

Toronto  
ETFO  
District School Board

THE RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO  
LES ENSEIGNANTES ET ENSEIGNANTS RETRAITES DE L'ONTARIO

DISTRICT 16 CITY OF TORONTO

NEWSLETTER

Volume 38, Issue 3

January, 2016



RTO/ERO: a service organization for retirees from School Boards, Colleges, Universities and Private Schools welcoming members of AEFO, CUPE, ETFO, OECTA, OSSTF, Administration Associations and other employee groups.

**Spring Theatre Day Trips ~ See Pages 27, 28**

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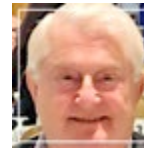
## Dates To Remember

February, 2016	Date	March, 2016	Date
Bridge.....	2	Bridge.....	1
Art/Sketch .....	5	Art/Sketch .....	4
Non-Fiction Book Club.....	9	Non-Fiction Book Club.....	8
Executive Meeting .....	11	Executive Meeting .....	10
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## AGM/Spring Luncheon Tuesday, May 3, 2016 Plan to join us!

*Opinions expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position of RTO/ERO or RTO/ERO Toronto District 16.*

*Third-party content is presented for information only and does not necessarily imply endorsement by your editors or RTO/ERO Toronto. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this Newsletter, important decisions should be made only after consulting with the appropriate professional or organization.*



## President's Column ~ Roger Wilson

Contact: 416•461•7373 | [rogerapwilson@sympatico.ca](mailto:rogerapwilson@sympatico.ca)

A member took strong exception to the “Tis to Worry” entry on page 26 of our November Newsletter. He sent me an email protesting that the comment was misguided and, furthermore, a political position had no place in a magazine funded by members of RTO/ERO. Since we try to accommodate members’ concerns, I decided to take the issue to the District 16 Executive to see if any policy change was needed.

We noted that the magazine is maintained as an “arms length” publication with decisions regarding content being made by the Editorial Board alone. So the magazine is not the official voice of RTO/ERO District 16. (The full editorial policy is published every year in the September edition.)

However, in the view of the Executive, this does not give the Editorial Board freedom to espouse positions that are contrary to RTO/ERO policy, one of which is not to support any particular political party. But RTO/ERO does take positions on certain issues especially as they affect senior citizens. One such position is to support mandatory improvements to the Canada Pension Plan, a position contrary to the views of one party and in accord with others. So would an article taking a position on the CPP

mean tacit support for, or opposition to, a party? Your Executive says no, but would expect editorial commonsense by not espousing positions that always run counter to one particular party.

Humour and satire are valid tools for an editor. We would not want to limit the ability of our editor to use them. But again, one would expect the humour to be funny and the satire to be directed towards a serious purpose. Johnathan Swift’s position that the cure for the Irish Famine was for the Irish to eat their children was not intended to be literal but was a device to bring about action. It certainly got people’s attention.

The Executive also felt that there should be some public means for members to support, or to protest, something in the newsletter. So, within the context of limited space, there should be some kind of “letters to the editor” section. The Editorial Board is looking into this.

When you get this Newsletter, there should be light at the end of the climatic tunnel. The March Break will bring a greater opportunity to get out, to see family, and perhaps, even to enjoy the first snowdrops or crocuses. If Easter is important to you, there is not long to wait (unless you are Orthodox!). Even for the non-Christians a long weekend is never bad. Enjoy! **16**

**Front Cover:** Our Fall Luncheon was a celebratory occasion. **Top:** President Roger Wilson presents the RTO/ERO Service-to-Others (STO) Award to **Lorna Pitcher**, *Children of Hope - Uganda* Founder and President, and **Sharon Gusz**; **Bottom Left:** **Cynthia Shore-Beauvais** accepts the RTO/ERO Scholarship on behalf of recipient, **Léa Beavais**; **Bottom Right:** **Joan Smith**, our district’s ‘official’ 5000<sup>th</sup> member.

## RTO/ERO Foundation News ~ Armand Gagné

Contact: [armand.gagne2@sympatico.ca](mailto:armand.gagne2@sympatico.ca)




Founded in 2011, the RTO/ERO Foundation is a registered Canadian charity responsible for fundraising to create opportunities for research and for initiatives that seek to increase the numbers of professional and support staff qualified and trained in geriatric care as well as to support programs that improve the quality of life of seniors across Canada.

**Dr. Paula Rochon** is the inaugural RTO/ERO Chair in Geriatric Medicine at the University of Toronto. She is a geriatrician and Vice President of Research at Women's College Hospital. Her career has focused on understanding the distinct needs of older adults. Dr. Rochon's message to the Fall senate is available on the provincial website.

For 2015, the Foundation Board has approved full-funding support to the University of Ottawa, for its project titled Interprofessional Education in Undergraduate Medical Education - A Simulation Project. This pilot project will have medical and nursing students learning from each other.

### How can you help?

- There are many ways to make a donation including one-time, monthly, In Memory and In Honour, and these can be made online, by telephone, by email or by mail.
- When making funeral arrangements, please remember that funeral homes can only distribute the Foundation's 'In Memoriam' donations cards only when the family specifically requests it.
- You can also make a donation to the Foundation when marking the passing of a friend or relative, especially when the family indicates "Donations to the charity of your choice".

To learn more about the RTO/ERO Foundation, visit Foundation website:  
<https://www.rto-ero.org/support-the-foundation> 

## RTO/ERO Opportunities

**2016 advertising opportunities:** RTO/ERO's 2016 Media Kit is full of display and classified opportunities: discounted web and classified ads, discounted full-year reservations and combined print/web advertising. Members and member-worthy entities are encouraged to use this service. For more information, visit <https://www.rto-ero.org/publications/advertise-with-rtoero> or contact **Susannah Maxcy**, [smaxcy@rto-ero.org](mailto:smaxcy@rto-ero.org), 1•800•361•9888 ext. 244. 

*You know the recession has hit when... A picture is only worth 200 words.*

## Recreation/Social ~ Heather Talbot

Contact: 416•265•8930 / [heatalb@rogers.com](mailto:heatalb@rogers.com)



We rely on the voluntarism of our members for the breadth of activities available. If you have a special interest and are looking for an outlet, consider contacting Heather with a proposal. She'll bring it to the Executive and we'll place an ad in our Newsletter.

**Art, Bridge, Travelogue and West End Book Club meet at Holy Rosary Parish Hall on St. Clair between Spadina and Bathurst, just east of Loblaws:**



**Art Friends - Marie Lynch** (416•421•4936 | [lynchmarie11@gmail.com](mailto:lynchmarie11@gmail.com)) We meet on the *first Friday of each month at Holy Rosary Church Hall from 10:00am to 12:00 noon*. All are welcome to drop in to see what we are doing or, better still, to join us for a stress-free couple of hours working on one of your own creations. There are always lots of ideas floating around to inspire one! Sessions: Fridays: February 5, March 4 ...hope to see you there.



**Bridge - Tessie Leung** (416•421•9054 | [tessleu191@rogers.com](mailto:tessleu191@rogers.com)) welcomes anyone who knows the basic rules of bidding to join the bridge club on the *first, third and fifth Tuesdays of the month*.

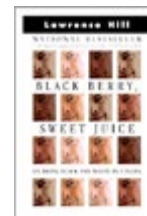


**Travelogue - Dick and Marilyn Holyer** (416•929•8512 | [mar.dickholyer@sympatico.ca](mailto:mar.dickholyer@sympatico.ca)) go around the world with slide/digital presentations and treats on the *fourth Wednesday of the month, 1:00pm: October to May*.

**See Pages 23 and 24 for our February and March Travelogues!**

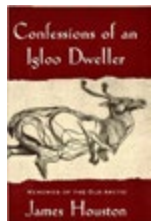


**Non-Fiction Book Club: Cynthia Bracewell** ([cgbracewell@sympatico.ca](mailto:cgbracewell@sympatico.ca) | 416•424•4156) hosts this non-fiction book club on the *second Tuesday of the month from 1:30 to 3:30, at Holy Rosary Parish Hall*.



← **February 9:** *Black Berry, Sweet Juice: On Being Black and White in Canada* by Lawrence Hill

**March 8:** *Confessions of an Igloo Dweller* → by James Houston

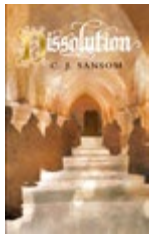


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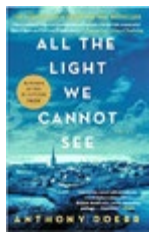
**Social/Recreation continued from Page 5 ~ At Holy Rosary Parish Hall**



**West End Book Club ~ Steve Feldman:** (416•588•6637 | vsf@sympatico.ca) hosts this book club at Holy Rosary Church. We meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month in Room 2, September to June (NOT December) from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.



← **February 23:** *Dissolution*  
by **C. J. Sansom**

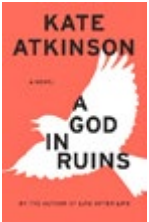


**March 22:** *All the Light We Cannot See*  
by **Anthony Doerr** →

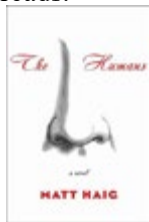
**The following activities meet at varying locations:**



**Book Club ~ Lynne Fitzpatrick** (fitz9284@gmail.com) and **Elaine MacIntosh** (416•463•2637) host this activity. This popular group is at capacity at this time. We list their selections for those interested in their reads.



← **February:** *A God In Ruins*  
by **Kate Aitkinson**



**March:** *The Humans*  
by **Matt Haig** →

*Continued on Page 31* ↗

**Latin Ballroom Dance ~ A Winter Activity**

Dance the Winter Blues away with a Latin beat! Join us for a series of FREE introductory Latin Ballroom Dance classes:

**Fridays, February 12, 26; and, March 4, 11 from 1:30 - 3:30pm**  
**Holy Rosary Parish Hall, St. Clair Ave W, E of St. Clair West subway stn**

Get a taste of popular latin dances such as Salsa, Cha cha, Rumba, Bachata and more. These are introductory classes for novices so no experience is required. No partner, no problem! A great way to get active and have fun!

To confirm your interest in attending send an email to Anna at the following address: [adcat39@gmail.com](mailto:adcat39@gmail.com) or, leave a phone message for Stephen at 416.481.4841 including your contact information.

Classes will be led by **Anna Di Costanzo** and **Stephen Cheong** (a Toronto District 16 member). 16



**RTO/ERO Developments**

At its November and December meetings, your Toronto Executive, in addition to receiving standard reports:

- appointed **Armand Gagné** as Executive Member-at-Large as permitted by the District 16 constitution;
- discussed a Senate proposal to increase the RTO/ERO Scholarship amount to \$2,000 from \$1,000 but made no decision;
- received the report on the last 2015 Retirement Planning Workshop - the best attended at 157;
- made a donation of \$500 to Lifeline Syria;
- considered a member's complaint regarding Newsletter content (see President's Message on Page 3);
- received the treasurer's report to December 12, 2015: Assets/\$50,852; Budget/\$74,156; Expenses/\$73,058 (figures to nearest dollar);
- approved a draft budget for 2016;
- received the **Foundation Representative's Report:**

**From the RTO/ERO Fall Senate:**

- communication with the District Foundation Representatives occurred through five teleconference calls;
- funeral home donation cards are available for those wishing to make memorial donations to the Foundation (a donated printing by Harmony Printing);
- new Board member with extensive experience in philanthropy appointed, **Jack Panozzo**;
- gift of \$250,000 over the five years received from Johnson Inc. to support operating costs;
- new donors have come forward; the number of monthly donors doubled;
- **Dr. Paula Rochon**, inaugural RTO/ERO Chair in Geriatric Medicine, addressed the Senate via a video message:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AV6aV1fY1CM;>
- **2015 Grant Announcement:** the Foundation Board has approved full-funding support for the University of Ottawa's project titled 'Interprofessional Education in Undergraduate Medical Education - A Simulation Project' - valued at \$32,300. Funding this pilot project - which will have medical and nursing students learning from each other - has the advantage of supporting the research at its earliest stage with modest investment. The grant will be finalized subject to external approval from the Research Ethics Board.

**Funeral Home Donation Cards**

- District 16 received funeral home donation cards;
- **Armand Gagné** and **Valerie Mah** distributed the above to all but three of these homes.

*Continued on Page 8* ↗

**Additional Foundation Suggestions**

- a regular Foundation message be included in the Newsletter and E-zine with Foundation details and a reminder to members (See Page 4);
- there are many ways to make a donation including one-time, monthly, *In Memory* and *In Honour* (these can be made online, by telephone, by email or by mail);
- funeral homes can only distribute the Foundation’s donation cards when families specifically request;
- members can personally use the donations cards when marking the passing of a friend or relative, especially when the family indicates ‘*Donations to the charity of your choice*’;
- that information regarding the Foundation be emphasized in any RTO/ERO-sponsored estate planning or funeral pre-arrangement sessions.



**RTO/ERO Toronto Districts** is the voluntary organization representing the four RTO/ERO Districts in Toronto (Etobicoke/City of York; North York; Scarborough and East York; Toronto; District 22, 23, 24, 16 respectively).

Our 2016 Retirement Planning Workshop schedule is:

- Thursday, February 25 at Q’SSIS (Kingston Rd. at Markham Rd.)
- Saturday, April 9 at The 519 Community Centre (519 Parliament St.)
- Thursday, November 3, west-end location TBA

On-line only Application Forms have been posted to our websites. Please let former colleagues, who may be considering retirement know, of these opportunities.



**LIAISON** The *RTO/ERO Liaison* is a bi-monthly publication available to subscribing members on-line.

Subscribers are sent an email notification when both an interactive HTML version and a PDF are available (in English and French) should they wish to view it. Sign-up for here: [www.rto-ero.org/publications/liaison](http://www.rto-ero.org/publications/liaison)

The December issue contents include:

- Senate highlights
- Does wearable technology help with health goals?
- Federal election political advocacy activities
- New Director of Marketing and Communications
- Courtyard Marriott discounts for members (See Page 34)
- Foundation and Provincial Executive news
- 2016 advertising information: new rates and opportunities
- Renaissance: call for submissions



Contact: 416•494•8590 | [bill.tajer@sympatico.ca](mailto:bill.tajer@sympatico.ca)

RTO/ERO has announced the 2016 Health Benefits Premiums and Improvements. Members who enrolled in these plans were in receipt of their annual *Benefits Update* and *Going Places* publications in late November. We repeat this information here for the benefit of those not yet enrolled.

**Monthly Premium Rates**

The monthly premium rates for Extended Health Care increased 4%; Dental increased 2.5%; Semi- Private Hospital and Convalescent Care unchanged. Premium rate changes will be effective January 1, 2016 and are deducted in the month prior to your coverage month.

	Semi-Private	Extended Health	Dental
	Pre-Tax/With PST*	Pre-Tax/With PST*	Pre-Tax/With PST*
<b>Single</b>	\$14.60/\$15.77*	\$88.17/\$95.22*	\$56.50/\$61.02*
<b>Couple</b>	\$29.16/\$31.49*	\$176.35/190.46*	\$111.42/\$120.33*
<b>Family</b>	\$34.28/\$37.02*	\$211.64/\$228.57*	\$138.94/\$150.06*

\* The Ontario Government adds the 8% PST portion of the HST to group plans.

**Benefit changes:**

*Extended Health Care Plan*

- Best Doctors added.
- Prescription Drug benefit maximum increased to \$3,200
- Paramedical Practitioners maximum increased to \$1,200 for all practitioners combined (acupuncture and foot care services provided by a registered nurse added).
- Eye Examination benefit increase to \$150 for multiple visits in any two consecutive calendar years for you/spouse, and in each calendar year for eligible dependent children.
- Prescription eyewear and the maximum for prescribed contact lenses increased to \$400
- The additional lifetime maximum for new lenses required due to eye surgery increased to \$400
- Maximum for purchase/repair of hearing aids increased to \$1,100 per person every five calendar years. (Changed to coincide with the eligibility period of the Ontario Assistive Devices Program (ADP) with replacements being reimbursed every five years.)

*Continued on Page 10*


**Remember: Eldercare Select remains an insured service**

Health continued from Page 9

### Dental Plan

Reimbursement updated to the 2016 Fee Guide for General Practitioners. The limited benefit payable for “late applicant” members applying for the Dental Plan increased to \$500 for the first 12 months of coverage.

### Best Doctors ~ A NEW RTO/ERO Health Plan Service\*

 Best Doctors is an organization that provides a suite of services which enables you to draw on the knowledge of the best medical minds in the world to help you get the right diagnosis, the right treatment and the right care.

\*Reprinted from RTO/ERO Group Benefits Program Update, 2016

Best Doctors can help when:

- You would like an expert opinion regarding your medical diagnosis and treatment options;
- You have questions and/or concerns about a medical condition and need help understanding your care and treatment options;
- You need assistance finding a top specialist or treatment facility for your condition, either within or outside of Canada; and,
- You need assistance navigating the health care system and finding the information you need about a medical issue.

### InterConsultation<sup>SM</sup>

InterConsultation is more than just a second opinion; it is a confidential, patented process that complements the care you receive from your own physician by providing a second expert review and bringing greater certainty to your diagnosis and treatment plan.

### FindBestDoc<sup>SM</sup>

Best Doctors will help you find a specialist by taking into account your unique medical history and geographic location, matching you with the right doctor for your condition. They can help identify specialists such as internists, cardiologists, neurologists and more.

### FindBestCare<sup>SM</sup>

If you choose, Best Doctors can locate treatment from a specialist outside of Canada. They will co-ordinate a search of their global database of over 53,000 physicians in more than 450 specialties and subspecialties to find the expert(s) best suited to your needs.

*Continued on bottom of Page 11* 

### Pension/Retirement ~ Susan Weinert



Contact: 416•367•9917 | [susanweinert@hotmail.com](mailto:susanweinert@hotmail.com)

Our last issue informed you of the Ontario Teachers Pension Plan increase for 2016. The Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS), announced its pension increase at the end of November as follows:

The Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) announced that pensions will increase by 1.16% as of January 1, 2016. This increase reflects the change in the cost of living as measured by the Canadian Consumer Price Index (CPI).


OMERS inflation protection increases retirement, disability and survivor pensions each year. OMERS uses a similar method to that used by the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) to calculate its annual increase for pensions, but CPP has a different rounding approach.

In late December 2015, OMERS sent an Annual Statement of Pension to members and survivors, with their updated pension amount for 2016. Members whose pensions began in 2015 will receive a pro-rated increase.

Here's how this year's increase was calculated:

$$\left( \frac{\text{CPI average 12 months (Nov 2014 to Oct 2015)}}{\text{CPI average 12 months (Nov 2013 to Oct 2014)}} - 1 \right) \times 100$$

$$\left( \frac{126.26}{124.81} - 1 \right) \times 100 = 1.16\% \text{ (rounded to two decimal places)}$$

Source: [www.omers.com](http://www.omers.com) 


**Editors:** Our November Newsletter informed you of the 2016 OTPP pension increase of 1.3%. The difference is accounted for by the 12-month period on which the Consumer Price Index change is based: OTPP from October to September; OMERS from November to October. Over time, the calculations balance and there is little or no accumulated difference.

### Best Doctors continued from Page 10

#### Best Doctors 360<sup>o</sup>®

Quick and convenient - Best Doctors can help you get the information and resources you need for a variety of health topics, giving you peace of mind that you're making well-informed decisions about your health care.

There is no cost to you to use the program and participation is strictly confidential. This benefit is available to all EHC participants and their dependents. For more information, or to connect with Best Doctors:

877•419•2378 | [customer.ca@bestdoctors.com](mailto:customer.ca@bestdoctors.com)  
or visit [www.bestdoctorscanada.com](http://www.bestdoctorscanada.com) 

## ACER-CART Federal Election Activities

ACER-CART thanks its members... who involved themselves in the democratic process, who became informed, shared materials, joined the discussion, and then exercised the great privilege and civic responsibility of voting.

ACER-CART congratulates all candidates who served our country by putting their names forward, engaging in a long campaign that surely took its toll on family and friends. We appreciate their courage and sense of duty to better our society.

ACER-CART looks forward to meeting with the members of the new Parliament. We pledge to work with them as they address the needs of seniors across the land, to share the insights and the vision we have of dignity and compassion for all of our fellow Canadians as they age in this country.

In the months leading to the election, we had the opportunity to link with many like-minded organizations, which gave us the opportunity to put forward our priorities as significant items to be discussed with all of the candidates. We intend to pursue collaborating with organizations of similar aims so that together we can assist and influence the new government to adopt policies that are in the best interest of seniors and of all Canadians.

We have hope that circumstances will align themselves so that the new government may fulfill its mandate to address the needs of all citizens in accordance with the values we hold as Canadians and the future we want for our children and our grandchildren.

JoAnn Lauber, President

As reported in the RTO/ERO December Liaison 

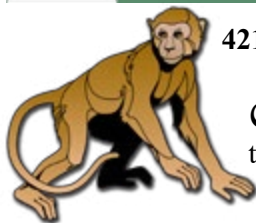


## TEOF Annual Lunar New Year Banquet



Thursday, February 18, 2016  
6:00pm Cocktails | 6:30pm Dinner  
Dim Sum King Seafood Restaurant

421 Dundas St. W. 3rd floor (Wheelchair accessible)  
\$60 p.p. | \$600 per table of ten



### CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF THE MONKEY:

those born in 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, unless born in January/February. Help us with our yearly commitment of up to \$100,000 to subsidize Nutrition

Programs for 26 Toronto Inner City Schools. For information, contact:

**Theresa Lennox:** 416-393-8861 [theresa.lennox@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:theresa.lennox@tdsb.on.ca)

**Valerie Mah:** 416-533-0445 [vmah@ican.net](mailto:vmah@ican.net).

Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

## TOP 25 Movies of 2015 ~ John Borvilos



Why *Steve Jobs* as my top film of the year? Beyond the fact of its highly literate and insightful script, its clear-cut editing, and its outstanding and searing performances, it really comes down to the portrait of Michael Fassbender's Steve Jobs himself. This is almost a Shakespearian masterpiece about a vainglorious, egocentric man (albeit a genius in more ways than one, including manipulating others) who takes the tragic flaw of hubris to new heights. Yes, he was a great technological innovator, but he never could bring himself to understanding how others in his life and career contributed to his dizzying success. This is the kind of self-righteous user who would stand up and make a speech and never give credit to others who made his life happier, more effective and more successful. In his own eyes, others did not count and so did not deserve a single mention. He was a megalomaniac of the highest order, and mean-spirited in every way, hurting and excluding others who never hurt him. In his own pathetic words, "I'm poorly made". He made billions and changed the world for better or for worse, but at the expense of his family and friends. A genius who could care less about such trivialities as friendship when computers were his obsession and his first love.

Every year, there are always great films that bring to light important

themes and fascinating characters - films that touch our lives, our hearts, our minds. *The Martian* and *Room* imparted a view of the indomitable spirit of humankind not only to survive, but to prevail, even in the most inhospitable and scariest of circumstances. Both films provided us with hope, an increasingly rare commodity in today's crazy world.

*Sicario*, through its use of claustrophobic cinematography and limited dialogue, forced us into an aspect of our crazy world in the fight against the vicious drug cartels of Mexico and their incursion into the U.S. and beyond - absolutely the tensest, most nerve-wracking film that I saw this year, but one that made me more aware of the savagery and coldness of the scum of humanity - and how then we might have to fight them before they completely take over. Do the ends justify the means? In this case, yes.

*Spotlight* similarly showed how we should reveal and fight child abuse in a real-life case that involved Roman Catholic priests in Boston - many cases being knowingly covered up by the church bureaucracy and others in the "elite" who should have been protecting the children, not protecting the priests and their "holy" institutions.

*The Gift*, a highly suspenseful film overlooked by many critics, showed how acts of brutality and bullying in high school, perpetrated by students

Continued on Page 14 

## Movies continued from Page 13

upon each other, can come back to haunt you many years later: “You may have forgotten the past, but the past hasn’t forgotten you.” One of the most chilling and true lines of the year.

*While We’re Young* was another overlooked film that seemed almost like a comedy, but had a lot to say (like the YA novel, *The Pigman*) about how intergenerational friendships often don’t work, often leading to disappointment and betrayal by those you thought liked you and would never deceive or manipulate you - “friends” who want to keep good things going as long as it is good for them.


*Ex Machina*, a fascinating science fiction film about the relationship between our developing technology and ourselves, had one of the best scripts of the year and one of the most chilling endings, totally unexpected but logical. What happens when robots become more intelligent than human beings?

Every year comedies, good (not sophomorically gross) comedies, seem to get little attention during awards season, and this year will be no different. I believe great comedies which are inventive and fun should be celebrated. *Spy*, with Melissa McCarthy’s inspired performance, was the funniest movie of the year, followed by the gentle humour of *Inside Out*, *Learning To Drive*, and *Youth*. More riotous comedy could be found and enjoyed in *Kingsman:*

*The Secret Service* (with the understated Colin Firth as a dapper spy/killer) and the post-feminist, wild *Trainwreck*.

So much to see, to enjoy, to be provoked and prodded, to be moved... Do yourselves a favour and go to the movies - or stay at home on a cold winter’s night and watch these movies on DVD or TV... And, with that enticement, here are my choices of the **TOP 25 Movies of 2015**:

1. Steve Jobs
2. Sicario
3. Spotlight
4. While We’re Young
5. Ex Machina
6. The Martian
7. The Gift
8. Room
9. Spy
10. Love and Mercy
11. Kingsman: The Secret Service
12. Bridge of Spies
13. Cop Car
14. Mr. Holmes
15. Boychoir
16. Youth
17. Testament of Youth
18. Trainwreck
19. Learning to Drive
20. Inside Out
21. Far From the Madding Crowd
22. Pawn Sacrifice
23. Spectre
24. The Stanford Prison Experiment
25. Clouds of Sils Maria

Enjoy – and see you at the movies in 2016... JB 

## Goodwill ~ Marjorie Blake

Contact: 905•837•0874 | [mdblake@sympatico.ca](mailto:mdblake@sympatico.ca)



Happy New Year 2016 to all members... and a “Leaping” one as well. Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Festival of Lights were all celebrations for the annual holiday season, and in spite of the many setbacks, disappointments, failures or sorrows experienced by some members, hopefully, these events culminated into a rewarding and enjoyable holiday season for all. The past months spoiled us with its unusual mild weather and greenery, but finally awakened our senses with the first blast of Winter - drifting snow, sleet, and freezing rain on December 28! Be careful! Welcome letters were sent to 61 new member from November to December. Sympathy cards were sent to relatives of 18 deceased members. Encouragement/Get Well cards, as well as floral and fruit arrangements were sent to members who were: preparing for an operation, suffering from a shattered ankle/broken foot, experiencing foot problems after hip replacement, recovering from strokes and other treatments, or, coping with early dementia.

Our three remaining Centenarians (ages 100, 103, 104) received holiday gifts consisting of knitted slippers (Thanks to member **Sandra Robertson**), Holiday Kleenex, Hand sanitizers, a Poinsettia plant and card. A telephone call was received from one relative expressing sincere thanks for gift received. A floral arrangement and card were sent to our oldest centenarian whose 104<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated on January 1.

Birthday cards were sent to six 90-year-olds, and to sixteen 80-year-olds. Again, congratulations to you all!

Congratulations to members who celebrated special occasions: births, birthdays, anniversaries, and memorials. To members who were unable to participate fully in these special occasions: shut-ins, disabled or ill members our thoughts are with you!

Visits (where possible) were made to some members.

Many thanks to those members who continue to inform us about other members with whom we need to keep in touch. Your continued efforts are greatly appreciated.

**Here For You Now... Here For Your Future.**

### Contact persons:

**Marjorie Blake** 905•837•0874/905•837•8453 | [mdblake@sympatico.ca](mailto:mdblake@sympatico.ca)

**Valerie Mah** 416.533.0445 | [vmah@ican.net](mailto:vmah@ican.net)

*Why is it that doctors and lawyers call what they do ‘practice’?  
If you don’t pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.*



## Fall Luncheon Report and Photos

Thanks again to **Kay Jeffery** and **Betty Lou Reynolds**, our annual Fall Luncheon with Craft/Vendors Display was enjoyed by over 120 members and friends. President **Roger Wilson Smith** and First Vice President, **Joan Elliott**, welcomed attendees, presented prizes donated by our crafters and vendors.

The luncheon was an opportunity to publicly present the \$3,000 RTO/ERO Service-to-Others (STO) award to **Lorna Pitcher** and **Sharon Gusz** for the Children of Hope, Uganda charity; an RTO/ERO \$1,000 Scholarship to **Cindy Shore Beauvais** on behalf of her daughter, **Léa**; and, assorted District 16 promotional items to our 5000th member, **Joan Smith**.

**The Retro Ramblers** provided upbeat entertainment - performing the classics from the 50's, 60's and 70's!. You can check them out, listen to some of their arrangements, or book them at: [www.theretroramblers.com](http://www.theretroramblers.com).

Promotional items distributed: pedometers, pads, pens and fridge magnets.

**Photos of the Luncheon are on Pages 18/19 and front/back covers. 16**

## RTO/ERO Relaunches Website

Logging into the RTO/ERO Members' Centre just got easier and more secure. RTO/ERO has launched its revamped provincial website, [www.rto-ero.org](http://www.rto-ero.org) featuring more vibrant web pages, an easier-to-navigate menu, "*Walk with me*" (**Executive Director Jim Grieve's** new blog), and more user-friendly access to the Members' Centre.

With the relaunch, members have a choice of either entering:

1. their membership number, plus a password; or,
2. or their email address, plus a password

To use one's email address to log in, it must be on file with the Provincial Office. If you have changed your email since applying to RTO/ERO, you should email your current address to [membership@rto-ero.org](mailto:membership@rto-ero.org).

**Need help logging in?** Contact the Membership Department at:

[membership@rto-ero.org](mailto:membership@rto-ero.org) or,

416•962•9463 or,

1•800•361•9888 ext. 223 or 243 16

## Consumer Corner

**2016 Tax Free Savings Account:** the TFSA annual contribution limit is \$5,500 and will be indexed to inflation in future years. Check with your bank or financial advisor before topping up the \$10,000 limit available only for 2015, **if not already used**. TFSA rules can be confusing. Be aware of rules for withdrawals, deposits, and repayments. See: [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/tfsa-celi/menu-eng.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/tfsa-celi/menu-eng.html) 16



## Fall Crafters/Artisan Participants



**Josie Beylerian:** Preserves, wreaths, swags

**Marjorie Blake:** Runners, hand towels etc., cakes, quick bread, short breads



**Francoise Cockburn:** Paintings, scarves

**Terry/Nancy Dockrill:** Hand carved wooden canes and clothes hooks (Terry shown)



**Laurretta Holbrook:** Paintings & collages

**Tony Jinkinson:** Fused glass jewellery, hand-made-one-of-a-kind



**Maureen/Joe Jursa:** Christmas crafts, knitting, glass blocks, angels, aprons, decorative towels. (Maureen shown)

**Maria Teresa Rifa:** Jewellery



**Alan Scott:** Wood carvings, bowls, vases, boxes, etc. made on a lathe

**Marion Stephens:** Lavender shortbread making kits, photo cards & bags



**Terese Truchan:** Crocheted scarves, headbands, & hats, photo cards

**Ursula Yanchak:** Acrylic painting-abstract wildflower series, beaded jewellery



**Dorothy Gaiter:** Jewellery (Photo not available)



**The Retro Ramblers**  
[www.theretroramblers.com](http://www.theretroramblers.com)



## Fall Vendors Participants

### Bosley Real Estate Ltd. Brokerage | Katrina McHugh

1108 Queen Street West, Toronto ON M6J 1H9  
416•833•5900

kmchugh@bell.net

www.bosleyrealestate.com



### Family History Simplified | Louise Todd

705•252•4467

louise@familyhistorysimplified.com

www.familyhistorysimplified.com



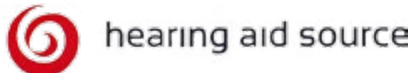
### Hearing Aid Source | Edmond Ayvazyan

699 Coxwell Avenue, Toronto ON M4C 3C1

416•463•4327 (HEAR)

edmond@hearingaidsource.ca

www.hearingaidsource.ca



### Investors Group | Catherine Miao

300-200 Yorkland Boulevard, Toronto ON M2J 5C1

416•491•7400 x6300

catherine.miao@investorsgroup.com

www.investorsgroup.com



### Johnson Insurance Inc. / Home/Auto Insurance | Dave Brawley

1•866•307•7751

www.johnson.ca/rto-ero



### Marks in Time | Debbie Marks

705•330•6674

debbie@marksintime.com

www.marksintime.com



### Merit Travel | Marianne Delima, Lori Copeland

marianne.delima@merit.ca, lcopeland@merittravel.com

www.merit.ca



*We do appreciate the participation of these vendors at our annual Craft Show/Vendors event. This third-party content is presented for information only and does not necessarily reflect endorsement by your editors or RTO/ERO Toronto. Vendors pay a fee for space provided by RTO/ERO Toronto.*

### Pearle Vision Liberty Village | University Avenue

2-51 Hanna Avenue  
Toronto ON M6K 3N6  
416•588•3937

100-154 University Avenue  
Toronto ON M5H 3Y9  
416•599•3937

info@perlelibertyvillage.ca | info@pearleuniversity.ca  
www.pearlevision.ca



### Retire-At-Home | Jill Aitken

320-719 Bloor Street West, Toronto ON M6G 1L5

416•479•9659

torontowest@retireathome.com

www.rahtoronto.com | www.retireathome.com



### SleepMed | Dr. Manoj M. Enati

47-670 Highway 7, Richmond Hill ON L4B 3P2

416•670•3970

enjati@sleepmeds.net

www.cpapsleepmedical.com



### Total Access Centre Centre | Marilyn Wetston

200 Spadina Avenue, Toronto ON M5T 2C2

416•504•6777

mwetston@totalaccesscentre.com

www.totalaccesscentre.com



### Tapestry at Village Gate West/Independent Retirement | Rita Viggiani

15 Summerland Terrace, Toronto ON M9A 0B5

416•777•2911

wcara@discovertapestry.com

www.discovertapestry.com



### T-Zone Vibration Health Technologies | Alban Frigault

416•285•6055

alba@tzonevibration.com

www.t-zonevibration.com



*The Vendors' Display organization for our Fall Luncheon/Craft/Vendor Show was prepared by Betty Lou Reynolds, RTO/ERO Toronto District 16 Second Vice President.*

## **Travelogue ~ Wednesday, February 24, 1:00pm**

### **AN ITALIAN ODYSSEY:**

#### **Sites You Have Not Seen, Stories You Have Not Heard**

Presented by **Gib Goodfellow**

**A**t the hotel pool in Kathmandu I overheard the tour organizer bragging that he had been to Italy a dozen times but his next trip would include all the things he had not done. Sure enough. We landed in Rome and took off immediately for Sorrento where we had two nights. We drove right past Pompeii on our way to Herculaneum, the city buried in ash which preserved both wood and decorations. We spent some time on the Amalfi Coast, but did not make it to the Isle of Capri because our leader had been there. We had the best meal of the trip at a farm in the Sila Mountains in Calabria. The network of tunnels and aerial-highways are feats of engineering.

We took a ferry to Sicily where we stayed in Taormina, Agrigento, and Palermo to visit Mt. Ethan, the Greek sites at Syracuse, the Roman hunting lodge at Casale, and the Valley of the Temples. Then on to Sardinia where we spent four nights with days full of sightseeing including fortified dwellings and stone towers built before the Phoenicians arrived. The spectacular Emerald Coast offered wonderful vistas. At Alghero, I experienced the most beautiful swim of my life.

We had our second overnight crossing, disembarking at Genoa, Italy's largest port. After a city tour we drove to the Cinque Terre Region, where Phyllis, a friend and I walked through 12 kilometres of vineyards between the five villages which cling to the cliffs. In Tuscany, we explored the walled medieval centre of Lucca and walled village of San Gimignano on a mountainside. Enroute to San Gimignano, we drove by the leaning tower of Pisa. The leader had not intended originally to stop but there was a vote taken and the bus made a U-turn. We had a one day tour of Rome and another day to explore Rome on our own. The finale and one of the highlights was a trip to Villa d'Este with its 200 fountains in Tivoli. *Photos on Page 24.* **16**

### **A Member-Author ~ Maria Lynch**



**M**y first novel, *Beneath the African Sun* is published as a historical fiction; more than a history, this is a story about family, home, social justice, and what it means to truly belong somewhere. The novel offers, through the eyes of its protagonist, a street-level view of the changing social and political climate of Kenya between 1916 and 1970, including the 'Mau Mau' Uprising of the native Kikuyu, the eventual independence of Kenya in 1963, and the political fallout that followed.

For more information: visit: [www.authormarialynch.com](http://www.authormarialynch.com)  
or, email: [mlynch@infolyнк.ca](mailto:mlynch@infolyнк.ca) **16**

## **Travelogue ~ Wednesday, March 23, 1:00pm**

### **Spectacular Calm Water Cruising in Ontario**

by **Marilyn and Dick Holyer**

**A**n exciting find appeared on our doorstep, so to speak, one day a couple of years ago when we noticed a small ad in the Globe and Mail which led to signing up for our first five day cruise on the Kawartha Voyageur. This calm-water cruiser is a 45 passenger ship with a crew of 12. 'Home', on board, is a cozy cabin with two single beds, storage facilities and a toilet and wash basin en suite; the shower is down the hall. A large picture window gives passengers a bird's eye view of the scenery, the PA system keeps one informed of the itinerary and alerts us to special sightings worth the scramble to the sun deck - a shaded area with ample seating and snack service. An elevator saves climbing the stairs to the main deck, if need be. Optional shore-excursions are available. The owners are in close touch with relevant authorities (Parks Canada), and, are acquainted with every bend in the bodies of water covered, the local history, and the flora and fauna. On our trip we witnessed our captain exploring the use of a new drone used to take photos of the journey from above. Questions are welcomed as the crew enjoy sitting with passengers at all meals. Everyone lets their hair down at a final comedy show as the cruise ends. The atmosphere is warm and friendly at all times, even for the single traveller. Fate willing, we will be going back for our third trip this summer. You might want to join us.

This trip accommodated the needs of older adults like ourselves with certain disabilities all too common for folks our age but also a yen for new sights and sounds, congenial fellow travellers not prone to loud late night revels, good food, drink plus home made snacks, knowledgeable commentary and on shore excursions that do not overly challenge our current energy level, but satisfy our love of history and adventure. The young crew who are the wait staff, also cheerfully wash the windows and help maintain the common areas. A gracious hostess is in charge of these young people and available for hospitality and information at all hours. The library contains interesting material about the ship, the various geographic areas covered in the individual cruise itineraries, and current reading material such as newspapers and magazines.

We do know a good deal when we actually live it. Cost: around \$2,000pp, all inclusive, except the bar tab. Free parking for your vehicle is included if you need to drive to the departure point. **16**



More photos on Page 24

### Gib's Photos



Left: In the Valley of the Temples in Sicily, not the best preserved Greek temple



Right: Ruins of Nora, the first settlement on Sardinia

### Dick & Marilyn's Photos



### RTO/ERO Education Scholarships, 2016

RTO/ERO offers up to twenty-five \$1,000 Education Scholarships as follows (full details available on-line via the Members Centre Link):



#### Type of Program:

Degree Program • Diploma Program • Certificate Program • Other Graduate Certificate Program • Co-op Program • Apprenticeship Program

#### Scholarship Application

• The *on-line-only application* is accessed using your RTO/ERO sponsoring member's membership number.

#### Eligibility and Criteria

- Applicant is a resident, Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant.
- Applicant's relationship to RTO/ERO Member:
  - child/step-child; ◦ grand/great grandchild;
  - grand/great grandniece/nephew; ◦ niece/nephew;
  - daughter/son-in-law.

#### Caveat

Successful Scholarship recipients consent to the release of name and contact information by the Executive Director of The Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO/ERO) for the purposes of RTO/ERO Provincial and/or District announcements and/or other publicity-related events.

*Applications will be available until 4:30pm on February 15, 2016 from the RTO/ERO website (Members' Centre).*  
[www.rto-ero.org/programs-services/scholarship-program](http://www.rto-ero.org/programs-services/scholarship-program)

### Rendezvous Club



All retired women teachers and guests (male or female) are invited to join us for lunch and entertainment at the Old Mill on the last Monday of each month from September to November and January to May.



#### Coming Schedule:

**Monday, January 25:** ~ *Celebration of Robbie Burns Day:* a presentation of local Scottish Country Dancers;

**Monday, February 29:** ~ Author **Terry Fallis**, Winner of the 2015 Stephen Leacock Award;

Contact: **Kay Jeffery:**

416•767•8179 | [catherine.jeffery067@sympatico.ca](mailto:catherine.jeffery067@sympatico.ca)

## Project STO (Service To Others) Grants ~ 2016

<https://www.rto-ero.org/programs-services/project-service-to-others>

Our provincial organization gives its districts an opportunity to support a member's favourite organization in the amount of up to \$4,000. It is important that applicants understand the process. Here is a brief outline:

\* \* \*


A Toronto District 16 application must be submitted to the provincial office by a specific date. **To this end, individual applications must be received by the President, Roger Wilson, by our closure date of March 1, 2016**, to be considered by the Toronto Executive. Just one project, if any, can be selected. The Toronto Executive makes the final decision about which project, if any, is forwarded to the provincial Service-to-Others (STO) Committee. Although all applications may be worthy of consideration, only one per district is allowed to go forward. Those applications meeting the basic criteria for the grant are selected for further consideration; those not meeting the basic criteria are rejected outright. (The process, although somewhat subjective, is based on which application best meets the stipulated conditions.) Applicants are informed of the disposition of their submissions.

The RTO/ERO STO Committee considers, potentially, 48 applications from districts over the summer, and meets in September to decide the degree of support and which projects will receive that support. In 2015, our proposal received 3,000.00. Our January Newsletter listed all 2015 recipients.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is completed according to the stipulated directions. Although an executive member may give guidance, such assistance should not be considered support. The full executive will make a decision regarding one, or none, of the submissions.

Send completed applications to:

**Roger Wilson**

President, RTO/ERO Toronto  
207-660 Pape Avenue  
Toronto ON M4K 3S5 



## Theatre ~ Mamma Mia, Dunfield Theatre, Cambridge



A mother ... a daughter ... three possible dads ... and a trip down the aisle you'll never forget as new love blooms and old romances are rekindled on a Greek island full of possibilities. Featuring the chart-top-ping hits of Swedish super-group ABBA, Mamma Mia! is the musical phenomenon that has entertained 54 million people around the world. In addition to the iconic title song, the infectious score features ABBA's hits "Dancing Queen," "The Winner Takes It All," "Lay All Your Love on Me," "Money, Money, Money," "Knowing Me, Knowing You," "SOS," "Take a Chance on Me" and more. Don't miss this joyful celebration of mothers, daughters, old friends, and new family.

**Date: ..... Wednesday, May 4, 2016**

**Depart: ..9:00am** St. Andrew's Anglican Church  
2333 Victoria Park Ave.

9:15am Yorkdale Shopping Mall

9:45am Hurontario Car Pool (at Hwy 401)

**Lunch: ... 11:30am - 1:00pm**

Enjoy delicious buffet lunch at the *Mandarin Restaurant*

**Show: ..... 2:00pm - 4:30pm**

Reserved orchestra seating for *Mamma Mia*

**Dinner: ..5:00pm - 6:45pm**

Enjoy a four course meal at *Golf's Steakhouse*, Kitchener

**Return: ..8:00pm** Hurontario Car Pool

8:30pm Yorkdale Shopping Mall

8:45pm St. Andrew's Church

**Price: ..... \$140.00 per person (includes HST)**

Make cheque payable to *Year Round Travel Inc.*

*Also see Page 29 for  
Trip Terms & Conditions*

**To Book:** Call **Linda Grieve** at 416•498•7228 at 8:00am on Wednesday, February 10. If your booking is confirmed, forward a cheque payable to *Year Round Travel Inc.* for the full amount to:

**Karen Sinclair, 49 Herbert Ave., Toronto, ON, M4L 3P8.**

**Payment to be received by March 31, 2016**

**Inclusions:** Return transportation via deluxe coach, lunch & dinner, reserved orchestra seating, driver gratuity, gratuity on meal, and all taxes.

## Theatre ~ A Chorus Line, Stratford Festival Theatre



On stage, they move as one. But each member of that glittering line has a unique history of hope and heartbreak, revealed in the life stories they share in this inspiring musical masterpiece.

**Date:** ..... **Wednesday, June 15, 2016**

**Depart:** ..9:00am St. Andrew's Anglican Church  
2333 Victoria Park Ave.

9:15am Yorkdale Shopping Mall

9:45am Hurontario Car Pool (at Hwy 401)

**Lunch:** ... 11:30am - 1:00pm

Enjoy a soup & sandwich at *Anna Mae's Restaurant*

**Show:** ..... 2:00pm - 4:30pm

Reserved orchestra seating for *A Chorus Line*

**Dinner:** .. 5:30pm - 7:00pm Enjoy a delicious dinner at *Quehl's Restaurant*

**Return:** .. 8:15pm Hurontario Car Pool

8:45pm Yorkdale Shopping Mall

9:00pm St. Andrew's Church

**Price:** ..... \$150.00 per person (includes HST)

Make cheque payable to *Year Round Travel Inc.*

*Also see Page 29 for  
Trip Terms & Conditions*

**To Book:** Call **Karen Sinclair** at 416•690•4961 at 8:00am on Wednesday, February 10. If your booking is confirmed, forward a cheque payable to *Year Round Travel Inc.* for the full amount to:

**Karen Sinclair, 49 Herbert Ave., Toronto, ON M4L 3P8.**

**Payment to be received by March 31, 2016**

**Inclusions:** Return transportation via deluxe coach, lunch & dinner, reserved orchestra seating, driver gratuity, gratuity on meal, and all taxes.

**Photo:** Stratford Festival Theatre



## Theatre Daytrip Terms & Conditions

Once your booking is confirmed, please make special note of the following:

**1. Departure Times and Pick-up Locations for Both Trips.**

**9:00am Pick-up #1: Church of St. Andrew** located on Victoria Park Ave. immediately south of the 401. Approach the church from the south. Turn East (right) onto Terraview and then an almost immediate left turn into the church driveway. Park at the back of the church.

**Note:** There is no left turn southbound on Victoria Park at Terraview from 7:00am to 9:00am.

**9:15am Pick-up #2: Yorkdale Subway Station.** After leaving the train, proceed to the NORTH end of the platform. Go down the stairs to street level. Do not take the walkway into the plaza. The bus will take on passengers near the subway exit/entrance doors.

**9:45am Pick-up #3: Carpool Lot at Hurontario.**

*From Toronto:* Leave 401 via Hurontario exit - remain in centre lane, proceed across Hurontario at the traffic light.

*From points South or North on Hurontario:* Turn West at the traffic light (1st North after passing over 401 or 1st South of World Vision). Follow roadway to the STOP sign, turn left, follow a very short distance to another STOP sign. Turn left again. Parking spaces are to your left.

**2. A waiver form will be circulated on the bus as required by RTO/ERO.**

**3. Tickets and nametags will be distributed as you board the bus.**

**4. Cancellations:** If you must cancel please contact **Karen Sinclair** at 416•690•4961 as soon as possible.

(a) If you cancel before March 31, 2016, your cheque will be shredded.

(b) If you cancel after March 31, 2016 after cheques have been cashed, Karen will connect you with someone on the waiting list, if possible.

(c) If you choose to give or sell your ticket(s) to family, friends, etc, please call Karen with name, phone number, and pick-up location of person(s) attending in your place.

**Please note:** If we are unable to find someone to replace you after the cheques are cashed your payment is not refundable. In the past this has occurred in a small number of cases.

**RTO/ERO Toronto Theatre Daytrips Committee:  
John Bratton, Jack DeGroot, Linda Grieve, Karen Sinclair**

## Welcome to New Members ~ Bob Neal

Contact: 416•694•9683 / bneal@sympatico.ca



Welcome to those having joined RTO/ERO in October and November, 2015. *Occasionally new members join 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**. Contact Dianne Vezeau at 416•962•9463 or 1•800•361•9888 to change.

*As of December 31, 2015, our Toronto District membership stood at 5,163.*

Varla Abrams  
James Agnelli  
Joanna Alexopoulos  
Rita Ancans  
D Joy Atkinson  
Valerie Baldwin  
Janet O Bilous  
Faegelle Bines  
Eleanor Blake  
Gary E Boulton  
Cathy Britchford  
David Browman  
Lynn Buckle  
Sandra Davies  
Sandra Doan  
Patricia Carol Dyer  
Penny Fiksel  
Chi Chi Juanita Godin  
Janice Goodman  
Gregory Gary Gordon Gourley  
Jerry Halbot  
William Harrison  
Eva Hegedus  
Michael Hilborn  
Judith Heather Hillman  
Lynne E Hindle  
Bruce Howell  
Wanda Hutchings  
Alison Jack  
Rochelle Kuchar  
Royden Lamwatt  
Kari Lie  
Vivien Loader  
Fred W Loftin

William a MacLeod  
Sandra Maker  
Nancy Mattiussi  
Janet McGoey  
Beverly McIlwain  
Laraine McMahon-Nelson  
Susan McNay  
Lorena Moniz  
Rita Mullrooney  
Karen O'Rourke  
Shelagh O'Sullivan  
Alison Pearce  
Robert D Pickett  
Debra Polgrain  
Donata Puteris  
Leslie Rennie  
Wendy Robertson  
Barbara Rother  
Elsie Rueter  
Pat Salvatore  
Michael Saver  
Patricia Seaton  
Joni Shanoff  
Jo-anne Silverberg  
Michael Sivan  
Bernice Slotnick  
Susan Smethurst  
Heather Speers  
Steven Talsky  
Simon To  
Karen Wadon  
Joanne Weston  
Walter Whiteley  
Donald E Wilkins

## Social/Recreation continued from Page 6



**Downtown Coffee Club:** Meet other retired teachers and friends informally! 625 Church St *any Wednesday or Saturday around 10:30am.* at The Croissant Tree (NE corner of Church and Charles St. E, one block south of Bloor/short walk from Yonge/Bloor subway station). Buy a coffee, look for a table of happy retirees!

Contact **Ann Ludwigsen** at [acludwigsen@rogers.com](mailto:acludwigsen@rogers.com) | 416•324•0909.



**Finances ~ Lone Smith** (416•234•1969) hosts this group in her home on *the last Thursday of the month at 4:30pm: February 18, March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23.* We deal with financial topics of interest such as mutual funds, real estate investments, stocks. In March we have a speaker on RIFFS. We have invited guests at times and learn with and from each other.



**Friday Night Movie ~ Shashi Makhija** ([fridaymovieclub@gmail.com](mailto:fridaymovieclub@gmail.com) | 416•892•1717) and **Carol Seljak** ([carolseljak@yahoo.com](mailto:carolseljak@yahoo.com) | 416•562•7404) host this activity the *second Friday of the month* at a central theatre's early show (6:00-7:00pm) followed by discussion at a nearby coffee shop. Add your name to the notification list!



**La Belle Langue** ~ Bonjour! Cherchez-vous un endroit où vous pouvez rafraichir votre habileté de conversation en français? La Belle Langue pourrait être pour vous. Nous nous rencontrons le deuxième et le quatrième lundi de chaque mois de 5 h. à 6 h. Si cela vous intéresse, vous pouvez me faire savoir à [bswerling@hotmail.com](mailto:bswerling@hotmail.com) ou au poste: 416•769•8457.

À bientôt! **Bev Swerling**



**Monday Matinée Movie ~ Steve Feldman:** (416•588•6637 / [rtomondaymovie@hotmail.com](mailto:rtomondaymovie@hotmail.com)). Join us and we'll notify you once a month of an early afternoon movie at the Varsity in the ManuLife Centre on Bloor Street between Bay and Yonge Streets. We meet on *the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month twelve months of the year.* If you are free after, join us for coffee/tea/dessert./or whatever, at Scaccia, which is at the bottom level of the Centre.

**Continued on Page 32** 📧

*Even if you are on the right track,  
you will still get run over if you just sit there.*





**Super Tees Golf Group** ~ The Super-Tees Golf Group plays every second Wednesday at Scarlett Woods Golf Course, from mid-April to the end of October, as weather allows. We usually have from 8 to 12 golfers; sometimes more. We try to book 3 or 4 tee times. You receive an email with the booked tee times *but must receive a confirmation that you are playing* so we know exact numbers. Contact **Rosalie Parente** at [rosalie10@rogers.com](mailto:rosalie10@rogers.com) or **Cindy Shore-Beauvais** at [shorbeau@sympatico.ca](mailto:shorbeau@sympatico.ca). (*Liability Waiver required.*)



**Theatre Day Trips** ~ **Karen Sinclair** and her committee arrange unique, all-inclusive, excursions each Autumn and Spring theatre season. Full details are printed in our Newsletter regarding schedule and registration process when arranged. See Pages 27, 28, and 29 for our Spring Theatre Events.

**Karen Announces: RTO/ERO Toronto Theatre Daytrips ~ Fall 2016**

We have already booked two exciting trips for Fall 2016:

Wednesday, October 5, 2016

Stratford Avon Theatre ~ *A Little Night Music*

Thursday, November 10, 2016

St. Jacobs Schoolhouse Theatre ~ *Red Rock Diner*

Details and dates will appear in the May Newsletter. Mark your calendar!



**Toronto Live Theatre Group** ~ **Liz Estall**: 416•925•5240 | [eegreenleaf@sympatico.ca](mailto:eegreenleaf@sympatico.ca) Enjoy the terrific theatre Toronto has to offer and meet other theatre lovers. **16**



**Toronto Choristers** We are a choir of over 100 voices, mainly retired teachers and others having worked in education. We sing a wide range of musical works: Broadway musicals, religious and spiritual anthems, jazz, works by Canadian composers, and medleys from various musical genres, to name a few. Our practices occur weekly on Thursdays. New members are welcome to join. Contact **John Sinclair**: [jdb Sinclair@gmail.com](mailto:jdb Sinclair@gmail.com)

Our **Annual Spring Concert** at Sir John A. MacDonald Collegiate Institute, 2300 Pharmacy Ave. takes place Wed., May 25, 2016 at 7:30pm.

Tickets are \$15 each, available from choir members or at the door.

We love to sing and to share the enjoyment of choral singing, and invite you to be a part of our audience at our concerts.

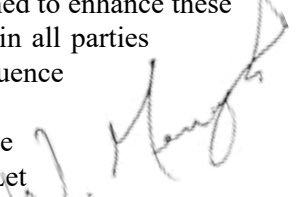
Your Newsletter Editor went too far in the view of some readers! President **Roger Wilson** received an irate email taking issue with the “*Tis to Worry*” item on Page 26 of our November Newsletter. (See the President’s Message on Page 2, and RTO/ERO Developments on Page 7.) The point-of-view expressed was that quasi-political comments are not welcome in this type of publication - especially if they appear to favour, or denigrate, one political party more than another. The writer also expressed concern that these types of content were unsigned - that personal opinion ought to be attributable. Another member, having similar concerns, chose to speak personally to the editor to express well-thought counter-points.

To those members who communicated their concerns, and to others for whom this item (and, perhaps, others) was found to be ‘inaccurate, insulting, and offensive’, we apologize for the unintended outcome of our Merceresque humour. Upsetting any reader is never our goal. Provoking thought? Maybe.

As to attribution, most of the Newsletter content has a name, or source, attached. It had been assumed that unattributed material was known to be that of the editors - specifically **Bill Menagh** (even our silly ‘fillers’).

So, what to do? We know many members have wanted our organization to be seen as more politically active. Members have followed procedures, through their District to the Senate, to have RTO/ERO take positions on specific societal issues: health care, aging, defined benefits pension plans, national pharma-care, the environment, improved CPP/OAS coverage; affordable and supportive housing, financial support and workplace protection for caregivers. RTO/ERO is a member of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER-CART) and aligns with CARP on like-minded issues (May, 2015 Newsletter). We do support legislation designed to enhance these specific issues. We know there are ‘progressives’ in all parties supportive of some or all the above and try to influence their parties positively from the inside.

With a new government after 10 years, do we withhold comment when it fails on these issues? Let us know. Contact the editors at [bmenagh@sympatico.ca](mailto:bmenagh@sympatico.ca).



**RTO/ERO Toronto Archives Addition:**

**Phyllis Edmondson** served on our District Executive in 1998/99.

We really appreciate the efforts our members take to obtain missing photos of executive members. **Kay Jeffery** received this photo from **Marilyn Hall** who was kind enough to send this one of Phyllis.



## In Memoriam ~ Marjorie Blake

Contact: 905•837•0874 / mdblake@sympatico.ca

Condolences to families, friends and colleagues of those deceased recently. We share in the mourning of the loss and we celebrate the services they rendered.



Marshal L. Bilous	Lydia Lubynskyj
Mary Jane Brisbois-Pickett	George Miller
L. Josephine Carlson	Thomas W. J. Mullrooney
Lois I Duncan	Rosalind R. Rajanayagam
Margaret E. Emmerson	Sarah Anne Robbins
Dorothy Gossling	Jacklyn M. Shaw
Valerie Kent	Margaret M. Stott
Maria Knechtel	Barbara J. Weber
Janice Loftin	Elizabeth J. Woeller



## Downtown Toronto Courtyard Marriott ~ 2016 Rates

Located at 475 Yonge St. one block north of College/Carlton Street (College subway station).

**Features:** • 24 hour fitness centre • Complimentary high speed wireless internet • Indoor lap pool • Valet parking


The Preferred Corporate rate applies to a standard guestroom, single/double occupancy. Any group bookings (10+) will be negotiated on a request basis.

**2016 RTO/ERO rates:** • \$139 January, February, March, December  
• \$149 April  
• \$159 July, August, November  
• \$165 May, June, September, October

**Note:** Rates in Canadian dollars per room, per night and subject to applicable taxes. The rates are applicable only for individuals, not groups. If necessary, cancel any room at least one day prior to the reservation date to avoid penalty.

**Rates NOT available** on the following 2016 dates:

- February 10-16, February 28-March 2, June 20-26,
- July 7-14, July 29-31, August 10-13, September 10-13, December 31.

These dates are subject to change without notice. All reservations can be made by calling the reservation office at 1•800•847•5075. **You must mention you are an RTO/ERO member when booking and provide member identification (e.g. membership card) upon arrival.** 

## RTO/ERO Toronto Executive 2015 ~ 2016

President: <b>Roger Wilson</b>	Past President: <b>Lone Smith</b>
First Vice-President: <b>Joan Elliott</b>	Second Vice-President: <b>Betty Lou Reynolds</b>
Treasurer: <b>Robert Putnam</b>	Secretary: <b>Herb Stover</b>
Archives: <b>Valerie Mah</b>	Communications: <b>Bill Menagh</b>
Goodwill: <b>Marjorie Blake</b>	Health/Insurance: <b>Bill Tajer</b>
Membership/Recruitment: <b>Bob Neal</b>	Pension/Retirement: <b>Susan Weinert</b>
Political Advocacy: <b>Vacant</b>	Program: <b>Kay Jeffery</b>
Social/Recreation: <b>Heather Talbot</b>	Travel: <b>Karen Sinclair</b>
Members-at-Large: <b>Ruth Baumann, John Bratton, Armand Gagné, Lou Manning, Helen Milton,</b>	

Executive Meetings are typically held on the second Thursday of the month and are open to RTO/ERO Toronto members. Prior notification is appreciated.

## 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). On-line form at: [www.rto-ero.org](http://www.rto-ero.org).

## 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). Join our email service and we'll let you know when it's posted so you can download the PDF for free.

## Newsletter Submissions

Your Newsletter Committee welcomes submissions from members that may be of interest to others: travels, events, life milestones, etc. 'Letters-to-the-Editor' are also welcome. The editors reserve the right to reject, or modify, 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 content in this document with appropriate attribution. Third-party submissions **must include all source details**.

**Submission standards: Electronic TXT file preferred**, (or Word DOC/DOCX, WordPerfect WPD, or PDF file) emailed to [bmenagh@sympatico.ca](mailto:bmenagh@sympatico.ca). Save submissions created in other programs as TXT files. Typed or hand-printed copy accepted, but earlier submission is advised.

**Editorial Committee: Ian Baird, Roy Harvey, Bill Menagh, Mary El Milosh**

**Publication: Submissions:** First day of September, November, January, March, May

**Mailings:** Late September, November, January, March, May

**Did You Know!** The PDF version of our Newsletter can be viewed in full colour.

## RTO/ERO Contact Information

<b>RTO/ERO</b> 300-18 Spadina Road 416•962•9463/1•800•361•9888 <a href="http://www.rto-ero.org">www.rto-ero.org</a>	<b>Benefits Service / Johnson Inc</b> 416•920•7248 1•877•406•8077 <a href="http://www.johnson.ca">www.johnson.ca</a>	<b>Teachers' Pension</b> 416•226•2700 1•800•668•0105 <a href="http://www.otpp.com">www.otpp.com</a>
<b>OMERS:</b> 416•369•2400 / 1•800•387•0813 / <a href="http://www.omers.com">www.omers.com</a>		



A few of many Fall Luncheon draw-prize winners



RTO/ERO Toronto Newsletter  
 c/o Bill Menagh  
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