

Superannuated Teachers of Ontario

District 16 City of Toronto

President:
Mike Lennox

Editor:
Phil Hornick

Newsletter

April, 1988

Dear Friends:

Greetings and best wishes to all, and a very special welcome to our new members.

Usually, there's a dearth of material for our April Newsletter, but much has been going on at STO, and District 16, some of which must be brought to your attention, at least out of interest.

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Our political campaign on "recalculation" is still with us, even though it seems to be dormant at times. But we must keep it alive, and Mary Thomas has provided some very interesting material for us on Page 5.

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"The policy for participation in our Health Plans has had a very positive effect," according to Bill Quinn who set up the mailing campaign to inform the participants who are not members of STO.

"To date, some 65%, or 3000+ eligible retirees have joined our ranks. But we are not finished yet. Right now we're busy sorting the replies, handling the cheques, and enrolling new members... Our Volunteers have done a really terrific job...

Several people took the time to thank STO for sponsoring the Health Plans, and expressed their appreciation...Others did not seem to realize that one had to be a member of STO, and thought that participation was available and automatic for all retirees. And a few were under the impression that belonging to a District was the same as belonging to the Provincial Body...stressing the confusion that exists between District Affiliation and STO...

Unfortunately, some still considered the policy as 'mandating membership', 'railroading', and, if you'll pardon the expression, 'blackmail'. But these people must realize that the fees for belonging to STO are minimal, considering the coverages that are available through the Health Plans, as well as the other benefits that go with membership...

The STO Health Services Committee, working with the District Reps., is in the process of preparing a submission for the May Senate, with particular attention to our present plans. Several changes and modifications are under discussion..."

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Many fine comments were received following our February Meeting, and, as Mary Noylander pointed out, "It was not only pleasurable, but also nostalgic and entertaining..."

In the absence of Hilda Berry, who was ill, Betty Shields was drafted to play 'O Canada', and Carol Kerr led us in singing as if we were one of her Kiwanis Music Festival Choirs... However, although we were all in good voice, a few of us seemed to fluff the 'new' words...

Bill Quinn reported on the tremendous task initiated by the Health Services Committee. He had a group of volunteers who had to notify the non-members of STO who were participating in the Health Plans about the new policy. He paid tribute to the volunteers, and particularly Alex Jardine, who proved once again that good teachers always go that extra mile...

Mike Filey, our Guest Speaker, had two introductions. One was informal, by Molly Moore*, who was on Staff when Mike was a student at Northern, although she never taught him, as she was in Girls' Phys. Ed. The more formal introduction was given by Bernice McGinn, who really set the stage for the treat that was to come...

Mike Filey was pleased to point out teachers from Northern and John Fisher where he had been a student. His teachers could really be proud of this young man who has done so much to help preserve the history of Toronto and Ontario, as well as making it relevant to to-day's audiences. His slide presentation focussed on the evolution of transportation in Toronto, as outlined in his book 'Not a One-Horse Town'. Members were able to purchase his book after the meeting...

George Hayes thanked Mike Filey in his usual professional manner. Is George really retired?"

*Ed. Note: Mary (Molly) Moore, our Membership Convener and a former President of District 16, passed away recently. A hard-working and enthusiastic member of our Executive, Molly's activities didn't stop with "Membership", but reached into many aspects of our District, particularly Recruitment, Mailing, the May Breakfast, and Hospitality. In addition, she was never too busy to field the many telephone calls that came to her. Molly will be sadly missed, not only as a key member of our Executive, but as a truly fine person.

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"The Teachers' Superannuation Fund is big business," wrote Ron Poste, a member of the Superannuation Commission.

"There are currently 140,000 active contributors, at least 170,000 former contributors who are not in receipt of a pension, and 30,000 pensioners. The number of pensioners is expected to double over the next fifteen years..."

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Our Executive Meetings have been interesting, but mostly with "housekeeping" items at this time of year. However, we do have some matters to bring to your attention: -

* We regret to report that Elizabeth Patterson, our Good Will Convener, has been forced to give up this very important role. Elizabeth has done an outstanding job these many years, and her efforts have been appreciated by so many people. Elizabeth, thank you for a job well done, and best wishes from all of us!

* Mel McLean, assisted by his good wife Enid, will be carrying on as Good Will Convener. If you know of any member who is ill, bereaved, "shut-in", or in need of assistance, contact Mel at 233-4256. Note this number.

* The "Entertainment" portion of our Annual Breakfast will be different this year. Instead of a Guest Speaker, we will be having a "String Ensemble", made up of pupils from two elementary schools, under the direction of Don Wasilenko. This departure from our usual practice should allow more time for socializing, something many members have requested.

* Several members will be recognized at the Annual Breakfast for their service to District 16.

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* Club 16's planned Field Trip looks interesting. If you have been on any of these outings, you know what a treat is in store for you. Hank Condie always does a terrific job of organizing and arranging these trips.

* The next Senate will be held at the Westbury Hotel in Toronto, on May 24 and 25. Mike Lennox will be our Senator, with Bernice McGinn as "official" Observer. Other Observers will include June Assad, Cecilia Dineen, and Mary Noylander. (Al Robb and Mary Thomas will also attend, Al in his capacity of 1st V.P. of STO, and Mary as Chairpers on of the STO PR Committee.)

* Plans are being made for Mike Lennox and Wilson Brooks to attend the Retirement Counselling Seminars, in order to bring STO to the attention of new retirees. But it's still important that we all do our part to recruit new members.

* It is hoped that a Health Insurance Seminar can be arranged for the not too distant future.

* Mary Noylander will be taking over as Editor of our Newsletter, replacing Phil Hornick who is retiring. Mary may be reached at 485-9895. Or, if you have any material, send it to her at 45 Dunfield Avenue, Apt. 1206, Toronto, M4B 2H4.

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* Many thanks to Betty Chandorkar who is taking over as MEMBERSHIP CONVENER. She may be contacted at 622-1863
Thank you Betty!

In the absence of a MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT, Mike Lennox has supplied the following two items:

- o Do you want to work with youngsters again, and become part of an exciting and creative project? PRIME MENTORS OF CANADA is a program designed to use the skills and talents of the senior members of our community to enhance the development of creative children and youth who are not in a school "gifted" program. In this program, each student is paired with a senior "mentor" who shares a similar interest, to design, develop, and complete a project.

Minimum time involved: 2 hours per week
Minimum contracted time: 6 weeks with a student
Age of students: Approximately 9-18 (Grades 4-12)

In the first year, we will be working with elementary students only. For further information, call Mike Lennox, at 621-6797, or drop him a note to 37 Deanefield Cres., Islington, M9B 3B2.

- o JUMP ROPE FOR HEART is a learning experience that combines all the elements of motivation, participation, individualism, challenge, and creativity. Students learn sound values and good habits that last a lifetime, as well as the avoidable risks of cardio-vascular disease when the knowledge can have an impact upon their choice of lifestyles. Skipping is introduced as part of the Phys. Ed. program, and also as a warm-up for other Phys. Ed. activities. To culminate the activity, schools schedule a JUMP ROPE FOR HEART event with teams of 3-6 students demonstrating their skills and obtaining pledges from family, friends, etc. Training is provided for volunteers, and the work is not too time-consuming. If you are interested, contact Kim Rae at 962-3600 for further details.

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This request for volunteers also merits your attention:

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND: RECORDING STUDIO is in need of volunteers to assist with the recording of texts for visually handicapped students. Expertise in French, Foreign Languages, Mathematics, Economics, and Computer Science is very much in demand. Training is provided. If you are interested, contact the Volunteer Department of the C.N.I.B. to arrange for an interview and audition.

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A N N U A L B R E A K F A S T

Date: Thursday, May 14, 1988

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place: Royal York Hotel.

BEST FIVE PENSIONS ALL TEACHERS

BEST FIVE PENSIONS for all teachers is the prime objective of the Superannuated Teachers of Ontario (Senate 10-11-87). Teachers who retired after May 1982 receive pensions based on best five years. Teachers who retired before May, 1982 receive pensions based on best seven years and, in a few cases, best ten years. A substantial amount of the Teachers' Superannuation Fund (TSF) stems from contributions made to the fund before 1982 and interest generated from those contributions. That interest is approximately four times the amount now being paid out in teacher benefits. Many of the TSF investments are in twenty and twenty-five year bonds purchased years ago.

The policy of the Ontario Teachers' Federation is that all teachers should be treated equally. In 1986, the cost of BEST FIVE was stated to be \$65,000,000. (Hansard 5-11-86). Today, due to deaths, it would cost \$50,000,000. Our fund is a large fund. Total assets June 30, 1986 were \$9.95 billion. Hansard (5-11-86) records that by 1990, all the borrowing our Ontario government would have to do, could be completely satisfied by borrowing from our pension fund.

REMEMBER - THE PRE 1982 RETIREES ARE THE ONLY RETIREES (TEACHING OR GOVERNMENT) NOT RECEIVING EQUITY - BEST FIVE PENSIONS

<p align="center">GROUP A</p> <p align="center">Retired before 1976</p> <p align="center"><u>Improvements</u></p> <p>April 1987 - Regulation 156</p> <p>Lowest pensions recalculated</p> <p>Pensions calculated on best seven or ten years.</p>	<p align="center">GROUP B</p> <p align="center">Retired 1976 to 1982</p> <p align="center"><u>Improvements</u></p> <p align="center">NONE</p> <p align="center">Pensions remain calculated on best seven years.</p>	<p align="center">GROUP C</p> <p align="center">Retired after 1982</p> <p align="center"><u>Improvements</u></p> <p>May, 1982 - Bill 148</p> <p align="center">- Pensions based on best five years</p> <p>May, 1986 - Bill 103 (The Window)</p> <p align="center">- Pensions calculated without penalty if 55 and 10 years' teaching</p> <p align="center">- May 31, 1986 to Sept., 1989</p> <p>May, 1987 - Bill 55</p> <p align="center">- Pensions calculated after 35 years without penalty if less than 65</p> <p align="center">- May 31, 1987 to Sept. 1, 1990</p>
<p>This chart clearly shows the inequities.</p> <p>We ask for fair and equal treatment.</p> <p>We ask that all teachers who retired before 1982 receive the same benefits as those who retired after 1982.</p> <p align="center">BEST FIVE FOR ALL. EQUITY FOR ALL.</p>		

Interview, phone or write your M.P.P. for support. Ask your affiliate, OSSTF, FWIAO, etc. to intercede for STO during negotiations. Leave the top of this sheet after the interview.

Mary Thomas - District 16

COMING EVENTS

- * Queen Victoria Public School: 100th Anniversary Celebration; Saturday, May 28, 1988; 1:00-5:00 p.m. OPEN HOUSE.
- * Dovercourt Public Schools: 100th Anniversary Celebration; Saturday, May 14, 1988; 12:00-4:30 p.m. OPEN HOUSE.
- * Deer Park Public School: 100th Anniversary Celebration; Week of May 1, 1988. Call 393-1550 for details.
- * Toronto Normal School: Class of 1935-36; Reunion to be held at Thornhill Country Club, 7994 Yonge Street, near Highway 7, on Sunday, May 29, 1988, at 12:00 noon. Contact Bill McCordic, General Delivery, Port Franks, Ontario, NOM 2L0

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This space had originally contained reference to the Coward Report and Rowan Report which included recommendations to the pension and inflation indexing plans for teachers and public servants. However, since you have now received summaries from the Teachers' Superannuation Policy Unit, and a letter from the Minister of Education, dated February, 1988, my original material has been deleted.

In order to allay fears that changes may affect our pensions and indexing, a statement from the Minister of Education is repeated:

"...changes that result from the review of pension plans will not affect pensions or adjustment benefits for which credit has been accumulated. Nor will any....changes affect the pension or adjustment benefits that are being paid currently to retired plan members. Retirees will continue to be paid in accordance with the formula in the legislation that now governs their pension and adjustment benefits."

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On a more personal note, this Newsletter represents my final effort as Editor, keeping to my promise of a "three-year term only." The work has been a "labour of love", and one of the more interesting activities during my retirement. Moreover, it has brought me into contact with some wonderful people on the Executive, and also the general membership. Good luck and best wishes to all.

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IN MEMORIAM

Audrey Goldfinch
Lou Perrin
Enid Dalby
Mary (Molly) Moore
Harold Cook
Eleanor M. Howard
Jack B. Urie

Lawrence Drake
Howard Bean
John McKellar
Margaret Kennedy
Stella Sharpley
Wilfred George Doidge

Thomas Evans
Byron Brown
Reta Van Wessel
Isabelle Whitley
Wm. Earl Chantler
Mary Black