

STO/ERO

16

SUPERANNUATED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO  
Les Enseignants Retraites de L'Ontario

DISTRICT 16  
CITY OF TORONTO

**President:** Ron Batchelor 491-4742

**Newsletter Editor:** Ruth Lindsay 491-9947

May 1997

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone,

We arranged for Margaret Wilson, of the College of Teachers, to speak at the May 8th Luncheon at the Royal York Hotel. She explained the new regulations re: certification that may impact on STO/ERO members. As well, Bob Breens, from the Pension Plan Board, highlighted the recent changes that may influence us.

The provincial STO/ERO Spring Senate will meet on May 27th and 28th and Pat Carson and I shall be attending.

The March 6th meeting, regarding restructuring of the provincial STO/ERO was successful but the final report will not be available until after the May Senate.

Well, golf courses and gardens are uppermost in people's minds, and isn't it great not to have to put on boots and parkas?

Something has been swirling around in my mind and that is what a great bunch of folks you have working for you on the executive of District 16. It certainly has made my job very pleasant, when everyone is so willing and good-humoured in getting the job done. On your behalf, I thank them most sincerely.

Health and happiness to you and yours.

**Ron Batchelor**

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, June 12	- Executive Meeting
Thursday, September 11	- Executive Meeting
Thursday, September 18	- Newsletter Mailing
Tuesday, October 7	- Fall Luncheon

### POINTS TO PONDER

**Remember:** *People do not stop doing things because they get older; they get older because they stop doing things.*

## PENSION INFORMATION

### Pension Entitlement Reviews

If you know of any member who **HAS RECEIVED** a lump sum from the Pension Board, please ask that person to contact Executive Director Pascal LaRouche at the provincial office (416) 962-9463.

What follows is a reprint from the Provincial Updater of March '97:

### **Pension Entitlement Reviews**

We know that over 18,000 members of the Teachers' Pension Plan received lump sum payments in the current phase of the review. Over 170 of our members have contacted us to date with their concerns. Thank you for helping spread the word. Please continue to do so. Almost all of these payments have been high (some as high as \$161,000) and all have had severe negative consequences for the retirees and their families.

We have also learned that in early January this year many (over 5,000?) teacher pensioners were denied the opportunity to contribute their lump sums to RRSPs as a result of a banking error by the Teachers' Pension Plan Board. This would have applied to retirees under the age of 68 who had their lump sums deposited in their bank accounts rather than being given the opportunity to contribute to an RRSP.

Members of STO/ERO who were affected by this error are encouraged to provide details to Pascal LaRouche, Executive Director.

**The Provincial Executive has established an Executive Ad Hoc Committee with assistance from members of the Pension Concerns Committee to develop a strategy to assist all members who have been affected.**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

We've had a wonderful response and are now 1,206 members strong.

Welcome to our newest '96-'97 Retirees:

**Judith Ginou, Don Irwin, Joan Nodwell and Mary Saunders**

OUR APPLICATION for '97-'98 is enclosed.

Please fill it in and send it in with your cheque as soon as possible.

### BOOK SALE

Once again, the **Friends of Sesqui** (the Museum and Archives of the Toronto Board) are preparing for their **Annual Book Sale** in **October**. If you have any books, magazines, records or tapes you would like to donate, please call Arlene Freeman at (416) 630-3672. We will be happy to pick up any donations.

## TORAH TO TEXTBOOK IN TORONTO

SUMMER EXHIBIT 1997

Torah to Textbook in Toronto Exhibit sponsored by the **Friends of the Sesquicentennial Museum** will take place from **May 29 to September 30, 1997** at the **Toronto Board of Education**, 155 College St. This exhibit will focus on the Jewish community in the city of Toronto and its contributions to education from the 1800's to the present.

## A 'PET' PROJECT

The March edition of Homemaker's Magazine featured an article on **Frank Miller** and his pet project. He was also interviewed on the Discovery Channel about the same time.

Frank was a principal in Toronto who retired from Winchester School.

We asked Frank to send us an outline of what this project involved, and the following is his reply:

Every Monday and Tuesday evening I, along with Blue, head down to the Hospital for Sick Children to visit the Cardiac Ward (Monday), and the Orthopaedic Ward (Tuesday).

Blue is a very large male Golden Retriever. He is extremely friendly and he thoroughly enjoys the visits - almost as much as the children, their parents (who are always present), and the nurses on the wards.

The program is called **Pet Therapy** and is sponsored by St. John Ambulance. The upbeat atmosphere at H.S.C. and the warm reception we receive from the staff make the visits very rewarding.

The parents and children have long days and the visits provide them with a rather unique and welcome change of pace. It has been stated that petting and playing with a friendly dog such as Blue is not only enjoyable but it can also be therapeutic. The smiles on the faces of the children tend to bear this out. At H.S.C. a polaroid picture of the child and Blue is given to the child as a memento of the visit.

The Pet Therapy Program involves hundreds of pets and their owners across the province and the visits take place in hospitals, retirement homes and nursing homes. If you are interested in getting involved, contact your local branch of St. John Ambulance.

## MISSISSAUGA YOUTH THEATRE

### **\*\*VOLUNTEERS NEEDED \*\***

**Do you have a love of theatre and an interest in helping young people reach their full potential?** Then, the Mississauga Youth Theatre (MYT) may be just the type of organization that can use your talents.

MYT gives young people between seven and twenty-five the chance to perform on stage in professional productions at the Meadowvale and Burnhamthorpe Library Theatres.

Talent scouts are often in the audience along with parents and grandparents. One young MYT performer ended up starring as the ten-year-old Tommy in the recent touring production of the rock musical.

Bill Shelsen, the Chair of MYT states: **they have a desperate need for volunteers to manage productions, handle ticket sales and publicity and help with the administration.** We know that there are teachers who have retired but still have enthusiasm and drive. There are young graduates looking for an experience in theatrical productions. We need help to reach them.

**If you think MYT could use your talents, please call 905-949-6499.**

## RECORDER GROUP

Why not take your recorder out of storage, dust it off, and get together with your fellow retirees for regular sessions of leisure playing? Professional standards are not required. This is strictly for fun. Descants (sopranos), trebles (altos), tenors and basses are all welcome.

### **CLUB SIXTEEN**

Club Sixteen has had another successful season. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who contributed their time and expertise to our many activities this year.

**Special thanks** go to our activity convenors who are listed below:

**Anne Fraser** - Hospitality & Refreshments

**John Lane** - Bridge

**Hank Condle** - Day Trips

**John Botterell** - Cultural Art Excursions

**Nell Godfrey** - Crafts

**Val Fiedler** - Travelogues

**Jack DeGroot** - Day Trips

Anyone who is a member of District 16 STO/ERO is automatically a member of Club Sixteen. Watch for programme announcements in the September Newsletter and plan to join our activities next season.

*John Terry, Co-ordinator of Club Sixteen*

### **TRAVEL**

If you have a travelogue you would like to present during our '97-'98 season, please call Val Fiedler at (416) 510-1861.

We have an appreciative audience for you.

### **3RD ANNUAL "SCREW THE BELL" GOLF TOURNEY**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd - 10:00 am (School Bell Start)**

**HARBOUR VIEW GOLF CLUB** - Gilford, Ontario

(35 minutes north of 400 & 401 or 404 & 401)

**84 of our members played last year and we hope there will be more this year.**

**For an application form phone:**

**J. Christle (416) 481-9475 or John DeGraaf (905) 624-9575. Apply before June 30th.**

### **DAY TRIP**

Welcome aboard the **Royal Mail Ship Segwun!** By popular demand, this magical Luncheon Cruise on beautiful Lake Muskoka has been planned for **Wednesday, October 1**. Come and enjoy the spectacular Fall colours along the splendid shorelines of the Muskoka Lakes. Lunch is served in the Royal Muskoka Salon with its warm gumwood panelling and panoramic view. Before or after your meal, enjoy a leisurely refreshment in the Nipissing Lounge or watch this Victorian vessel glide through the water with graceful tranquillity from a quiet vantage point on deck.

Immediately before the Cruise you will have an opportunity to browse a local antique shop or stroll through Sagamo Park taking in the sights and smells of the Gravenhurst Farmer's Market.

**Date: Wednesday, October 1, 1997**

**Departure: 8:30 am Return: 5:00 pm (Yorkdale Mall)**

**Cost: \$50.00 (includes transportation, lunch and cruise)**

**CALL Jack DeGroot now at (416) 691-3046 to reserve your place.**

**Don't be disappointed.**

When confirmed, send your cheque, payable to Club 16 - STO:

c/o 19 Elmview Drive, Scarborough, Ontario M1N 2W3.

## ON THE CANALS AND RIVERS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Did you ever think that you might like to float through the countryside of England and Wales? David Legget and his wife, Carole, have been doing it since they spent a year on exchange in England. The Leggets went from renting to sharing to owning their own narrowboat. The boats are only six feet ten inches wide. Now that they are both retired they plan to spend at least six months of the year on their boat "Legacy" - in between the births of grandchildren.

David, who will be remembered for his prowess at training and leading school orchestras and choirs gave a most pleasing and interesting talk along with his slides at Club Sixteen in March. Those who attended the afternoon enjoyed not only David's presentation but also meeting friends and other retirees. It was a delightful way to spend an afternoon.

### SENIOR CITIZENS BEWARE!

***"Scam artists don't just rob people of money. They take a heavy toll on the nerves and emotions."*** (The Toronto Star, November 23, 1996) Seniors must learn to be more assertive, to be more aware. For personal security at home, in the car, in public transit and on the street use common sense. Fraud is directed at senior citizens because they are often more vulnerable.

Do not be conned by:

- 1) the **Phony Bank Inspector**. Banks or Trust Companies do not use these means for investigative purposes. If this happens to you call the police immediately.
- 2) the **Home Repair Person**. A free inspection is offered followed by an invoice for major repair work that needs immediate attention. (All that is needed is cash in advance!) Get several estimates before signing any contract. Do not pay in advance.
- 3) the **Service Person** wanting to check phone lines, gas lines, etc. Do **not** open the door to strangers. Call and verify the information.
- 4) **Phony Charities**. A common trick is to use a name similar to a well-known charity. Before donating money ask for the identification of the charity and of the solicitor. All legitimate charities are registered.
- 5) the **Telephone Scheme Fraud**. Do not provide any personal information over the phone.
- 6) the **Free Trip/Prize Scam**. Do not pay any servicing for ~~or tax~~ in order to collect a prize. (Real prizes are free)
- 7) the **Tow Truck Operator**. If involved in an accident, have the car towed to a garage of your choice.

### Call for Help

**Metro Police 324-2222**

**Advocacy Centre for the Elderly 487-7157**

We wish to thank **P.C. Dennis Dupuis** of the Crime Prevention Unit, 53 Division, Metropolitan Toronto Police for his assistance with this article.

**BE ALERT. DO NOT TAKE ANY UNNECESSARY CHANCES.**

A TEACHER'S PRAYER

I want to teach  
my students more  
than lessons in a book;

How to live  
and learn each day  
and grow up to be strong;

I want to teach them  
deeper things  
that people overlook -

To teach them always  
how to give  
in wisdom and in grace

The value of  
a rose in bloom  
its use and beauty too.

So they will some day  
make the world  
a brighter, better place.

A sense of curiosity  
to discover  
what is true;

Lord let me be  
a friend and guide  
to give these minds a start

How to think  
and how to choose  
the right above the wrong,

Upon their way  
down life's long road,  
then I'll have done  
my part.

*Jill Wolf*

IN MEMORIAM

**STO/ERO District 16 extends condolences to families, friends and colleagues of those deceased. May we, together, share in the mourning of the loss and in the celebration of service rendered.**

**Gladys Mildred Airth**

**Hazel Faulkner**

**Stewart O'Keefe**

**Dorothy Harriet Bennett**

**Hazel Fraser**

**Howard Rapson**

**Lilian J. Bennett**

**Phil Green**

**Margaret (Teskey) Sager**

**Kathleen M. Bigley**

**Wallace Wayne King**

**Margaret E. Sims**

**Edith M. Brown**

**Robert Seth Kingsley**

**Helen Van Loon**

**Annabel Browne**

**Ronald R. Maedel**

**Sylvia Wheeldon**

**Ruby Canning**

**Bea Mawson**

**Evelyn Whitton**

**Barbara Douglas**

**Dora W. McLeod**

**Florence Wood**

**Victoria McNabb**