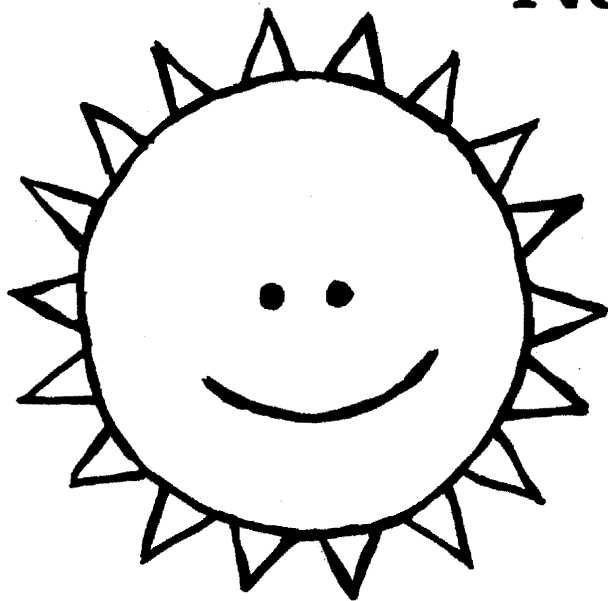


Superannuated Teachers of Ontario

District 16 City of Toronto

Newsletter

April 1985.



TO ALL MEMBERS OF DISTRICT 16

Greetings and Salutations! What a wonderful time of year! 'Tis time for hoes and rakes and seeds and 10-6-4.

Bliss Carman said it so well;

When you hear the white-throat pealing
From a tree-top far away
And the hills are touched with purple
At the borders of the day;

When the redwing sounds his whistle
At the coming on of spring
And the joyous April pipers
Make the alder marshes ring

----- It's truly spring -----

TO BRING YOU UP-TO-DATE

The winter meeting was held February 13th at the Education Centre. Our speaker was Jim Causley, Sec.-Treas. of S.T.O. (Ont.) and former Director of the Superannuation Commission. Al Robb, 1st V.P. and Margaret Smith, 2nd V.P. chaired the question session.

Mr. Causley has been called, "Mr. Superannuation", because no one can address the problems of pensions better. Here are some of his points;

"In 1963, pensions were changed for some pensioners"

"In 1964, changes were made for all pensioners"

"Escalation was introduced in 1975" (Many thanks!)

"Those who retired previous to 1975, were paid by the Government"

"Those who retired after 1975 were paid from the Escalation Fund"

"Pensions have been based on the best 15, 10, 7 and now 5 years"

"Reasons for low pensions stem from low salaries, split service, religious orders' staff and service outside Ontario"

"The Pensions Benefit Act says funds needed, have to be provided within a fifteen-year period"

"Evaluation began in December, 1984"

"If there is a surplus, we could have some pleasant surprises" (Cheers!)

"Surplus could be used to increase pensions, to decrease active contributions, or to decrease Government contributions" (Increase low

"7.9% is on the high end of any contributions to a pensions) pension fund"

JUST FOR FUN

Israel Gang tells me he knows he's past middle age because when the parade goes by, he looks at the horse before he looks at Lady Godiva.

Also, Izzy says; I know all the answers; but I've forgotten what the questions were.

Mr. Causley introduced the Johnston Insurance Company Plan for home and auto insurance. Kits have been mailed to all members. Information seminars were held on February 28, March 7 and April 1 at St. Margaret's church.

The executive met with the Johnston Company representatives to hear about their plan and to ask questions. Since then, the Provincial executive has studied the plan and given its approval.

Here are some facts about the insurance;

- "Johnston Insurance handles plans for 35,000 Maritimers"
- "Teachers as a group are good risks" (We knew that, anyway)
- "Lloyds agreed to partner any claim over \$100,000.00 plus sharing losses"
- "Johnston is the seventh largest Insurance company in Canada"
- "Their plan allow choice of adjuster and garage for repairs"
- "Payments are made monthly instead of yearly"
- "All policies are written in plain language"
- "There are no service or interest charges"
- "You can request a quotation without obligation"

Our thanks to Miss Hilda Barry for a very pleasant musical interlude before the general meeting.

GOOD NEWS

Acting on a tip from Hank Condie I wrote to Cadet Cleaners re their 20% discount on cleaning. We were successful. We are now Preferred Customers hence the discount card in your envelope.

CLUB 16 - HOBBY SHOW - APRIL 1

The show was most successful and interesting. There was an excellent turnout and a large display of fascinating hobbies. Our members delve into everything from growing cacti, to ceramics, printing, leatherwork, photography and hooking! Exhibitors were Jean and Wilf Turnbull, Lillian and Israel Gang, Mike Lennox, Jean Pettit, Anne Fraser, Betty Chandokar, Nancy Caskell, Kay Green, Sinc. Hemingway, Cec. Wilkinson, Bernice Morley, Helen Haslam, Welda and Nort Heard, Cecilia Dineen, Lila Crossley, Jean Wheatley and your editor. Great fun was had by all!

Many thanks to our most capable chairman, Ron Mackay and to the hard working committee - Verna Tucker, Jean McEachern, Israel Gang and Hank Condie.

SPRING DAY TRIP

This is the time to sign up for the spring trip, Wednesday, May 22nd. Join the group and see Cullen Gardens, the Ganaraska Woods Centre, walk the nature trails and enjoy local points of interest. Price is \$21.00 (How can you refuse?). Reserve before April 30. Call Hank Condie - 291-8770.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, May 9, 1985 - May breakfast - Royal York Hotel - 9.00 a.m.
Wednesday, October 16, 1985 - Annual and General Meeting

Just for today I will adjust myself to what is. I will face reality. I will change those things that I can change and accept those things I cannot change.

Just for today I will improve my mind. I will not be a mental loafer. I will force myself to read something that requires effort, thought and concentration.

Just for today I will live through this day only, and not set far-reaching goals to try to overcome all my problems at once. I know I can do something for 12 hours that would appall me if I felt that I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

ANNUITIES

If you are in the market for an annuity, take a look at this chart. It pays to shop around. Differences may seem small but over a period of ten or twenty years it mounts up.

Where to get the best annuity value

The chart below shows the 10 best monthly incomes for different types of annuities, based on \$50,000 of registered retirement savings funds. In each case, the income is guaranteed for 10 years or the life-time of the annuitants. The single life annuity is paid for 10 years or until the death of the annuitant whichever period is longer. The joint life annuity is paid for the minimum of 10 years or until both annuitants have died. The incomes begin one month after purchase. The ranking of companies may change depending on age and sex of the annuitant, annuity options and the amount of funds. The table was prepared Feb. 7, 1985, by Cannex Canadian Annuity Exchange Ltd., which supplies information to annuity agents in Canada.

Single life annuity				Joint life annuity	
Company name	Guaranteed 10 yrs. minimum male, age 65	Company name	Guaranteed 10 yrs. minimum female, age 65	Company name	Guaranteed 10 yrs. min. males/female, age 65
Prudential Assur.	\$549.67	Mutual Life	\$520.93	Mutual Life	\$498.44
North American	547.85	Prudential Assur.	520.64	Prudential Assur.	497.09
London Life	546.92	Commercial Union	519.21	London Life	495.43
Mutual Life	546.66	Crown Life	518.83	Commercial Union	495.14
Transamerica		London Life	518.31	Standard Life	493.78
Occidental	545.67	Standard Life	515.85	Metropolitan Life	493.77
Crown Life	544.46	Aetna	515.18	Crown Life	492.55
Commercial Union	544.28	Metropolitan Life	514.70	T'america Occidental	492.20
Standard Life	544.13	Dominion Life	514.63	North American Life	491.61
Fidelity Life	542.89	Eaton Bay	514.48	Manufacturers Life	490.49
Eaton Bay	542.88				

BILL 148

Bill 148 is the new Teachers' Superannuation Act. It received royal assent Dec. 16, 1983 after months of negotiations. Active teachers began paying 7.9% of their salary in September 1984 in return for a new calculation of pension based on the best five years instead of the best seven years.

This Act poses problems for many members of S.T.O.

1. Teachers who retired between May 31, 1982 and September 1, 1984 were allowed recalculation of pension based on the best five years, although they had not paid 7.9% of their salaries to the Commission.
2. Teachers who retired before May 31, 1982 did not receive any recalculation.
3. The majority of members of S.T.O. are affected negatively by this Act.
4. Several motions have been passed in recent Senate meetings, requesting recalculation of pension for all.

Several Districts have circulated letters to all Districts in Ontario regarding these concerns. We cannot afford to mail full copies to all our members but here are some of the pertinent points:

DISTRICT 27 - (Ottawa-Carleton, Prescott and Russell) says

"Bill 148 does a disservice to hundreds of retired teachers and their dependents."

DISTRICT 27 continued....

"Bill 148 attempts to satisfy a demand that many of us have been advancing for many years that our pensions should be recalculated on the 'best five years'. But in so doing, Bill 148 limits the retroactivity to the year 1982. In doing so it rewards those whose pensions are already based on quite good annual salaries, and denies any improvement to those of us who retired before 1982, many of whom (especially dependents) are living on means below 'the poverty line'."

"Bill 148 creates the precedent of retroactivity. This apparent unfairness is emphasized in our minds when teachers recall a principle on which we all worked, namely, that 'any benefits accruing to some should be applicable to all'."

DISTRICT 23 - North York says

"It seems grossly unfair that those who retired prior to May 31, 1982 have not received the financial benefit of the best five years. Teachers who have been retired for some years are those who receive lower pensions because of having received lower salaries. Many of these are women - approximately two-thirds - who in many cases are living alone and certainly would welcome and benefit from additional settlement."

"A special article entitled, 'Changes to Teachers' Pension Plan' was printed in the March 1984 edition of Education Ontario, a publication prepared jointly by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. Under the heading, 'Pension Plan is Financially Sound', this quotation followed:

'In 1978, for example, the unfounded liability still stood at \$1 billion as compared to total fund assets of \$2.9 billion. By 1981, unfounded liability had fallen to \$433 million compared to total assets of \$4.8 billion, a much smaller proportion of the whole.'

"It should be stressed that current contributions to the fund comfortably exceed current benefit payments and that this positive cash flow will continue for many years to come. Contributions in 1982 were \$471 million, compared to benefit payments of \$137 million. Moreover accumulated contributions continue to inherit interest, so that total revenues exceeded total disbursements by \$824 million in 1982."

"It is our opinion that the healthy condition of the fund justifies that the best five year provision can and should be granted to all retirees. We think that the fundamental issue in this matter is the universality of treatment of all retirees."

"It is readily apparent from a study of Life Expectancy tables that the extra funds needed to support this universality will be less and less each year as fewer and fewer of the older superannuates remain alive."

"Any argument to the effect that it is administratively impossible to backdate pensions is specious. If an adjustment has been made for those who retired one year before the Act was passed, and two years before it was passed, it should be made for those who retired three, five and ten years ago, and so on."

DISTRICT 18, - Haliburton, Peterborough and Victoria asked for recalculation on the best five years for all teachers.

DISTRICT 20 - Lennox and Addington, Frontenac, Leeds and Grenville wanted all teachers eligible for recalculation.



"HERMAN...did you forget to water my plants while I was away?"

TRAVEL COMMITTEE (Provincial)

996 S.T.O. members and friends took part in the S.T.O. travel program sponsored by our head office. Groups ranged far and wide over the world, from the South Pacific to the islands of the Mediterranean.

The committee would be interested in hearing comments re their trips and would also like to hear about trips you would like arranged.

I hope you never come home to the situation in the cartoon.

NOPE GOOD NEWS

At the 1984 Senate in November, \$10,000. was set aside for the promotion of local district programs. This worked out to approximately \$300. per District. District 16 has applied for its share. The grant will be used to help defray the cost of the Newsletter.

OVER 85

The November 1984 Senate passed the following motion, "that the S.T.O. executive investigate the feasibility of having the annual S.T.O. fee waived for members 85 years and over, and that, if on investigation this seems feasible, steps be taken to have the fees of such members waived beginning in January 1985".

I checked with S.T.O. and this is now in effect.

STATISTICS RE PENSIONS

At the last Senate meeting, District 22, Etobicoke and York proposed the following motion: "That District 22 requests S.T.O. to continue to support an increase in low pensions to assist those who are on the poverty line". This motion was unanimously carried.

Statistics show that A pensions received for long service range from a low of less than \$1000. to highs within the range of \$55,000. to \$58,999. This seems unbelievable but the person receiving the lowest pension receives a pension from another province where the person taught for many years.

Nevertheless, there are still 1136 A pensioners receiving under \$10,000. a year. This is possible if a teacher retired 20 or 30 years ago when pensions were computed on the best 15 or 10 years on a low salary.

Adjustments have been promised for low pensions. Let us hope soon!

Your morning smile

An elderly farm couple sat in their rocking chairs in front of the fireplace one wintry night. "The years are passing us by, Sarah," said the old man.

"Yes," she agreed.

"We're getting older," he said, "and pretty soon one of us will be left alone."

"That's right," she said, "and when that happens, I'm moving to California."

MAY BREAKFAST

Date - Thursday, May 9, 1985
Place - Royal York Hotel, Ballroom
Time - 9.00 a.m.
Speaker - Gretta Riddell-Dixon
Topic - "Myths of Aging"
Cost - \$6.00

Get ready and gather your friends! This is a most pleasant breakfast meeting. Make up a group and reserve your table.

HANDICAPPED - ACCOMMODATION

A former Torontonion, severely handicapped, wishes to sell an airy, one-bedroom - two bathroom Coral Springs condo - wheel chair oriented - private patio - Florida room - pool with ramp - only 8 units in a one-story building. Call Coral Springs, Florida - 753-3111 or 755-0360

BAYCREST CENTRE FOR GERIATRIC CARE

Volunteers are needed to work with handicapped seniors in music appreciation and light exercise programme - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday mornings. Call 789-5131, Ext. 288.

SALVATION ARMY

May 6th is the date of the one-night residential blitz. Volunteer canvassers are needed. Call 766-6441 and offer your help.

CLUB 16

This is the social half of District 16. Join S.T.O. and get automatic membership free. Excellent group leaders like Jean and Lindley Brown, Isobel Alexander, Jean McEachern, Hank Condie, Nancy Gaskell, Ron Mackay, and Louise Griffiths, will welcome you to their gatherings. Enjoy! You can't do better!

NEW EDITOR

This will be my last issue as editor. It's been fun but after 4 years it's time for a change. Your new editor will be Phil Hornick. We look forward to his fall issue.

President
Mary Thomas

Editor
Mary Thomas

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IN MEMORIAM

James E. Dean
William Ross Hudgins
Alice E. McGuire

Charles Goldhamer
Duncan A. McColl
Herbert H. Tancock

Madeline Tracey