~ 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.

Hilda Barry Barbara Hancock Florence C. Lambden
Patricia Beattie Teresa Marion Heitzner Nancy Lashchuk
Estelle Budd Margaret Mary Henry Anne Isabel MacDonald

Jean E. Brown Alan C. Hood Terence K. Sheils Alice M. Chrysler Jennifer Hotson Charles A. White

MISSING NEWSLETTER ~ Can you Help?

We have been examining our Archives and appear to be missing one issue of our Newsletter ~ *that of April*, *1989* (or thereabouts). If you have been saving these treasures for posterity, and do not mind giving it up (or at least giving us a photocopy, please contact the editor.

USE YOUR DISTRICT EXECUTIVE

Your District Executive can only provide service and assistance if they are aware of issues that are on your mind. Do not hesitate to call those who perform the functions of the office they occupy. Please refer to your September Newsletter or website for contact information.

!!REMEMBER!!
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ~ TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Your Newsletter Committee produces five Newsletters per year. We welcome submissions from members that may be of interest to others: travels, events, life milestones, etc. As with any publication, the editor reserves the right to modify or reject any submission to fit space available and to determine the appropriateness of any submission in a particular issue. Other RTO/ERO Districts are welcome to use any of the material contained in this document providing that appropriate attribution is made regarding source.

Submission standards: Electronic TXT file preferred, (or Word DOC or WordPerfect WPD file) emailed to the editor at *rtoero16news@aol.com*. If you create your submission in another program, save it as a TXT file. Typed or hand-*printed* submissions accepted but earlier submission is requested.

Future Publications Schedule: Submissions: 01/03/05, 01/05/05, 01/09/05

Mailings: 31/03/05, 26/05/05, 29/09/05



THE RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO

LES ENSEIGNANTES ET ENSEIGNANTS RETRAITES DE L'ONTARIO

DISTRICT 16 former CITY OF TORONTO

NEWSLETTER

C. Naumoff/1991.

Volume 27, Issue 3

JANUARY, 2005September, November, January, March, May

Printed: September, November, January, March, May Editor: Paul Rowney
President: Bill Menagh toero16news@aol.com www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Your Executive wishes District 16 Members and Friends a bountiful and healthy New Year. The photos in this issue were taken at our New Member Breakfast. Our Past President, **Bob Neal**, will be establishing a slate of candidates for the District 16 2005/06 Executive. Although as this Newsletter goes to print, we do not have a complete list of vacancies, we do know that the position of Travel Chair will be available (not to worry, **Jack DeGroot** will still be organizing our Day Trips). If you have a penchant for this type of service to fellow members. or if you wish to serve on the executive as other positions become open, let Bob know as soon as possible (416.694.9638). Descriptions of the various responsibilities are available on our website in the constitution, or, email the president for a copy. Of course, the slate is only a convenient tool to drum up executive members. We are not a closed organization and members may run from the floor at the AGM; the 'slate' simply permits the seeking of interested individuals when reliance on volunteers proves unfruitful. We try our best to ensure little opportunity for nepotism as we seek representation from a variety of backgrounds in the various capacities from which one joined RTO/ERO -Catholic, Public, teacher, administrator, associate. Continued Next Page

RTO/ERO Toronto District 16 Executive 2004 ~ 2005

President: Bill Menagh
First Vice-President: Kay Jeffery
Treasurer: Robert Putnam
Archives: Rosalina E. Bustamante
Goodwill: Sue Booker

Mailing: Arlene Freeman Political Action: Pat Carson

Social/Recreation/Club 16: Valerie Mah

Past President: Bob Neal

Second Vice-President: John Bratton Secretary: Mary Ann Fedchak Communications: Paul Rowney Health/Insurance: Bill Tajer

Membership/Recruitment: Charles Carr **Retirement/Pension:** David Shanoff

Travel: Jack De Groot

Members-at-Large: Ian Baird, Marjorie Blake, Linda Grieve, Carmelita Salazar, Shirley Young

DATES TO REMEMBER ~ 2004/2005

TEOF Chinese New Year Banquet ~ February 17, 2005

Executive Meetings ~ February 10, March 3, April 14, May 12

Newsletter Deadline ~ March 1, May 1, September 1, November 1

Newsletter Mailing ~ March 31, May 26, September 29

MTCEF Annual Fun Walk ~ May 1

Annual General Meeting ~ May 3, 2005

Spring Luncheon ~ May 3, 2005

President's Message Continued from Previous Page

At our New Member Breakfast, a question was asked about how politically involved RTO/ERO became in specific situations at the provincial and local levels. That question, answered in the historical sense with reference to recent developments, is repeated and enlarged upon here.

Historically, RTO/ERO has tried to be apolitical. It endorses no party or platform. It tries to remain issue oriented - specifically in regards to those issues affecting older persons. RTO/ERO was, in part, born through political action precipitated by the need to have teachers' pensions indexed and a need to have definitive involvement in pension improvements and the offering of benefits for retirees at reasonable rates. The Ontario educational milieu is also of import to RTO/ ERO - it did take a stand in opposition to many of the damaging educational decisions made by the previous government. When popular issues arise in the general population, RTO/ERO has taken a supportive stance such as opposition to the privatization of electricity and water supply. Recently your organization exercized political pressure when the Federal Government attempted to restrict the investment opportunities of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP) and will likely get involved in the support of the OTPP in reforming the governance of the Canadian business/financial community. Knowing that RTO/ ERO represents individuals from a variety of backgrounds, there is some considered hesitancy to become too identified with specific movements. On occasion, individuals or small groups have attempted to get RTO/ERO to support their 'pet' cause - the latest being to examine and report on an alternative voting structure for the Ontario electorate. (Only one alternative was asked to be studied to the exclusion of others.) Most often these special-interest initiatives are not supported by the Senate because their divisive nature prevents RTO/ERO acting on those issues of more serious consequence to retirees. Health, hospitals, drug testing, environment, enforced retirement, food supply and others come to mind. In the next Newsletter, as we approach our own Annual General Meeting, we'll try to review the historical politics of our own local organization.

NOTE: We apologize for the quality of some of the photos in our last issue.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our new members who have joined us in October and November, 2004. We trust our District will provide useful services and information. Consider joining our activities as a participant or a leader. (*On occasion, new members have joined us in error* - there are **3 other Districts in Toronto** (*Etobicoke/York-22, North York-23, Scarborough/East York-24* and others in the region (Durham, Peel, York County)).

Agnew, Patricia	Lee, Gordon R	
Agnew, William	Montgomery, M Jacqueline	
Bassett, Gale	Moran, Mary	
Boyko, Michael	Nease, Barbara	
Brown, Carol M	Otonichar, Ida	
Childs, Lynn	Self, Constance M M	
Chopping, Vera	Shaddick, Karin	
Christy, Anne	Speedie, Kathleen	
Codispoti, Antonia	Steer, Marie L	
De Ravallet, Jane H	Stojsic, Dobri J	
Deyholos, Rosalind V	Szonyi, Harriet	
Dockrill, Terence C	Taylor, Mary	
Dokolasa, Marika	Tintinalli, Norman	
Grainger, Margaret	Tomas, Michael M	
Grizzle, Barbara	Tone, Richard J	
Jesty, William A	Towns, Katherine	
Knudsen, Marlene D	Truchan, Terese M	
Laws, Claire	Wawryshyn, Michael M	
Lawton, Jennifer	Wilson, Cherlyn B	

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, STATUS or DISTRICT

To limit confusion regarding a *change in address* or other contact information, the **ONLY contact** is **Dianne Vezeau** (Provincial Office ~ **416.962.9463** or **1.800.361.9888**). Also call the OTPP at 416.226.2700 or 1.800.668.0105. Similarly, to *change the District* to which you wish to belong, call Dianne. ◆

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter is provided at no cost as a benefit to being a Member of RTO/ERO Toronto District 16. Non District 16 individuals are able to obtain copies via subscription (\$10/annum) or downloaded PDF from our website. Join our email service and we'll let you know when it's posted. ◆

211 COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

211 is your first call for information about community, social, health and government services in Toronto. Just dial 211 in the 416 and 647 area codes. A trained Information and Referral Specialist will:

- assess your situation
- help you find answers to your questions
- provide you with options and appropriate referrals.

This 24-hour-a-day service is free, confidential and available in many languages. If you live outside the 416/647 area codes and are interested in speaking with a 211 Toronto Information and Referral Specialist, you may dial 416.397.4636.

The 211 Story

The story of 211 can be told in terms of partnership. 211 would not have been possible without the strong commitment of all partners to the vision, a clear understanding of the role and value each organization brought to the effort, and the effective utilization of staff expertise in areas of project management, marketing, resource development and technology.

Behind the successful implementation of 211 in Toronto and the emergence of 211Toronto.ca is a story of community consultation, relationship building and tactics.

GOVERNMENT STILL DOESN'T GET IT

The governments of Canada and the United States and the North American cattle industry still don't get it - *vegetarian stock* (cattle and other ruminants) are NOT to be fed animal by-products in any form. 'Garbage In/Garbage Out' is the result. If you enjoy beef and want to reduce your risk of cattle-born brain diseases, eat only meet from pure grain-fed range stock and reduce your intake of store-bought ground meat that comes from a multitude of animals. Have your meat ground for you that originates from one animal.

SO YOU WRITE, EH? ~ Editor

We try to have variety in our newsletter. Sometimes we may be too 'officious'. As we plan for future issues, we are considering that our May, 2005 issue might contain an assortment short essays, poems, descriptions written by our members that might be entertaining/informative. Please send us your submission. Format criteria is available on the last page. We have not set a standard for length but short material will likely get greater consideration and allow more participants. •

Two hydrogen atoms walk into a bar. One says, "I've lost my electron." The other says, "Are you sure?" The first replies, "Yes, I'm positive..."

CLUB 16 ~ Valerie Mah, Co-ordinator/416.533.0445

Happy New Year to all! The Executive and many of our convenors met new members at the December breakfast at the Old Mill and we look forward to having you join some of our regular monthly groups. The Bridge, Crafts and Travelogue programs are held at St. Margaret's Anglican Church at Avenue Road and Burnaby (one block north of Eglinton). There is parking one block west of Avenue Road just north of Eglinton on Castleknock. Please call the Convenors for the location of the other programs. Bring a friend to any of our events. **Mary Smith** has volunteered to convene a new Movie Club on Friday evening (details below). See page 16 for **Jack DeGroot's** day-trips.

Day Time

Convenor/Phone

FEBRUARY 2	2005			
BRIDGE	Feb. 1, 15	Tues.	1:00pm	John Lane /416.486.0697
CRAFTS	Feb. 22	Tues.	1:30pm	Bernice Iles /416.651.4378
TRAVELOG	UE Feb. 23	Wed.	1:30pm	Dick Holyer /416.929.8512
Charles Car	r will give bot	h a digi	ital and s	lide show presentation on a
riverboat cru	ise of the Danub	e River	from Pas	ssau, Germany to the Danube
delta in the B	lack Sea and bacl	k. The cr	uise touch	nes upon 10 of the 11 countries
served by the	Danube and disc	cusses so	ome of the	history of the Danube as well
as communis	sm and the rec	ent Slo	bodan M	ilosevic war in Yugoslavia.
"Danuhe Cri	uise October 200)4"		_

MARCH 2005

BRIDGE

Program

Date

CRAFTS Mar. 22 Tues. 1:30pm Bernice lles/416.651.4378
TRAVELOGUE Mar. 23 Wed. 1:30pm Dick Holyer/416.929.8512
Coming of age after WWII in North Dakota, population 600,000 at the time, a young adult could be forgiven for pursuing the American dream (material riches, instant fame, mobility, variety of climate, physical fitness, perpetual youth and pursuit of exotic people and places) by leaving the prairies for California. Paradise found? After deserting the U.S. in 1968 with an 11-year-old son in protest against the Vietnam War, Marilyn (and many other Americans) fled to Canada. Now Marilyn and Dick Holyer explore California from San Francisco to San Diego in search of both the pleasure and the pain of the Golden State between 1954 and 2004. Join us! "California: Cornucopia of Pleasure or Cruel Illusion?"

Mar. 1, 15, 29 Tues. 1:00pm **John Lane**/416.486.0697

Continued Next Page

Club 16 Continued from Previous Page APRIL 2005

 BRIDGE
 Apr. 5, 19
 Tues.
 1:00pm
 John Lane/416.486.0697

 CRAFTS
 Apr. 26
 Tues.
 1:30pm
 Bernice Iles/416.651.4378

 TRAVELOGUE Apr. 27
 Wed.
 1:30pm
 Dick Holyer/416.929.8512

Ted Kozminchuk and Moray Chesney will emphasize Bolivia's culture, language ethnicity, transportation, and economic activities, as well as replicating topographical features of its neighbours. "Bolivia: A Roller Coaster Tour of the Heartland of South America."

Here is a description of the above groups that meet at St. Margaret's:

BRIDGE - **John Lane** welcomes everyone, including beginners. They play a friendly game, currently having two to three tables and are happy to have a few more. They start at 1:00pm on the first, third and fifth Tuesdays of each month. **CRAFTS** - The craft group meets with **Bernice Iles** on the fourth Tuesday of each month. New people are always welcome. Keep your fingers nimble, your mind sharp and enjoy the company of friends over tea and crafts. If you like, bring along a friend. Give Bernice a call so they can watch for you.

TRAVELOGUE - Dick and Marilyn Holyer hold Travelogues on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

The following groups meet at various sites:

BOOK CLUB - Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00pm and the group select different authors each month. These are the upcoming selections:

February 7 The Heart is an Involuntary Muscle
March 7 Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress
April 4 Song of the Dodo Island
Monique Froulx
Sijie Dai

Biography in an Age of Extinction David Quammen

For further information call **Joan Johnston** at 416.691.5368 or **Elaine Macintosh** at 416.463.2637

MOVIE CLUB - The current group attend films usually on the second Monday of the month. Each month, a different volunteer selects a movie with an early afternoon start for the group. Then they go for coffee and discussion afterwards. It is so popular that the current group is full and we have started a second group. The convenors are **Brenda Wilson** (905.640.6549) or **Kelly Todesco** (416.693.0216). Because new films start Thursday, members of the group get only a short notice as to the location of the film, generally on Saturday or Sunday just prior to the viewing. Their days will be February 14, March 14 and April 11.

Continued on Page 17

TEOF ANNUAL LUNAR NEW YEAR BANQUET

Thursday, **February 17**, 2005 ~ 6:00pm/Reception ~ 7:00pm/Dinner *BRIGHT PEARL SEAFOOD RESTAURANT*

346 Spadina Ave (between College and Dundas) \$40/person (charitable receipt for a portion of the cost) For tickets call **Valerie Mah** at 416.533.0445

CLUB 16 Continued from Page 5

NEW FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIE GROUP - Mary Smith has agreed to convene a new movie group for people who can't always make a matinee. She is proposing an early evening movie (approximately 7:00pm) at a central location on the second Friday of each month starting in February. Since shows change on Thursday, notification would be that evening either by email or telephone. If you are interested, please call Mary Smith at 416.467.8625 or email her at *vivian@enoreo.on.ca* before the proposed movie evening. The first movie night will be Friday, February 11.

SUPER TEES GOLF GROUP - The Super Tees will reconvene in the spring. They played 9 holes at Fox Run (Hunter's Glen) on Highway 50 north of 7 during the season. **Rosalie Parente** is our convenor and she can be reached at 905.856.6936 for more detailed information,.

ART/SKETCH GROUP - The sketch group is looking into the possibility of attending one of the figure drawing groups around town during the bad weather. There are several and they are on a pay-as-you-come basis. In December they attended the Modigliani show at AGO which they found well worth seeing. If you are interested in joining them call **Anita Davies** at 416.531.3408 to find out when they will meet and where they will plan to go. They meet on the first Thursday of the month and plan to be out February 3, March 3, and April 7. ◆

TEXTILE MUSEUM OF CANADA

The Textile Museum of Canada in downtown Toronto is exclusively devoted to contemporary and ethnographic textile works. The scope of textiles reaches into the fields of art, craft, economics, history, science, and geography.

To volunteer at the museum is a unique opportunity to become connected with a vibrant community. Because it is a small organization, volunteers find that they are truly involved in the life of the museum. Although there are positions in the shop and at the reception desk, the real need is for educators to give tours to adult and student groups. Former teachers are excellent at this work. They may also have the appropriate skills for the library which is seeking assistance. Training is given to new volunteers. See our website: www.textilemuseum.ca. For further information please call 416.462.1626. Beverley Baird Lane ◆

DAY TRIPS, 2005 ~ Jack DeGroot

A number of enjoyable daytrips have been lined up for the coming season. Each outing includes transportation by comfortable motor coach, two meals and a theatre ticket. The cost quoted is all inclusive. Each performance is a matinee. Contact the person listed with the particular Festival to reserve. If your booking is firm, please forward a deposit of \$40.00/person (payable to CLUB 16) to Jack DeGroot, 19 Elmview Drive, Scarborough ON MIN 2W3.

ORDERING TICKETS BEGINS on Tuesday, February 1, 2005 at 8.00am.

EVENT	PRODUCTION	COST
DRAYTON FESTIVAL		
Wednesday, May 4 at Drayton	Oklahoma	\$ 90.00
Thursday, June 9 at Penetanguishene	42 nd Street	\$ 90.00
For Reservations call Susan Booker at 416 267 2418		

STRATFORD FESTIVAL

Thursday, May 19 in Festival theatre	Hello Dolly	\$100.00
Tuesday, May 24 in Avon theatre	Into The Woods	\$100.00
	(music by Sondheim)	

For Reservations call **Jack DeGroot** at 416.691.3046

SHAW FESTIVAL (Niagara-on-the-Lake)

Tuesday April 19	Gypsy	\$ 95.00
Friday, September 23	Major Barbara	\$ 95.00
For Reservations call Mary A	nn Fedchak at 905.624.4316	

Other productions including *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; *You Never Can Tell* and *Lend Me a Tenor* will be listed in the next newsletter and can be ordered then.



TOP 25 MOVIES OF 2004

It's time to look back and reflect on the state of film-making in 2004. Certainly we had our share of stinkers, movies that were horrendous disappointments with 'The Village' being at the top of that list. On the brighter side, we had a great many films from all genres to cheer about. In putting together this list. I have chosen films that have amazed me, moved me, provoked me, excited me, and made me rethink previously held misconceptions and stereotypes. I was taken to South America, the wine country of California, the dark streets of Moscow, 19th century England and France, and Ancient Greece and Babylon. I flew in the air with a conflicted superhero, an eccentric billionaire aviator, and an invented boy who would never grow up. I learned about the hypocrisy of war and politicians, the sickening greed of the corporate sector, bullying amongst reckless and thoughtless adolescents, the consequences of overweening ambition, and relationships that are toxic and destructive. I was reminded about the preciousness of love, friendship, romance, sex, and redemption, from youth to old age. This was a remarkable year at the movies with incisive, soaring performances, involving stories and themes, and great special effects (when needed to serve the story). 'Kinsey' was my top film, not only because of the vulnerable and graceful performances of Liam Neeson and Laura Linnet, with Bill Condon's creative direction and editing, but also because Professor Kinsey's message of the importance of accepting and understanding sexual diversity is as relevant today as it was fifty years ago. For those of you who haven't seen these movies, you have a lot of wonderful hours awaiting you at the video shops in 2005. Enjoy! John Borovilos

1 Vincer	14. Mean Creek
1. Kinsey	14. Mean Cleek
2. The Aviator	15. Monster
3. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind	16. Spiderman 2
4. Million Dollar Baby	17. The Barbarian Invasions
5. Ray	18. Vanity Fair
6. Sideways	19. Collateral
7. Fahrenheit 9111	20. Saved
8. Motorcycle Diaries	21. Closer
9. Alexander	22. The Notebook
10. The Bourne Supremacy	23. Supersize Me
11. Vera Drake	24. Maria Full of Grace
12. Finding Neverland	25. Shattered Glass
13. In America	

NOTE: Your editor welcomes submissions. See our back page for details.

RTO/ERO TORONTO DISTRICT 16 ACTIONS

Aside from the regular operational business, your executive:

- 1. Approved the purchase of an electronic projector at a cost of \$2500.
- **2.** Heard that the RTO/ERO provincial organization is trying to replace the former joint OTF/RTO Retirement Planning Workshops which OTF is not now supporting; and, that local districts will be involved.
- **3.** Discussed the concept of the Hensen Trust as it relates to the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan
- **4.** Approved the balance of rentals paid to St. Margaret's Church for 2004.
- **5.** Approved a recognition program for members turning 75 in a given year.
- **6.** Were asked to inform the Past President (in charge of elections) of intentions to serve on the Executive for 2005/06.
- 7. Considered the concept of a joint 4-district (16, 22, 23, 24) social.
- 8. Received a Treasurer's report indicating assets of \$56 415.13.
- **9.** Approved a donation of \$100 to the Gideon Society in memory of Ann Fraser.

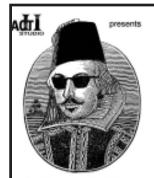
RTO/ERO PROVINCIAL ACTIONS

The following are recent actions of your provincial executive:

- **1.** Agreed NOT to take action on RTO/ERO support for works in developing countries. (This will be left to individual districts to decide on their own.)
- **2.** Received a general presentation on Governance Integrity, Accountability, Transparency.
- **3.** Maintained commitment to long-range goals: Service to Members; Marketing RTO/ERO; Expanding relationships; Corporate structure; and, Financial Accountability.
- **4.** Requested that the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario remove reference to their benefits plans in their *Renaissance* ad (RWTO chose to withdraw the ad completely). The District 16 Executive is questioning this decision.
- **5.** Hired a new Pension & Benefits Officer, **Ron Robert** (former AEFO and OTF president with a background of responsibility for teachers' pensions.
- **6.** Approved a training session for District Treasurers in 2005.

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL EDUCATION NETWORK ~ When members of the Provincial Executive and senior staff met with **Gerard Kennedy, Minister of Education** last August, we were informed about the Ontario Provincial Education Network (OPEN). *The Minister encouraged interested RTO/ERO members to join OPEN*, which is an "email network dedicated to opening up public policy decisions in order to sustain excellence in public

Continued Next Page



"Act II Studio" is a Seniors' Education Program in the G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education ~ Ryerson University

Scenes of love, lunacy & lechery by William Shakespeare

Ryerson Theatre School

44 Gerrard St. E (2nd floor - stairs only)

A Day at the Bazaac

February 24, 25 & 26, 2005 7:30pm: Thursday, February 24/Friday, February 25 2:00pm: Friday, February 25 4:00pm: Saturday, February 26

General Admission \$10 Seniors & Groups \$8

Tickets at the door or reserve at the office before February 24

416.979.5000 x6297

Reservations recommended for Saturday performance

TPSPA RETIREES

A group of retirees of the former Toronto Public School Principals' Association (TPSPA) have expressed an interest in reactivating the **telephone relay system** that once kept us informed of all significant events in each other's lives. The more modern version is via email.

Steve Koning, Valerie Mah and **Arlene Freeman** have this list underway. Should you wish to be added to either the phone or email list, please contact Steve (*steven@koning.ca*), Val, Arlene, or myself. Contact data is in your current RTO/ERO District 16 Directory (September, 2004 Newsletter).

Any email list will not be used for "spam". Announcements will be sent after being virus-checked. If you know of TPSPA retirees who live in other districts, please share this message.

On a related matter, there is a possibility of holding a TPSPA **Reunion Luncheon** in the Spring of 2005 when the 'snowbirds' have returned and the cottagers are still in town. If this interests you, contact me (416.424.1298) with your thoughts and give us any brainwaves you have regarding a suitable location and your willingness to assist. **Paul Rowney ◆**

Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

Political Action Continued From Previous Page

evidence in order to ensure a guilty verdict for someone they are convinced has committed the crime.

Ethics has been at the forefront of Canadian political discussion the last few years. The appointment of an Ethics Commissioner for the Canadian government is an effort to address problems of non-ethical behaviour on the part of Ministers and members of parliament. The Gomery Inquiry into the sponsorship scandal is revealing interesting insights into the workings of government bureaucracies. Public servants are sometimes placed into situations where they have to obey political masters or lose their careers. Whistle-blower legislation is being drafted, though this as well is fraught with difficulties. Locally, the mismanagement of the contract for computer services by City Hall has shown the need for vigilance by City Council. Questionable accounting practices by Nortel and Enron, have raised questions about the accountability of the Boards of Directors of publicly owned companies. Milton Friedman, the economist, suggested that the primary obligation of companies was wealth maximization and that obligations to stockholders were to be defined by law, prevailing ethical customs and good public relations. Cutting ethical corners, which many have come to believe is at least sometimes the price that tough minded business people have to pay to compete successfully, can backfire resulting in serious public relations costs and financial penalties.

Globalization has provided countries with an incentive to engage in "regulatory competition". Some countries attract investment by promising minimal labour and environmental standards. Free trade agreements such as NAFTA and the WTO which regulate international commerce, often bar the ability of the nation state to enact legislation in areas subject to those agreements. Thus much of the activity of multinational companies is beyond the effective reach of any country's individual legal system.

It does appear that we find ourselves in ethical dilemmas. Perhaps, this shall always be the case. Human behaviour is complex and human relationships are complicated. But they cannot be founded on greed alone. It is interesting that the United States, the world leader of capitalism and multinational corporations, has elected a government which promises less regulation of industry, fewer environmental standards and has no safeguards for its own labour pool. The American people voted for "family values" as if the government could somehow promise them "good behaviour". They will be sadly disappointed. A government cannot legislate morality; it can only make some behaviours illegal.

Why does our government approve drugs that harm but won't approve the medical use of marijuana that can help with minimal side effects?

Continued from Previous Page

education in this province. Members are kept up to date and may be asked for advice on important education developments, policies and events". If your District is interested in participating in this network, you can join OPEN by visiting: www.edu.gov.on.ca/tools/eduministerleng/openlist.

RTO/ERO TORONTO DISTRICTS ACTIONS

- 1. Operates a joint website with Districts 16, 22, 23, 24 at *www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org*. District 16 Members are encouraged to peruse the Newsletters and activities of our neighbours there may be something that interests you.
- 2. Will consider the joint sponsorship of local Toronto Retirement Planning Workshops.
- 3. Approved the purchase of Toronto-based recruitment materials for distribution to the Toronto Catholic and Public school boards. ◆

PENSION TIME TIDBIT

In 2001, a number of changes were made to pension benefits. One opportunity at the time was to select an option for a 10-year pension guarantee by taking a nominal reduction to one's pension - automatic, at no cost, for single pensioners. If they die within the period of the pension guarantee, their survivor or estate will receive the amount of their pension for the balance of the period. Of course, in the appropriate Will, that balance can be directed, as can any asset, to a family member, friend, charitable organizations, etc.





POLITICAL ACTION ~ Pat Carson, Chair

ETHICS ~ **Produced by the Political Action Committee**

The term ethics derives from the ancient Greek ethos, meaning moral character. Mores, from which morality is derived, meant social rules or inhibitions within the society of the Greek demos. Today, morality refers to an individual's inner character and the choices that one makes. It is more reflective of a society where individual freedom of action and behaviour is of utmost importance. The term, Ethics, is used to determine what is *good*, both for the individual and for the society as a whole. Defining what is *good*, means dealing with conflicting priorities of individuals versus the whole. *Goodness* has to be determined by the results of the action or the means by which results are achieved.

There is no short supply of philosophers that have dealt with ethics. The ancient Greeks, including the Sophists, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus and the stoics, all developed theories of ethics. The Hebrew Bible, the New Testament and the later writings of Maimonides and St. Thomas Aquinas began the debate between ethics based on natural law and divine law. Modern Western philosophy is based on Hobbes, Locke, Hume, and Kant, followed by the utilitarians, Bentham and John Stuart Mill.

Applied ethics deals with controversial issues, which often bear directly on public policy. For example the following would be questions of applied ethics: "Is euthanasia ever moral?"; "What are the ethical underpinnings of affirmative action policies?" Some questions do not necessarily deal with public policy: "Is lying always wrong? If not, when is it permissible?"

Given the fact that we have had at least 4000 years of philosophical debate about what is and what is not ethical behaviour, it seems hard to believe we still can't seem to get it right. Yet, human actions and behaviours change over time. New technologies bring new ethical questions and reasonable people even if they espouse the same ethical principles can disagree about how these principles ought to apply. Ethical questions resulting from the use of the Internet are just beginning to emerge and include issues such as downloading "free" music, and selling and buying stocks with "inside" information. The political arena has lately had its share of problems. When public officials abuse the trust that is placed in them in order to provide themselves or their friends with special benefits, or to achieve personal goals in violation of the principles of equality and respect, we say they have acted unethically. Some public officials justify unethical practices as being necessary to achieve good results. This is often called the "over zealous syndrome". Police officers can falsify

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Minding Your Money continued from Page 11

will face in the near future. Each year that you contribute, the federal government provides a Canadian Education Saving Grant (CESG) of 20% on the first \$2,000 of the money that you contribute that year. This grant is invested in a fund of your choice. When RESP money is withdrawn, it is taxed in the hands of the beneficiary, who will have a much lower tax rate than the contributor. Not all RESPs are alike! See me for more information. Grandparents reign supreme when it comes to RESPs. Only grandparents may set up a family RESP that includes children from different families. This is because there must be a direct blood relationship between the contributor and the beneficiary and only grandparents have that relationship.

Tax Efficiency: CCRA taxes different investment returns at different rates. Capital gains are taxed at 50% of reported value, dividends at 67% and interest income at 100%. Thus, investors would retain the following amounts of a \$1,000 investment return: capital gains \$800, dividends \$733 and interest \$600. Bonds, CSBs, GICs, T-Bills, etc. pay returns as interest, so are the least tax efficient form of investing. The *effective rate of return* is more important than the published rate of return when investing in non-sheltered securities.

Trusts: Formal trusts are expensive to set up and benefit wealthy investors more than average ones. However, people are winning lotteries and receiving large inheritances and are asking about this tax-saving strategy. If your estate (excluding your primary residence) is worth \$1 million or more, then you might want to consider trusts as part of your tax saving strategies. There are many types of trusts, each set up for a specific purpose, e.g. testamentary, inter vivo. Contact an estate planning specialist lawyer for more information. Remember that a trust is merely the container that holds your assets. You still require the help of a licenced, independent financial advisor to assist you in investing those assets.

Editor's Note re Minding Your Money: Chuck Carr is a certified income tax specialist; licenced, independent, mutual fund advisor; and retirement planning specialist. He was an auditor in chartered accountancy before becoming a teacher. He is willing to assist if you have questions about finances, taxes or managing retirement. There is no charge for this service. For a fee, he will process income tax returns.

NOTE: By the time you read this, you should be able to obtain your RTO/ERO 2004 Tax Tips - just phone 416.962.9463 (also on our website when available).

Although commonly advised that eggs are bad for you and fish is good, an egg from a hen raised on flax is good for you while a fish on a diet of methylmercury in Lake Ontario is not.

MINDING YOUR MONEY ~ Chuck Carr

Annual Tax Tips

File It Or Lose It!: Many taxpayers who have no taxes payable do not file a tax return. This is most unwise! Not only do they lose the GST and Ontario tax rebates that are available to low/no income taxpayers, but, if they are part of a family, (including common law and same gender couples) they prevent the transferring of tax credits to the higher-income taxpayer. If you have a child/grandchild 16 years or older, that child should submit a tax return to claim the Ontario Tax Credit and, if 19 years old, the GST rebate as well. Failing to file a tax return also complicates the tax return for the year of death.

Income Splitting: Income splitting (including tax credit transfers) is probably the most fertile area for tax reduction. You will be amazed at the number of items that may be transferred among family members, *after* they are no longer needed to reduce the lower-income taxpayer's *Tax Payable* (Line 435) to *zero*. Such transferable items include: Age Amount, Attendant Costs, Charitable Donations, Child Tax Credit, CPP, Disability Amount, Education Amount, GST Credit, Medical Expenses, Pension Amount, Political Donations, Provincial Credits, Spousal Amount, Tuition Fees and Canadian Taxable Dividends Credit.

Lending money to a family member is an excellent way of splitting income. However, it must be done very carefully with meticulous records kept or CCRA might disallow the loan and attribute the income earned back to the lender. Said simply, a family member, usually the highest income earner, may lend money to another family member to invest. A formal contract must be drawn up and the CCRA prescribed rate of interest charged. The income from investing the money received as a loan is reported and taxes paid on that amount by the family member who received the loan. The interest received from the loan must be reported by the lender. The reference for this tax strategy is CCRA Interpretation Bulletin IT-510 and IT 511.

Charitable Donations: Charitable donations and medical expenses merit special attention. Both may be claimed by *either* spouse, and, in addition, have special characteristics. Charitable donations may be accumulated for up to five years and claimed up to 75% of Net Income (100% in the year of death). Choose the claimant who will provide the better *family* tax credit.

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Minding Your Money continued from Page 9

For people who are single with no relatives or dependants and who would like to sponsor a charity of their choice, contact the Canadian Association of Gift Planners at *www.cagptoronto.org* or for more details or call Linda Pearson at 416.978.2811. The issue here is donating to charity and gaining a 100% of taxable income deduction. This significantly reduces Ontario probate fees as well as taxes.

Medical Expenses: Medical expenses may be claimed for *any* 12 month period ending in the tax year. This allows taxpayers to choose the most costly 12 months to claim expenses, e.g. If a taxpayer experienced large medical expenses from July to September in 2XXX, he/she could designate July 1, 2XXX to June 30, 2XXY as the fiscal year for medical expenses. *Note:* Only expenses that have not been reimbursed are eligible, and the total of such expenses must exceed the *lesser* of \$1,728 or 3% of Net Income to generate a credit. Eligible expenses include premiums paid to non-governmental, medical or hospital care plans in 2003, (e.g. your portion of your Health Benefits plan) and any travel insurance that you have paid. Don't forget the \$100 deductible you pay if you are 65 or over and the deductible portion of all prescriptions. Johnson Inc. provides RTO members with a totaled summary of all deductibles.

Claiming Tuition Fees: Students attending post secondary education and students who have been IPRCed may claim tuition/tutoring fees on their income tax returns. In each case you will need to submit either a T2202A from the educational institution or a copy of the IPRC letter that confirms that your child is exceptional. For students attending university outside Canada, obtain two forms from CCRA – Education Amount Certificate (T2202E) and Tuition Certificate – University Outside Canada (TL11A). Be sure to instruct the university to complete column C (Number of months for full time credit) on the Education Amount Certificate. In all cases, the children must submit their own tax returns and complete the back of the T 2202A/TL11A form to transfer their unused tuition fee and education amount to the higher earning taxpayer. An accompanying letter to CCRA to explain the T2202E and TL11A forms would help in processing these forms.

Long Term Tax Planning for Young Children: Parents with children or grandchildren, nieces or nephews eight years or older may wish to engage in long-term tax planning to reduce taxes in both the short and long term. Said simply, the concept involves attributing money to children eight years or older, assigning tasks that they must perform to *earn* this money and keeping records

on how the money is spent. The children submit tax returns starting at age eight and begin building up *unused* RRSP room that will be used later when they earn money to help pay for their post secondary education. When the post secondary aged children's income exceeds their personal amount deduction and they have to pay taxes, the children buy just enough RRSPs to reduce their taxes payable to zero and then may transfer their tuition fees and education amount to the higher tax-paying parent.

Disability Credit: This is available to you (your spouse, relative or loved one) if you have experienced a severe trauma (e.g. heart attack, stroke, Alzheimer's) or severe health deterioration that leads to an *enduring disability*. The tax payer must be markedly restricted all or most of the time in hearing, seeing, speaking, walking, thinking, loss of bladder or bowel control, ability to dress, or feed oneself, perceive, think or remember to be eligible for a disability credit. Have a CCRA form T2201 signed by a qualified medical doctor, optometrist, audiologist, psychologist or occupational therapist.

Attendant Care Credit: Retirement home residents, who have had a T2201, Disability Tax Credit form signed, may now claim up to an additional \$10,000 for attendant care credits on top of their medical expenses.

Tax Shelters: Tax shelters are investment vehicles that defer taxes until you withdraw money from the shelter. Common tax shelters include RRSPs, RRIFs and RESPs. A *sheltered* investment of \$10,000 returning 8% for 25 years in a 40% tax bracket will be worth \$68,485. An unsheltered investment of \$10,000 returning 8% for 25 years in a 40% tax bracket will be worth \$32,387. Maximize your RRSPs. Tell your children.

RRSPs: RRSPs represent the single most effective method of reducing taxes payable. RRSP contributions provide a dollar-for-dollar reduction in taxes payable. At the same time, your RRSP investments compound exponentially because they are sheltered from taxation. It is a serious investment error not to maximize RRSP contributions. RRSPs *defer* income taxes until a later date when your marginal tax rate is lower. If you have unused RRSP contribution room, use it up before you turn 69 and are unable to contribute to an RRIF.

RESPs: Registered Education Saving Plans (RESPs) provide excellent vehicles to shelter your investments while you are saving to help pay for the exorbitant, post-secondary tuition fees that your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews

Continued on Page 12

Senior Friendly	416.351.0095
Seniors' Info Line	1.888.910.1999
The Co-operators Insurance	1.800.265.2662
Traffic Safety - Ontario Provincial Police	
Toronto Traffic Services	418.808.1900
Volunteer Centre of Toronto	416.981.6888

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Alzheimer Canada www.alzheimer.ca
Arthritis Society www.arthritis.ca
Canada Pension Plan & Old Age Security www.sdc.gc.ca
Canadian Cancer Society www.cancer.ca
Canadian Diabetes Association www.diabetes.ca
Canadian Hearing Society www.chs.ca
Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association www.chpca.net
Canadian National Institute for the Blind www.cnib.ca
Caregiver Network www.caregivor.on.ca
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada www.ccfc.ca
Division of Aging and Seniors Government
of Canada Programs and Services www.canada.gc.ca
Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada www.heartandstroke.ca
Parkinson Foundation of Canada www.parkinson.ca
Royal Canadian Legion www.legion.ca
Seniorbusters (support info) www.phonebusters.com
211 Toronto
Ombudsman Ontario www.ombudsman.on.ca
Ontario Ministry of Health
and Long Term Care www.health.gov.on.ca
Ontario Securities Commission www.osc.gov.on.ca
Toronto Transit Commission www.ttc.ca
Veteran's Affairs Canada www.vac-acc.gc.ca
The Co-operators www.cooperators.ca
Volunteer Centre of Toronto www.volunteertoronto.on.ca

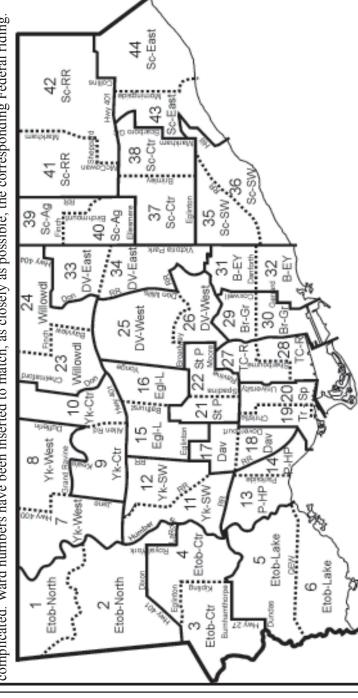
OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

~ 211 Community Service Police Service Toronto (Non-Emergency)~ 416.808.222 Poison Information ~ 416.813.5900

Sexual Assault Victims ~ 416.597.8808 Alcoholics Anonymous ~ 416.487.5591 Distress Centres ~ 416.408.4357 Kids Help Phone ~ 1.800.668.6868 Assault Victims ~ 416.863.0511 Telehealth Ontario ~ 1.866.797.0000

In a democratic society, the communication of citizens' points-of-view to elected representatives is vital. The information

in this insert will assist you. Note that the Federal Ridings, because of redistributiuon, do not now match exactly Toronto Wards as the Provincial ridings do. Adding the new Federal ridings to the map would have made it most complicated. Ward numbers have been inserted to match, as closely as possible, the corresponding Federal riding.



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INFORMATION ~ **TORONTO AREA**

Source: Safe Seniors Calendar 2005, produced by Bri	nging Awareness of
Senior Safety Issues to the Community (BASSIC) ~ ww	w.bassic.ca
Access Toronto	416.338.0338
CHATS (Community Home Service for Seniors)	1.877.952.4287
Driver Re-testing (ON Ministry of Transportation)	416.235.2999
Toronto Police	416.808.7040
Falls Prevention - Toronto Health Connection	416.338.7600
Fire Safety - Toronto	416.338.9050
Frauds - Toronto Police Service	416.808.7300
Telemarketing - Fraud & Identity Theft contact Phonebus	sters1.888.495.8501
Project Senior (Toronto Fraud Squad)	416.808.7319
Home Owner/Auto Insurance (Insurance Bureau of Cana	da) 1.800.387.2880
Ministry of Consumer & Business Services	1.800.268.1142
Ministry of Transportation	1.800.268.4686
Ontario Network for The Prevention of Elder Abuse	416.978.1716
Royal Canadian Legion	905.841.7999
Senior Pedestrian Safety "Daredevil"	416.480.5912

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Ward 10 Trinity - Spadina

Chris Bolton **Education Centre** 5050 Yonge Street Toronto, M2N 5N8 416.397.3100

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