, December, February, March, April, May and June.

Submissions of articles, pictures, book reviews, recipes, etc. are due on the 23rd of the preceding month. So contributions for the May edition, for example, are due April 23, 2024 and can be sent to rapportd15@gmail.com.

Inside the *Rapport* you will find articles promoting our luncheons, social activities, political advocacy and health information. Members are encouraged to send in their pictures of the changing seasons, interesting landscapes, and favourite places to hike.

If you have a recipe that you would like to share, it can find its way to the Chef's Choice column. Favourite reads? Let us know! Favourite hiking trails? Please share with us. We'd love to have pictures of those members celebrating special occasions such as their anniversaries.

Rapport's goal is to help build a relationship, understanding, and communication with you.



RTOERO District 15 Halton Contact List

NOTE: Recently, the RTOERO has advised all their Districts of the need to protect the personal security of our Executive and Board members and our District members in our publications. You may contact us in TWO ways.

1. To contact any of the Board members listed below, please use the following email address: district15halton@gmail.com. Indicate in your message, the individual Board member or members to whom you would like the message to be directed.

2. Go directly to our Contact Page on our RTOERO website, <https://district15.rtoero.ca>, and submit your inquiry. Any contact information included in the committee reports found within this publication appears with the approval of the individual author.

Executive 2023 – 2024

Past President: Micki Clemens

1st Vice President: Regan Heffernan

Secretary: Dianne Visschedyk

President: Jerry Powidajko

2nd Vice President: Brad Fisher

Treasurer: Carol Pashkievich

Committees

Archives

Blaine Adams

Community Grants & Scholarships

Penny Hambly

Book of Remembrance

Toni Pizzingrilli

Communications

Webmaster

Carey Mollenhauer

Social Media Manager

Carey Mollenhauer

Rapport Coordinator

Brad Fisher

Halton Herald Coordinator

Micki Clemens (Temp.)

Halton Herald Editor: Peter Gnish Design: Cate Roberts

Proofreaders: Susan Carnegie, Micki Clemens, George MacRae,

Marilyn MacRae, Eleanor McCulloch, Jordan Palmer, Ray Smith

Foundation Champion

Moira Plexman

Goodwill

Toni Pizzingrilli

West Convenors:

Marina Lloyd, Liz Takalec, Judy Wedeles

East Convenors:

Dianne Visschedyk, Toni Pizzingrilli

North Convenor:

Susan Spencer

Out-of-Region Convenors: Catherine Fadyshen, Mary Dell'Anno,
and Attilio Dell'Anno

Health Benefits

Bonnie Cummings

Committee Members: Colton Roberts, Virginia Seeliger, Mary Vancas

Membership/Recruitment

Marilyn MacLennan

Member-At-Large

Judy Wedeles

Political Advocacy

Claudia Stewart

Program

Jerry Powidajko (Temp.)

Committee Members: Micki Clemens, Penny Hambly,

Toni Pizzingrilli, Colton Roberts

Social

Vacant

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

RTOERO District 15 Halton

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Burlington Convention Centre

BurlOak Drive, ON



Elizabeth Semmelhack
Director and Senior Curator

“THE WORLD AT YOUR FEET: A Walk through the Bata Shoe Museum Collection”

The Bata Shoe Museum is North America’s only museum dedicated to exploring the history and cultural significance of footwear. Drawing from a world-renowned collection of nearly 15,000 shoe and shoe-related objects, join Elizabeth for a fascinating journey through some of the most significant artifacts from the collection. The BSM strives to enlighten and entertain visitors of all ages. For every shoe, there is a story”

COST: \$40.00 for RTO District 15 members/spouses

\$45.00 for guests/non-members

AGM 10:00 – 11:30 am

Registration: 11:15 am -12:00 noon

Opening Remarks: 12:00 pm

Lunch: 12:30 pm PRESENTATION: 1:30 pm

Cash Bar will be available from 11:00 am.

AGM SPRING LUNCHEON
Wednesday, May 29, 2024
REGISTRATION (PLEASE PRINT)

Member Name: _____

Tel.#: _____ **Email:** _____

Vegetarian Meal _____ **Food/Gluten Allergy** _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Tel #: _____ **Email:** _____

Vegetarian Meal _____ **Food/Gluten Allergy** _____

Request for Accessible Parking: _____

NOTE: Make cheque payable ONLY to
RTOERO District 15
in the amount of :.....

Please forward registration form & cheque by mail
by May 20, 2024

to
Judy Wedeles

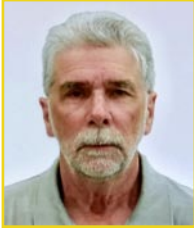
4141 Stonebridge Cres. Burlington ON, L7M 4N3
OR

PAY ONLINE at <https://district15.rtoero.ca>
Home Page – See under Site Map – Click “Pay
online for District 15 Event or Activity.”

YOU MUST EMAIL: Notice of Your Payment ONLINE
and Special food indications to
[**EventsD15RTO@gmail.com**](mailto:EventsD15RTO@gmail.com)

Archives Committee Report

By Blaine Adams



The way we run our District 15 Board meetings has changed over the years. In the 1980s and 90s, the STO/ERO (Superannuated Teachers of Ontario) had two meetings per year, the Spring Meeting and the Fall Meeting. These were meetings which membership could attend and where lunch was served followed by a guest speaker. The Spring Meeting appears to have functioned as the Annual General Meeting. The actual business of the Board was conducted in Pre- and Post meetings (sometimes called Executive Meetings) around these events. If issues arose at the General Meeting, the members were urged to take them to a board member for discussion at the “Executive” meeting.

Here is an example of the records from 1994:

May 11 - Executive Pre-Spring Meeting was held at the Board office with nine board members present and one absent. It was reported that 86 people had so far signed up for the Spring Meeting. Details were worked out for the meeting including who would say grace. A presentation was to be made about the role of the Halton District Health Council and the presenter would get a \$100 honorarium to be given to the charity of her choice. (The honorarium was raised from \$50 in a motion from the previous year, again with the stipulation that it go to the charity of the presenter’s choice). Members would be urged to write letters protesting a current issue, namely payment for out of province hospital stays in certain circumstances. Finally, past presidents would get a free lunch at the Fall Meeting! No mention was made of the cost of the lunch but a motion in 1991 set the cost at \$15 for those who retired before 1981. Committee chairs made their reports.

May 17 - Spring Meeting was held at the Oakville Golf Course. Eight board members were introduced and “a delicious buffet lunch” was enjoyed by all. The meeting heard reports from various committees and details emerged about the out-of-province health insurance. Apparently, one was allowed two 60 day out-of- province trips where hospital

(Archives...continues on Page 21)

(Archives...continued from Page 20)

expenses would be covered by the province. Maybe the letters written had an effect in eventually changing that policy.

May 19 - Post Spring Meeting held at the Board. This was basically a debriefing of the Spring Meeting. 125 people had attended and the food and services were deemed excellent. There must have been an issue with smokers because they were going to be “encouraged” to go outside. The guest speaker provided good information but some of the attendees found it difficult to follow at times. There had been a survey of membership opinions and one of them was to change the name of the *No Name Newsletter* to *District 15 Newsletter*. (The name, *Halton Herald*, did not appear until September 1997). And, in conclusion: “Once again the main purpose of the meeting was socialization which was enjoyed by all”.

September 29 - Pre-Fall Meeting at the Board office. Seven board members attended. This was a much briefer meeting than the one in the spring and several of the board members said they would present their reports at the Fall Meeting, which, again would be a luncheon meeting. The coffee break was eliminated and the draws would have a wine theme.

October 5 - Fall Meeting at the Burlington Golf and Country Club. Ten board members attended and were introduced at the Head Table. Committee Chairs presented their reports. The lunch was deemed “delicious” and was followed by a guest speaker on the topic, “Power Of Attorney”.

October 12 - Post Fall Meeting at the Board office. This debriefing of the “Fall Luncheon” was indeed brief. The location was great and lunch was a “good sit down meal”. The room could have used a microphone. Committee members made reports and **Jim Baker** was singled out for his excellent report at the Fall Meeting. The next luncheon would cost \$20 with \$17 for older retirees. The guest speaker would be someone from the Ontario Teachers Pension Plan.

How simple it used to be!

Goodwill Committee Report

By Toni Pizzingrilli



A very joyful April, to all of you, from all of us, on the Goodwill Committee! Hopefully you have had many opportunities to enjoy the record breaking mild winter days that we experienced in the early months of 2024 by doing all the things that bring you joy and happiness.

The mission of this committee is to connect with our Senior Members through various forms of communication, the sending of special occasion cards being the primary way. We are so grateful to our members who have expressed their thanks and appreciation for a card that they received. Not only does this bring us joy, but it affirms that the work that we do is appreciated and well received. These kind and thoughtful gestures are much appreciated by our Convenors.

Please continue to inform us of any change in your contact information as this past holiday season we received several cards marked, "Return to sender," as we did not have the correct address in the reports we received from the National RTOERO office. Having the most current information will ensure that everyone receives their special card.

Please contact us at district15halton@gmail.com if you have any questions about our committee work or if you would like us to send a card to someone who may need a friendly "Hello, we are thinking of you".

Have a happy, healthy, and safe spring and summer!



Book of Remembrance

We remember with fondness...

Carol Carr	Gail Cherrington	Russel Connor
Eileen Fleming	Lorna Johnson	Keith McKay
Franklin Lenz	Evangeline Majewski	Elaine McGuigan
Marguerite Murphy	Muriel Nightingale	John O'Carroll
Sharon Peck	Robert Schellenberg	Anne Marie Zahara

Awards/Community Grants & Scholarship Report

By Penny Hambly



By the time you read this report we will be well into spring and hopefully warmer weather. I am looking forward to our **AGM on May 29**, which will be approaching soon. I hope that you will join us! You will be able to speak to me in person if you have any questions about Scholarships or Grants.

On February 13, the chairs of the Community Grants Committees, as well as District Presidents, had a demonstration via Zoom on how to fill out the **NEW Community Grants Application Form**. The session was hosted by Lori Hunter, RTOERO's e-learning specialist. We were shown how to access and fill in the new application form as well as how to collaborate with each other to complete it. In addition to the application form, you will now be able to download **Application Instructions** as well as the **Evaluation Rubric**. It should now be a lot easier to fill in your application.

Remember that if you are involved in a project, whether big or little, it could qualify for a grant of up to \$4000. Go to the RTOERO National website or to the following link... <https://rtoero.ca/giving-back/grants/>. You will see the criteria outlined there to help you decide if you qualify. Please contact me to discuss it. **Deadline** for the submissions to RTOERO National is **May 31, 2024**.

Applications for the **Johnson Scholarships** should now be on their website. The scholarships are available to relatives of members who are in their **FIRST** year of a post secondary program.

Finally, our District 15 Board is looking for members to nominate a candidate for the **Jim Baker Distinguished Service Award**. This individual must be a member who has made an outstanding and/or long contribution to our District 15. We would honour them at our May 29th AGM. Contact me at hamblyp@cogeco.ca to get the Nomination form and I will also put it on the website. **Deadline is May 3, 2024**.

Foundation Report

By **Moira Plexman**



RTOERO Foundation announces funding for four new projects. The RTOERO Foundation is thrilled to announce we are awarding grants to four new projects, for a total funding amount of \$127,100.

These projects, which were reviewed and scored by our Peer Review Panel, cover a range of important priority issues including geriatrics research, social engagement and seniors' health and wellbeing. Funding of these projects is made possible through the generosity of the RTOERO Foundation's donors, most of whom are RTOERO members. Thank you for your continued support.

Here is a list of the projects made possible through funding from the RTOERO Foundation in 2023:

Co-Designing Patient Education Materials for Older Adults Living with HIV

Organization: Sinai Health and University Health Network (UHN).
Funding amount: \$49,900.

Intergenerational Nature Challenge Activities

Organization: Heartland Forest Nature Experience
Funding amount: \$17,500

MixAbilities: Seniors Module Outreach

Organization: H'art Centre
Funding amount: \$25,160

Cultivating Young Dementia Advocates: A Toolkit for Youth Engagement

Organization: Alzheimer Society of Ontario
Funding amount: \$34,540

Visit <https://rtoero.ca/rtoero-foundation/our-work/projects-we-fund/> for more information about our donor-funded grants.

Contribute to the *Herald!*

The next *Halton Herald* will be distributed in September 2024.

- Send a letter to the Editor (pgnish@gmail.com) on any topic that interests you or tell us how you are doing and what you are up to.
- Write an article on any topic that may interest your retired colleagues. Please limit your article to a maximum of 750 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 Newsletter Coordinator, Micki Clemens by e-mail: micki.clemens@sympatico.ca.
Deadline - July 15, 2024.

Thanks for the Memories!!!

By Cate Roberts

A big **Thanks** to all those who contributed to our Photo Contest. Even more importantly, thank you for your willingness to share both your photos and your remembrances with all of us! The pictures submitted come from current activities and those from many years ago. They represent things comic and serious, favourite activities or people, and while some depend on the camera, others' strengths come from the words.

By having the images coupled with the descriptions of why each image is significant, it's easy for the viewer to understand how personal and meaningful each memory is.

All 24 submissions that were received are published in this edition of the *Herald*, though not all in colour. As you look at them, you'll understand the difficult task that our 11 judges faced. The comments they sent with their decisions included: "A wonderful array of photos!" "Wow, what a tough choice!" "What great fun it was to ponder the entries." "Wish I could have chosen more than 5." We thank them for their thoughtful consideration!

As you look at the following pages, see what choices you would have made. Enjoy the varied experiences that each contribution brings!

(Favourite Memory...continues on Page 26)

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

(Favourite Memory...continued from Page 25)



Photo by Jane Watson: *“This photo called ‘Retirement!’ captures what living is all about. My husband and I travel to South Africa to escape the Canadian winter. The food is great and we found a spot overlooking the Indian Ocean.”*



Photo by Karen O’Halloran: *“This photo makes me laugh! My husband and I were on a tour of Buckingham Palace and we took advantage of a photo op!”*

(Favourite Memory...continues on Page 27)

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

(Favourite Memory...continued from Page 26)

Photo by Beverly Pearson:

“Photo is of my family Christmas tree. I wrote names of all my heavenly family members, the latest being my uncle who passed away last November. I decided to ask each family member still with us to put a Christmas ball on tree to make every Christmas a special reminder of what Christmas is all about, that being faith and family.”



Photo by Wayne Bridle: *“The double rainbow, I found interesting because it appeared to start at the white house to the left and end at the church to the right. A neighbour called me and suggested I look out my front door. Surprised to see such a large and close rainbow I quickly gathered my camera and tripod and took the shot from my front yard.”*

(Favourite Memory...continues on Page 28)

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

(Favourite Memory...continued from Page 27)

Photo by Bruce Shapka:

“This photo is of our two sons at Thanksgiving 37 years ago. They were both up in a tree. David, our youngest, was 6 and Gerry, our eldest was 9.”



Photo by Penny Hambly: *“This is a picture of my two grandsons, Hunter and Raine when they were in nursery school. My husband, Larry, made them the hats for Easter. Every Easter we bring out the hats and now my little great grandkids like to wear them.”*



Photo by Hilary Duignan:

“This is my brother’s dog. He is a rescue from Mexico. He has the kindest and sweetest nature. He is a fantastic dog. Very affectionate also. Not to mention very cute!!”



(Favourite Memory...continues on Page 29)

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

(Favourite Memory...continued from Page 28)



Photo by Sorah Rench: *“View down at Nice Quay.”*



Photo by Wayne Bridle:

“This picture I took was during the building of our new bridge over the Grand River. This one stood out for me because I found it to be an interesting view through the tree and to see the size of the I-beam compared to the workers. It was the second one of six that had just been placed into position.”

(Favourite Memory...continues on Page 30)

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

(Favourite Memory...continued from Page 29)



Photo by Penny Hambly: *“Twillingate, Newfoundland. I took the picture as we circled around it in a boat.”*



Photo by Karen O’Halloran: *“This was taken on the Colorado River on a trip to Las Vegas. It was an extra special trip as my sister joined my husband and myself. The day was amazing and the scenery was spectacular!”*

(Favourite Memory...continues on Page 31)

(Favourite Memory...continued from Page 30)



Photo by Jane Watson: *“This is one of my favourite golfing haunts in South Africa. It is Pinnacle Point in Knysna on the Garden Route. This 18 hole championship course is the Pebble Beach of South Africa with cliff top fairways and stunning views overlooking the Indian Ocean. And all this for under \$100 Canadian, including golf cart.”*



Photo by Colin Watson: *“The finishing par 5, 18th hole at Pinnacle Point, Knysna, South Africa. A golfers heaven. Fore!”*

(Favourite Memory...continues on Page 32)

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

(Favourite Memory...continued from Page 31)

**Photo by
Grant Clatworthy:**
“Pelican hunting for food.”



Photo by Marilyn MacLennan: *“The Cape Anguille Lighthouse is on the most western part of the island of Newfoundland an hour north of Port aux Basques. We stayed at an inn on the property. I loved the light on the lighthouse as the sun was setting. Stunning location.”*

(Favourite Memory...continues on Page 33)

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

(Favourite Memory..continued from Page 32)

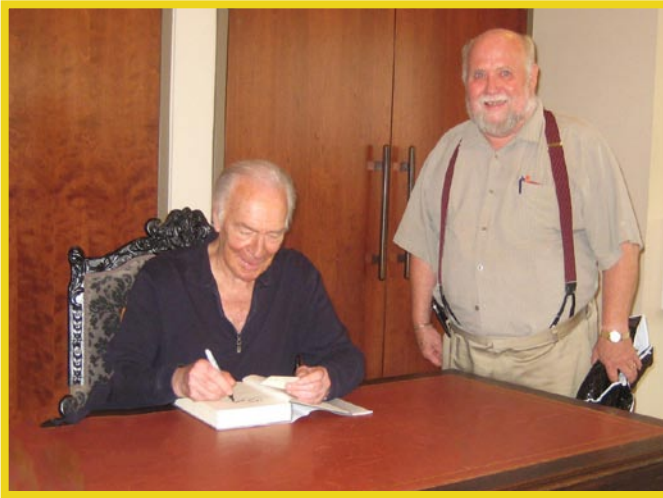


Photo by Bruce Shapka: *“Christopher Plummer and me at Stratford. My wife and I attended his one man show, “A Word or Two”. I first saw Christopher in 1960 in the Stratford production of Romeo and Juliet. Bruno Gerussi played Romeo and Julie Harris played Juliet.*



Photo by Sorya Rench: *“Nice in South of France is one of our favourite places to stay in the fall as weather is quite hot sometimes. The Promenade des Anglais is amazing with wide areas for pedestrians & bikes. The scenery is outstanding. Richard and I have fond memories of the area.”*

(Favourite Memory...continued from page 34)

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca

(Favourite Memory...continued from page 33)



Photo by Hilary Duignan:

"I love this picture because it is so unusual. It is my granddaughter at about age 4 (ish)."

Photo by Beverly Pearson:

"This picture is of my husband, Charlie Pearson, who worked in plant operations for HDSB as field supervisor. Charlie is currently in a retirement home with dementia issues, but, in his day, he played Santa Claus for many organizations. Latest gig for him was being Santa for the children of the workers in his retirement home December 2023."



(More Favourite Memory photos on the next 2 Pages)

Visit us on the Internet at district15.rtoero.ca



Favourite Memory Photo Contest Winner, Grant Clatworthy:

“My wife and I spend a lot of time on St.Pete Beach and I really enjoy sitting on the sand and watching the grace of the pelicans hunting for food.”



**Favourite Memory Photo Contest,
Marilyn Ortwein**

Honourable Mention

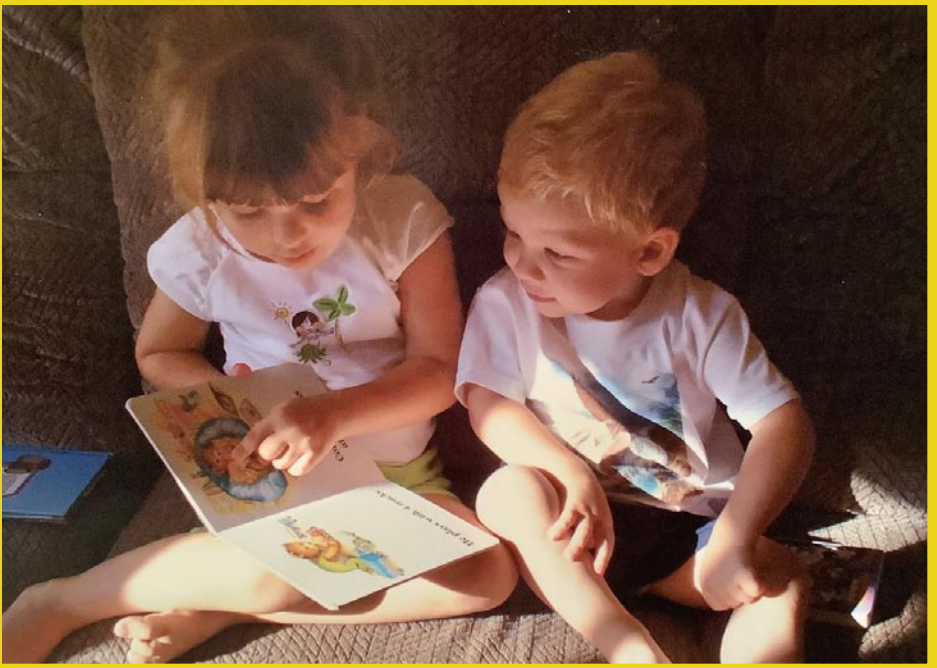
“This photo was taken on September 24, 2017 when over 150 Monarch Butterflies visited my Silver Lace Vine over a four hour period.”





Favourite Memory Photo Contest Winner, Anne Milford:

“As soon as I read about the photo contest, I knew exactly which photo I would submit. This one sits in a frame on a bookshelf but I also carry this image in my heart. These are my two oldest grandchildren sitting in the morning sunshine streaming in the window as I looked after them one day a long time ago (2005 to be exact). Amanda is reading to her little brother, Jason. My granddaughter recently graduated cum laude with a degree in Forensic Science while Jason is presently in his second year engineering course. So very proud of these two”.



*Marilyn MacLennan, Membership Chair
District 15 RTOERO Halton
469 Woodview Road, Unit #7
Burlington, ON L7N 2Z9*

