Superannuated Teachers of Ontario

District 16 City of Toronto

Al Robb President



Phil Hornick Editor

Dear Friends:

September, 1986

Greetings, and welcome to a new SCHOOL YEAR. May the months ahead be good to you in every possible way!

A very warm welcome is extended to our new retirees. You have now joined a very auspicious Organization, designed to serve you in many ways. May your membership be a long and satisfying one. You have earned it, and deserve the best. But do be active, and leave some time for District 16. You'll enjoy the involvement.

What were you doing on September 2? In case you've forgotten, it was the opening day of school. Did you miss the excitement, and the frantic search for books, supplies, and 'lost' pupils? For our most recent retirees, it must have seemed strange.

A long-retired friend of mine still follows a tradition he started twelve years ago. On the opening day, he steps onto the balcony, faces his Board Building, and, on the stroke of 9:00 bows three times, and mumbles something under his breath.

It's almost five months since our last NEWSLETTER went to you. How time flies! Tempus fugit, or something like that. So much has been happening: one Senate meeting, two Executive meetings, the May Breakfast, the activities of Club 16, and the excellent work of the Good Will Committee. For that matter, all the members on our Executive have really been busy, in one way or another. But more of that later. We just want to whet your appetite.

The replies to Bernice McGinn's QUESTIONNAIRE brought out some good ideas. One, particularly, supported the need for at least one "business" meeting per year. Other suggestions included more time to socialize at the May Breakfast, activities to attract members, better communication, etc. Bernice will be reporting to us at the ANNUAL MEETING.

Have you read your copy of FACTS AND IMPRESSIONS? what a good report it was of the May Senate! We are indebted to Mary Thomas, who co-authored it. There is little for your Editor to add in this NEWSLETTER, although he does feel obliged to find something. Mary will have more to tell us at the ANNUAL MEETING.

Our District suffered a serious loss, recently, with the passing of Nort Heard, a member of our Executive, and a devoted and dedicated worker on behalf of the entire membership. Nort will sadly be missed by all.

The MAY BREAKFAST

The MAY BREAKFAST was again an outstanding success, with a fine meal, an excellent Speaker, and the greatest friends. Al Robb chaired the proceedings.

Special guests included Clare Perry (former Secretary-Treasurer of STO), Laura Sabourin (Past President of STO), Dan Dineen (Husband of Cecilia), Rev. Stephen Oliver (Rector, St. Margaret's Anglican Church), Murray Dryden (Guest Speaker), and Dan McArthur (Director, Superannuation Commission).

Margaret Smith introduced three of our members being recognized for their work in founding District 16: Art McAdam, Vicki McNabb, and Al Sweetman. She also gave a brief overview of our history, and the part played by each. Art, Vicki, and Al were presented with STO pins.

In accepting their Pins, Art talked about the early work leading to escalation, Vicki urged us to recruit new members, and Al paid tribute to those who helped him in organizing District 16.

Laura Babourin, bringing greetings from STO, thanked our District for its participation and involvement in the affairs of STO.

Dan Dineen introduced our Speaker, noting Murray Dryden's many and varied activities, particularly his founding and organizing SLEEPING CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD (SCAW), which has supplied bedkits for over 100,000 children in 19 developing countries.

Mr. Dryden provided a most interesting presentation related to SCAW. Among other things, he noted:

"... Each unit sits on the floor, rather than elevated, and consists of rubber sheeting, mattress, sheet, pillow-case, and pillow...Other items may be added, depending upon the climate and culture of the country...Kits are supplied where the per capita income is under \$500. per year...Receiving countries must provide the manpower to transport and assemble the kits...Agencies are screened, with overall supervision provided by volunteers from SCAW...Children are selected on the basis of need, and kits only go into private homes and schools...Under 5% of the children are Christian...Eighty percent of the funds are raised in Canada, with the remainder coming from the United States and Australia... Over threequarters of the funds come from private donors...Additional financial support comes from Service Clubs and Organizations, Churches, Schools, and Corporate Sponsors...Good publicity from the media has been helpful...No money from individual donors is used for administration... The original target of \$1 million has been reached..."

Mr. Dryden concluded his presentation with a series of slides which showed SCAW at work in the receiving countries.

NOTES FROM THE SENATE

District 16 was well represented, with Margaret Smith as Senator, and Mary Thomas, Cecilia Dineen, Molly Moore, Bernice McGinn, Elizabeth Patterson, and Phil Hornick as Observers.

Our District had two Resolutions before the Senate. The first, to have STO form a Public Relations Committee, was readily accepted, following comments by Mary Thomas. Our second Resolution, that recalculation be the first priority for the Biennial Review Committee, was withdrawn, following the announcement that the Government had rejected this item.

A motion to adopt a "letter-writing campaign" was carried. This campaign would have each member writing to the Premier of Ontario, Provincial Treasurer, and local MPP, urging the Government to support recalculation.

The current issue of FACTS AND IMPRESSIONS is being sent to all retirees, in an attempt to involve non-members in the "letter-writing campaign".

A motion that the Executive examine the feasibility of sending a special letter to all non-members, pointing out the advantages of joining STO, was carried.

Twenty member Organizations, representing 400,000 people, form the ONTARIO COALITION FOR NURSING HOME REFORM. STO is now a member of this Coalition. The STO Executive will be considering a grant to assist the Coalition in its work.

The Good Will Committee reported that in the past six-month period, thirteen requests for assistance, to a total of \$10,500. had been approved. Grants were also made to local Good Will Committees. The total budget for Good Will costs each member 75¢ per year.

A Resolution that STO send a letter to the Premier of Ontario in support of the Government stand on extra-billing, was defeated.

The Provincial Executive will be considering a Resolution that members in Nursing Homes be exempted from paying STO fees, on the understanding that if exempted, these members continue to enjoy full STO benefits.

As of this meeting, the issues of low pensions, and 60% survivor's pension, have not been resolved.

The ad hoc Committee on "STO and the Future" presented a number of excellent suggestions, which included membership drives, increased research into geriatrics and gerontology, greater communication with the membership, a review of the relationship between STO and OTF, and membership on the Biennial Review Committee and the Superannuation Commission.

During discussion of the Public Relations Committee, one member told of a pensioner who had never heard of STO. Mary Thomas noted that approximately 10,000 retirees are not members of STO, and that an estimated 5000 teachers will be retiring within the next three years. SENATE (Continued)

The Report from the Health Services Committee included some of the changes in our coverage, and the reasons for the increases in premiums. It was noted that total premiums collected amounted to approximately \$7 million. However, as of June 30, 1985, there was a deficit of \$634,009: which must be reduced or eliminated.

The new eight-page format of the STO NEWSLETTER will allow more space to be devoted to publishing material sent in by members. However, the NEWSLETTER will continue to be the appropriate organ for providing new and up-dated information related to STO.

(For a more detailed report of the May Senate, you should refer to your copy of FACTS AND IMPRESSIONS.)

NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICT

Our ANNUAL MEETING on Wednesday, October 15, 1986, should be just what you've always wanted: STRICTLY BUSINESS. In addition to the ELECTION OF OFFICERS, there will be the reports from Mary Thomas and Bernice McGinn (see Page 1), and reports from our Treasurer and other members of the Executive. There will also be several important items of business related to STO in general, and to District 16 in particular.

This meeting will be your opportunity to voice your opinion, ask questions, make comments, and participate in the discussions. Take advantage of it!

O yes! Coffee and tea will be available at 1:00 p.m. So, come out, meet your friends, socialize, and have a good time. Learn more about STO and our District. We'll look forward to seeing you!

The ANNUAL MEETING will include a vote on a motion to increase our fees to \$5.00. It seems that with inflation, etc., we have to inflate our treasury, in order to keep our heads above water. But really, it isn't all that bad, yet. We just have to be prepared.

Ron MacKay and John Ball will be recognized at the ANNUAL MEETING for their outstanding contribution to Club 16.

Speaking of Club 16, you should know that your \$2.00 fee paid to District 16 includes your membership in Club 16. Watch for their Bulletins! They sure have wonderful programs and activities!

Club 16's "Show of Antiques and Collectibles", co-ordinated by Jean Watson, gave our members a chance to share their treasures and hobbies. There were some forty exhibitors, showing ironware, glassware, coffee mills, shells, paintings, etc.

The "Markham-Uxbridge Heritage Tour", also sponsored by Club 16, and organized by Hank Condie, was another successful event. Highlights included the Markham Museum, Foster Memorial, Quaker Meeting House, and the Lucy Montgomery Home. Lunch was served in a century-old residence recently converted into a restaurant.

DISTRICT NEWS (Continued)

At our Executive Meeting, Al Robb paid tribute to Elizabeth Patterson and the Good Will Committee, for their excellent work on behalf of our members.

Mary Thomas is heading up a sub-committee investigating the feasibility of a one-time membership fee for District 16. Mary will be reporting to the Executive in January. However, any final decision will depend upon a vote at a General Meeting.

Our ANNUAL BREAKFAST will be held on Thursday, May 14, 1987. The Honourable Lincoln Alexander, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, has accepted an invitation to attend.

It has been suggested that a "tape" be made with Art McAdam, Vicki McNabb, and Al Sweetman talking over their experiences in forming District 16. What an excellent idea! To be sure, they must have some very interesting stories to tell. Vicki recalls that the Bank Account was opened with \$32.00. representing the 16 persons who attended the organizational meeting.

Do you have any memorabilia (notes, letters, pictures, clippings, announcements, Newsletters, minutes, etc.) related to the history of District 16? If so, gather them together, and, as soon as we have an ARCHIVIST, we'll tell you where to send the items, or how to have them picked up. Aince teachers are often accused of being "paper savers", there must be plenty of material stored in boxes, folders, trunks, etc.

Are you interested in becoming ARCHIVIST for District 16? It's an interesting and satisfying job. Just send a short note to Mike Lennox, 37 Deanfield Crescent, Islington, M9B 3B2.

The Superannuation Commission will not deduct the premiums for Johnson Insurance from our pension cheques. However, you can make arrangements to have this done through yourBank. If you are having any problems or difficulties with Johnson Insurance, write to the STO Office, or any member of our Executive.

If you know of any member who is ill, bereaved, or "shut-in", contact Elizabeth Patterson, or any member of the Good Will Committee.

Our Directory, showing the names and telephone numbers of our Executive and Committee members, is a ready reference. Keep it handy. An up-dated Directory will be sent out in the Fall.

The Executive has been exploring ways of attracting new members for District 16, and it has been suggested that a reception for new retirees be held later this Fall.

Bernice McGinn will be responding to the ad hoc Committee on "STO and the Future", providing input from District 16.

Jim Williamson was honoured at the Senate Luncheon in May for his contribution as Chairman of the Provincial Good Will Committee. Jim was presented with an STO Pin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Volunteers required for SLEEPING CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD; to work in the Developing Countries; must be able to finance own costs of travel and accommodation; for more information, contact Mr. Murray Dryden, at 231-1841.

LAWRENCE PARK COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE; 50th Anniversary Re-union; November 7 and 8; for details, call 761-5357.

FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT:

When I went to the Dry Goods' Section of the store, looking for "white duck", I was told to try "poultry". But when I said that I wanted "yard goods", the clerk sent me to "Garden Supplies".

The New Canadian thought that she was making good progress with English until she saw the headline PYGMALION SPELLED SUCCESS.

The inveterate gambler sent five dollars for a book entitled "Scientific Manipulation of the Bones". He had some shock when he received a pamphlet of Osteopathy.

After the baby was born on the front lawn of the hospital, the golfer still received a bill marked "Delivery Room Fees". But after some argument, the bill was changed to read "Green Fees".

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Date:Wednesday, October 15, 1986Time:1:30 p.m. (Coffee at 1:00 p.m.)Place:Education Centre Conference Room155 College Street, Corner McCaul.

IN MEMORIAM

John Henry Pepper Thomas Salmon Peter Haworth Elizabeth Gould Alice Thompson Mary Laviolette Frances Harrison Lynn K. Haughton Clara Lyons Margaret Wright Gladys Van Sickle Nort Heard Murray Dowson Harold Reinke Paul Mereland Ellen McKellar Norm. MacDonald Jacqueline Lacoste Homer Tuck Grace Morton