



President: Bob Neal 694-9683

Newsletter Editor: Paul Rowney 424-1298

**May 2000**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

How I enjoy the umbrella the trees form over our street, the perfumes and colours of the flowers and the sounds of the birds in conversation. Spring has arrived.

Provincially we are involved in reorganizing our District to conform to the new School Boards. This will mean more cooperation among the Metro groups with a goal to improve service and perhaps to change District 16 to Unit 16 as part of a new Toronto District. This will be debated in the May Senate with no changes, if any, until the October Senate. We should be able to maintain and to improve services to our members.

Toronto Motions being taken to the May Senate include:

1. A request that a list of all Presidents and their contact phone numbers be available to all Districts.
2. Support for Margo Burn's petition for a 60% basic survivor pension.
3. Support for a Five Best Years generator for all pensions.
4. A request that information and tax assistance regarding the lump sum pension over-contribution repayment continue to be made available.

You should have received your new RTO/ERO membership card and information about the Long Term Care Plan.

You may want to take note of the Elder Abuse Hotline – 416-338-0001. Your call will be taken confidentially by a trained Public Health Nurse.

This is the time of the year when we hear of retirements of former colleagues. Do you not think they would benefit from joining us? You might alert them about the following:

- ▶ Health Plan
- ▶ Affinity Programme
- ▶ The political advocacy voice of 46 000 members
- ▶ Club Sixteen activities
- ▶ Our new web site
- ▶ Our informative Newsletter
- ▶ Goodwill programmes
- ▶ Travel opportunities
- ▶ The great group of people who form District 16 membership

My thanks go to all our Executive members who volunteer their time to provide service to our members. May you all find ways to enjoy the summer months and possess high efficiency air conditioners.

***Bob Neal, President***

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Tuesday, September 5 . . . . . "Screw the Bell" Golf Tourney**
- Thursday, September 21 . . . . . Newsletter Mailing**
- Wednesday, October 18 . . . . . Luncheon, The Old Mill**
- Saturday, October 21 . . . . . Earl Beatty 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**FROM THE DISTRICT UPDATER**

**Auto Club Membership**

The Provincial Executive approved the Johnson free Auto Club membership as the incentive for attracting requests for insurance quotations from Johnson Incorporated.

**Ontario Principals' Council Membership**

In consideration of the sum of \$250 per year, payable by the Ontario Principals' Council (OPC), RTO/ERO will waive the first full calendar year of membership for retiring OPC members who join RTO/ERO in the first year of their retirement.

**The Provincial Executive at its April meeting undertook the following:**

1. RTO/ERO priorities for the Teachers' Pension Plan will be:
  - a) The elimination of the Canada Pension Plan offset at age 65.
  - b) The calculation of pension for all retirees based on the average salary of the best five years.
2. To delete "Insured Health Premiums Paid from Fund Surplus" from the list of priority items identified by the Pension and Retirement Concerns Committee.
3. To develop a policy statement on the topics of Teacher Testing, Compulsory Volunteer Extra-Curricular Activities and School Closures, for consideration at the May 2000 Senate.
4. To write to Hon. Helen Johns, Minister responsible for Seniors Affairs, advising that RTO/ERO supports the Government initiatives to create an environment where seniors can age with dignity, free from harm and treated with respect.
5. To contact the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) and ask for its support in lobbying the federal government to permit pension splitting in private pension plans under conditions other than marriage breakdown, in the same manner as is permitted in the Canada Pension Plan.
6. To contact the Canadian Snowbird Association regarding a cooperative approach to the Ontario Government to request that a resident of Ontario who is out-of-province at the time of a provincial election be permitted to register and vote by mail-in ballot.

**Health Services & Insurance – Launch of Long Term Care Plan**

The Leaders in the District should be alerted to the fact that mailings are now going to each RTO/ERO member introducing our New Long Term Care Insurance Plan. Johnson Inc. will also conduct a presentation and question and answer session at the May Senate.

**Email addresses**

Anyone who cares to share their email information, please forward to Clara Rodriquez (crodriguez@rto-ero.org) or Dianne Vezeau (dvezeau@rto-ero.org).

**RTO/ERO Toll Free Number**

Our toll free number now applies for the U.S. as well as Canada. The number remains the same: 800-361-9888.

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**MOVING?**

If you are moving, please call Dianne Vezeau at RTO/ERO at 416-962-9463 and Val Fiedler at 416-510-1861, in order to keep on receiving your Newsletter.

**WANTED**

**Books, Records and Tapes!**

Once again the **Friends of the Sesquicentennial Museum** need these items for their next sale to be held in 2001.

Please put the items in plastic bags.

For information regarding pick up or where to deliver items,  
**please call Arlene Freeman at 416-630-3672.**

## **THINGS TO DO BEFORE LEAVING ON AN EXTENDED VACATION**

I hope that the following checklist of things to do before taking an extended vacation is helpful.

- ▶ **Identification** Ensure that you have proof of identity; e.g., birth certificate, up-to-date passport.
- ▶ **Travel & Medical Insurance** This can become a rat's nest – especially if you have a pre-existing condition. Seek advice from RTO/ERO's insurance contractor. Make medical, eye and dental appointments and renew all prescriptions. You may now take a 120-day supply of prescription medication into the U.S.
- ▶ **Powers of Attorney** Be sure to take copies of your Canadian Powers of Attorney (POA) with you. Check beforehand with an attorney in your destination location to confirm that they will be valid there. A number of U.S. states do not recognize Canadian powers of attorney, and you could become a ward of the state for medical care. Some people have become bankrupt because the state has determined what medical attention and length of stay in a hospital were necessary.
- ▶ **Finances** Take sufficient U.S. funds (preferably in travelers' cheques) for your immediate travel needs. For long-term stays, arrange for a currency exchange program to transfer money from your Canadian bank account to a local U.S. bank.
- ▶ **Mail** Have Canada Post redirect your mail (at a cost) or arrange for someone to collect it. Suspend magazine, newspaper, TV cable and Internet subscriptions.
- ▶ **Home Protection** Set automatic timers to turn lights and a radio on daily to simulate someone occupying your house. Some house insurance policies require regular visits to the house to maintain policy coverage. Turn off all outside water taps from the inside.
- ▶ **Pets** Be sure that all pets have been immunized and that you have papers confirming that fact.

Submitted by **Chuck Carr**

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## **FROM BILL SHAVER, YOUR HEALTH SERVICES AND INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE**

All RTO/ERO members should have received information regarding the New Long Term Care Insurance Plan.

### **Features of the RTO/ERO Long Term Care Plan**

- ▶ \$50 daily benefit for in-home care or institutional nursing home care
- ▶ Choice of lifetime maximum benefit: \$50 000, \$100 000 or \$200 000
- ▶ Inflation protection to safeguard your benefits from eroding over time
- ▶ Waiver of premium when receiving benefits
- ▶ 30-day waiting period before benefit payments begin
- ▶ If you and your spouse are both approved, premium discount for both policies will apply
- ▶ Affordable premiums, payable by convenient monthly deduction based on your age at the time you apply for coverage

To be approved for coverage under the RTO/ERO Long Term Care Plan, each applicant must provide satisfactory evidence of good health.

For complete plan information and premium rates, complete and return the request form for an RTO/ERO Long Term Care enrollment kit via fax to 416-920-0939 or by mail to Johnson Incorporated. You can also call to request your enrollment kit at 416-920-7248 or 1-877-406-9007.

Please note: Members and spouses apply separately.

## **CLUB SIXTEEN**

It is time once again to say thank you to the excellent leaders we have had this year to guide our social and activity groups. We have had a wonderful year with the following convenors:

Anne Fraser – Hospitality  
John Lane – Bridge  
Nell Godfrey – Crafts

Lyda Dmytriw and Joan Johnston – Book Club  
Jack DeGroot – Day Trips  
Rochelle (Kelly) Todesco and  
Brenda Wilson – Movie Club

and I have enjoyed convening the Travelogue programmes.

Soon we are planning to distribute forms asking which activities you would be interested in joining and/or leading. Please give this your attention. We always encourage new ideas and leaders to develop in our membership.

Convenor: **Val Fiedler** – 416-510-1861

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### **DAY TRIPS**

Ten (10) tickets are available for an enjoyable trip to **Stratford** to see the comedy  
“**The Importance of Being Earnest.**”

**Date:** November 1, 2000

**Cost:** \$85 (including two meals with all taxes and gratuities)

**Call:** Jack DeGroot at 416-691-3046 ASAP if interested.

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### **ACTIVITY “AD”**

Anyone interested in leisurely cycling on bike paths in Toronto’s beautiful parks for 1–2 hour rides,  
please call Mary Hope at 416-785-5262.

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### **METROPOLITAN TORONTO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

The HABITAT RESTORE has a unique opportunity for people who enjoy building and construction projects.

We are seeking volunteers interested in taking part in upcoming Habitat projects.

Please call Peter Morris at 416-510-2223 (ext. 0) for details.

Visit us at 29 Bermondsey Road or [www.torontohabitat.on.ca](http://www.torontohabitat.on.ca)

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### **EARL BEATTY PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**1925–2000**

**75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**Saturday, October 21, 2000**

**2:00–5:00 p.m.**

**We are looking for former teachers and students to come forward and help us celebrate this great event. Please collect your photos and mementos of your time at Earl Beatty to share with us.**

**Former Staff: Lunch 12:00–1:00 p.m.**

**Please call us at 416-393-9070.**

## **6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL "SCREW THE BELL" GOLF TOURNEY**

This annual event will once again take place at the Harbour View Golf and Country Club.

The date is Tuesday, September 5, 2000.

Registration is limited to the first 144 entrees, so don't miss out!

Cost: \$40.00 (includes green fees, prizes and burger lunch)

Send deposit of \$20.00/person before June 30 to either:

Jim Christie, 109 Lakeshore Rd. E., R.R. #1, Oro Station, ON L0L 2E0  
or

### **SPRING LUNCHEON**

This year 113 members and guests enjoyed a pleasant gathering at The Old Mill.

After a tasty meal and warm welcome by **President Bob Neal**, RTO/ERO Executive Director **Pascal LaRouche** gave his farewell speech in which he informed us that, among other things, by 2010 there will be 110 000 'baby boomers' drawing pensions; there are 43 000 RTO/ERO members; and 93 000 people visited the RTO/ERO web site over the past year.

He closed by reminding us to "talk back" to RTO/ERO about any of our needs that are not being serviced.

Pascal has been a competent steward of our affairs and we wish him luck with his future plans.

**Arlene Freeman** made a **special presentation** to our Hospitality Chairperson, **Anne Fraser**, who has given us 20 years and counting, of dedicated service in her job. She has arranged 40 large luncheons, as well as refreshments for 200 Executive Meetings, 100 Mailings and other events. She is our indefatigable "Hostess with the Mostess."

Finally, we were uproariously entertained by 77-year-old Billy Meek, who regaled us with a hilarious repertoire of yarns about aging, hospital stays and failing memory, interspersed with a sing-a-long of some old times on a wee concertina, as well as superb and astonishing banjo solos of "Twelfth Street Rag" and "The World is Waiting for the Sunrise."

Overall it was a terrific outing and photos of it are available on our web site (courtesy of Bill Menagh).

### **MILLENNIUM THOUGHTS TO THE FUTURE**

Some residents at Christie Gardens were asked to respond to the following question for the resident newsletter. "What do you see in the next 100 years?" **Mr. Allen Sweetman**, a former associate director of education and a man with vision, wrote the following:

Moving into Space...

The vision was fleeting but unforgettable. There it was before me: the earth in its orbit, and somehow belonging to it, an array of space stations. Noticeable among them were a research centre, an industrial plant, a hospital and a beautiful holiday resort. There were airships, with little wings, busy taking people back and forth. These were the new pioneers, breaking the bonds of earth, and extending boundaries for all mankind.

## **DISTRICT 16 WEB SITE NOW AVAILABLE**

[www.rto-ero16.org](http://www.rto-ero16.org)

Your executive has authorized the establishment of a District 16 web site. This is a developing method of communication to members. Although still under construction, the basics have been established. Please log on and send us your comments so that it can be improved.

Also, in an attempt to facilitate the communication of our members with each other, we asked in our March Issue to let us know if you would mind sharing your email address.

A number of members have responded and they are listed below. *Please note that these are provided for personal use only and should not be used to send unwanted advertisements (spam) or other non-requested communication.*

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Given Name</b>	<b>Board</b>	<b>email address</b>
Barry	Gordon	Toronto	ghbarry@home.com
Bell	Evelyn	Toronto	enbell@interlog.com
Bratton	John	Durham	johnbratton@idirect.com
Carr	Charles	Toronto	cwncarr@srcl.sunnybrook.utoronto.ca
Carson	Pat	Toronto	pcarson@sprint.ca
Clarkson	Ian	Peel	cla@idirect.com
Hrabowsky	Walter	Toronto	whrabowsky@nf.sympatico.ca
Jeffery	Kay	Toronto	kadunk@idirect.com
Kelly	Marge	Toronto	markel@pathcom.com
Laughlin	Dave	Toronto	laughlin@istar.ca
Longfield	John	Toronto	johnlong@enoreo.on.ca
Menagh	Bill	Toronto	bmenagh@arvotek.net
Price	Ruth	Toronto	ruthprice@home.com
Putnam	Bob	Toronto	RGPGeog@aol.com
Smart	Bill		smartb@bmts.com
Trant	Ross	Toronto	trant@reach.net
Wittrock	Bev	Toronto	ef.wittrock@sympatico.ca

### **IN MEMORIAM**

**RTO/ERO District 16 extends condolences to families, friends and colleagues of those deceased.  
May we, together, share in the mourning of the loss and in celebration of service rendered.**

**David O. Boyd**

**Margaret Brennand**

**Barbara Jean (Shields) Burns**

**James Butterill**

**Evelyn Edith Campbell**

**Barbara Wilkins Choma**

**Mary Connelly**

**Margaret Alice Duncannon**

**Marjorie W. Glad**

**Margaret Jessie Grant**

**Dorothy Hamilton**

**Ian Hay**

**John (Jack) Hunter**

**George Hutcheon**

**A. Eleanor Lick**

**Olive Christine McLaughlin**

**Sandie McTaggart**

**Walter (Bun) Reid**

**W.J. Stephen**

**Donald Alexander Urquhart**