



THE RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO
 LES ENSEIGNANTES ET ENSEIGNANTS RETRAITES DE L'ONTARIO
 DISTRICT 16 former CITY OF TORONTO
NEWSLETTER

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**January Supplement:
 2007 Tax Information**

RTO/ERO Toronto District 16 Executive 2007/08

President: Valerie Mah	Past President: John Bratton
First Vice-President: Mary El Milosh	Second Vice-President: Dave Shanoff
Treasurer: Robert Putnam	Secretary: Mary Ann Fedchak
Archives: Rosalina E. Bustamante	Communications: Bill Menagh
Goodwill: Sue Booker	Health/Insurance: Bill Tajer
Mailing: Arlene Freeman	Membership/Recruitment: Bob Neal
Pension/Retirement: Wally Friesen	Political Action: Pat Carson
Program: Kay Jeffery	Social/Recreation: Carmelita Salazar

Travel: Ian Baird

Members-at-Large: Marjorie Blake, Tom Caster, Linda Grieve, Shashi Makhija, Shirley Young

President's Message ~ Valerie Mah



Welcome 2008. I hope the holiday season was a happy one for you all and that it gave you a chance to be with family and friends. For those of you who made a resolution to do something about your health and well-being for 2008, then we may be able to help you. By popular demand, we have been asked to run another **Wellness Series** and we have been successful in booking the space at Forest Hill Loblaws again, conveniently located above the St. Clair West subway station east of Bathurst with plenty of free parking for those who wish to drive. This time it will be Monday mornings in April. Diabetes is a topic which has been in the news and we plan to have a qualified speaker to bring us the latest statistics and tips to stay healthy. One session will be participatory and Tai Chi has been known to be a source of well-being for people all over the world. What to eat and food prep was very popular in the last series so we plan a similar session. Updates on our health benefits are always welcome. To learn more about the series see Page 15. The new Minister of Health Promotion from Scarborough-Guildwood, **Margaret Best**, has made it her mandate to "Get the whole of Ontario eating right and exercising..." That's fine with us. We want to make sure the province remembers us so we can stay healthy and well.

Many thanks to **Mary Ann Fedchak** who helped stage another successful Craft Show highlighting the works of our talented members. Each exhibitor donated a gift for use as door prizes. **Ken Edge** provided background music for both the Craft Show and the buffet luncheon which

Continued on Page 5

Dates To Remember ~ 2008

District 16 AGM ~	May 6, 2008
District 16 Spring Luncheon ~	May 6, 2008
Executive Meetings ~	Jan 10, Feb 14, Mar 13
Newsletter Deadlines ~	Mar 1, May 1, Sep 1
Newsletter Mailings ~	Mar 27, May 29, Sep 25
TEOF Lunar New Year Event ~	February 22, 2008
Retirement Planning Workshop ~	March 1, 2008
Retirement Planning Workshop ~	April 16, 2008
Toronto Choristers' Spring Concert ~	May 21, 2008

Opinions expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position of RTO/ERO or RTO/ERO Toronto.

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Recreation/Social ~ Carmelita Salazar



Contact: 416.927.0416/csalazar8@sympatico.ca

**WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY AND
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR 2008!**

Hope this year will bring us good health, great adventures, plus wonderful and enjoyable times. We have numerous social events planned for you so please join us for some of our activities or help us set up additional ones of interest to you. You can always bring a friend to any of our events and there is no charge for most of our events aside from third-party fees.

For those events held at St. Margaret's Anglican Church (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 contact the convenors for the location of the other programs.

Here is the schedule for the groups meeting at St Margaret's:

Program	Date	Day	Time	Convenor/Phone
February 2008				
Bridge	Feb.5,19	Tues	1:00pm	John Lane/416.486.0697
Crafts	Feb 26	Tues	1:30pm	Bernice Isles/416.651.4378
Travelogue	Feb 27	Wed	1:30pm	The Holyers/416.929.8512
Dick and Marilyn Holyer take you to <i>Arizona</i> ~ see Page 20				
March 2008				
Bridge	March 4, 18	Tues	1:00 pm	John Lane/416.486.0697
Crafts	March 25	Tues	1:30 pm	Bernice Isles/416.651.4378
Travelogue	March 26	Wed	1:30 pm	The Holyers/416.929.8512
Mark Kannegiesser travels to <i>Australia</i> ~ see Page 21				
April 2008				
Bridge	April 1,15, 29	Tues	1:00pm	John Lane/416.486.0697
Crafts	April 22	Tues	1:30pm	Bernice Isles/416.651.4378
Travelogue	April 23	Wed	1:30 pm	The Holyers/416.929.8512
Brian Jarvis will revisit <i>Britain</i> in his travels.				

Continued on Page 4 ➡

Social Events continued from Page 3



BRIDGE ~ John Lane, a very welcoming gentleman, encourages everyone, including beginners like me, to join them. They have a friendly game and currently have two or three tables and would be happy to have more players. They start at 1:00pm and play the first, third and fifth Tuesdays of each month. It is truly fascinating to see these groups interact. A very pleasant afternoon indeed. Contact John at 416.486.0697.



CRAFTS ~ Bernice Isles meets the craft group on the fourth Tuesday of the month. She would like more participants to join her group. 'Bring a friend, if you like'. Contact Bernice at 416.651.4378.



TRAVELOGUE ~ Dick and Marilyn Holyer continue to present fabulous and interesting 'travelers' with their exquisite experiences, pictures and sceneries! It is always a very treasured moment for all audience, participants and presenters. Come and join the fun and travel along to the world of 'off-season travels'! Consider making your own contribution.

The following groups meet at various sites:



ART/SKETCH GROUP ~ The sketch group met on January 21 at the Heliconian Society to sketch the live model. Life drawings is only on Mondays, which will explain the change of date. For \$6 you can draw for a morning. For other details please phone Anita Davies at 416.531.3408.

This group usually meets on the first Thursday of the month from 10:30 to Noon. Working in any medium, the main criteria is portability. Anita uses ink or water colour pencil crayons, and would be happy to help anyone wanting tips. Contact Anita at ajdaoust@sympatico.ca or 416.531.3408.



BOOK CLUB ~ Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month from 1:00 - 3:00pm and the group select different authors each month. They have a wonderful social following their discussions.

These are the upcoming selections:

February	<i>Case Histories</i>	by Kate Atkinson
March	<i>Three Cups of Tea</i>	by Greg Mortinson
April	<i>Three Day Road</i>	by Joseph Boyden

Please call Joan Johnston at 416.691.5368 or Elaine MacIntosh at 416.463.2637.

Continued on Page 21 ➡

President's Message Continued from Page 2


was enjoyed by all. Our thanks to **Kay Jeffery**, our program convenor, for making all the arrangements with the Old Mill and **Barb and Bob Putnam** for handling all the registrations and making the name tags and signage. **Bill Menagh**, as always, brought printed material and gifts to share.

Since our last newsletter, our pensions increased as well as our fees but with it came increased benefits. And don't forget, when you file your 2007 taxes, if you are a couple, check into income splitting, something which RTO/ERO has been lobbying for. In 2008, we expect our RTO/ERO membership to reach 60,000 as we celebrate our 40th year.

As a Canadian of Chinese descent, I enjoy dabbling in the Chinese horoscope and you will be happy to hear that the Year of the Rat, which starts on February 7, is not only the start of a new cycle of animal years but a time of opportunity and progress. If you have grandchildren, especially grandchildren who may have been born in China, then you may wish to join me at a free New Year celebration at the Scarborough Civic Centre which I co-emcee in the rotunda at 2:00pm on Sunday, February 10. It will feature the Chi Ping Dance Group and for extra good luck, a visit by the god of Good Fortune who will bring lucky red envelopes. Come early if you wish to get a seat. Rat years are characterized by innovation and the Apple Macintosh, the first personal computer to use a graphical user interface and a mouse, was developed in the Year of the Rat. The CD-ROM and genetic fingerprinting was also developed as well as the first working laser. Important developments are likely. So if you know anyone who will be turning 12, 24, 36, 48, 60 or 72 this year, it is very likely they were born under the sign of the Rat. The Rat year is one of energy and vibrancy and a time for action and enterprise. You can join in the fun and learn more by joining us at the annual **TEOF (Toronto Educational Opportunity Fund) Lunar New Year Banquet** at the Bright Pearl on Friday, February 22. TEOF continues to provide upwards of \$100,000 yearly to nutrition programs with the TDSB. Good luck is in store for all those who attend with a visit from several lucky lions and the wonderful return of the Earl Haig choral group. See Page 22 for more information.

Please save Tuesday, May 6 for our **Annual General Meeting and Spring Luncheon**. See additional information on Page 16.

Also save Wednesday, May 21, 2008 for the **Toronto Choristers' 16th Annual Concert** at Sir John A. MacDonald. Not only is it an exciting musical evening but a chance to see many former TBE and TDSB staff who sing in this 109 voice choir and their many other guests - many of whom you will know from days' past. See Page 10.

Finally, many of you live in Toronto, and if like me, you are staying in
Continued on Page 6 

President's Message continued from Page 5

the city this winter, you must have some particularly special haunts which you may or may not want to share. e.g. a great aqua fitness class, a great place to work out (some of you go to Variety Village), a fabulous but reasonable eatery tucked away somewhere unexpected or some upcoming events but we need lots of notice since our newsletter comes out five times a year only. I'll see if I can get someone to put it all together but it would be places we could share with members. Either leave me a message on my home phone which is 416.533.0445 or email me at vmah@ican.net. My new year's resolution is to start reading my email in the morning and not when I am heading for bed.

Looking forward to seeing some of you at our regular events as well as some of the above. Our marvelous convenors work tirelessly organizing travelogues, day trips, book club, movie groups, bridge, crafts and art and sketch groups. Your executive meets monthly on your behalf. On November 21, we met with the executives of the other three districts and discussed **Future Directions**. Look for some future joint events.

Have a healthy, happy and joyous 2008. 

 **Volunteers Wanted** 

The Canadian Cancer Society has a need for:

Daffodil Chair: The Daffodil Chair will be responsible for overseeing the planning and implementation of the Daffodil Days campaign unit. This person will also chair Daffodil Days' committee meetings, work with fundraising staff to recruit, train and coordinate Daffodil Days convenors and volunteers and attend unit fundraising meetings. This person will also provide support and resources to unit and branch volunteers as appropriate.

Daffodil Drivers: These positions support the daffodil campaign. Drivers are desperately needed to deliver daffodils to companies and selling locations during the daffodil campaign. Pick up the required number of daffodil boxes from the office and distribute them to the designated sites. Act as a liaison between the office and the sites. The 2008 campaign will be from March 27 to March 31, 2008.

This position is ideal for volunteers who are friendly, compassionate with strong organizational and communication skills, and also familiar with the North York area.

Contact: Natasha Verwey, Volunteer Development Coordinator,
Canadian Cancer Society, North York Unit, 510-620 Wilson Ave.


416.638.0771 x225

nverwey@ontario.cancer.ca / www.cancer.ca 

RTO/ERO Developments



RTO/ERO Toronto District 16

- your District 16 subsidizes those activities open equally to all members. Consider attending both our Spring and Fall Luncheons to benefit from this distribution of your fees.
- one application for a 2008 'Service -to-Others' Grant had been received by your executive by the November 1, 2007 deadline.
- your executive is preparing for the Annual General Meeting. See our notice on Page 16; mark Tuesday, May 6 on your calendar.
- about 80 guests attended our New Member Breakfast; over 100 attended the Fall Luncheon. Join us at our Spring Luncheon on May 6.
- authorized \$200 for software updates for Newsletter production.
- donated \$100 in memory of former executive member Doctor Bob McGillivray. 



RTO/ERO Toronto Districts (16, 22, 23, 24)

Retirement Planning Workshops ~ if you are aware of a practicing educator (secular, Catholic, private) thinking of retiring, please let them know of the following opportunities:

March 1, **Manoogian Centre**, 390 Progress Avenue, 9:00am to 12:00N


April 16, **Don Bosco Sec. Sch.**, 2 St. Andrews Blvd, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Note: over 100 potential retirees attended the Fall RPW. 



RTO/ERO Provincial

- donated \$5,000 in aid of the floods in Tabasco, Mexico; subject to finding an acceptable relief organization.
- approved the RTO/ERO 40-Year Logo (imaged on our Newsletter cover).
- The 2008 budget incorporates, within existing lines, expenses related to the 40th RTO/ERO anniversary celebrations [that] include Senate, Magazine, Marketing Tools, Gifts and Presentations.
- Moved that RTO/ERO allocate \$5 million out of unallocated surplus for a pandemic reserve.

Editors' Comment: *Senate has decided to limit the opportunity to apply for STO Grants and Scholarships to those skilled in the use of the Internet and Electronic Forms. Respective applications are now available only via the RTO/ERO website and will only be received electronically. Your editors are of the opinion that this change in process, although a laudable development, does not benefit all members equally across the province. Should members find this restrictive, please let your local executive know so that reconsideration can be planned for, and perhaps implemented, in 2009.* 

Teachers' Pension News ~ OTPP



In this time of market turmoil, the question asked is: Is my Pension at risk because of the turmoil in debt markets? The OTPP responds: 'No, the pension fund is well diversified to withstand market turmoil. Our investment in a form of short-term debt, called commercial paper, is not material.'

Are you registered with **iAccess Web**, your personal OTPP website?

Reasons for retirees to register include:

- Update your address and other personal information;
- Review the details of your monthly pension;
- Download and print a duplicate T4A;
- Watch presentations on popular pension topics;
- Change the 'extra' tax deducted from your pension should you have other sources of income and want more tax deducted;
- Retrieve personal pension correspondence.


The OTPP has spearheaded change in corporate governance in Canada and we highly recommend the following *Keynote Speech by Claude Lamoureux, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan at the CICA National Financial Reporting Conference "Transparency and Corporate Integrity" on Tuesday, September 11, 2007.* It is available on the OTPP website: www.otpp.com. Just follow the Newsroom Link.

Our Supplement on Tax Issues provides some additional general pension-income sharing information from the OTPP website. 

RTO/ERO Benefits Update




Members using RTO/ERO Health Plans will soon receive their tri-annual reprint of the *Health Insurance Plans Booklet* and the *Out of Province/Canada Travel Booklet*. Remember to keep it in a safe location for the next three years. Get a copy of the Travel Booklet to take as a guide when out of the country/province.

Two annual publications, *RTO/ERO Group Benefits Program Update* and *Going Places* were distributed to participants in early December. These too should be retained for reference. PDF versions are available at www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org (Benefits Link). 




"Gis To Laugh!"

News Item: Some Toronto councillors want the city to be run more like a business.

Perhaps like Enron? Like Nortel earlier this decade? Like Canadian banks exposed to the US sub-prime mortgage market? Like... 

RTO/ERO Scholarship Program ~ 2008

 The Retired Teachers of Ontario/les enseignantes et enseignants retraités de l'Ontario Scholarship Program awards up to 25 individual scholarships annually of \$1 000 each. These scholarships are intended to encourage and provide financial assistance to applicants who are pursuing full-time or part-time careers in teaching from an accredited teacher training facility.

Eligibility

To be eligible, a student must be:

- enrolled in a full or part-time program which will lead directly to a career in teaching in Canada,
- a resident Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant,
- a child, grand-child, niece, nephew, grandniece, grandnephew, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or step child of an RTO/ERO member.

Please note that this scholarship program is intended to only assist applicants pursuing a career in teaching from an accredited teacher training facility. Examples of eligible programs include concurrent BA/BEEd university programs and programs leading to BEEd qualification.

Application Process

To be considered for one of the Scholarships, eligible students must:


- **Apply on line** by completing the 2008 Scholarship Application.
- **Applications only available at the RTO/ERO website - www.rto-ero.org/.**

On-line applications will not be electronically forwarded to Provincial Office if all requested information is not provided.

Evidence of enrolment in a program which will lead directly to a full or part-time career in teaching in Canada must be included. An Offer of Enrollment is not sufficient. Please provide documentation that supports acceptance such as, but not limited to: Letter of Acceptance, Letter from Registrar confirming enrollment, copy of tuition payment, etc.

Applications received after the close of business on Tuesday, July 15, 2008, will be considered late and not eligible for consideration. *The decision of the Project - STO Committee is final and not subject to appeal.*

Selection Process

The Scholarship Committee will review all eligible applications on or before September 30, 2008 and select up to twenty-five applicants to receive scholarships for \$1,000 each. Successful applicants will be notified on or before October 31, 2008. *continued next page* 

Scholarships continued from Page 9

Consent

If successful, RTO/ERO will contact both the applicant and the RTO/ERO sponsoring member to obtain their written consent for RTO/ERO to announce the name of the successful Scholarship Applicant and the name of the sponsoring RTO/ERO member.

Proof of Enrolment

One or more of the following must be included as an attachment:

1. Letter of Acceptance
2. Letter from Registrar
3. Tuition Receipt

Additional Item

Please tell us more about yourself by attaching answers to the following three questions. Please ensure that your total submission does not exceed three pages in length.

1. Why are you pursuing a career in teaching?
2. How have your volunteer activities and/or experiences prepared you for a career in teaching?
3. What else would you like to tell us about yourself?


NOTE: Documents to be submitted must be in WORD (.DOC) or Adobe ACROBAT (.PDF) format. (See Editors' comments on Page 7.)

Note: In 2007, **Mark Mullrooney** and **Sarah Tulley**, from Toronto District, were recipients of these Scholarships. There were 128 applications. *Ed.* 



Talents Exposed - On Tuesday, November 13, 2007, RTO/ERO Toronto District 16 held its **Annual Craft Show and Sale**. A number of our members participated in the show and revealed their talents displaying their wares from jewellery-making, greeting cards, quilt-making, wood-carving, preserves and Christmas decorations to musical and writing talents. The Craft show was a tremendous success. Background music was provided by **Ken Edge** (contact: www.edgemusic.ca). See our participants on pages 12 to 14.

Mary Ann Fedchak 

Toronto Choristers **All music lovers! Mark your calendars now!** The Toronto Choristers will perform their Annual Spring Concert at Sir John A. MacDonald Collegiate on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 7:30pm. **Plan to be there!** **Bill Smyke** 



Valerie Mah, RTO/ERO Toronto President, introduces the executive at the Fall Luncheon. Pictured from the left are: Dave Shanoff, Bob Putnam, Mary El Milosh, Kay Jeffery, John Bratton, Mary Ann Fedchak, Bill Tajer, Wally Friesen, Pat Carson, Marjorie Blake, Tom Caster, Linda Grieve.



Above: Valerie Mah welcomes Luncheon guests. Below: Kay Jeffery explains buffet routine.



Janet Dowler



Baird Knechtel

November Craft Show Participants (Pages 12 to 14)

Jack Livesley & Deb Loughead

David Mills





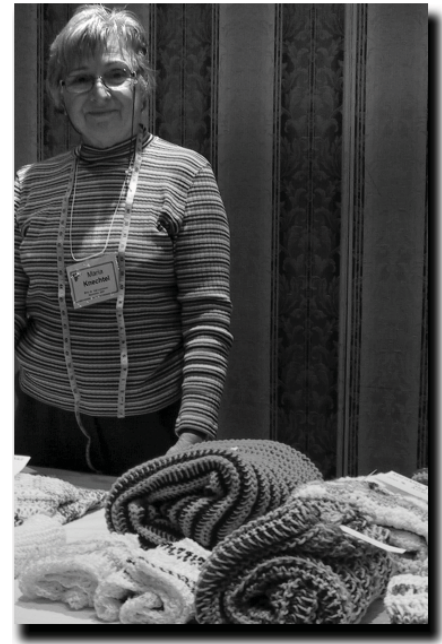
Josie Beylerian



Eleanor Bookman



Mary Hellin



Maria Knechtel

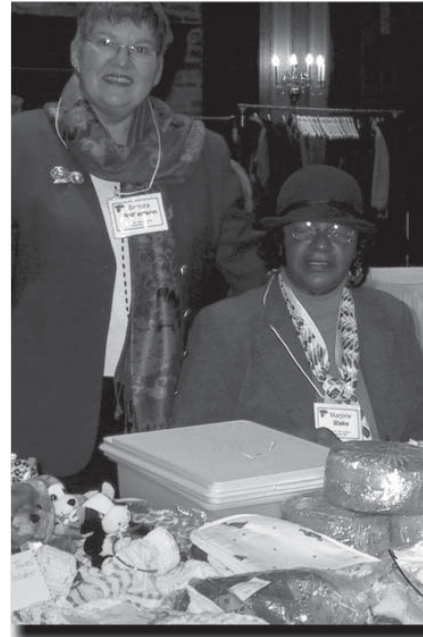
Irene Caputo



Dorothy Gemakas



Sandra Robertson/Marjorie Blake



Phyllis Walker





*Now retired,
how do we maintain,
or acquire,
a new vitality of life?*

How can we preserve our mind and body?

The good news is that we can start to do something immediately to increase our own and our family's chances for health and wellness. By popular demand, Toronto District 16 is pleased to offer again a series of four sessions which will include participation, informative dialogue, healthy snacks, door prizes and fun in a central location accessible by public transit and plenty of free parking.

What? *Staying Well! Empowering Yourself!*

Where? *Upstairs at the Forest Hill Loblaws (396 St. Clair Avenue West)*

When? Monday mornings in April from 9:30am to 12:00N

Cost? \$20/person for series of four sessions (spouses/friends welcome)

In a recent series in the Toronto Star, a health reporter stated that Type 2 diabetes is being called the health crisis of the 21st century. Bernard Zinman, director at the Leadership Sinai Diabetes Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital is quoted as saying, "At the end of the day, it's hard to change your genetic makeup. You should focus on your ability to change your environment. We can change the foods we eat and the amount of exercise we're exposed to." Here's our chance to learn more. One session will focus on this new crisis. In today's hectic, fast-paced world, many of you are caregivers to grandchildren, spouses or aging parents or all three. What can we do to fit exercise into our busy lives in order to stay healthy. Tai Chi might be one solution.

In order to enjoy your retirement and enhance your mobility, learn how important foot care is for our well being. As one chiropodist states, "Foot pain is never normal." What are current treatments and options for keeping our feet healthy.

Representatives from **Johnson's Inc.** will present an overview about our health plan, current changes and issues regarding coverage and travel. We will also address concerns about issues related to personal safety, fraud and title loss from experts in the field. And finally, an informative session on nutrition and heart-smart menus with samples.

NOTE: There is a limit of 30 participants so register now!

REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 22



Your Executive is preparing for the AGM on May 6, 2008 at which the general business of Toronto District will be conducted. The main focus is typically the setting of the budget and the election of officers. The next issue of this Newsletter will contain a slate of candidates seeking office and any notices of motion regarding changes in the Constitution.

Executive: current executive members have been asked to inform the Nominations Committee of their intent to serve next term. If you have an interest in volunteering your time on the executive, please contact Past President, **John Bratton** at 416.782.2530 or enorjay@rogers.com.

Motions: the presentation of motions is the prerogative of the membership. If you have motions that you wish presented at the AGM, please forward them to the District Secretary, **Mary Ann Fedchak** at 905.624.4316 or maryfedc@enoreo.on.ca.

Executive Members are reminded that their reports should be prepared by March 1, 2008 for inclusion in the File of Reports/March Newsletter. 



RTO/ERO BLUE JAYS GAME FOR 2008

This year's RTO/ERO Blue Jays game is on Saturday, August 23. Taking place on a Saturday and being a "Junior Jays" game, means special items and pre-game entertainment for youth under 14, and the opportunity to run the bases after the game. This is a great present for grandchildren!

As the Jays consider this a "premium game" against the World Champion Boston Red Sox, the cost of the 100/field level tickets increases to \$49. RTO/ERO's price is \$40, with \$5 of that being donated to a charity - adding to the amount donated directly by RTO/ERO.

Since this game is "premium", Toronto District may have to guarantee a number of tickets. Watch our March Issue for ordering details. 

A LITTLE HUMOUR

Sign over a gynecologist's office: "Dr. Jones, at your cervix."

At a proctologist's door "To expedite your visit please back in."

On a Plumbers truck: "We repair what your husband fixed."

On a Plumbers truck: "Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

On a Septic Tank Truck sign: "We're #1 in the #2 business".

Pizza shop slogan: "7 days without pizza makes one weak."

At a tire shop in Milwaukee: "Invite us to your next blowout."

On a plastic surgeon's office door: "Hello. Can we pick your nose?"

Anonymous, of course. 

Top 25 Movies of 2007 ~ John Borvilos



What a year in glorious darkness at my favourite movie houses it has been! While, as usual, much of the early part of the year was filled with boring sequels, mindless, so-called blockbusters of repetitious crashes, killings, and mayhem, and sophomoric fantasies, there were more films than ever that challenged our minds and hearts, and elevated our souls. Movies made by intelligent artists for intelligent adults. Movies that were uncompromising in their investigations into the human psyche, while telling their stories in entertaining, exciting ways. These were stories that reflected the terror and courage of living in a post 9/11 world to the redemptive power of love, affection, forgiveness, and open-mindedness. Here are my Top 25 Movies of the year that was:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Atonement | 11. In the Valley of Elah | 18. Sweeney Todd |
| 2. Juno | 12. The Namesake | 19. Breach |
| 3. No Country for Old Men | 13. I'm Not There | 20. Keeping Mum |
| 4. The Bourne Ultimatum | 14. La Vie en Rose | 21. Paris, Je T'aime |
| 5. The Lives of Others | 15. The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford | 22. Knocked Up |
| 6. Pan's Labyrinth | | 23. American Gangster |
| 7. The Kite Runner | | 24. 300 |
| 8. The Lookout | | 25. The Savages |
| 9. Eastern Promises | 16. Michael Clayton | |
| 10. Charlie Wilson's War | 17. Venus | |

I saw all of these films in 2007, even though some of them like **Venus** and **Pan's Labyrinth** were first screened in late 2006. In fact, **The Lives of Others**, a German film about the conflict between paranoid security and individual freedom, won the Oscar last year for Best Foreign Film against stiff competition from the magic realism and despotic terror of **Pan's Labyrinth** which also won a number of Oscars for creative design. Unfortunately, I was not able to view **There Will Be Blood**, a film about the corruption of unbridled capitalism, blind ambition, and false religious fervour, based on Upton Sinclair's novel, **Oil!**, because it did not open in Toronto until early January, 2008. It will probably earn a number of Oscar nominations, including one for the remarkable, crazed performance of Daniel Day-Lewis. Something to look forward to.

Brief Notes:

Best Film: **Atonement** was my top choice. Apparently some film critics find it difficult to appreciate a brilliantly-crafted, character-driven movie that tells its epic story about childhood misunderstandings, class maliciousness, love, betrayal, and redemption with such heart-wrenching and haunting pull. The

continued next page ↗

Top 25 Movies of 2007 continued from Page 15

entire film kept me engrossed in the lives of these star-crossed people amidst the beautifully photographed English countryside and the horrors of Dunkirk and World War II. The final ironic pitch was a devastating blow to the stomach that questioned the cathartic and redemptive power of art and literature itself. A great movie for the ages.

The Funniest Movie of the Year: With Canadian Ellen Page in the title role, **Juno** was clearly the wittiest and most heart-felt comedy of the year. You kept thinking it was going to go in one stereotypical direction, and then kept changing course. It's always hard to make great comedies - comedies that don't pander to the lowest common denominator of tasteless jokes and jerks - but this one elevated all of us to better, more loving behaviour, beyond the self-righteous, mean responses that are more usual in today's world. Other great comedies or satires this year included **Charlie Wilson's War** (about the hidden politics behind the Afghanistan war) and **Keeping Mum** (a little seen black, but hilarious, British comedy, starring the inimitable Maggie Smith and the bewildered Rowan Atkinson). Have a few laughs on DVD this year.

Best Action Thriller: Bar none, **The Bourne Ultimatum**, a real roller-coaster of a ride with a thrill a minute which, as you watched it, made perfect sense. Fantastic editing and camera work with a riveting performance by Matt Damon made this a film that grabbed you from the start and wouldn't let you go. This really should be up for an Oscar as Best Film of the year, but action thrillers are always overlooked no matter how good they are. **The Fugitive** was the only exception in recent memory. I hope they make another sequel.

Best Actor: Tommy Lee Jones in **In the Valley of Elah** as an anguished, repressed father coming to terms with his son's mysterious death in Iran. Other great actors this year: Viggo Mortensen in **Eastern Promises**; Matt Damon in **The Bourne Ultimatum**; James McAvoy in **Atonement**; Chris Cooper in **Breach**; Homayoun Ershadi in **The Kite Runner**; Philip Seymour Hoffman in **The Savages** and **Charlie Wilson's War**; George Clooney in **Michael Clayton**; Brad Pitt in **Jesse James**; Peter O'Toole in **Venus**; Joseph Gordon-Levitt in **The Lookout** (a highly underestimated film - see it).

Best Actress: Marie Cotillard as the legendary Edith Piaf - a heart-breaking tour de force - in **La Vie en Rose**. Other great actresses this year: Ellen Page in **Juno**; Keira Knightley in **Atonement**; Laura Linney in **The Savages**; Maggie Smith in **Keeping Mum**.

Best Supporting Performances: Javier Bardem in **No Country for Old Men**; Michael Cera in **Juno**; Susan Sarandon in **In the Valley of Elah**; Tilda Swinton and Tom Wilkinson in **Michael Clayton**; Jeff Daniels in **The Lookout**; Casey Affleck in **Jesse James**; Cate Blanchett as Bob Dylan (!) in **I'm Not There**.

continued page 20 ↗

Day Trips 2008, Part 2 ~ Jack DeGroot



Five more daytrips have been added to round out District 16's theatre trips for the coming year. Please make your reservations beginning at 8:00am on Tuesday Feb.05/08 by contacting the person listed for each grouping. Treat yourself to an enjoyable day which includes: your theatre ticket, motor coach transportation and two meals. The cost is all-inclusive. Once your booking is accepted forward a \$40 per ticket deposit, payable to CLUB 16, to:

Jack DeGroot, 19 Elmview Drive, Toronto ON M1N 2W3

Note: please place date of each trip on the face of your cheque

SHAW (Niagara-on-the-Lake) in the Festival Theatre

Tuesday, April 01, 2008 ~ "Wonderful Town" ~ Cost: \$110.00

A musical adventure about pursuing a dream - two sisters arrive in New York to looking for fame, fortune, and love. They find even more than that.

Tuesday, April 22, 2008 ~ "An Inspector Calls" ~ Cost: \$110.00

A family is enjoying a quiet celebration when an inspector knocks on the door and changes their lives. Come and enjoy this complex and compelling mystery. Be prepared for a twist.

Friday, October 24, 2008 ~ "Mrs Warren's Profession" ~ Cost: \$110.00

This is G. B. Shaw at his wickedest best - a battle royal develops between mother and daughter about love, money, sex, morality. Come and enjoy.

**For reservations to the Shaw items, call Jack DeGroot at:
416.691.3046 on Tuesday, February 5 after 8.00am.**

STRATFORD (Festival Theatre) Cost: \$115.00

Wednesday, October 08, 2008 ~ "The Taming of the Shrew"

An adventurous newcomer to town devises a startling way of reaching Katherina's guarded heart. The result is a no-holds-barred battle of the sexes. Don't miss this Shakespearean classic.


PENETANGUISHENE (King's Wharf Theatre) Cost: \$100.00

Thursday, June 12, 2008 ~ "The Ballad of Stompin' Tom"

In this theatre on the beautiful shores of Georgian Bay, watch the unfolding of an inspiring tribute to the legendary Stompin' Tom Connors.

**For reservations to Stratford & Penatanguishene, call Ian Baird
at 416.491.8906 on Tuesday, February 5 beginning at 8:00am.** 

Top 25 Movies of 2007 continued from Page 18

Yes. I see a lot of films - and I am thankful and joyful for each and every one of those on this list, and then some. I hope you'll feel the same way. Until next year, enjoy and see you at the movies. 

The Cactus Caper in Arid-zona

1:30pm, February 27 at St. Margaret's

Presented by: Dick and Marilyn Holyer

Who needs "April in Paris" when one can find giant saguaro cacti and other exotic species of the Sonoran Desert amidst the urban sprawl of Phoenix, the capitol and fastest-growing city in the USA (really 25 cities, and growing rapidly)? Arizona may well be "exhibit A" in the final and fatal taming of what's left of the wild West by the most determined developers this side of Las Vegas. The water table is dropping alarmingly, but the winter-weary will likely continue to come until Phoenix and Tuscon, to the south, fuse into one massive urban corridor. If temperatures continue to increase with global warming as predicted, Phoenix will face days of 54 degrees C.

Already the water supply from the dwindling Colorado River must travel hundreds of kilometres to serve the city that some say shouldn't be there - so distant is the water supply. Flagstaff, the gateway to the Grand Canyon, is already on water restrictions and trying to negotiate water rights from the Hopi and Navajo peoples, who will need investment themselves to install the pipelines they currently lack for their own use on the reservations. By 2020, legislation requires 20% of the energy needs of the state must come from solar and other renewable resources to supply a demand that is increasing four times faster than the average in the country. Even to one who normally prefers snow to sand, the stunning beauty of the Sonoran Desert calls for a return trip. Realtors are saying that "the mortgage meltdown and an oversupply of inventory have created a buyer's market" - especially if the buyer has Canadian dollars!



Church Bulletins

- Ø The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- Ø Don't let worry kill you off -- let the Church help.
- Ø Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again", giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.




MOVIE CLUB - MONDAY GROUP ~ This group meets on the third Monday of the month for the matinee from September to June. Each month a different volunteer selects the movie which is followed by coffee and discussion. Movies seen since September are: *Eastern Promises*, *Across the Universe*, *The Darjeeling Limited*, and *Atonement*.

If you would like to join us call **Marjorie Berger** at 416.483.0636 or **Judie Bowles** at 416.488.6380.



MOVIE CLUB - FRIDAY NIGHT GROUP ~ This group attends the early Friday night show on the 2nd Friday of the month from September to June, usually around 7:00pm at a centrally located movie theatre on the subway line. Members are notified by phone or email. Call **Mary Smith** at 416.467.8625 if you are interested.

THANK YOU ALL and do come and enjoy the activities laid out for you! Have a great winter season everyone! See you all! 

Australia 2007: Down under with a Geographer

1:30pm, March 26 at St. Margaret's



Mark Kannegiesser has been burning photographs his entire life. In retirement from a career in teaching he has recently visited Australia for ten weeks. His travels were with friends, then his wife Jill to Brisbane and region,

Sydney and the highways of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. Spectacular scenery awaits you of beaches and coastal towns, the Great Ocean Road, the Murray Valley, the Glasshouse Mountains and urban Australia. Venomous snakes and deadly spiders, cuddly marsupials and cheeky birds pepper Mark's photo collection. *G'Day mate!*

We try to provide activities according to our members wishes. If you would like to head-up a group of like-minded individuals, please call Carmelita at 416.927.0416 and we'll help you get started. Possibilities include: bowling, billiards, walking/hiking in Toronto, dining club, investment club.

TEOF Annual Lunar New Year Banquet

Celebrate 'The Year of the Rat'



Thank you for your support with the recent TEOF Auction. With your donations and/or your support at the auction, we were able to net \$28 000 towards our yearly commitment to provide up to \$100 000 yearly to subsidize nutrition education and food programs in Toronto schools.

Please also consider supporting:

TEOF LUNAR NEW YEAR BANQUET

Friday, February 22, 2008

Bright Pearl Seafood Restaurant

348 Spadina Ave (between Dundas and College)

6:00 p.m. cocktails 6:30 p.m. dinner

TEOF LUNAR NEW YEAR BANQUET

Year of the Rat: 1900, 1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008.

Tickets remain unchanged at \$40 per person or \$400 per table of ten. Advanced reservations can be made through **Theresa Lennox** at 416.393.8861 or theresa.lennox@tdsb.on.ca.

RTO/ERO Toronto Health & Wellness Registration

How to register: Call **Valerie Mah** at 416.533.0445 or email vmah@ican.net. Once your registration is confirmed, complete the registration form and remit a cheque for \$20 payable to RTO District 16 (Wellness Series).

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

Municipality _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

(Personal information for District 16 purposes only.)

Return by Friday, February 29 to:

Valerie Mah, 41 Melgund Rd, Toronto M5R 2A1

Please include your check for \$20.00 payable to RTO/ERO District 16.

Welcome to New Members



Welcome to new members who have joined us in October and November, 2007. Consider joining our activities as a participant or a leader. (Note: occasionally new members have joined us in error - there are **four Districts in Toronto** (Etobicoke/York-22, North York-23, Scarborough/East York-24, Toronto-16) and others across Ontario.

Bob Neal, Membership

Ackermann, Elizabeth	Gandy, Diane	McLellan, Elaine
Al-Maini, Mouloud	Hicks, Lorne	Melles, Paul J
Cassels, Lorna H	Jennison, Suzanne	Morrow, Carol
Chevalier, Jean	Lawrence, Judith	Pearson, John D
Delfino, Angelo	Lebreton, Annick	Reinhardt Gunn, Joanne
Doyle, Larry	Levis, Beatrice	Smyke, William M
Dykes, Eileen	Little, Carol	St Michael, Irene A
Eisner, Rosemarie	Long, Vien N	St Onge, Kenneth
Elliott, Jeri	McCron, Marion	Surowiec, Kenneth
Feld, H Marion	McGee, Brian	Thomas, Kenneth
Fletcher, Elizabeth S	McGillivray, Lorraine I	



CHANGES IN RURAL FIRE ADDRESSES

Canada Post requires *rural areas to have a fire number* as part of one's address. This has resulted in changes to street addresses and postal codes. RTO/ERO would appreciate being informed of these changed addresses as it would reduce the number of *Renaissance* magazines and *District Newsletters* returned due to improper or incorrect labelling. To ensure that you receive your mailings on time, please report changes to **Dianne Vezeau** at the Provincial Office by calling her at: 416.962.9463, x223 or 1.800.361.9888, x223, or dvezeau@rto-ero.org.



Our Next Mailing ~ March 27, 2008



Join us to benefit from camaraderie, refreshment, and the joy of accomplishment at our next Newsletter Mailing at St. Margaret's. Starting about 9:00am, we aim to finish by 11:30am.

Arlene Freeman, Mailing

Obtaining Your Newsletter

This Newsletter is provided through your fees as a Member of RTO/ERO Toronto District 16. Non District 16 individuals are able to obtain printed copies via subscription (\$10/annum, application form on our website), or downloaded PDF from our website. Join our email service and we'll let you know when it's posted.



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.

Sue Booker, Goodwill

Rosario De Sousa
Mary Egan
Kathleen Gilling
Catherine Hall
William R. Jacques
Elizabeth McLeod
Margaret Mollard

Marjorie Rhamey
Marjorie Saker
Robert B. Smith
Jacqueline Stephens
Lois Thomas
Mary Frances (Marie) Titus

Change of Address, Status, District

To limit confusion regarding a *change in address*, other contact information, or district the **ONLY contact is Dianne Vezeau** (Provincial Office/416.962.9463 or 1.800.361.9888). Form available at www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org.



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 Supplement or our website for contact information.



Editors' Comments

Your Newsletter Committee welcomes submissions from members that may be of interest to others: travels, events, life milestones, etc. The editors reserve 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 with appropriate attribution. Third-party submissions **must include all source details**. Content may, or may not reflect the position of RTO/ERO or of RTO/ERO Toronto District 16.

Submission standards: Electronic TXT file preferred, (or Word DOC or WordPerfect WPD file) emailed to the editor at bm enagh@eol.ca. 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.

Editorial Committee: Ian Baird, Bill Menagh, Paul Rowney

Publication Schedule: Submission: 1st day of Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, May.

Mailings: last Thursday of Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, May.

