

STONY BRIDGES

A NEWSLETTER FOR RTO/ERO DISTRICT 23, NORTH YORK

Issue Number 78

December 2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by David Fleming

What an exciting autumn season we have had in District 23! The number of activities we have enjoyed and continue to enjoy is remarkable and a great tribute to the hard working Executive members and numerous other volunteers. Starting with Bridge on September 2nd, the earliest starting date ever, the activities have continued at the rate of almost two per week ever since.

MEETINGS AND SOCIALS

Mildred Frank has been responsible for organizing the Annual General Meeting, September 9th, the Champaign Breakfast, September 23 and is currently planning the Christmas Luncheon at the Granite Club, Friday, December 5th. Both the AGM and the Champagne Breakfast were well attended.

At the Annual General Meeting, our guest speaker, Geoff Arnold, a former President of our District, gave us

~ See PRESIDENT/page 4

COMING EVENTS

Murder Mystery at The Old Mill

Wednesday January 28, 2004

~ Page 21

Art Gallery Of Ontario and The Grange

Thursday, February 12, 2004

~ Page 22

Ontario Science Centre

Thursday, March 25, 2004

~ Page 23

Bridge

Tuesdays: January 13, 20, 27; February 10, 17, 24; March 9, 16, 23, 30.

~ Page 8

Travelogues

Tuesdays: January 6, February 3, March 2

~ Page 24



Stony Bridges welcomes submissions from members. Please include name, address and telephone number (for identification only) and some past and present biographical information (for publication) Pictures are also welcome. We reserve the right to edit, condense or reject letters or submissions. Send them to:

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No Newsletter?

If you are a member of RTO/ERO, District 23 North York or any other RTO/ERO District, call George Meek at 416-226-3568.

If you are not a member of RTO/ERO, then you will need to join to receive a newsletter. Call RTO/ERO provincial office at 416-962-9463, then call George Meek.

Change of Address

Please use the form found on the end page of this newsletter to notify us of your new address.

Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is February 11, 2004.

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Calendar of Events

December

2	Travelogue	1:30
3	Niagara Casino	Cancelled
5	Christmas Luncheon	11.00 a.m.
9	Bridge	1:00
10	Executive Meeting	9:15 a.m.
16	Bridge	1:00
23	Bridge	1:00

January

6	Travelogue	1.30
14	Executive Meeting	9:15 a.m.
13	Bridge	1:00
20	Bridge	1:00
27	Bridge	1.00
28	Murder Mystery	11.30 a.m.

February

3	Travelogue	1:30
10	Bridge	1:00
11	Executive meeting	9:15 a.m.
12	Art gallery	10.30 a.m.
17	Bridge	1:00
24	Bridge	1:00

March

2	Travelogue	1:30
9	Bridge	1:00
10	Executive meeting	9:15 a.m.
16	Bridge	1:00
23	Bridge	1:00
25	Science Centre	10.30 a.m.
30	Bridge	1.00

EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Readers:

In this edition, we have a new activity to draw to your attention – a first ever golf tournament. And I have no doubt that it will be hugely popular because golf seems to be so hugely popular.

I admit to being a little mystified by that, and I come from a golfing family yet am not really a golfer. I have all the gear, and I will play from time to time but I cannot escape from my mother's admonitions on the golf course, the most memorable one being, "For goodness sake, Robbie, if you can't play well, at least play fast." So at the first sign of trouble, I still hear that old familiar rebuke and my concentration disappears. Then all I want to do is to finish as fast as I can, so my mother won't yell at me. Isn't it ridiculous? But for those of you less intimidated by your mother's ghost, the *First Ever Golf Tournament* will be wonderful fun for

you. (Page 20)

Appearing again in this edition, we have Al Strike's *Chalk Dust Memories*, some poetry from Jim Treiving and Carole Martyn, a book review of Priscilla Galloway's new book, *Bridge scores, Travelogues*, a report from *Habitat For Humanity* and *Excursions*, Convenor reports on *Membership, Health and Good Will Services*.

Now, here is a chance that you don't get every day. Somebody out there needs to pay special attention to the appeal for an Assistant Convenor of Membership. (page 7) This is a great job for somebody, and you know who you are, so jump at it! Call anyone you like but do not delay.

Finally, everyone: please read about the new developments in health insurance coverage that are outlined in *The Health Services Report (Page 10)*, especially the issue of rising premium rates for retired teachers who are still

members of the TDSB health plans. These are significant increases, but you need to weigh the premium cost against the benefits received before making any changes.

For example, my family has done an assessment of our requirements, and because of perpetual drug needs, the TDSB could double the premiums, even triple them and we would still have to pay them, until age 65. But that would not be true for everyone so do your own math. And by the way, if you know someone retired who, as yet, does not know of the RTO/ERO Health Plans, tell him or her for goodness sake.

If you have something to submit for the next issue, please send it to me by February 11, 2004. My addresses are on page two.

Sincerely,

Rob Fraser



This picture was taken at the Champagne Breakfast. Unhappily, I did not get the names of these smiling retirees, but I am happy to see them reading STONY Bridges.

~ President/continued from page 1

some valuable tips on how to stay young at heart and maintain good mental and physical health.

The Champagne Breakfast provided an excellent opportunity for many recently retired teachers to partake of a "sparkling" breakfast and learn much about the variety of activities available to them. We are anticipating another delightful Christmas Luncheon, December 5th.

TRAVEL

Audrey Cousins and Doug Tallon have worked together to provide us with exciting trips and entertainment. The trip to Stratford to see "The King and I", September 17th was fully booked and a great performance. A very exciting Grand River Cruise on September 25th, followed this. Then on October 1st, Doug acted as guide for a superb tour of the historic Elgin and Winter Garden Theatres, followed by the delightful stage performance of "2 Pianos 4 Hands". October 30th marked the occasion of betting on fast horses at Woodbine. We await two other events - the Museum Walking Tour on November 13th. A planned trip to Niagara Casino on December 3rd was cancelled due to low enrolment.

SPEAKERS' LUNCHEONS

We introduced a new venture this fall, a Speaker's Luncheon. held at the Moonlight Ballroom on October 21. It was a resounding success. Doug Tallon spoke on the topic "Inexpensive Entertainment in Toronto".

Thank you to Beverley Wood and several Executive members who helped to make this luncheon memorable. A similar luncheon is being planned for April 20th, 2004, so do plan on attending. More information in the next issue of "STONY Bridges".

WILLOWDALE TUESDAYS

Willowdale United Church is a very busy place, Tuesday afternoons, with forty to fifty retired teachers participating in Travelogues on the first Tuesday of each month and Bridge on subsequent Tuesdays. The Travelogues are very popular, and this fall, we have had two stimulating presentations: "Egypt and a Nile River Cruise" on October 7th with Suzanne Southon and "Amazon, Galapagos and the Andes" with our Past President, Andree Nottage on November 4th.

SENATE: OCTOBER 20-22

The meetings of the Senate of RTO/ERO occurred October 20-22. The Senate provides an opportunity for representatives of each of the 43 districts in the province to meet, receive reports from the RTO/ERO Executive and Provincial Committee Chairs, elect a new slate of officers, debate motions and ratify the budget for the forthcoming year. It affords senators and observers an opportunity to meet their counterparts from many districts, exchange ideas and become more knowledgeable about the workings of all aspects of RTO/ERO. The Senate meets twice yearly, October and May.

At the recent October Senate, two Senators, Past President Andree Nottage and myself, and two observers, 1st Vice President, Frank Saliani and Membership Convenor, Penny McLeod-Smith, represented the District. Both Penny and Frank are currently on Provincial committees: Penny is in her second year on the Member Services Committee and Frank is commencing his first year on the Political Action Committee. George Meek, another Executive member, was also busy at Senate as a member of the Resolutions Committee. Nancy Walsh, a Past President of District 23 is stepping down this year after three years of service on the Member Services Committee. Thank you, Nancy, for your

many years of service to District 23 and RTO/ERO provincially.

Several items from Senate are of interest to all members. Probably the most significant are the Health Plan changes (especially premiums) for 2004 that were passed and are reported in detail by Health Services Convenor, Sam Habib in this newsletter.

Also, the amount of money available for "Service to Others" projects has been increased from \$60,000. to \$100,000. Each district that wishes funds for a Service to Others project may apply for a maximum of \$4,000. for such a project. In past years your District 23 has supported different projects and we will be applying for funds again this year.

A motion from District 22, Etobicoke and York, and District 23, North York, "That the Provincial Executive be directed to study and report to the Spring 2004 Senate on possible donations to support works in developing countries.", was passed unanimously. As retired teachers, we feel that outreach to those less fortunate is important.

TORONTO DISTRICTS COUNCIL

The four Toronto Districts: Toronto -16 ; Etobicoke and York - 22 ; North York- 23, Scarborough and East York - 24, have been working together during the past few years to assist one another in common areas, such as membership and recruitment, political action, and most recently, the formation and development of a joint web site.

Each district has two voting members on the Toronto Districts Council; the President and the 1st Vice President. We meet bimonthly.

An expansion of this group is the Joint Executives' Annual Meeting,

~ See *PRESIDENT/Page 5*

~ PRESIDENT/continued from page 3

at which all executive members from all four districts attend. The most recent meeting occurred Wednesday, October 29th. At this meeting, Terry Lynch, Executive Director RTO/ERO and newly elected RTO/ERO President, Beverley Polowy, brought us up -to-date on resolutions passed at Senate and other items of interest from the Provincial Executive. Of significant value to all present was the interchange of ideas in small group discussions among members with similar executive rolls and/or interests.

TORONTO DISTRICTS WEB SITE

As mentioned above, an excellent form of communication to all District 23 and indeed all Toronto Districts members is the new web site: www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org Please avail yourself of the opportunity to use this web site. You will find common areas of concern, such as health benefits, but also by clicking onto North York - 23, you can receive information on the Executive, planned activities, newsletter, and other information. Our Webmaster is Jerry Daca.

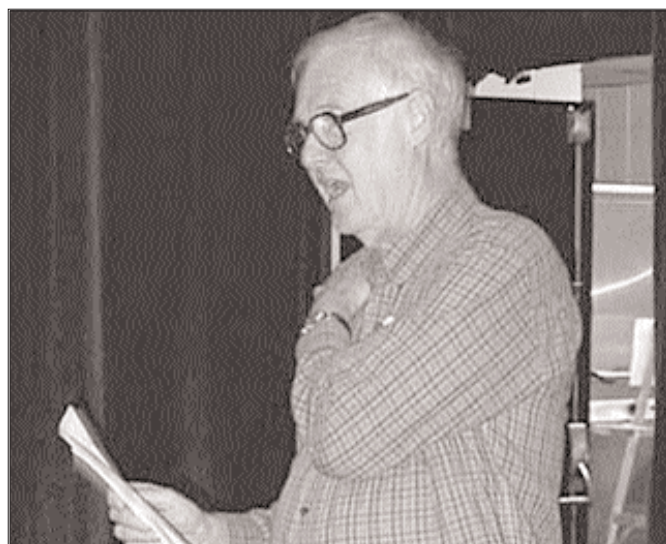
As we approach the festive season; on behalf of the entire Executive, I extend to you all "Seasons Greetings" and "Happy New Year".



President Andree Nottage passes the gavel to President elect, David Fleming at the Annual General Meeting.



Two of our loyal members participating in the activities of the Annual General meeting.



Guest speaker Geoff Arnold speaking at the Annual General Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Penny McLeod-Smith, Membership Convenor, 905-888-1341

WHO IS NEW IN OUR DISTRICT ?

During the last year, there has been a friendly competition among Districts in a major attempt by provincial RTO/ERO to invite new retirees to join us. As we know, a strong RTO/ERO helps in negotiating benefits for all members.

At the same time, your North York District has also been working to locate new teacher retirees.

Thanks to all of you who have called us with names, or called up friends who might like to know about our activities and benefits.

As of the end of October, District 23 North York has 1895 Regular and Associate members. A big hello to you all, as your Executive tries to entice everyone of you to at least one of our events this year.

Please keep up the good work finding potential members, as the Boards will no longer give us names or numbers of retiring staff during the school year. A particularly hard group to locate and contact are the teachers who retire from September to May. Any help would be appreciated.

THE FOLLOWING HAVE JOINED US AT DISTRICT 23 AS REGULAR OR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, AND WE HOPE TO WELCOME THEM SOON TO OUR NORTH YORK EVENTS:

JUNE, 2003: Ezzat Armanios, Annette Hebert, Marjorie Hooey, Derek Kotchie, Kathleen Quinn, Lucita Sheedy, and Daphne Webb.

JULY, 2003: Marni Angus, Nicole Beaudoin, Jerry Daca (who also took an Executive position, bless him), Judith Donohue, Nikki Fennell, Mary Lu Johnston, Gertraude Koch, Anita McConnell, Joanne Pareja, Margaret Perkovic, Joan Venner, Pamela Watson, Helen Wiber, Rose Marie Zupan.

AUGUST, 2003: Howard Alter, Eula Anderson, Julia Arnold, Maureen Atkinson, Catherine Badali, Amalia Corriero, Sheila Deyer, Merle Eisen, Charlesworth Francois, Dawn Gillespie, Susan Gorewich, Sally Ann Kellar, William Kostyk, William Maloney, Joseph Marcynuk, Helena Nieto, Shirley Ratcliffe, Helen Reid, Alma Rowan, Barbara Salter, Joanne Shortreed, and Nadine Karen Stermole.

SEPTEMBER, 2003: Marinella Antao, Raymond Blomme, Patricia Bremner-Ikeno, Ethel Briggs, Denise Ceurstemont, Wilfred Everist, Kerry Lindsay, Ron Mayeda, Roger Ouellette, Katy Petre, Karen Rallis, and James Walsh.

OCTOBER, 2003: Louis Birenbaum, Brian Care, Marian Cooper, Gail Doehler, Lorne Eckler, Gisela Fedora, Eleanor Fitzgerald, Jane Grant, Sylvia Hampton, Marie-Josée Kacira, Patricia Novacek, Elizabeth Ruppel, and Carol Thomas.

IN MEMORIAM

With great sadness we inform you of the passing of the following members of North York District 23. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to their family and share fond remembrances of their contribution to the teaching profession.

JUNE, 2003: Margaret E. Robinson

JULY, 2003: John Wilfred Elliott and Mary Lou White

AUGUST, 2003: Noreen Slater and Ishbel Young

SEPTEMBER, 2003: Marianne Harper and L.A. Rickard

OCTOBER, 2003: Jean M. Hanson, Laura Myers, Clarence Roger Potts, Herbert Sutcliffe, and Robert W. Thrush

Note: Month shown is the date we received notification



Membership Convenor, Penny McLeod-Smith is flanked by Alan sWard and George Meek at the Champagne Breakfast in September.

RECRUITMENT CONVENOR WANTED

The RTO/ERO District 23 North York Executive Committee has reestablished the *Membership Committee* as the *Member Services & Recruitment Committee* under the leadership of the current convenor.

The Terms of Reference are being rewritten to more properly reflect the new name. The Executive also established an **Assistant Convenor** (who will also be a member of the Executive Committee) to assist in carrying out the expanded mandate.

This person would enjoy working on recruitment activities for newly retired teachers, and lead a team to visit schools to present the benefits of membership in RTO/ERO District 23 North York.

If you are interested, please call Andree Nottage at 905-472-3784.



Kathleen Elliott (foreground) and Beverley Wood at the Annual General Meeting.



Reet Lambur and Mary Lou Johnson at the Champagne Breakfast.

Ten seconds until you lose consciousness! Surviving A Heart Attack When Alone

Submitted by Kathleen Elliott

If you suffer a heart attack, you may lose consciousness in seconds. But, if you happen to be alone, there are two things you can do to increase your chances of survival.

First, take an aspirin, which is something you ought to carry with you at all times, particularly if you have ever been at risk for a possible heart attack.

Second, cough!

Cough repeatedly, deeply and vigorously.

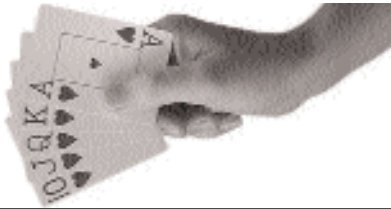
Breathe and cough in two-second intervals, and don't stop until help arrives or the heartbeat returns to normal.

Deep breaths fill oxygen into the lungs, and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on

the heart also helps it regain its normal rhythm.

Thus coughing can enable heart attack victims to maintain their consciousness longer, in fact, long enough to call for help.

Kathleen urges everyone to tell as many people as possible about this strategy. It could save lives.



BRIDGE REPORT

As submitted to the Annual General Meeting
by Frank Saliani
e-mail: frasalia@enoreo.on.ca
416 - 281 3542

Past Year of Meetings & Activities:

First and foremost, I wish to thank the people who help make the afternoons successful. They are: Lila Belbin, Marilyn Butcher, Hue Campbell, Dave Fleming, Carson Klinck, and Lee White.

Thanks gang!!

All members of District 23-North York RTO, their families and friends are invited to join us on most Tuesdays at Willowdale United Church, 349 Kenneth Avenue (just south of Finch).

Official play begins at 1:00 p.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. Come early and begin a foursome. Play begins as soon as there are four players at each table. See the schedule in STONY Bridges for play dates.

Tuesday Session Highlights:

We convene on most Tuesdays to socialize, have fun, catch up on the latest news. Bridge is just an excuse for us to get together. Some people have gotten the wrong impression of what happens during our sessions. We do NOT

convene to play serious bridge but to socialize using the venue or excuse that we're playing competitive bridge. So if any member of RTO/ERO North York wishes to join us, discard your fears and come out!! Bring a partner/friend with you if you wish.

We collect \$2.00 to cover coffee/tea & cookies, and numerous prizes for the afternoon.

There are many opportunities to retrieve the admission charge:

Birthdays:

Members play free on their birthday (or closest bridge day of their choosing). Cake is served at the first meetings of the month.

Challenge bridge hand:

Each Tuesday session begins with a "Challenge bridge hand", wherein all attendees play the same hand and the scores are then tabulated. Cash prizes are awarded to North-south pair(s), and East-west pair(s) who made the best use of their cards. Usually there are four Challenge Hand winners,

Table Champs:

There are six half hour tournaments at each table. Players score four hands but play as many hands as they can during the time allotment. At the end of each time period, the winners stay and change partners, losers move to another table and change partners. Anyone able to overcome all comers and stay at the same table, by continuously being a winner, for the first five sessions, is a table champ for the day. Of course there is a prize for this.

Draws:

At 3:00 pm there are ticket draws and three or more lucky people win their entry fee back.

Slam Bidding successes, and Table champs are reported in STONY Bridges because it's fun to see our names in print for whatever successes we may have.

~ See BRIDGE/page 9



Executive Members Audrey Cousins, Sonia Walker and Andree Nottage smile for the camera at the recent Annual General Meeting.

~ BRIDGE/continued from page 7

Highlights of the Sessions: As of November 6, 2003

Challenge Hand Winners : Duplicate style competition

<u>Date</u>	<u>North – South Pair(s)</u>	<u>East – West Pair(s)</u>
Oct. 28	3 way tie	Bert Gates, Mary Lutes tied Ilona Taray, Ruth Jacobs
Oct. 14	Alan Ward / Marilyn Butcher	Jean Cameron, Audrey Cartwright tied with Mary Lutes and Barb Woodrow
Sept. 30	Carson Klinck / George Vanderwerf	Johanna Burt / Geri McAllister
Sept. 23	3 way tie	Margaret Gates / Mel York
Sept. 16	Mary Elizabeth Lane/Barbara Woodrow	Marsh Morris/ Clarice Giffen tied with Donna Mighton/ Eileen Justesen
Sept. 02	Alan Ward / Lois Lewis	Wayne & Eileen Justesen

The Table Champs

Congratulations to the winners of the 1st five rounds: Marilyn Butcher, Sep. 02, Inge Radko Oct. 14

The Slam Bidders:

Contract Bid (made)		
Oct. 28	George Vanderwerf / Hazel Perkin	6Hearts
Oct. 14	Wayne Justesen / Nick Stamboulis	6 Diamonds
Sept. 30	Alan Ward / Val MacDougal	6 NT (+ 1)
	Alan Ward / Joyce Arnsby	6 NT
	Margaret and Bert Gates	6 Clubs
	Wayne Justesen / Lila Belbin	6 Spades
Sept. 23	Inge Radko / Martin O'Grady	6 NT
	Nora Garvin / Dave Fleming	6NT
Sept. 16	Eulaline Taylor / Murray McIntyre	6NT (+ 1)
	Hazel Perkin/ Carson Klinck	6 Spades (+ 1)
	Marsh Morris / Clarice Giffen	6 Diamonds
	Carson Klinck / Lee White	6NT (+ 1)
	Mary Elizabeth Lane/ Frank Salianni	6NT
Sept. 02	Lila Belbin / Joyce Arnsby	6 Spades



HEALTH SERVICES REPORT

by Sam Habib

Changes to RTO/ERO Health Plans effective January 1, 2004

Rates

Monthly premium rates for the Extended Health Care and Dental Plans have been maintained for the fourth consecutive year.

Monthly premium rates for the Semi-Private Hospital Plan are reduced by 10%.

Improved Coverages

Prescription drug maximum has increased to \$ 1,800 per person, per calendar year. Prescription drugs purchased in 2003 will remain subject to the previous \$1,500 maximum.

Internal limit for paramedical practitioners removed. Each person may now use any practitioners to an overall calendar year maximum of

\$700.

The hearing aid maximums have been increased to \$600 for one hearing aid or \$750 for two. This applies to purchases after January 1, 2004 and is still subject to the three consecutive year restriction.

For those participants who qualify for a geriatric chair, you may now choose a lift chair subject to a combined lifetime maximum of \$ 1,000 per participant.

All payments under the Dental Plan will be based on the 2004 Ontario Dental Association Fee Guide (or the guide in effect for your province of residence)

The minor restorative maxi-

mum has been increased to \$850 per person, per calendar year.

Scaling coverage has been moved entirely to the minor restorative benefit to a maximum of 8 units per person, per calendar year.

New Coverages

Crowns and bridges on implants are now covered, subject to the existing calendar year maximum for crowns and bridges. The cost of the implant remains an ineligible expense.

It is important to keep these changes with your benefit booklet as they are only printed every two years. New booklets, including these changes, will be printed for the 2005 policy year.

STILL INSURED THROUGH THE TDSB?

by George Meek

Premiums are increasing 'radically' to retirees in these plans over the next three years with the first 'big bump' coming January 1, 2004.

RTO/ERO have the best health plans ever, because they have been designed by retired teachers for retired teachers'. You need to seriously consider your options NOW by calling

RTO/ERO for a Health Plans Application Package at 416 962 9463 or 1 800 361 9888. You can request a comparison chart of the plans or tune into our Webpage at www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org for the same and other information.

Our Health Plans are available generally to all retired public/catholic/

MAY BE TIME TO SWITCH!

francophone educators in receipt of a pension from the Teacher Pension Board, and other retired school board employees (CUPE, Other Union, Non-Union, Association, etc.)

Please share this message with your colleagues & friends who are not currently members of RTO/ERO.

Monthly Premium Rates

Semi-Private Hospital

Single	\$16.43
Couple	\$32.82
Family	\$38.56

Effective January 1, 2004, rates have been reduced by 10%)

Extended Health Care

Single	\$51.73
Couple	\$103.47
Family	\$124.17

Effective since January 1, 2001

Dental

Single	\$40.55
Couple	\$79.96
Family	\$99.71

Effective since January 1, 2001

Where required by law, Retail Sales Tax will be added to these monthly premium rates

Frequently Asked Questions

Q If the Ontario government provides prescription drug coverage for seniors, should I maintain my RTO/ERO Extended Health Care Plan coverage?

A Yes! While the Ontario government provides coverage in some form for over 3,000 prescription drugs there are

over 15,000 prescription drugs available on the market today. In addition, the Extended Health Care Plan covers much more than prescription drugs. For instance services of a registered nurse, aids & appliances, 15 different paramedical practitioners, and vision care

Q If my dentist or pharmacist submits

a claim electronically to Johnson Inc., should I send a paper copy to Johnson Inc. as well?

A No. If your dentist is submitting your claim electronically to Johnson Inc., they do not require a paper claim

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~ *HEALTH/continued from page 10*

form. When your dental office submits an electronic claim, they will receive a "claim acknowledgement" which tells them that Johnson Inc. successfully received your dental claim, which will be processed within three business days. Please note, payments will be remitted to you. The settlement of your

account with your dentist remains your responsibility.

Similarly, when your pharmacist submits your drug claim electronically there is no need to mail the receipt for the dispensing fee or 15% co-pay. Your pharmacy will be paid directly for any eligible drug claim for which they have made electronic submission. The portion that the pharmacist asks you to

pay is the balance after Johnson Inc. has paid the RTO/ERO portion of your drug claim.

Q Is the \$6.11 dispensing fee eligible for reimbursement?

A No. It is not.

Members Only Website

As an RTO/ERO member, you have the ability to access your Group Benefits program and all of the voluntary Insurance Plans offered to RTO/ERO members through our plan Administrator, Johnson Inc. The cover-

age and claims information on the website is in real-time and you can interact with Johnson Inc. from the convenience of your personal computer - day or night.

The website is secure and pri-

vate and can only be accessed with your user name and password. To obtain your personal user name and password, log onto *www.johnson.ca* and click on "Members Only".

Convenience Services

As a participant in the RTO/ERO Health Plans, you have access to the following convenience services:

- **Direct Deposit** – Claim payments can be deposited directly to your bank account.
- **Electronic Dental Claims** – Your dental office can electronically send your claim to Johnson Inc. The settlement of your account with your dentist remains your responsibility.
- **Drug Card** – Your pharmacist can bill Johnson Inc. for your eligible prescription drug expenses.

Other Notes of Interest for Members

a) Please read and keep the article titled "YOUR HEALTH, OUR CONCERN" in the fall issue of *Renaissance*.

b) Retiring teachers, who wish to change their insurance provider (and now that the TDSB has followed the rest of the province and segregated active from retired teachers, this option might be appealing) may do so within 60 days, without the need for medical approval.

c) RTO/ERO has a detailed pamphlet called "Going Places" that describes everything you need to know about travelling out of province. It is available to members from Johnson Inc.

d) The Government of Ontario has a booklet called "A GUIDE TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR SENIORS IN ONTARIO". It is available by contacting **Seniors Infoline 1 - 888 - 910 1999 or 416 - 314 - 7511**.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

<p>Johnson Inc. Service: 416-920-7248 (local) 1-877-406-9007 (toll free) 416-920-0939 (fax)</p> <p>Service Address: Johnson Inc. – Service Department 18 Spadina Road, Suite 100A Toronto, ON M5R 2S7</p> <p>Claims: 905-764-4888 (local) 1-800-638-4753 (toll free) 905-764-4041 (fax) 1-888-895-2209 (toll free fax)</p>	<p>Claims Address: Johnson Inc. – Claims Department 1595 16th Avenue, Suite 600 Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3S5</p> <p>World Access Canada From North America: 1-800-249-6556 (toll free)</p> <p>from Other Countries: 519-742-8553 (ask the operator to reverse the charges) 519-742-8553 (fax)</p>	<p>Mailing Address: World Access Canada P.O. Box 277 Waterloo, ON N2J4A4</p> <p>RTO/ERO Health Committee healthcommittee@rto-ero.org or 18 Spadina Road, Suite 300 Toronto, ON. M5R 2S7 Attention: Health Committee Chair</p>
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TOP ECONOMISTS SLAM PRIVATE HOSPITALS

This new report on private (P3) hospitals was released November 6, 2003 by former Senior Vice President of the TD Bank, Douglas D. Peters; former Director at the office of the Auditor General of Canada, Lewis Auerbach; and economists Arthur Donner, Monica Townson and Armine Yalnizyan.

Cancel Private Hospitals: Prominent Economists Say P3 Hospitals Threaten Medicare

Toronto - Four prominent economists and a former director of audit operations with Canada's Auditor General released a report today that is sharply critical of controversial "public-private-partnership" (P3) hospital proposals. The report commends the new

provincial government for rejecting the P3 model for public hospitals, including those planned for Brampton and Ottawa.

The reports' authors are: Lewis Auerbach, Arthur Donner Phd., Douglas D. Peters Phd., Monica Townson and Armine Yalnizyan.

In an open letter to the Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care, and Public Infrastructure Renewal, the authors describe P3 hospitals as posing "a serious threat to the public health care system." They urge the government "to carry through with the commitment to cancel the P3 projects proposed for the Royal Ottawa and William Osler Hospitals" and to "ensure that all future investment in

public hospitals accords with the principles of public financing, ownership and not-for-profit administration." The authors conclude that when properly accounted for, P3 hospitals "are likely to be 10% more costly than hospitals that are publicly financed, owned and operated."

Their report concludes that there is every reason to expect that if P3 hospitals were established in Ontario, they would result in "a deterioration of hospital services, diminished accountability, an increase in two-tier care, and needless cost." The authors note that this in turn is likely to "discourage confidence in publicly funded health care, and weaken support for the medicare model."

New Liberal Government looks to "wiggle" out of election promises. The Ontario Health Coalition responds.

November 11, 2003

Attn: Hon. George Smitherman

We are writing this open letter in response to Premier McGuinty's comments as reported by Caroline Mallan in the Toronto Star regarding the for-profit hospitals (P3s) and MRI/CT clinics:"

McGuinty said the deficit will also be a factor when it comes to his party's promises to scrap the MRI and CT scan clinics set up across the province by the Tories and to bring planned privately owned hospitals in both Ottawa and Brampton into the public system." On the private clinics, McGuinty now says his government is looking for "wiggle room" in the signed deals with those private operators. On the privately owned hospitals, the Liberals have said all along that they will assess any move based on the cost to taxpayers.

As you can imagine, the

Premier's comments have sparked a flurry of very concerned emails and phone calls to us. Community members in Brampton and Ottawa are exceedingly concerned about your plans, as are people across the province. For this reason, we are issuing this correspondence as an "open letter". We wish to point out several points missed in the Premier's remarks:

1) As your party noted in the lead-up to the election, the so-called "saving" to the public purse by privatizing the finance, operation and ownership of hospitals is, in fact, a false economy. The worldwide evidence is clear. As public audit offices in Britain, PEI, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Australia and as the former director at the Auditor General's office in Canada have found, P3 hospitals do not save money, they cost more. The off-book accounting that characterizes P3 schemes may hide the debt from public scrutiny but it does not erase the debt for the next generation of Ontarians. This type of

accounting has been entirely discredited by the Enron fiasco.

2) Not only do P3 hospitals cost more, the high costs associated with this model of redevelopment on the capital side lead to cuts to operating and clinical budgets, including, on average, 26% staff cuts and 30% bed cuts, according to the British Medical Association Journal. The hospitals are smaller, have shown up poorly in inspections, lead to new user fees and two tier healthcare and remove democratic control and accountability.

3) A report was released last week by several eminent Canadians including Arthur Donner, Douglas D. Peters, Monica Townson, Armine Yalnizyan and Lewis Auerbach calling for immediate cancellation of the P3 deals and public finance of new hospital infrastructure. Their arguments about increased costs and loss of accountability in the P3 hospitals echo

~ See P3/page 13

~ P3/continued from page 12

those that we have been making over the last two years. They noted that these hospitals are a threat to the future of Medicare. They also note that your government could move to an accrual accounting system to eliminate the systemic bias against public investment in infrastructure and that low interest rates make it a good time to invest. This report provides the viable public option your government seeks for funding new hospitals in Brampton

and Ottawa.

4) As you must be aware, there are few or no penalties associated with cancelling the Brampton and Ottawa P3s and replacing them with public hospitals.

5) The contracts for the MRI/CT clinics and the project agreements for the Brampton & Ottawa P3s still remain secret and shielded from public scrutiny. We hope that you will move to immediately disclose the terms of these contracts and agreements, and that you will work to bring the scanners into

public hospitals as promised in the election campaign.

We sincerely hope that you consider the voices of the patients, healthcare workers and caregivers of Ontario who have opposed the loss of public control over our hospitals and clinics as you are making your decision. We look forward to meeting with you at your earliest convenience about these issues.

Yours truly,

Ethel Meade
Co Chair

Natalie Mehra
Provincial Coordinator

Extendicare Profit Soars

Nursing home operator Extendicare Inc. sharply increased its third-quarter profits yesterday and announced it has bought a nursing home in Wisconsin for \$5.6 million.

The Toronto-area company reported it earned \$13.8 million or 19 cents a share for the three months ended Sept. 30, compared with \$7.9 million or 11 cents a share for last year's quarter.

Quarterly revenues fell to \$433 million from just under \$444 million.

For the nine-month period, Extendicare profits rose to \$43.8 million from \$15.9 million, while revenues fell to \$1.29 billion from \$1.3 billion.

"The company's strong performance during the period was attributable to solid operating results from all segments of our business," president and CEO Mel Rhineland said in a

release.

"In the U.S. we achieved high levels of over-all nursing home occupancy while maintaining strong Medicare census levels.

In Canada, Extendicare benefited from the governments of Ontario and Alberta's improved funding for long-term care services."

A Canadian Press release

WOMEN ONLY

All retired women teachers are invited to join the **Retired Women Teachers of Ontario - RWTO York North.**

We meet regularly for luncheons and other activities.

Call our president, Linda Seath at (416) 446 1605 for further information.

Happy Birthday!

Celebrate that extra candle on your cake. Feeling good about getting older helps you to live longer. It's a healthy attitude.

THANKS!

By George Meek

Thanks to our many Members who found over 500 places in the North York community to post RTO/ERO 'Get out the Vote' posters during the recent Provincial election. Many of these posters remained up during the more recent Municipal election and could be recycled for use in the likely Federal election next Spring. We have about 500 left for possible use at that time. RTO/ERO thanks you for getting involved in this way and also thanks all Members who were able to vote.

Murray McIntyre wins first prize!

by Kathleen Elliott

Glynwood resident, Murray McIntyre entered and won a contest to choose a painting to decorate this year's Christmas card to be used by the retirement members of R.E.I.T., owner of the Glynwood at 770 Bayview Avenue.

Ninety four years old and an avid bridge player with his many friends of RTO/ERO North York - who play at Willowdale United Church on Tuesday afternoons - Murray entered the contest sponsored by his art class at the residence. And his painting was chosen!
 Congratulations Murray.



Past Presidents Bev Wood and Geoff Arnold at the Annual General Meeting in September.

GOODWILL REPORT

By Nina Hillier

CHEERY HELLOS

Have you ever received a cheery "Get Well" card in the mail when you were feeling under the weather? If you have, you will remember how it brightened your day.

This is one of the things that the Goodwill Committee does for members of District 23, North York.

BIRTHDAY CARDS FOR THE OVER 80'S

If you know someone who is about to celebrate an 80th birthday, call Nancy Walsh at 416 - 968 - 2067 and she will be sure to send a card.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We depend on our members to keep us informed about members who are ill, hospitalized, shut-in or bereaved. Please call a committee member with this information.

SERVICE TO OTHERS

We have a policy of donating money to worthy causes beyond the membership and have a budget of \$3000 per year for this purpose. Deliberations begin in October and carry on throughout the year as we receive requests.

If you would like to recommend a recipient person or organization, please supply the name(s) and relevant particulars, and call a committee member with your idea.

Convenor

Nina Hillier: 416 - 221 - 4257

Assistant Convenor

Ruth Bradshaw: 905 - 472 - 4142

Cards

Ruth Bradshaw: 905 - 472 - 4142

Clara Stroyk: 416 - 445 - 6434

Nancy Walsh (over 80's): 416 - 968 - 2067

Telephone Calls

Anne McGee: 416 - 223 - 449

Vinny Coetzee: 416 - 621 - 6681



IDEAS AND ENTERTAINMENTS

Priscilla Galloway/page 15

Poetry/page 16

Chalk Dust Memories/page 17

Habitat for Humanity/page 18

Community Theatre/page 19

Golf Tournament/page 20

Priscilla Galloway Publishes Another!

The following book review appeared in the *Toronto Star* on September 30, 2003 and is reproduced here with permission of the author.

Grade 4 and 5 kids go medieval. Author puts magic in the curriculum

by Tess Kalinowski, Education Reporter

What better place to launch a children's book on the Middle Ages than a fortress of learning where the principal dresses like a queen and offers a royal wave?

When Castlebridge Public School's principal, Kathy Konior, learned that award-winning children's author Priscilla Galloway was launching a book called *Archers, Alchemists and 98 Other Medieval Jobs You Might Have Loved or Loathed*, she issued a royal invitation.

The result was a history lesson magically brought to life last week, complete with students dressed as knights on scooter-powered horses and barber surgeons wielding paper saws.

"I knew it was just the right book that Castlebridge people would like," said Konior, who introduced the guest dressed in green and gold velvet robes. She couldn't resist the opportunity to combine some live literacy with a section of the Grade 5 history curriculum for which the school has

particular affection.

The choir has T-shirts featuring dragons, and the gym sports a dragon-and-castle mural.

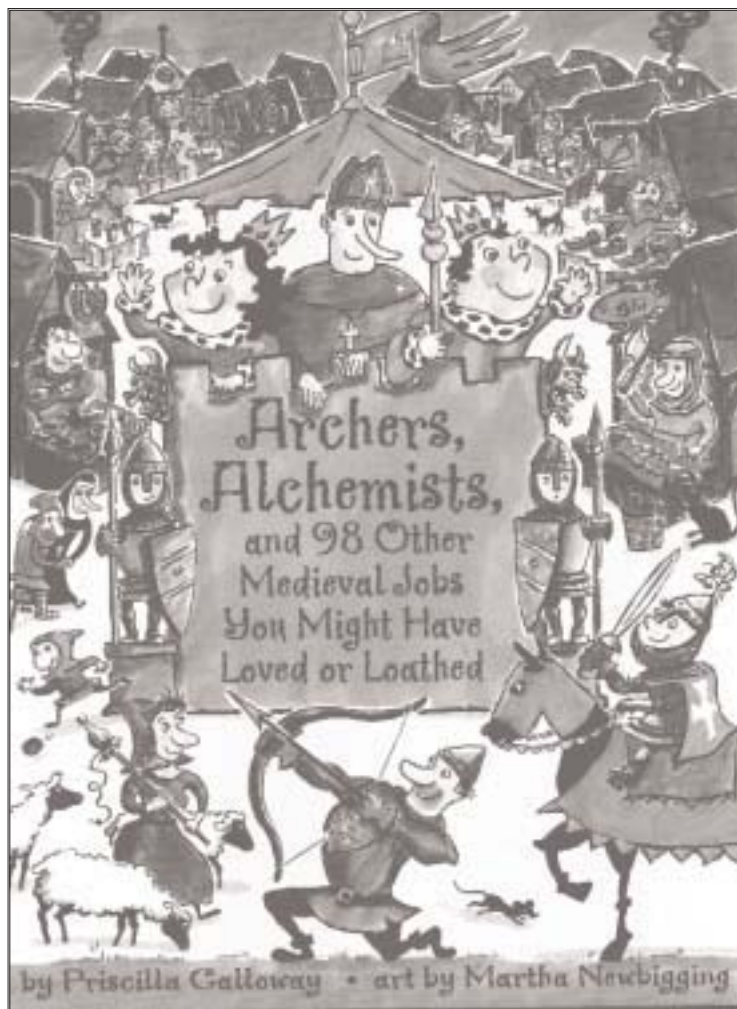
Galloway came dressed as an alchemist, a profession she called infinitely preferable to that of the gong

Press, describes ancient occupations ranging from caregiver for lepers to cordwainer, a shoemaker for the nobility, with funny illustrations by illustrator Martha Newbigging. It has chapters such as "Wonder Workers' Jobs," which include goldsmith and parchment-and-ink seller, and "Castle Jobs," such as squire or falconer.

Using a Powerpoint presentation and calling on costumed children to illustrate characters, Galloway told the Castlebridge students about the rewards and dangers of living in those times.

"You're the stand-up comics," she told the jesters. "But it's a dangerous job. You could have a ball insulting everyone in sight, but if the king takes it wrong, that's the end of you."

Ryan Petrovski, a knight whose trusty mount was a scooter with a stuffed horse on the handlebars, said Galloway's talk made him want to read the book. She described the knight as the medieval tank. But the 10-year-old had loftier ambitions. "I would like to be king," he said. "You get lots of respect, and whatever you tell someone to do they have



farmer, who recycled the contents of latrines. to do."

Her book, published by Annick

www.thestar.com

Have you ever experienced awesome moments? Moments when you are aware of sensations you can neither understand nor process.

It has happened to me on a few occasions:

on a spit of land near White's Harbour in Cape Breton,
on a sailing ship in a storm in the Gulf of Mexico,
at the Tor at Glastonbury,
in the ruins of Clanmacnoise
on the River Shannon,
and at the Priory of Llanthony in the Black Hills of Wales.

In each case, I was alone, the weather was ominous and it was late in the day. The Irish call them the 'thin places' (Celtic Caol Ait)

The Thin Places

-By Jim Treliving

Have you been there.....

where the only sound is the living earth
where the air breathes softly on the hair of the skin
where the smell is clean and tings the nostrils
where vision exceeds peripheral
where experience is taken to the fringe?

Have you been there....

where reason stumbles for explanation
where language mutes and appeals for untried imagery
where memory offers no clues or precedents
where only myth and metaphor hint at an existence?

I have been there fleetingly.

They are the 'thin places' where the veil of reality is gossamer;
where the known world borders another realm....
unreachable yet immediate

There is no fear merely wonder listening for the siren's call,

P.S. Let me know - through STONY Bridges - if you have had similar experiences.



Thought

Carole A. Martyn

Consider the flowers
Upon the altar,
How they give praise.

They sing not,
Neither do they chant.

And yet even an Angel choir
In heavenly splendour,
Wondrously beholds
Those silent, vibrant tributes.



President elect, David Fleming shares a laugh with Secretary Sonia Walker at the recent Annual General Meeting.

CHALK DUST MEMORIES

Farcical and humorous tales submitted by our readers.

Laughton Bird and the Secret Signal

by Allen Strike

One of the strengths of North York Education was the early use of Subject Coordinators. Since there was so much education money floating around during the first years, the Board managers could pick the best of the country and they did. The first administrators, notably F.W.Minkler, were not afraid to give the power of directing subject development to the able people whom they had attracted.

From the beginning, the chosen subject coordinators were outstanding educators, people of principle. Subjects were central to the direction of the Board's policy. Senior High Schools had always had department heads but now the Junior High Schools also had subject specialist chairmen. This ensured subject quality. Some Elementary School teachers were wont to counter this by saying that they taught students and not subjects. I preferred to say that it was better to teach subjects to students.

The coordinators tended to be what Readers' Digest calls Unforgettable Characters. I think, at once, of Robbie Charlesworth in English, John DelGrande in Mathematics, and particularly Laughton Bird in Music. Laughton had decided that in a world of increasing musical banality it was important that students should have the experience of hearing symphonic music. To this end

he had managed to get enough money to send every student to hear the Toronto Symphony Orchestra at Massey Hall.



This was a mammoth logistical project. Buses had to be laid on, pupils had to be assigned to the buses, teachers had to be "covered," parental permission had to be obtained, and rules of concert behaviour had to be inculcated. For some mysterious reason a few students were liable to arm themselves with rubber bands and paper clips to fire into the orchestra. The musicians naturally took a dim view of this. They were in danger of losing an eye and there were very expensive instruments to protect. Besides this,

who likes to be shot at? This is where the signal came in.

It was part of the preparation for the concert that the teachers were alerted to the signal for a flying paper clip. Laughton would be sitting on the stage with the orchestra and he had a large handkerchief in his top pocket. If a projectile came from the audience he would take out this handkerchief and move it in the direction of the offending marksman. In this way the dignity of the occasion would be maintained and the culprit removed quietly. We went for several years and there was no handkerchief signal and no incidents.

Then one year it happened. The orchestra was playing away and the teachers were watching Laughton. Suddenly the handkerchief came out and was waved all over the place. The teachers were electrified. Before we could move, Laughton leaped to his feet. He jabbed the air with a pointed finger, and screamed

"Get that boy out of here!"

The orchestra stopped playing. It was some time before the miscreant was manhandled out of the hall and the dignity of the occasion restored.

Allen Strike retired in 1990. Currently, he lives, paints, sculpts, and designs in Toronto.

MILLIKEN MILLS HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

Milliken Mills High School's (York Region)
15th Anniversary Reunion
Saturday, June 12th, 2004.

This reunion will be held at the school.

Former students and teachers can find out more details at www.mmhs.ca



Habitat for Humanity Toronto Educators Build Update 2003

by Sandra McNabney, Chair, Edubuild Steering Committee

The Educators' Build Steering Committee is pleased to announce that Metro educators have achieved and, in fact, surpassed the goal of raising \$60,000 to sponsor a home in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Toronto in 2003. In August many of our friends and colleagues gathered for 14 consecutive days in the first ever Habitat Framing Blitz at the Habitat Building Factory at Coxwell Avenue and Danforth Avenue. This "Breakthrough Blitz" resulted in the prefabrication of many parts for the 40 homes to be built this fall in northeast Scarborough. Once the foundations are in place the homes will rise quickly due to this prior work.

During the past two years Habitat Toronto has built over twenty homes. With this experience has come the realization that new and different ways had to be found to enable the organization's volunteers to build quickly while still ensuring a quality job. The Home Building Factory and the Framing Blitz answer this need.

The family selected to be the Metro educators' partner in building and buying the educator-sponsored home is the Murugesapillai family. Thiru Murugesapillai is a blow-moulder

with a plastics company. Sasi Murugesapillai is a homemaker whose days are full caring for their three-year old and a newborn. The family presently lives in challenging circumstances in a tiny one-bedroom apartment in the Bloor/ Parliament area of Toronto. The family members are eagerly anticipating their brand new home in a subur-



ban area.

The Retired Teachers of Ontario as a group have distinguished themselves as the major sponsor of the Educators' Build. All Metro RTO Districts participated and we were also successful in attaining Provincial RTO Project-Service to Others funds. The number of personal donations from RTO members was overwhelming. For all these reasons we were pleased to put the RTO/ERO logo in large print at the top of the Educators' Build t-shirt. This shirt, donated by Marchant's School Sports, was available at the

Framing Blitz for educators only. It will also be available at the Build site later in the fall.

We are pleased and impressed that donations continue to be made to the Educators' Build. It is possible that in future we can sponsor a second home, thereby giving a Habitat 'hand-up' to another deserving partner family.

Thanks to all of you who made a donation of time, money or product.

If you are interested in working at the Habitat Building Factory, please call the Habitat Office at 416-755-7353 and ask to speak to the Volunteer Coordinator, Arundel Strathy. Arundel can tell you the available work hours

and register you for a convenient time. At the same time you can indicate your interest in working at the Build Site later in the year to help construct the house you helped sponsor. Tell Arundel your educational affiliation and she will see that you become involved.

For regular updates on Habitat for Humanity Toronto and Educators' Build activities you may access the website at www.torontohabitat.on.ca. Again thank you for your ongoing interest and your generosity.

TORONTO COMMUNITY THEATRE THE PRICE IS RIGHT!

by Doug Tallon, Co-Travel Convenor

One of the great entertainment secrets around the GTA is the volume of community theatre available to its residents. Tired of paying close to \$100.00 for a big glitzy Broadway production at one of the many restored or newly built legitimate theatres in the centre of the city? You would like a theatre experience less expensive? Read on.

There is nothing wrong with the big downtown productions. I certainly am quite willing to lay out the necessary dollars but not as regularly as I once did. The alternate choices are numerous. First of all the Arts centres in Mississauga, Markham, Oakville and as far north as Newmarket and Keswick offer some outstanding professional theatre at prices less than you would pay in the core of the city.

But that BIG secret is Community Theatre. They usually present musicals and plays that have treaded the downtown boards a number of years ago. But they are still very entertaining today. Musicals like *Sweet Charity*, *Kiss Me*, *Kate*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Oliver* and *Fiddler on the Roof* are making the rounds of the various musical companies this season. Comedies and dramas like *Love Letters*, *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, and *The Three Musketeers* are being given productions by other companies.

The amazing part of these community theatres is the people who make it happen. After the actors have removed their make up, the backstage

crews have secured the sets and props and the front of house workers have closed the house at the end of the performance, they all head home for a well deserved rest. Most of them are up early the next morning, heading out to their day jobs as lawyers, accountants, sales clerks, etc. Yes and some retired teachers as



well as current teachers. The artistic director of one company is a teacher in the TDSB. Another staff member plays in the orchestra of many of the current community theatre productions. They do it because they love it and their enthusiasm is very obvious on stage and backstage.

Where are these companies you ask? There are so many of them around the GTA.. Fairview Library Theatre houses at least five community theatres. The Scarborough Village Theatre is home to three more companies. At least three companies perform at the Meadowvale Theatre in

Mississauga. Richmond Hill, Keswick, Unionville, Etobicoke, Oshawa and North York enjoy the services of additional community theatres. And I know there are other communities that have companies performing plays, comedies, dramas and musicals to the delight of their audiences.

The price is right. They vary from company to company as well as location. I have paid as low as \$12.50 and as high as \$20.00 and have had a wonderful evening in the theatre. Check a community centre or a library near you to find out about the possibility of a very inexpensive and exciting night in the theatre. If you still need assistance, feel free to give me a call for some ideas.

Another new group has recently come to my attention. Price wise, it is somewhat higher but still a worthy addition to the entertainment scene.

The Toronto Pops Orchestra, under the direction of David Warrack, is not really a new addition but has found a new home with the hopes of finding a new and larger audience. They have prepared a series of pop concerts for 2004 that look very interesting. Their new home is the George Weston Hall in the Toronto Centre for the Arts. If you are interested you might call up their website, or telephone them at 416 – 733 – 0626.

Doug Tallon is co-convenor, with Audrey Cousins, of Travel for RTO/ERO North York. Together, they organize the cultural activities offered through STONY Bridges.



First Ever Golf Tournament!



RTO/ERO, District 23 North York
is holding its first golf tournament.

Friday, May 28th, 2004

Kettle Creek Golf Club (Highway 400 and Highway 9)

The management of this executive par three, picturesque course is offering us a shotgun, 9:00 a.m. start at an excellent price.

After playing the shorter, 18-hole course, we shall have a barbeque lunch and prizes - all for \$40.00 per person. A maximum of 18 foursomes will be accepted.

You can register your foursome, twosome or just yourself.

Your organizing committee, Helen, Darlene, Sheri and Marilyn will make up teams.

Registration forms will be in the March addition of STONY Bridges

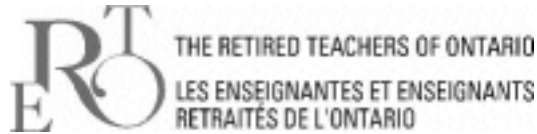
If you have suggestions for prizes or would like to get involved in planning this special event, please call.

Darlene 416-221-7242

Helen 416-485-0131



EXCURSIONS



Murder Mystery at The Old Mill/page 21
 Art Gallery of Ontario and The Grange/page 22
 The Ontario Science Centre/page 23

MURDER MYSTERY AT THE OLD MILL INN



11 Old Mill Road, Toronto
 (at the Old Mill Subway Station)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2004

(Cut Off Date: Friday January 16th, 2004)

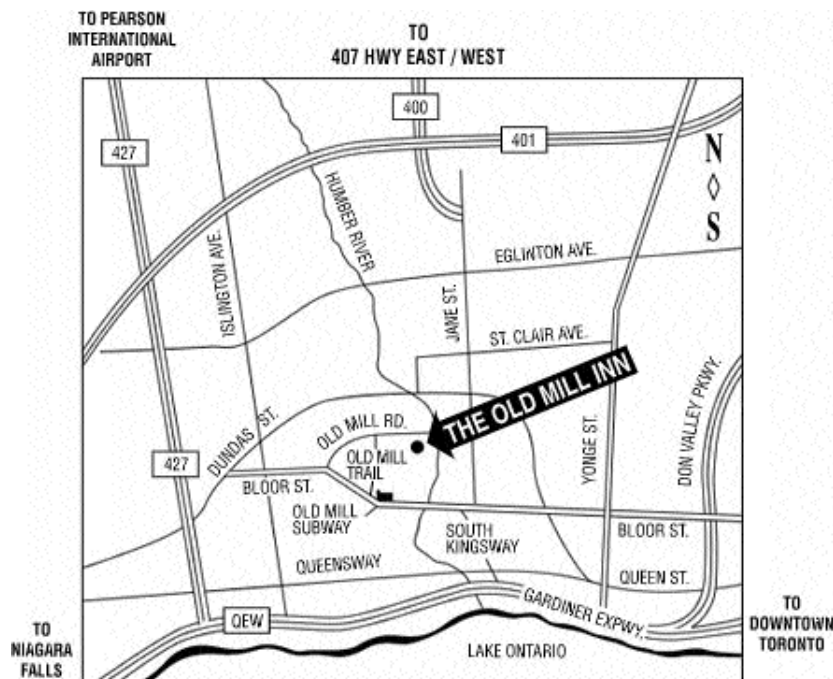
COST: \$ 44.00

Coat check - \$1.50

Lunch - 11.30 a.m.

Mystery (in the Brule Room) - 1.00 p.m.

Enjoy a fabulous buffet (hot and cold) lunch and solve the hilarious "whodunit".



See page 26 for registration form

ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO and THE GRANGE



Thursday, February 12, 2004

(Cut Off Date: January 20, 2004)

COST-\$53.00

- 10.30 a.m. Arrive in the main rotunda of the AGO
- 11.00 a.m. Meet William Chinn, the last butler to serve at the Grange. Learn about his duties in the house as well as the history of this 19th Century home.
- 12.30 p.m. Lunch (Roast Chicken Supreme) in the very elegant *agora* Restaurant of the AGO
(Gratuity not included)
- 2.00 p.m. Guided tour of the Permanent Collection of the Art Gallery. Free time following the tour to explore the gallery at your leisure.

See page 26 for registration form.

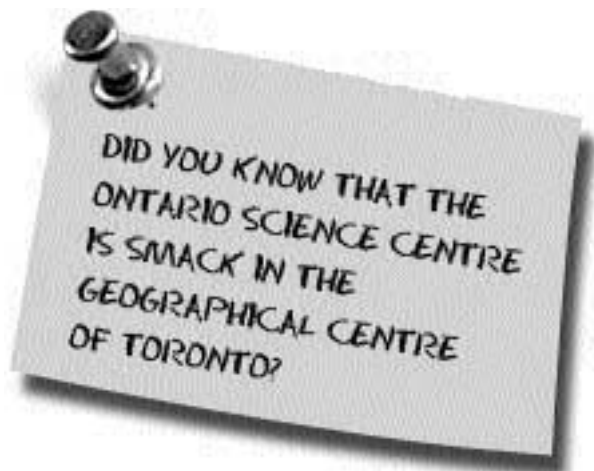
ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE

Thursday, March 25, 2004

(Cut Off Date : March 1, 2004)

COST - \$25.00

- 10.30 a.m. Arrive at the Centre
Free time to view the exhibits on the many levels of the Science Centre.
- 12.30 p.m. Buffet lunch in the Galileo Bistro
(Beverages and gratuity not included.)
- 2.00 p.m. Omnimax Cinema
(Film to be announced)
- 3.00 p.m. Continue your visit to the exhibits.



*Your name tag will be given out at the Science Centre..
See page 26 for registration form*

TRAVELOGUES

Tuesday, January 6, 2004
Iona Bell
"Tunesia Land of Contrasts"

Iona is one of our seasoned presenters

Tuesday, February 3, 2004
E. Kato
"Romanian Rhapsody"

Another of our seasoned presenters

Tuesday, March 2
Gloria Broks
"Palaces of St. Petersburg"
 Gloria is yet another of our experienced presenters

Travelogues are presented on the first Tuesday of every month at Willowdale United Church on Kenneth Avenue - just south of Finch Avenue.

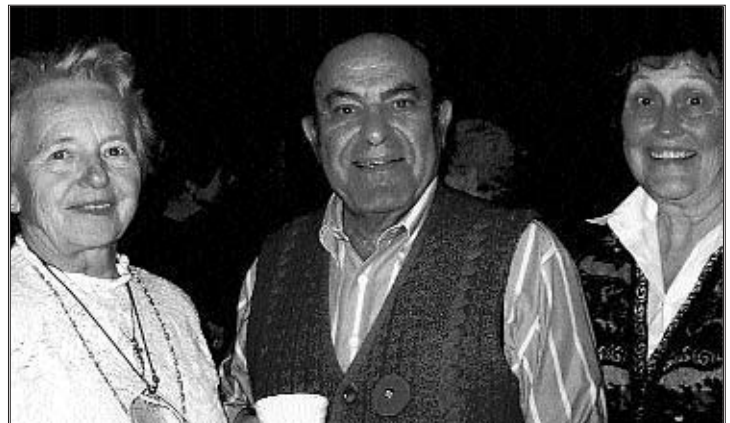
Admission is \$2.00, which entitles you to the big show but also to refreshments afterward and entry into the lucky draw.

The September Travelogue took us on a wonderful trip to Egypt. Suzan Southdon, presenter, travelled through the desert, down the Nile and to many interesting sites along the way.

In October, Andree Nottage, Past President of RTO/ERO District 23 took us along to the Amazon, the Galapagos and trekking through the Andes. We enjoyed having a look at the Beauty of the country and its people.



Sandra Zeggil and Presenter, Andree Nottage on November 4, 2003.



Health Services Convenor, Sam Habib is flanked by his wife Irmgard on the left and guest Mary Ann Loach on his right, after the Travelogue on Ecuador on November 4,



Audrey Cousins, Mildred Frank and Jean Dilcock at the all Toronto Joint Executive, Annual Meeting.



RTO/ERO Executive Director, Terry Lynch addressing the all Toronto Joint Executive, Annual Meeting in October.

Volunteers

Many will be shocked to find
 When the day of judgement rears,
 That there's a special place in heaven
 Set aside for volunteers.
 Furnished with big recliners,
 Satin couches and footstools,
 Where there's no Committee Chairmen,
 No group leaders or car pools,
 No eager team that needs a coach,
 No bazaar and no bake sale.
 There will be nothing to staple,
 Not one thing to fold or mail.
 Telephone lists will be outlawed,
 But a finger snap will bring
 Cool drink and gourmet dinners
 And rare treats fit for a king.
 You ask "Who will serve these privileged few
 And work for all their worth?"
 Why, all those who reaped the benefits
 And NOT ONCE volunteered on earth!

*Anonymous .
 Submitted by Sam Habib*

The Only Constant in Life ...

is change! Have the courage to do something new or different. Try something challenging. Pursue a dream. It can be fun. An active life is a happy life. Be as active as you're able



All the Presidents at the all Toronto Joint Executive, Annual Meeting. From left to right: Brenda Miller, District 22, Bill Menagh, District 16, Bev Palowy RTO/ERO Provincial President, David Fleming, District 23, and Gloria Konziolka, District 24.

Tear Off Slips



Note: Please prepare separate cheques for each event. Be sure to include all tear off slips.

Murder Mystery at The Old Mill/ page 26
Art Gallery and The Grange/page 26
The Ontario Science Centre/page 26

Murder Mystery at The Old Mill
Wednesday, January 28, 2004
(Cut Off Date: Friday, January 16, 2004)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Guest(s): _____

_____ tickets @ \$44.00 = \$ _____

Make cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 and send to: Mr. Peter Lynch
135 Church St.
Weston, Ontario
M9N 1N6

Art Gallery of Ontario and The Grange
Thursday, February 12, 2004
(Cut Off Date : January 20, 2004)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Guest (s): _____

_____ tickets @ \$53.00 = \$ _____

Make cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 and mail to: Mr. Peter Lynch
135 Church St.
Weston, Ontario
M9N 1N6

The Ontario Science Centre
Thursday, March 25, 2004
(Cut Off Date: March 1, 2004)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Guest(s): _____

_____ tickets @ \$25.00 = \$ _____

Make cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 and mail to: Mr. Peter Lynch
135 Church St.
Weston, Ontario
M9N 1N6

North Yorkers Working Provincially For You!

By Nancy Walsh and Penny McLeod Smith

RTO/ERO District 23 North York members are quite active on committees at the Provincial office.

George Meek has chaired the *Health Services and Insurance Committee* and now serves on the *Constitutional Committee* as well as being a 'speaker in training'.

Claire Piche, a past President of RTO/ERO District 23 North York, served on the *Project-Service to Others Committee* (North York, District 23 has had three projects approved for assistance to our community and abroad).

Frank Saliani, Bridge Convenor and First Vice President, has just been appointed to the *Political Action Committee* for a three year term.

Nancy Walsh, a Past President of District 23, North York, was on the *Members' Service Committee*, chairing the *Goodwill Working Group* for her last year. Penny McLeod Smith, our district Membership Convenor, now chairs this group.

Nancy and Penny have found the work, volunteer of course, very

interesting. As well, they participated in regional retirement workshops run by the Teachers' Pension Board and Ontario Teachers' Federation. All this gives the participants a much better understanding of the very fine work RTO/ERO is doing for its members.

Perhaps some information about the role of the *Goodwill Provincial Working Group* would interest you. Note first that the grants and counselling offered by this group are separate from the District Goodwill mandate. The local groups develop their own initiatives following guidelines approved by the Province. And you will know from reading STONY Bridges that we, in North York, have a very active group. The Chair, Nina Hillier, is especially generous with her time in visiting, attending funerals and leading her committee.

At the provincial level, the group has had a budget (increased last year) of \$7500 to help people in cases of special needs. This help has been advertised in the *RENAISSANCE* maga-

zine, which every RTO/ERO member receives. This past year alone six grants were approved to help members with unforeseen expenses and shortfalls. Only one application was not approved. The late Sandra Padgett, Colette Cunningham and Executive Director, Terry Lynch, have been very fast in processing claims and very generous in recommending that RTO/ERO accept them.

The *Goodwill Working Group* has also developed a large resource handbook, available to seniors, that is already in use helping those in need to find assistance.

Under the *Member Services Committee*, there are other working groups, on travel, on affinity, on the development of workshops for prospective members and on recruitment of new members.

We hope that this will give you an idea of how RTO/ERO District 23 North York members are working locally and provincially to help members and their families.

TO DO LIST

1. Call about the Assistant Convenor job
2. Mark Bridge and Travelogue dates on calendar
3. Register for Excursions.
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

REFUND POLICY

1. All trips and events advertised in STONY BRIDGES and requiring a cheque and order form, will show a cut-off date. The date is set to enable us to comply with our commitment to pay for the event. No cheque should be post dated beyond this date.
2. Any booking can be cancelled at any time prior to the cut-off date by phoning the event organizer or Peter Lynch (trips), Mildred Frank (social).
3. Cancellations beyond this date will only be accepted if there is a waiting list for tickets, and we can sell your ticket to someone on the waiting list.
4. Ticket holders are welcome to sell, give or transfer their place or ticket privately.

CHANGE OF INFORMATION

Send to:

Penny McLeod Smith
 P.O. Box 550
 Gormley ON
 L0H 1G0

Name: _____

New Address: _____

New Phone: _____

Old Address: _____

Old Phone: _____

Notes: _____



Editor, Rob Fraser skiing at Mont Tremblant.

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