



President: Bill Tajer 494-8590      Newsletter Editor: Mary Noylander 516-6844

MAY 1999

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Congratulations to all our members who sent in their post cards/letters to Premier Mike Harris requesting that RTO/ERO have representation on the Partners' Committee and Pension Negotiations Committee. The response has been overwhelming! By mid-April over 21,000 post cards have been received. The Executive of RTO/ERO are preparing to submit these to the elected provincial government as the opportunity arises.

All of the changes in education, e.g. secondary school reform, new report cards, new funding models, I.E.P.'s and not to mention "proposed teacher testing", make one appreciate retirement. Can you imagine going to summer school for remedial skill/curriculum development?

At this spring **Senate** our District will be represented by **Ron Halford, Bob Neal, Pat Carson** and **Bill Tajer**. As usual, there is a full agenda that will focus on the achievements of the various committees and proposed future business related to the issues of pensions, health and education.

If you know of any **colleagues who are retiring** at the end of the school year and **have not received an information package** from RTO/ERO, **please have them call 962-9463**.

A **special tribute** to **Anne Fraser, Kay Jeffery, Ron Halford, Bob Putnam** and their **colleagues** who planned our **Annual Spring Luncheon**, which was attended by over 130 members at the Old Mill on May 4<sup>th</sup>. The entertainment provided by pianist **Becky Windhager**, story-teller **Lorne Brown** and the presentations by **Harold Brathwaite**, Director of Education, Peel DSB and **Jim Baker**, President of RTO/ERO made for a full afternoon of enjoyment and good company. **Hope to see you at the Fall Luncheon in October.**

**Congratulations** to **Arlene Freeman, Ian Baird, Torry Henderson** and **Art Bussey** who were honoured with a **Certificate of Merit** for their many years of outstanding work on the Executive of RTO/ERO - District 16. Their support over the years to the members of District 16 truly reflects our motto "**Service to Others**".

Some of our Executive will be "retiring" after many years of active service. Here's **your chance to become involved** to the extent that you wish, either as a member-at-large, a member of the Executive or a member of one of the various committees. If you enjoy working with an active group of peers, with an interest in issues and activities supported by our organization, **please contact Pat Carson at 626-5995**.

From all of the Executive, best wishes for a great summer — whatever your plans!

*Bill Tajer, President*

<b><u>DATES TO REMEMBER</u></b>	
<b>Executive Meetings</b>	<b>Thursday, June 10</b>
<b>Golf Tournament</b>	<b>Thursday, September 9</b>
<b>Mailing</b>	<b>Tuesday, September 7</b>
<b>Luncheon and Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Thursday, September 16</b>
<b>Stratford Festival</b>	<b>Wednesday, October 20</b>
	<b>Friday, October 22</b>

**CLUB SIXTEEN**  
Convenor: Val Fiedler

Each of our activity groups experienced growth in membership and happy times together. I would like to thank the convenors listed below:

**Anne Fraser.....Hospitality and Refreshments.....**Always a cheery welcome!

**John Lane.....**Invites new members to play **Bridge**. They play progressive, not duplicate, bridge.  
Call John at 486-0697 if interested.

**Nell Godfrey.....Crafts:** knitting, crochet, origami, needlecraft. All members bring their own creative project to our intimate setting.

**Rachele (Kelly) Todesco and Brenda Wilson.....**have begun the **Movie Club**. Next season, they will enjoy their social time, after the movie, at a local restaurant. Call Kelly at 693-0126 or Brenda at 482-2853 for details.

**Jack DeGroot.....Day Trips.** Jack helps us "get away" for exciting adventures. Be sure to book early. Watch the Newsletter for arrangements and dates.

**Val Fiedler.....Travelogues.** It is my pleasure to convene this delightful afternoon when we share the experiences of our traveling colleagues. If you would like to make a presentation in 1999-2000, please call 510-1861.

**Lyda Dmytriw and Joan Johnston.....Book Club.** Lyda and Joan appreciate the commitment and sociability shared by members of this group. Selections are chosen by the group and range from modern novels to non-fiction. Books to be enjoyed in upcoming meetings:

**September - *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt**

**October - *Tara Road* by Maeve Binchy**

**November - *Possession* by A.S. Byatt**

Call Lyda at 694-1529 or Joan at 691-5368 for information about meetings.

**TRAVEL FOR CLUB SIXTEEN MEMBERS**

Day trips continue to be very popular and all trips announced in the January Newsletter were fully booked in a short time.

Occasionally I am asked about extended trips within Canada or beyond. These are much more difficult to plan and require the expertise of Tour Operators. If a "no-worry" vacation designed to fit your interests is in your plans, don't hesitate to call 229-4711. Travel Guild Inc. has been providing teachers with excellent vacations for 27 years.

**Jack DeGroot**

**BOOK SALE**

Once again, the **Friends of Sesqui** (the Museum and Archives of the Toronto Board) are preparing for their **Annual Book Sale** on **October 19, 20 & 21**. If you have any **books, magazines, records or tapes** you would like to **donate**, please call **Arlene Freeman** at **630-3672** to arrange to have the books **picked up**. For easier handling it would be appreciated if the items could be put into bags – not boxes.

## **SPRING LUNCHEON REPORT**

The Old Mill was the venue for a delightful gathering of District 16 members on May 4 between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

The social hour prior to lunch provided ample time to reconnect with old friends, share anecdotes about our diverse retirement activities, brag about grandchildren, acquire travel tips on places to go and the cheapest way to get there, as well as sort out where to sit and with whom to sit down for a fine meal.

Provincial President Baker spoke briefly at the first course break during the meal, therein giving us some hope that we are making a little progress toward partner status with OTF and the government; in oversight and development of plans for the pension capital we generated during our working years.

Guest speaker Harold Brathwaite, Director of the Peel DSB, and formerly Associate Director of Toronto, very ably filled the interlude prior to dessert by using humour and sensitivity to inform us about students of today.

He highlighted some of their creative, socially conscious ideas, achievements, and contributions, showing their desire to be responsible young Canadians; reminding us that schools are still really about kids and that they can indeed inspire hope for the future.

After we had our tiramisu, story-teller Lorne Brown entertained us most effectively with folk tales and songs of both Canadian and American origin.

Congratulations to all who assisted with these fine arrangements. We look forward with relish to the next Luncheon on October 20, an event you definitely should not miss.

## **PRESIDENT JIM BAKER ACKNOWLEDGES THRONE SPEECH ANNOUNCEMENT**

Jim Baker was anxious to let the government know RTO/ERO's feelings about the announcement in the Speech from the Throne. Here is the text of his letter to Premier Mike Harris.

Dear Honourable Michael Harris:

On behalf of the over 41,000 retired teachers who are members of The Retired Teachers of Ontario/les enseignantes et enseignants retraités de l'Ontario (RTO/ERO) allow me to acknowledge, with gratitude, the tremendous commitment made by your government in yesterday's Speech from the Throne.

For several years, RTO/ERO has been advocating for a more direct voice over decisions related to the pension plan in which its members have invested their retirement savings.

Our members, their spouses and families are greatly encouraged by this initiative. We look forward to working with your government and the officials of the Ontario Teachers' Federation. We believe that the direct participation of retired educators in the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan will prove to be effective.

### **LOBBYISTS IMPRESSED**

Before the Speech from the Throne was even finished, RTO/ERO was receiving complimentary calls from political lobby firms who had heard of our card campaign. One said, "I hope that RTO/ERO realizes just what a tremendous achievement this is (to get a specific promise in the Throne Speech). This is one of the most public commitments that a government can give to undertake a promised action. The fact that it appeared in a Throne Speech guarantees that the item is on THE list of action items for the government to do."

### **MEDIA CONTACT RTO/ERO**

"Who are you people and how did you get the government to promise this?" questions from media to this effect came while the speech was underway. The government provides media with advance copies of speeches such as the Throne Speech in a "lock-up" before it is presented in Legislature. The Lieutenant-Governor had not yet read our "good news", when the media started to call asking who we were and what this might mean for retired members of the Ontario Teachers' Plan. Jim Baker explained that we were seeking to have a more meaningful and effective say over what happens to our retirement savings invested in the Teachers' Pension Plan. All seemed impressed that we were able to achieve that level of support for our card campaign.

We were also asked to give examples of how RTO/ERO would push to see that pension fund income is used to improve the lot of Plan members.

**Source: April RTO/ERO District Updater**

**PLEASE NOTE: As of this month, the new address for RTO/ERO will be:  
18 Spadina Road, Suite 300, Toronto, Ontario M5R 2S7**

**MEMBERSHIP**

In the March mailing we sent out 2,657 NEWSLETTERS! It is very important to notify Diane Vezeau of RTO/ERO Head Office at **962-9463** and **Val Fiedler** at **510-1861**, in order to continue uninterrupted service, if you are moving!

A **SURVEY SHEET**, to receive **input from members** as to their **needs and interests** in regard to membership in RTO/ERO, is enclosed. **Please fill it out and return as soon as possible.**

**REMINDER GOLFERS**

The **Fifth Annual "SCREW the BELL" Golf Tourney** will be held again at the **HARBOUR VIEW GOLF CLUB** on **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1999.**

**Cost: \$40.00 (includes green fee, burger lunch and prizes)**  
**Tee Time: 10:00 a.m.**

So.....contact your golfing buddies, make up foursomes, threesomes, pairs or come as a single.  
**Send deposit cheques to Jim or John for \$20 per golfer.**

Jim Christie  
705-487-2456  
109 Lakeshore Rd. E.  
Oro Station, ON  
L0L 2E0

John Degraaf  
905-624-9575  
1504 Thorndyke Cr.  
Mississauga, ON  
L4X 1R3

**IN MEMORIAM**

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

**Edward P. Arato  
Elsie M. Bartlett  
William Gordon Downward  
Henry Peter Gauthier  
Warren A. Herron  
Marie Hlavacek  
Jenny Elva Lee  
Mary McGillivray  
Sarah Isabel McLellan  
Arthur H. Middleton**

**Ethelbert R. Niles  
Evelyn M. Paterson  
Jaromir Petricek  
Margaret Price  
Mary Dorothy Simpson-Ray  
Claude Robert Stevens  
Jean Redford  
Kate Mary Taylor  
Mildred Anna Tibbles  
Dorothy Louise Wildish**