

STONY BRIDGES

A NEWSLETTER FOR RTO/ERO DISTRICT 23, NORTH YORK

Issue Number 79

March 2004

President's Message

by David Fleming

The Christmas Luncheon

THE most exciting event in our District in the last two months was the annual Christmas Luncheon at the Granite Club on Friday December 5, 2003. One hundred and ninety of our members attended this event and everyone enjoyed the festivities very much, a tribute to Mildred Frank, our social convenor who



David Harlton receiving a door prize from Social Convenor, Mildred Frank

organized the luncheon including the menu, the entertainment, the music and prizes.

Thank you Mildred, and your helpers, Penny McLeod-Smith, who ran the registration table, our Granite Club sponsor, Anne Baillie, and others.

The entertainment was excellent. Prior to lunch we sipped wine, and listened to the piano playing of Greg Diakun. After lunch everyone was delighted with the lively Christmas music provided by the Toronto Banjo Band and the singing of Louise Cullen.

On a personal note, my wife, Barbara, had a great time,

~See PRESIDENT/page 10

Coming Events

Travelogues

*~Tuesdays, April 6, May 4
see page 19*

Bridge

~Tuesdays, April 13, 27, May 18, 25, June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Gardening for Small Spaces

~April 20, see page 16

Pygmalion at The Shaw

~April 27, see page 14

Spring Luncheon

~May 7, see page 20

How to Complain Effectively

~May 11, see page 24

Golf Tournament

~May 28, see page 18

42nd. Street in Drayton

~June 1, see page 21

Air Canada Centre/Hockey Hall of Fame

~June 9, 2004, see page 11

Guys and Dolls in Stratford

~September 24, see page 17

Visit us at www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org

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:

Robert Fraser
116A Hinchberger Bay Dr.,
Callander, ON
POH 1H0
Phone: 705-752-5697
email: robertpf@hotmail.com

Editor	Rob Fraser
Distribution	George Meek
Pictures	Andree Nottage, Neil Kelcey
Proofreaders	George Meek, Audrey Cousins, Frank Saliani, Andree Nottage

No Newsletter?

1) 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?

2) If you are not a member of RTO/ERO District 23 North York, 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 back page of this newsletter to notify us of your new information, and call RTO/ERO 416 - 962-9463 or 1-800-361-9888.

Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is April 14, 2004.

How to Reach Us.

President	David Fleming	416-444-4704
	david.fleming@sympatico.ca	
Membership	Penny McLeod-Smith	905-888-1341
Newsletter Distribution	George Meek	416-226-3568
	george.meek@sympatico.ca	
Goodwill	Nina Hillier	416-221-4257
Bridge	Alan Ward	905-889-3687
Health	Sam Habib	416-485-2825
Travel	Doug Tallon	416-441-4096
	dougtours@rogers.com	
Newsletter Editor	Rob Fraser	705-752-5697
	robertpf@hotmail.com	

Calender

April

6	Travelogue	1:30 p.m.
14	Executive Meeting	9:15 a.m.
13	Bridge	1:00 p.m.
20	Speaker - Gardening	11:00 a.m.
27	Bridge	1:00 p.m.
27	Shaw - Pygmalion	9:15 a.m.

May

4	Travelogue	1:30 p.m.
7	Luncheon	11:00 a.m.
11	Workshop - Ombudsman	1:30 p.m.
12	Executive Meeting	9:15 a.m.
18	Bridge	1:00 p.m.
25	Bridge	1:00 p.m.
28	Golf	8:00 a.m.

June

1	Bridge	1:00 p.m.
1	Drayton - 42nd. Street	8:45 a.m.
2	Executive Meeting	9:15 a.m.
8	Bridge	1:00 p.m.
9	Air Canada & Hall of Fame	10:45 a.m.
15	Bridge	1:00 p.m.
22	Bridge	1:00 p.m.
29	Bridge	1:00 p.m.

September

24	Stratford - Guys and Dolls	8:45 a.m.
----	----------------------------	-----------

Contents

President's Message	1
Editor's Letter	3
Bridge	4
Goodwill	6
Service to Others	7
Health	11
ACC & Hall of Fame	11
Don Valley Glee Club	12
Shaw Festival	14
Membership	15
Gardening Speaker	16
Stratford	17
Golf Tournament	18
Travelogues	19
Spring Luncheon	20
42nd Street	21
Chalkdust Memories	22
Elka's Poetic Ear	23
How to Complain Workshop	24
Articles	25
Tear-offs for Peter Lynch	28/9

Editor's Letter

by Rob Fraser

"CONVENER" or "Convenor"? I got into some difficulty with that little controversy in my first issue because I allowed it either way. I didn't think it mattered. I was wrong.

There were some people who insisted that the only "correct" spelling was "or" because that was the British spelling, not the American, and apparently, using an American spelling is heretical. I am not of that school, but I do think that being consistent is important. Thank goodness, therefore, for George Meek and his eagle eye. He finds the inconsistencies every time. And despite wanting me to change to the "er" spelling to be the same as RTO/ERO provincially, he allows me to use "or" as long as I use it every time. So, for now, it will

be Convenor not Convener.

In this issue, there are nine Convenor profiles. In subsequent issues, profiles of the remaining Convenors will appear.

Also in this issue, in addition to our regular articles on Bridge, Membership, Goodwill, Health, Travelogues, Speakers, Al Strike's Chalkdust Memories, we introduce another feature that will run each issue: Elka's Poetic Ear.

Elka Enola, has written poems in every place from A to Z. Thus, her first entry for STONY Bridges begins with the letter "A". Next issue will feature someplace that begins with "B". I know it is not cool to say cool unless you're 15 but how cool is that?

Former District 23 Travel Convenor, Hazel Perkin has written a lovely piece she calls, "Century Man". Don't miss that one, and one of my former schools, Don Valley Junior High School is also featured this month for a club that started in 1971 and continues still. I hope some readers will respond with their own similar story. If you are concerned about trans fat in your diet, you must read Maureen Donaghy's article. Also featured are two reprints about Health Care.

Of course, there are many trips, speakers, excursions, the new golf tournament and the Spring Luncheon to consider. I hope there will be something for each of you to enjoy.

In Recognition of Rob Fraser, Newsletter Editor

by David Fleming

IN September, 1998, Rob joined the Executive as 2nd Vice President, and has been active ever since. He was our first President in the new millennium, 2000 - 2001.

For the past three years, Rob has served as editor of "STONY Bridges". Although now residing in Callander, Ontario, he manages to drive to Toronto for almost all the monthly Executive meetings.

In his capacity as Vice President, Rob arranged for some of our speakers. Prior to moving north, Rob took bridge lessons from Harold Schmidt and Frank Saliani, but has not been able to continue, considering the distance he would have to drive.

For two years, as President and Past President, Rob was one of

the District 23 representatives at the semi-annual Senate meetings. He also was actively involved in the formation of the Toronto Districts' Council.

Rob describes his education career as a "joy ride from start to finish". He taught grades 2 - 10 and then was in Administration for the last ten years. Even as President of the District, he was asked to help out in a number of schools; only the move to Callander allowed him to retire completely.

Rob has many interests outside of RTO. These include the Rotary Club of North Bay, occasional writing for the "North Bay Nugget", snowmobiling, skiing, ice fishing, boating and a great deal of reading.

He has been married to Mary Ann for 37 years and has one son, Matthew.



Bridge Report

by Frank Saliani and Alan Ward

THIS is Frank Saliani's last report as Bridge convenor, as he passed the mantle on to Alan Ward on January 01, Frank says, "Alan covered for me admirably during November. Thank you and good luck Alan!"

"I would like to give one final big thank you to all the helpers who made my three years as convener an easy and highly pleasurable experience: Thanks Alan, Carson, Dave, George, Hue, Ilona, Kathleen, Lee, Lila, and Marilyn !!!"

Bridge is played most Tuesday afternoons from 1:00-4:00pm from September to June at Willowdale United Church, 349 Kenneth Ave. New players are always welcomed regardless of experience. Check for specific dates in STONY or call Alan at 905-889-3687 or by email at alanward@interlog.com for information.

Here are the highlights of the sessions to the end of January 2004.

Challenge Hand Winners : Duplicate style competition

Date		North – South Pair(s)	East – West Pair(s)
January	27	Carson Klinck & Marilyn Stroten Butcher	Nada Dimitrievich & Kathleen Elliott
	20	Marsh Morris & Mel York	Marilyn Johnson & Ilona Taray
	13	Mary Butler & Barbara Woodrow	Johanna Burt & Jack Klemper
December.	16	Marilyn Stroton-Butcher, Murray McIntyre	Lee White, Hazel Perkin tied with Barbara Woodrow, Mary Lutes
	09	Helen Wiber, Murray McIntyre	Clarice Giffen, Marsh Morris
November	25	Lila Belbin, Lee White	Murray McIntyre, Kathleen Elliott tied with Mel York, Alec Taylor
	18	Lois Lewis, Nancy Walsh	Helen Wiber, Mel York
	11	Hardie McNeil, Elaine Wyles	Lee White, David Fleming

The Table Champs:

Congratulations to the winners of the 1st five rounds at various sessions: Nada Dimitrievich, Bert Gates, Lois Lewis, Bob Radko, Alec Taylor, Lee White, Eileen Stanley, Vic Suzuki, Donna Mighton, Carson Klinck.

The Slam Bidders:

Date:		Pair	Contract Bid (made)
January	27	Nora Garvin & Alex Taylor	6 Clubs
		Bev henricks & Lee White	6 Spades
		Lila Belbin & Hue Campbell	7 Hearts
		Nada Dimitrievich & Alan Ward	6NT (+1)
	20	Eileen & Wayne Justesen	6 Spades (+1)

~BRIDGE/continued from page 4

	13	Clarice Giffen-Morris & Bev Suzuki	6 Hearts
December	16	Marsh Morris & Alec Taylor Darlene McCowan & Hardie McNeil Carson Klinck & Frank Saliani	6NT 6 Diamonds (+1) 7NT
November	25	Clarice Giffen & Marsh Morris Shari Swenson & Nada Dimitrievich Lois Lewis & Lila Belbin Lila Belbin & Marilyn Storton-Butcher Nada Dimitrievich & Barbara Woodrow	6Clubs 6NT (+1) 6 Spades 6 Hearts 6NT
	11	Murray McIntyre & Nancy Walsh Mary Butler & Barb Woodrow	6 Hearts (+1) 6 NT

In Recognition of Alan Ward, Bridge Convenor

by David Fleming

IN the fall of 2003, Alan assumed the role of Bridge Convenor. He enjoys bridge and has brought some innovative ideas to the Tuesday afternoon bridge sessions.

Alan taught chemistry and science for 29 years in North York schools, starting at Sir Sandford Fleming in December, 1967, moving to York Mills in 1974 and finally to Earl Haig in 1984, retiring at the end of January, 1997. In 1981-82, Alan taught on exchange at a Catholic Boys' Secondary School in Liverpool England. Since retirement, Alan has taught part time at Bishop Strachan School and the Toronto Waldorf School.

One of the highlights of Alan's career was being staff advisor to Earl Haig's very successful "Reach For The Top" team for eleven years. He also served the staff as Staff

Workload Representative, was a member of the Joint Occupational and Health Committee for five years and represented District 23 as a delegate to the provincial OSSTF Annual General Meeting for ten years.

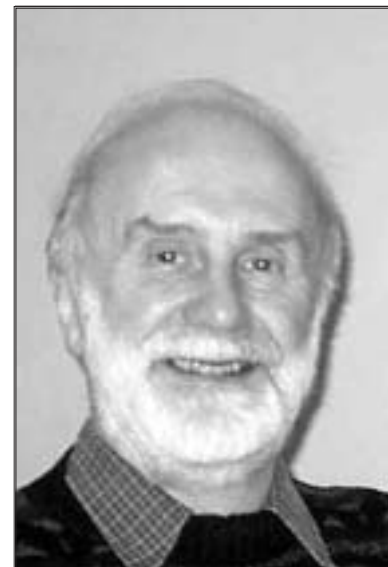
Alan was privileged to work with many exceptional students, not least the students in the Gifted Program at Earl Haig. A very rewarding career!

Since his retirement, Alan has enjoyed pursuing many other interests. This is his sixth season singing in the Mendelssohn Choir and his second with the newly formed Mendelssohn Singers, a chamber choir. The time commitment for both choirs, including performances, is around 100 evenings per year between September and June. In 2003, about 100 choristers went on tour to Austria and the Czech Republic, for nine days, performing in Salzburg, Vienna and Prague.

Alan enjoys many hobbies: reading, listening to classical music, gardening, digital photography and

photo editing using Adobe Photoshop on an Apple Mac computer. He is also a member of a British-Outline Railway Modellers' Society and hopes some day to get enough basement space to set up his own layout.

Alan and his wife Elizabeth, an amateur artist, have one daughter, one son and a four-year old grandson. They are looking forward to more travelling - if and when they find the time.



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.

We also 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 Strozyk: 416-445-6434

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

Telephone Calls

Anne McGee: 416-223-4449

Vinny Coetzee: 416-621-6681



In Recognition of Nina Hillier

by Helen Wiber

IN RTO/ERO, we are fortunate to have many retired professionals around us who demonstrate that life after teaching can be accompanied by physical and mental health, as well as by family and friends. Many retirees continue to make meaningful and positive contributions to those around them. Nina Hillier is one of those kinder, gentler souls that one meets as one goes about one's busy life. Caring for others, her family, friends and, for the past ten years, her charges in RTO/ERO have been her passion.

With her hard-serving committee of Ruth Bradshaw, Clara Strozyk, Vinnie Coetzee and Nancy Walsh, many acts of kindness are carried out on behalf of RTO/ERO. Sympathy, Get Well, and other celebratory cards are sent to our members. Phone calls are regularly made to members who are hospitalized or in need. Visits are made to elderly shut-ins who are given a small gift on behalf of our membership.

Nina also brings the needs of various charitable organizations to the executive table where decisions are made about how to allocate funds in "Service to Others". Nina oversees the valuable work of the committee. She views the task as an opportunity to give back to the teaching profession that has blessed us with so much.

Nina, on behalf of the executive and membership of District 23, we offer our appreciation for your devotion and dedication throughout the years.

Service to Others Grants

by Nina Hillier

EACH year in March, the Provincial office of RTO/ERO accepts applications from local Districts for Service to Others Grants. Three times in four years, District 23, North York has been awarded a \$4000 grant to give to a worthy organization. One of our grants went to the Toronto City Mission to support a summer vacation, at Camp Koinonia near Parry Sound, for English as a Second Language single parents and their children.

Imagine our surprise when we saw an article and picture in The Toronto Star about a father, high-school teacher, Michael Luckiw, and his five children, aged nine to two, who had spent a week at that summer camp! The headline read, "Bereaved family finds joy at camp" After his wife's death almost three years ago,

Mr. Luckiw took a leave of absence from teaching to stay home and attend to his children.

When our District read the article, we felt that we would like to help him. We sent him a cheque for \$1000 to just before Thanksgiving in October 2003.

Here is his reply:

"I want to express my sincere gratitude to you for your generous donation. It is most encouraging to know that the love and generosity and dedication of caring teachers like yourselves make me proud to be a member of such a wonderful profession, and your kindness serves as a glowing path for others to follow.

Your generous donation will help my children continue their education in music and karate. My oldest

three children are learning to play a stringed instrument called a "bandura" and have performed in numerous concerts. All three also practise karate. Wasyl has already achieved a blue belt and has recently won first place at the Kubota World Karate Championship in his division, competing with participants from 34 countries. If it would be of interest to you, we would be most happy to perform for you as a token of our appreciation."

Thank you again,
Michael Luckiw

We accepted Mr. Luckiw's invitation to play for us and he and his children will perform for us at our Spring Luncheon. See page 20 for registration details.

For Women Only

THE Retired Women Teachers of Ontario - RWTO York North invite all retired women teachers to join our organization.

We meet regularly for lunch and other activities. The next two lunch dates: March 16, 2004 and May 13, 2004.

Call our President, Linda Seath at 416-446-1605 for more information.

A Splash of Ogden Nash

Whatever
do
people
see in
Earl Grey
Tea?
Snobbery!
Pity.

Carole A. Martyn

CENTURY MAN

by Hazel Perkin

Was Francis Powell a pensioner longer than anyone else? He retired in 1963 and died in 2003.

HOW many people have seen three centuries? Francis Clement Powell was a baby in the nineteenth century when Queen Victoria ruled, and the Boer Wars raged in South Africa. Some people knew soldiers, who had gone to fight, but most did not, and Africa seemed so far away. News was sent by the quite newly invented telegraph system, although long dispatches were probably still sent by ship. When the news finally arrived in London, and was received by newspaper editors, it was months out of date, and although people said: "How, terrible, Mafeking is besieged," it was all so far away.

Shortly before Francis was born, Bell had invented the telephone, Edison the electric light, and Otis the elevator, but at the time of his birth these things were not in common use in ordinary households. As a young man, Francis would have seen the occasional car on the streets, the earliest ones preceded by a man walking along carrying a flag to warn other users of the dangers of this new contraption. Gradually the horse and buggy gave way to the car, and the horse-drawn streetcar to the electric streetcar or tram.

The short flight of the Kitty Hawk was the forerunner of the aeroplane, and by the time of the First World War in 1914, planes were being designed for aerial combat. An attempt was made to fly hot air balloons, called dirigibles, but this ended when one spectacularly caught fire, killing most of the passengers.

In 1917, as a young man of 20, Francis went into the army, to train in the tank corps. He was still in England, in training, when the war ended, and peace was declared on November 11th, 1918. Francis came back to Toronto, and completed his degree at Trinity College, U. of T., and began teaching Grade 8 at Brown School. Francis' own education had been at St. Clement's School, founded by his father, Canon Powell. In those days the school operated out of the church hall of St. Clement's Church, and sports' facilities would have been minimal to non-existent! Despite this, Francis loved sports, and was renowned at Brown School for the sports' programme he organized for the students.

By the late 1920's the car had definitely come to Toronto. St. Clement's Avenue was no longer a muddy dirt track, and the gas company was planning the building on the corner of Yonge and St. Clement's, with its beautiful bronze frieze. Houses were built on the streets north of Eglinton Avenue, about one street per year. St. Clement's School, then operating out of the farmhouse of an orchard, bought the house adjacent to the school for the additional students.

Toronto grew, homes had gas and hydro, and people had cars. The downtown skyline began to change as elevators raced to the tops of highrise buildings called skyscrapers.

By 1940, there was another war. Evacuees, children whose par-

ents were eager for them to get away from the horrors of German bombing and possible invasion of England, arrived in numbers in Toronto. The private schools took in a good number of them, and extra classroom space was rented for the school in a house across the road. Stories abound of Chemistry classes in the attic with a teacher who, to say the least, was no scientist!

During this time, Francis had moved from Brown School to Eastern High School of Commerce, where he taught History and Economics. In the 1950's the subway was built as far north as Eglinton Avenue, and the TTC as we know it came into being.

Francis retired as head of the history department at Eastern High School of Commerce in 1963. Four years later, he was aware of all the concern at the school when the TTC decided to extend the subway north of Eglinton, directly under the old farmhouse, which was St. Clement's School. He watched the construction of the new building in 1970, and was proud of the school, the students, and their achievements.

Like many an older person, Francis was full of stories of the past, but his head was very much in the present. He could discuss the latest financial reports, and the gyrations of the stock market, or the hockey and baseball scores with equal ease. He

~See *CENTURY*/page9

~CENTURY/continued from page 8

saw the school enter the computer age, and although he didn't own a computer himself, he enjoyed looking at pictures of great nieces and nephews on his stepson's laptop. Similarly, he was enthralled with the

quality and beauty of the music he listened to over Christmas on an MP3. When he did that, he was 105. This was the man who was born a baby in the days of Queen Victoria and hobble skirts!

Here's to you, Francis. I hope that if I live to your great age, I shall have my wits about me as you did,

and always be interested in the remarkably changing world around me.

Hazel Perkin is a past Convenor of Travel for District 23. She retired some years ago as Principal of St. Clements School in Toronto. Hazel sings in a church choir here and in England in the summer.

Make a Difference Volunteer with RTO/ERO

by Helen Wiber

"LONGEVITY is determined by more than a good diet, low cholesterol levels, exercise, good genes, and avoidance of smoking", says Zorba Paster, M.D., an instructor at the University of Wisconsin Medical School and family medicine practitioner."

In his book, *The Longevity Code*, Paster (2001) explains the five "spheres of wellness": physical, mental, kinship (family and social), spiritual, and material (meaningful work, sufficient money, safe and pleasing surroundings).

"If you have balance and good health in all five spheres", says Paster, "you'll live longer."

He writes, "...volunteerism is a key longevity booster". Helping others, interacting with others to affect positive changes around us boosts our sense of well being and satisfaction with our lives."

District 23 provides a safe, meaningful environment in which to volunteer our time and talents. Please consider the opportunities below.

Volunteer Opportunities with District 23 North York

by Penny McLeod-Smith

Goodwill Committee

WITH more volunteers, Nina Hillier's committee could make more visits to those in nursing homes or make more gestures to follow up on those members in need. Volunteers to drive members to and from special RTO/ERO events are also needed. See page 15 for a registration form should you need a driver or can be a driver for others.

The committee also is looking for a volunteer to keep up-to-date booklets from the Community Information Centre of Metro Toronto that list Homes for the Aged, Nursing homes, Retirement homes and Seniors' Apartments.

This information would be kept and made available for loan to our members. For more information about this volunteer opportunity, please call Nina Hillier, 416 221 4257.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

With such a wealth of talent, experience and energy in our membership, we are very fortunate. Being a part of the RTO/ERO team allows you to be as creative as you wish. If you would like more information about how to become involved in the support and organization of the activities in District 23, please call Andree Nottage 905 472 3784

Membership Committee Assistant- Recruitment

The role of Membership Convenor has three essentials: welcoming new members, management of the database and recruitment. Up to now, I - and before me, Fran Sumner - managed all roles. However, the number of members has risen to 1917, and the Executive requires an Assistant to work with the Membership Convenor to develop recruitment strategies to attract retired teachers from the Public, Catholic and Independent School Systems. If you can help us with this critical function, please call Penny McLeod-Smith at 905-888-1341.

~PRESIDENT

continued from page 1

meeting new people and taking full advantage of the camaraderie at our table. I also had a pleasant chat with my Grade 12 Home Form teacher, Mrs. Mabel Campbell, who will be ninety years of age in May of this year. Mrs. Campbell, who taught me both English and History, has a remarkable memory; she remembered the exact seat I occupied in her classroom. Another of Mrs. Campbell's students, Marilyn McCowan, also enjoyed chatting with her.

It is a small world, and no doubt many guests renewed acquaintances with former colleagues, teachers and friends.

District and Provincial Grants

FOR some time, your District 23 Executive has attempted to share some of the funds we receive from the provincial office with those in the community less fortunate than ourselves. We do this two ways, either from our own budget or by applying for a Provincial "Service to Others"

Grant of which approximately 25 are approved annually, in amounts up to \$4,000.

District 23 Grants

AS of December 31, 2003 from the District 23 budget, we have provided \$4,500 to the following organizations:

Habitat for Humanity:	\$1,000
Yonge Street Mission:	\$ 500
Scott Mission:	\$ 500
Therapeutic Clown Program:	\$1,000
Micheal Luczkiw	\$1,000
<i>(see article on page 7)</i>	
Willowdale United Church	\$ 500

"Service to Others" Grants

RECENTLY, we have received two delegations to present details of their organization's request for "Service To Others" funds from the Provincial office.

At the February 11th Executive meeting, we completed an application form recommending that a "Service to Others" grant be given to The Therapeutic Clown Program at The Hospital for Sick Children in

Toronto. We will tell you the decision of the provincial committee when we receive it.

Murder Mystery at the Old Mill

ONE of the highlights of the winter was the "Murder Mystery at the Old Mill". On the 28th of January, following undoubtedly the worst snowstorm of the winter, 30 members and friends managed to drive to the Old Mill Restaurant for a delightful meal and intriguing murder mystery. Audrey Cousins made the arrangements and all present enjoyed themselves. The buffet of salads, hot items and scrumptious desserts was excellent - the only problem was that everyone ate too much.

The Murder Mystery after lunch had everyone guessing "whodunit" until the very end of the production.

Do not miss this event next year.

Sincerely,
David Fleming, President



The Toronto Banjo Band at the Christmas Luncheon.



Jane Fenton, in her festive hat, was enjoying the Christmas Luncheon.

Health Report

by Sam Habib

It's that time again TAX TIME!

YOU should have received a statement of account from Johnson for 2003, which includes premiums paid and services rendered. Check your tax guide for specifics.

Out-of-Province or Country Travel

MAKE sure that you have full coverage prior to departure, and be sure to take: (a) documentation indicating your day of departure, (b) OHIP card, (c) Johnson Insurance card, (d) World Access Inc. telephone numbers. *"Don't leave home without them!"*

Be sure to call World Access Canada at 1-800-249-6556 toll free to know which countries the Canadian government has issued a warning not to travel to because your RTO/ERO Extended Health care

and Supplemental Plans will not cover your medical emergency if you do go.

Medical Aids

BEFORE purchasing any medical aids, check your Extended Health Care coverage or call your Johnson representative.

For example, did you know that: (1) Incontinence supplies are covered (80% to a maximum of \$400 per year.), (2) one hearing test to an annual limit of \$75 per person. The first submission must include a letter from your Doctor indicating the necessity. Subsequent claims need only include the medical receipt.

Changing Health Plans

YOU have 60 days to change plans before a medical is required.

Contact Information

Service: 905-764-4884 or
1-800-461-4597

Claims: 905-764-4888 or
1-800-638-4753

Website Address (with link to Johnson): www.rtoero.org

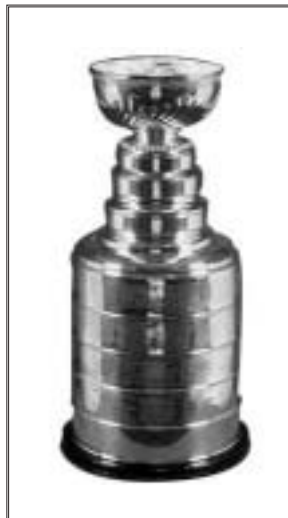
Health Services email Address: healthcommittee@rtoero.org

Air Canada Centre and the Hockey Hall of Fame

Wednesday, June 9, 2004
(Cut-Off Date: May 26, 2004)

\$14

We will start with a guided tour of the Air Canada Centre (ACC), then a walk through Toronto's Underground City to BCE Place and the Hockey Hall of Fame for a self guided tour. You may stay as long as you like. Lunch is available in countless restaurants.



10:45 a.m.	Meet at the main entrance to the ACC
12:30 p.m. (approximately)	Register at the Hockey Hall of Fame

See page 28 for the registration form

Don Valley Glee Club still “singing” after thirty four years.

by Dean Short



Ernie Walker explaining that “unders” beat “overs” when the cards are finally laid down in “7 - 27.”



Ozzie Salins and Ron Dutcher look mystified by the rules of “Black Chicago.”

*“Glee Club members are reminded of the rehearsal this evening.
Bring Your Own Sheet Music”*

In the 1970’s, this Public Announcement was heard at Don Valley Junior High School four or five times a year. The reminder, aimed at Don Valley’s male staff (tenors and basses), would just be a formality, as the regulars would keenly look forward to a Friday evening of stories, jokes, and poker playing (the rehearsal), accompanied by the beverage of choice (the sheet music).

The Don Valley Glee Club has met regularly (now three times a year) since 1970. Founder Ernie Walker plans the annual schedule, and members take turns hosting. Most of the guys live in or near Toronto, although honorary member John Wallace manages to come from Perth, Australia to attend one session a decade.

~See GLEE CLUB/page 13



Dark haired Joe Renzetti, obviously not yet retired, cleans up after a spill.

~GLEE CLUB

continued from page 12

These days most reminders are made by e-mail and telephone to retirees and teachers who have moved on to other schools; a couple of members still teach at Don Valley.

Over the years, pre-game conversation has included discussion about teaching, but now is more about ailments, operations, and travel plans. But some things never change.

The stakes are the same as they were 34 years ago: three-cent ante, and raises are limited to three cents each. You use pennies but treat them like dollars. This keeps the gains or losses low, and the enjoyment high. Bill Crew, the group's philosopher, tells members that even if he loses five dollars in an evening, he has at least five dollars worth of fun.

On a typical evening, 10-12 members will show up, share news, swap stories; hear a

joke for the third time and laugh like it's the first time; learn about Ron Dutcher's favourite classical musician or latest area of expertise; teach Ozzie Salins the rules of a poker variation again; eat a meal at midnight and regret it the next morning.

Life does not get much better than this.

Dean Short is not yet a member of RTO/ERO, but is a veteran of the Glee Club. He continues to teach Music at Don Valley Junior High School. We are grateful to him for submitting this article.

If you have a similar story for STONY Bridges, send it to the Editor, Rob Fraser, (address on page 2)



Bill Crew, the poker guru of the group, explains to author Dean Short how "Murder" is played.



Peter Harris and Bob Brown fooling nobody with those poker faces.



Ernie Buck and Hugh Boyd gathering up their cards and praying someone else will be the one to ask again, "What's wild?"

We thank Neil Kelcey, formerly of Don Valley Jr. High, for taking and submitting the pictures for this article.

In Recognition of Penny McLeod-Smith, Membership Convenor

by David Fleming



THIS is Penny's third year as Membership Convenor. Penny never misses an opportunity to welcome new members to the District, whether signing up new retirees at the Champagne Breakfast, greeting new people at the Christmas Luncheon or chatting with prospective members at a Speakers' Luncheon. She also keeps the Executive informed of the up-to-date membership numbers.

In addition to her duties as Membership Convenor, Penny has been active in recruiting speakers. Under Penny's leadership, the Executive set up a "Speakers' Bureau" which provided our members with five excellent speakers last year. This year, she has been active on the Speakers Series subcommittee, responsible for obtaining speakers for the very popular Speaker Luncheons.

Penny is quite active in her involvement with RTO outside District 23. She attends the Joint Toronto Districts meetings as Membership Convenor. On two different occasions, Penny has been an observer at Senate meetings. At the Provincial RTO level, Penny serves on the Member Services Committee and is currently Chair of the Provincial Goodwill Committee.

Penny would describe the highlight of her career as "working with many wonderful students and teachers".

Outside her RTO activities, Penny is a neighbourhood watch block captain and enjoys attending evening classes in languages and cooking.

Shaw Festival

\$96

(Includes Coach,
Lunch and Show)



A chance meeting leads a cockney street vendor to hire a world famous linguist to teach her to speak "more genteel." This battle of wills between Henry Higgins and Eliza Doolittle is everyone's favourite Shaw play.

Pygmalion

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

(Cut-Off Date: March 26, 2004)

9:15 a.m.	Board Coach at Willowdale United
11:30 a.m.	Arrive at Oban Inn for lunch
1:20 p.m.	Depart for Festival Theatre
2:00 p.m.	Performance
4:30 p.m.	Board Coach for home
6:30 p.m.	Arrive at Willowdale United

*Tickets and name tags will be distributed on the bus
See page 29 for registration form*

A. Drivers Wanted

I would volunteer to drive members to events.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Specify the area of the city within which you are willing to work:

Other Information:

Please send to : Nina Hillier,
22 Brucedale Crescent, North
York, Ontario, M2K 2C7

B. Driver Request

I need a driver to get to events.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address from which you need a ride:

Other information:

Please send to : Nina Hillier,
22 Brucedale Crescent, North
York, Ontario, M2K 2C7

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

November 1, 2003-January 6, 2004

by Penny McLeod-Smith

905 888 1341

WHO IS NEW IN OUR DISTRICT 23 ?

AS of the end of December, District 23 North York has 1913 Regular and Associate members. A big hello to you all, as your Executive tries to entice you, every one, to come to at least one of our events this new year.

Please keep up the good work finding potential RTO members, as the Boards will no longer give us names of retiring staff during the school year. A particularly hard group to locate and contact are the teachers who retire from September to May. We shall want to invite them to our September "Welcome" breakfast too.

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:

November, 2003: Anna Biafore, Linda Clunie, Marion Davidson, Lisa Ference, Marilyn Forsythe, Claire E. Knapp, Ruth Nord, Robert Oben, Edith Potts, Linda M. Reckenberg (from D.16), Sneh Sachdev, Lynn Taylor (from D.34), Raymond P. Unger.

December, 2003: Patricia A. Barnes, Anne Drozd (from D.22), Margaret C. Drozd (from D.16), Domenica M. Hoyes, Sandra Levitt, J. Denis McKee, Neda P. Pajovic.

January, 2004: June L. Barber, Ericeti Bonos, Jeffrey Chaplin, Norma Cleeton, Janet Hoolihan, Doreen Murray, Michael Pepa, Kathryn Petroff, William Pickering, Norma Weingarten

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.

Note: Month shown is the date we received notification

November, 2003: Leonard James Moerat, Leonard Withers

December, 2003: Barbara A. Dungy, Bruce J. Forsythe

January, 2004: Norman Keith Barber, Veronica McCormick

Wiber, 2nd Vice President

by David Fleming



ever since. We are all looking forward to the Golf Day.

HELEN joined the Executive this past fall. She is a member of the Speakers Series subcommittee, and the Nominations Committee.

A surprisingly large number of the Executive members enjoy bridge and Helen is no exception. She plays every Monday and Tuesday.

As you will read in this newsletter, we are planning a Golf Day on Friday, May 28th at the Cardinal Golf Club.

The highlight of Helen's teaching career, was teaching for twelve years in Europe where she was the Director of a NATO Language Training Centre in Germany.

Last spring, Helen suggested this golf day and approached Frank Saliani with her idea. Frank not only bought it but suggested Helen join the Executive and then promote her idea. With great enthusiasm, Helen accepted the proposal and has been an enthusiastic member of the Executive

Helen has many interests outside her involvement with RTO. These include singing in a church choir, running and working out at a club, and learning more about her digital camera. Helen also enjoys being a grandmother of two.

In Recognition of Helen

RTO/ERO District 23 North York presents: Gardening for Small Spaces

\$20

Lunch and Speaker

Moonlight Ballroom
3125 Bayview Ave.

(south of Finch)

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

(Cut-off Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2004)

Kate Seaver, owner of Kate's Garden, is a mother, wife, master gardener and entrepreneur, and is regularly featured on CITYTV and HGTV. Her garden decor store is in Markham. In addition to garden decor, the store offers 100 different gardening and botanical artscourses each year.

11:00 a.m. Registration/Cash Bar
12:00 noon Luncheon
1:00 p.m. Speaker - Kate Seaver

Menu featuring apricot salad, chicken breast with rosemary sauce, medley of vegetables, herb roasted potatoes, rolls and butter, chocolate mousse, coffee or tea.

See page 28 for registration form

In Recognition of Doug Tallon, Travel Convenor Co-Chairman

by David Fleming

DOUG joined the Executive in the Fall of 2002, working closely with Audrey Cousins on Travel, and expanding the role to include a greater emphasis on theatre visits. His knowledge of the city of Toronto and its numerous theatres has proven very useful in providing District 23 members with opportunities to visit places they would otherwise not visit, and experience the best theatre productions in Toronto and Southern Ontario.

In addition to travel and theatre, Doug participates in Monday bridge, attends occasional travelogues and speaker events.

In October, 2003, the district

sponsored the first speaker luncheon at the Moonlight Ballroom, and Doug was our first speaker, speaking on the topic "Inexpensive Entertainment in Toronto". This was a very successful event.

Doug's career in education began in the classroom at the elementary school level. Next, he became a learning resource librarian at the elementary level. Following a year's leave of absence to travel, Doug returned to the library, and later moved to the Junior High level as librarian. He also taught English, History/Geography and Family Studies.

Doug is a Toronto city tour guide. He is also a volunteer at the Elgin Winter Garden Theatre and member of the executive committee. It was in this capacity that he gave many of us a thorough, exciting tour of these historic theatres, last October

1st, prior to enjoying the delightful performance of Two Pianos Four Hands in the Elgin Theatre.

It is not an exaggeration to say that Doug's chief love is the theatre. Next, might be New York City and then Toronto. We appreciate the value of Doug's expertise on theatre and Toronto.



Friday, September 24, 2004

(Cut-Off Date: September 7, 2004)

Guys and Dolls is the musical love story between gambler Sky Masterton and the straightlaced Salvation Army girl Sarah Brown.



\$92

(Includes Coach, Lunch and Show)

8:45 a.m.	Board Coach at Willowdale United Church (Kenneth Ave.)
11:30 a.m.	Lunch at Angie's Country Kitchen
1:00 p.m.	Depart for Stratford for show at 2:00
4:30 p.m.	Board Coach for home
Approximately 6:30 p.m.	Arrive at Willowdale United Church

*Name tags and tickets will be distributed on the bus.
See page 29 for registration form*

First Annual Golf Tournament

Kettle Creek Golf Club Jane Street (North of Highway 9)



Friday, May 28, 2004

(Cut-off date: April 19, 2004)

"Kettle Creek golf course is an ideal venue for Seniors, Juniors, Families or Players who want to enjoy excellent conditions. Bent grass throughout, white sand, bunkers, beautiful trees, make this a tricky test for even the most talented of players."

8:00 a.m.

Registration

9:00 a.m.

Shot-Gun Start

(each team at a different hole)

\$40 per Golfer

Includes pull cart and barbecue lunch with salads, drinks and desserts

Golf carts available for \$12 per golfer.

Register your team of four, a twosome or just yourself. We will make up the teams accordingly.

Prizes for: lowest score using scramble format, closest to pin, longest/straightest drive etc.

Prizes from: Curves (one year membership), Cardinal Golf Town, Metro Golf Dome, Shoppers Drug Mart, Pharma Plus, Starbucks, Second Cup, Hollywood Gelato, Il Fornello, Tippet Richardson and more.

Questions? Call Helen at 416-485-0131 or Darlene at 416-221-7242

Golf Tournament Registration Form

Golfer(s)

Phone

1) _____	_____
2) _____	_____
3) _____	_____
4) _____	_____

Register by April 19, 2004, make your cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23, North York and mail to:

Helen Wiber

539 Davisville Avenue, Toronto, Ont., M4S 1J2



**In recognition of Kathleen Elliott,
Assistant Treasurer, Archivist**

by David Fleming

OUR longest serving, active member of the executive is Kathleen Elliott, with over a quarter century of service. In addition to her duties on the executive, she enjoys bridge and never misses a Tuesday afternoon playing bridge. She also collects money at every Travelogue and Speaker event. At these events she takes delight in handing out: RTO/ERO District 23 mugs to the presenters, and the lucky draw prizes.

We owe Kathleen a debt of gratitude for keeping photo albums of all events for many years. This has allowed the District to maintain accurate archives of our history.

Prior to joining RTO/ERO District 23, Kathleen was Vice President, President and Past President of York District 3.

During her career in teaching, Kathleen taught grades 1 - 13 in various areas of Ontario. Qualified as an art supervisor, Kathleen taught many teachers in Department of Education art courses. Once retired, she continued this work, teaching art Courses every summer for thirteen years. Then she taught her two grandchildren and their friends how to make puppets and put on shows.

Kathleen is an avid gardener and member of the Thornhill Horticultural Society and Thornhill Historical Society. She paints in her spare time and had a very successful show in 1997. Many of her ideas for painting have come from travelling around the world. Later this year she will be cruising on the "Queen Mary 2", which will give her further inspiration for a slide show and painting.

Kathleen has set an example for all of us to follow. One would never know that Kathleen will be ninety years young this spring.

Travelogues

By Kerry Peters

TRAVELOGUES occur on the first Tuesday of the month (except in June) at Willowdale United Church on Kenneth Avenue in the gymnasium. Admission is \$2.00, which includes refreshments after the show, and a chance at the famous lucky draw. The programme begins at 1:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 6, 2004
1:30 p.m.**

New presenter, Steve Fuller will take us for a Jewish heritage tour of five cities of Eastern Europe.

**Tuesday, May 4, 2004
1:30 p.m.**

Frequent past presenter, Lorinne Deverell will lead us to Central America to enjoy many of her "Highlights of Costa Rica."



Travelogue Convenor, Kerry Peters trying to stay warm at the February executive meeting.

T hornhill Golf and Country Club

7994 Yonge St.
T hornhill, ON

We are proud to welcome the Luckiw family who will entertain us at our luncheon. District 23 has a special connection with this family, and you can read about it on page 7.

F riday, May 7, 2004

(Cut-Off Date: Friday, April 30 ,2004)

Menu

California mini green medley garnished with diced apples, grapes and sunflower seeds drizzled with a Swiss herbal vinaigrette, followed by roasted prime rib of beef au jus, sour cream, chine and garlic mashed potatoes, medley of spring vegetables, peaches and cream delight, rolls and butter, coffee and tea.



11:00 a.m.

Social hour with cash bar

12:00 noon

Luncheon

\$27

We will also pay tribute to the three Past Presidents of the 21st Century: Rob Fraser, Bev Wood and Andree Nottage.

Spring Luncheon

Friday, May 7, 2004

(Cut-Off Date: Friday, April 30, 2004)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Guests: _____

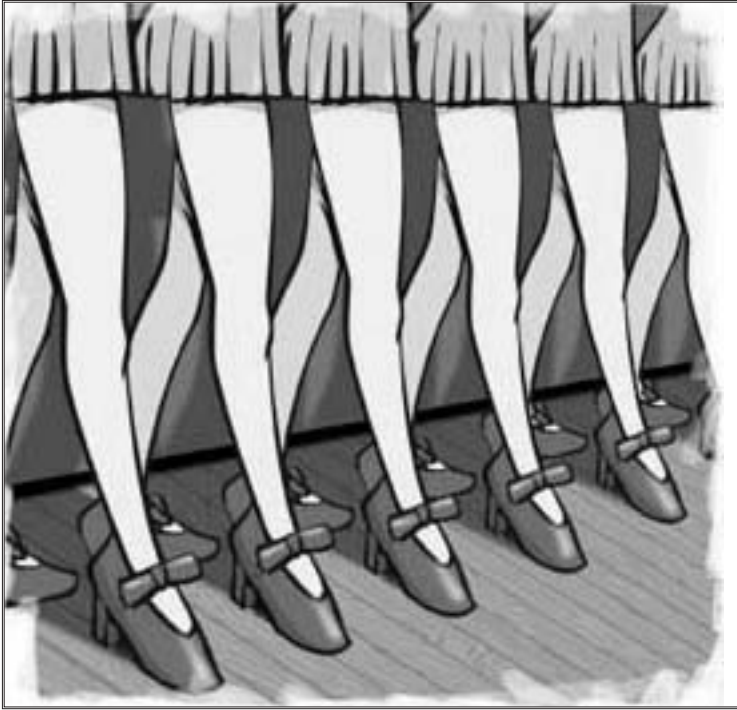
of tickets ___ @ 27 = \$ _____

Make cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 North York and send to:

Mildred Frank
705-505 Cumber Ave.,
Toronto, ON
M2K 2L8
416-221-5328

S
p
r
i
n
g
L
u
n
c
h
e
o
n

Draughton Festival Theatre



A young actress named Peggy Sawyer arrives in New York in search of stardom and gets hired as a lowly chorus girl. But when the lead literally breaks her leg Peggy must step in to save the show. Is a star born? You'll find out!

42 nd. Street

A Song and Dance Extravaganza

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

(Cut-Off Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2004)

8:45 a.m.
11:45 a.m.
1:15 p.m.
4:15 p.m.
Approximately 6:15 p.m.

Board Coach at Willowdale United (Kenneth Ave.)
Arrive for lunch at Anna Mae's Restaurant
Board coach for Theatre
Board coach for home.
Arrive at Willowdale United

\$70

(Includes Coach, Lunch and Show.)

*Tickets and name tags will be distributed on the bus.
See page 29 for registration form*

CHALK DUST MEMORIES

Farcical and humorous tales submitted by our readers

How I Became Famous

by Allen Strike

I enjoyed two years teaching in an elementary school. It was challenging teaching everything under the sun. In particular, I liked to expand upon the meagre Ontario Science Curriculum. At the time this was very heavy on Botany and Biology because the population of the Province had, until only recently, been seventy percent rural. Farmers needed to know these things. The Parts of the Fish were on the curriculum from Grade Five to Grade Twelve. Leaf collections were an annual favourite for all grades; the older students would have fancier labels and wrap the whole thing in cellophane. From these random accumulations students never learned much about trees or leaves for that matter. Physics and Chemistry were notable absentees and so was any form of laboratory work. This was a common North American problem but we still had the audacity to be surprised that the Russians could launch a satellite.

One of the subjects we had to look at was Meteorology. It struck me that it would be nice to set up a weather station on the school roof where any apparatus we might use would be safe and permanent. This

would allow us to take readings over the whole year. Since there was the danger that one of our charges might try to study unaided human flight from the roof, I thought we would have wires run down from the instruments and into our classroom. This



was not to be. The principal did not want to have little holes drilled through his precious window frames. The station seemed to be off. Then I had a new idea.

The father of one of my students was interested in radio and I

asked him if he could make a small radio that would send out a beep every time a contact on a wind gauge (anemometer) came around. He said that he could do it.

About this time I was asked to put a piece in the school newspaper about anything we were doing. I wrote about our proposed radio - signal meteorological station on the roof. This was published and then it was reprinted in the Board's Newsletter and then reprinted again in the local paper. In fact we never got the thing past the initial stage and it didn't work.

No matter; from then on I was famous. Wherever I went in the Scarborough Board, people would come up to me and say, "Aren't you the man who put the weather station on the roof?" I would smile self-effacingly and make a small gesture to dismiss the whole matter as just another manifestation of my genius. The last such encounter came five years after I had left the Board. It was a lot of fun but I miss the stardom, it gets into your

blood.

Al Strike is a regular contributor to STONY Bridges. He lives, paints, and sculpts in Toronto.

ELKA'S

POETIC EAR

Mendenhall Glacier, Alaska

The helicopter
whirrs us away.
Our anticipation, palpable

Misrepresented
uniformly white and smooth and pure
reality suddenly reveals to us

another world

a wholly unexpected
secret
world

of dense sharp peaked crevices
in shades of blue
with black markings
like unpolished marble.

Colour slowly fades to white
Peaks round themselves out
flatten
and cease to be

We land
where air borne marks
of human living disappear

and indeed
Mendenhall is flat and white and pure
really pure

offering pockets of drinkable water
thousands of years old

Elka Enola



Elka Enola retired from teaching in 1996 after teaching in Montreal and Chateauguay in Quebec; and in North York and York County in Ontario. While teaching, she also ran social clubs for singles (Enola's Table Talk), for seniors (The Silver Foxes) and for general interest groups (Toronto Inside Out.) After retiring, she was more able to indulge herself in her passions for all the performing and visual arts, for history, other cultures, photography, travel, architecture and food. She is an Urgent Letter Writer for Amnesty International and is Coordinator of the Humanist Association of Toronto (HAT). She began writing poetry in 1959 and her works have appeared in Prism the literary journal of Sir George Williams University, now Concordia, (Mensa Canada), Montage (Mensa Toronto), Outreach Connection,

Poemata, Poetry Moments, Inkwell Textures, Arts About Town (Oakville Arts Council) and The HAT Newsletter (Humanist Association of Toronto). She is currently working on a photographic poetry project in which she is writing poems inspired by photos taken while traveling. Being the organized systematic person that she is, the photographs are grouped by countries and the countries are organized alphabetically. At present, she is finishing the 'G's' (Greece, Greenland, Grenada and Guatemala). She is married to Ernie Enola (nee Lee) who was a principal in North York and who shares all her passions as long as they don't involve the computer.

In Recognition of Frank Saliani, 1st Vice- President

by David Fleming



FRANK joined the Executive in September, 2001, as Convenor of Bridge and has been active ever since. A year later he assumed the role of 2nd Vice- President, while continuing to convene bridge. Later, he took on the role of web-master and liaison for Pension & Retirement Concerns. At the AGM in September, 2003, Frank became the 1st Vice- President. He contributes his expertise to every Executive meeting.

Frank is also very active in RTO/ERO outside District 23. He is a Toronto District Council representative, and serves on the Provincial Political Action Committee. Last Fall, he attended the meetings of Senate as an observer.

Frank had an interesting teaching career, teaching a variety of Mathematics and Science subjects in three different secondary schools. From 1968 - 1975, he taught Physics at Central Technical School in Toronto. Next, he taught Physics and Science at Newtonbrook S.S. in North York. This was followed by teaching Math, Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and finally Co-op Education at Georges Vanier S.S.

When not busy with RTO matters, Frank thrives on teaching bridge on Mondays and Tuesdays and playing bridge whenever the opportunity presents itself. This spring, Frank and his wife Elaine are taking several bridge enthusiasts on a Rhine River cruise that will combine sightseeing in a number of European cities and the "occasional" bridge game.

Frank also enjoys problem solving for friends and family.

The Political Action Committee of RTO/ERO District 23, North York presents:

How to Complain Effectively

This workshop is presented by Judith Klie of the Ontario Ombudsman's Office. In it, you will increase your awareness of the complaint process, and your skills and confidence in complaining effectively.

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

(Cut-Off Date: April 30, 2004)

1:30 p.m.

Willowdale United Church

(Kenneth Ave.)

Friendship Room

And..... it's free!

(Limited to 50 participants)

Learn:

- Ø *Why the right complaint is important*
- Ø *Your complaining style*
- Ø *Complaining to the right person*
- Ø *The role of the Ontario Ombudsman*

How to Complain Effectively

Name(s) _____

Telephone: _____

Please return by April 30 to:

Andree Nottage
45 Drakefield Road
Markham ON
L3P 1G8
905-472-3784

In Recognition of George Meek, Newsletter Distribution Convenor

By David Fleming

GEORGE has been one of the most active members of District 23's Executive for many years, and was President 1998- 99. Currently he is responsible for the distribution of this newsletter to all the members, associate members, Toronto Districts Presidents and others. Almost 2000 retired teachers receive the newsletter.

George is very involved with RTO/ERO outside District 23. Currently, he is on the RTO/ERO Constitution Committee and an Assistant Speaker at Senate. He has attended all Senates since joining the Executive in 1996. He was a member of the RTO/ERO Health Services & Insurance Committee for six years (1996- 2002) and chair of it for three of those years.

George had a fascinating

forty-year career in education, mostly as an elementary school principal in North York (1955- 95) and was heavily involved in the issues of those times. He was President of OPSMTF- North York (1966- 67, and 1978- 79), President of OTF (1981- 82), Vice President of CTF (1982- 84), President of OPSTF- North York (1985- 87) and NYETF (1986- 87) and was granted a Fellowship of the Ontario Teachers' Federation (FOTF).

George worked with Industry Canada (1990- 95) as a consultant and Executive Director of Computers for Schools- Ontario which distributed over 65,000 refurbished computers to Ontario schools and public libraries and provided training experiences for hundreds of young people in over 40 refurbishment workshops across Ontario, many of which were in Ontario secondary schools.

George has been married to Joy for 43 years. They have two children and four grandchildren.

George's interests outside RTO are numerous. He acts as parliamentarian and facilitator at the annual meetings of many hockey associations and other organizations across Ontario. He is secretary to the Gates of Bayview Tenants' Association Inc. and acts as 'Consultant - Store Appearance and Customer Service' to Don Park Inc. George also curls at the Thornhill Country Club and plays golf at Uplands Golf Club.



Also in this section: Private Clinics won't help/ pg. 26
Extraordinary Secrecy/ pg. 27

Why My Life Ain't So Sweet!

by Maureen Donaghy

I love chocolate....the highlight of every Christmas, birthday, anniversary, Groundhog Day, and (of course) Valentine's Day celebration is the moment I sit and eat my way through the boxes and boxes of chocolate my loving family provide. In case the family does not provide, I always treat myself as well.

But this year, I have had to forgo this pleasure as I have become aware that most commercial chocolate contains trans fat. With all the recent publicity, many consumers now know that trans fat is produced when

a process called hydrogenation is applied to liquid cooking oil in order to improve its taste and durability. The resulting solid fat is then used to create a vast number of tasty food products with long shelf lives. The advantage to the consumer is obvious; cookies that last forever (almost!) are certainly better than the old fashioned ones that became stale in a couple of weeks. The process is certainly advantageous to the food manufacturers—they use the hydrogenated fat in many prepackaged and commercially prepared foods.

However, it is the use of these dangerous trans fats in baby food and in Arrowroot biscuits that prompts this article and compels me to threaten the entire food industry by refusing to buy *any* food item containing trans fat—including my much-enjoyed chocolate. I have read the research articles published in The Globe and Mail and various magazines, and have seen the television shows which report the detrimental effects of trans fat on the human

~See *SWEET*/page 26

~SWEET/continued from page 25

body. Trans fat not only contributes to the LDL (low-density lipoproteins) which are the building blocks of artery blocking cholesterol, it also destroys the HDL (high-density lipoproteins) which help keep the arteries clear. I cannot get over the fact that this dangerous fat is actually used in the production of food for young children. Already we have heard the alarm sounding about the rise in obesity among children; already we have witnessed an increase in the number of heart complaints in this population. The consumption of trans fat is a significantly contributing factor in both conditions.

Of course, trans fat poses a threat to people of all ages, especially since we all consume so much of it. Visit the supermarket and read the labels on your food. Trans fat may not be mentioned, but look for the words

“hydrogenated”, “partially hydrogenated”, “shortening”, or “margarine” and you will find trans fat lurking in the most unsuspected places—in waffles, crackers, peanut butter, and almost every cookie. Needless to say, trans fat is also found in large proportions in almost all fast food.

The federal government has responded to consumer complaints about the invisibility of trans fat by passing legislation which will require food manufacturers to clearly identify any food containing trans fat. This will certainly reduce the amount of research and interpretation-time currently needed when shopping. However, this legislation will not be enforced until December 5, 2005. More optimistically, New Democrat MP, Pat Martin, has introduced a private member’s bill that would severely restrict the use of trans fat in all food. This ban is already in effect in Denmark—its approval in Canada

would go a long way toward eliminating a major health risk. If you are interested in the health of all Canadians and are especially concerned about the well-being of your children and grandchildren, please consider adding your voice to growing chorus of Canadians supporting Mr. Martin’s bill.

You may wish to investigate further and, as always, the Internet is a good starting point. Information on Pat Martin and his fight against trans fat can be found at www.patmartin.ca. Read more about the health effects of trans fats at www.ctv.ca/generic/WebSpecials/transfat. Simply typing “trans fat” into your search engine will return a good number of useful articles on the subject, but note the date and origin of all information.

Maureen Donaghy is a member of the Political Action Committee.

Private Clinics Won’t Help

by Gordon Guyatt

PICTURE yourself at age 65 losing your vision in one eye. You need cataract surgery. You are managing, but you would like to have the surgery before too long.

Your options include going to the local hospital, with no direct payment. Of course, you have paid, through your taxes, but that is what public health insurance is about. We all pay regularly, in anticipation that services will be available when we need them.

Alternatively, you can attend a private clinic and pay \$1,000 for the procedure.

As far as you can tell, the quality of care will be the same. Either way you’ll have to wait for four weeks for the procedure.

No doubt about that choice, right?

What if the wait were longer in the hospital? Say, eight weeks, versus four weeks in the clinic. You are managing fine with one good eye. Many people wouldn’t want to spend \$1,000 to move surgery up by four weeks.

What if the difference were three months, or six months? How long would the difference have to be

before you would fork out \$1,000?

Two weeks ago in this column, I described how the British Columbia government prepared legislation cracking down on investor-owned private for-profit clinics violating the Canada Health Act, and charging patients for quicker care. The Liberals passed the law, but then backed off. We’ll never proclaim the law, said Premier Gordon Campbell, so it will never be enforced.

Apologists for those private

~See *CLINICS*/page 27

~CLINICS/continued from page 26

for-profit clinics suggest that they might reduce waiting lists in the public-pay system. Let people who can afford it pay, the argument goes, and it will take pressure off the not-for-profit hospitals.

But the cataract scenario that started this article shows a gaping flaw in the logic. If there aren't substantial waits in the public system, why would anyone pay more for surgery?

If for-profit clinics substantially reduced waiting lists, they would drive themselves out of business. Investors who own clinics that charge patients depend on unacceptable waits in the public-pay system for the survival of their enterprise.

Wendy Armstrong of the Consumers' Association of Canada conducted a detailed two-year study of waiting lists for cataract surgery. Armstrong looked at three Alberta cities with varying degrees of privatization.

In Calgary, private clinics performed 100 per cent of cataract surgeries. In Edmonton, public hospitals carried out 80 per cent of publicly insured cataract surgeries and private clinics 20 per cent. In Lethbridge, public hospitals carried out all the publicly insured cataract surgeries.

As it turned out, for-profit delivery appeared to increase the waits. Calgary patients waited an average of 16 to 24 weeks for surgery, Edmonton waits ranged from five to seven weeks, and Lethbridge four to seven weeks.

The more you think about it, the less surprising those results become.

In order to shorten waiting lists, for-profit clinics would have to increase the total number of surgeries. That could happen only if there were more doctors, or each doctor performed more surgeries.

You don't need to be a health policy guru to realize that Canada has a doctor shortage. Are for-profit clinics going to create new doctors? Of course not.

What about doctors working harder? When patients are charged extra, doctors take home more per patient. For a given income target, that means surgeons would have to perform fewer operations. Indeed, in defending direct patient charges, doctors often say that it's not about money, it's about lifestyle. More time for them with their families, or just a lower stress level.

So, on average, the private pay option will lower patient throughput, not increase it. Longer waiting lists,

not shorter, will result.

Private-pay also changes the mix of who gets operations. Investor-owned facilities make their profit by catering to low-risk patients whose surgery is simple and who are unlikely to have costly complications. Such patients will move up the waiting list with for-profit care.

More patients who don't really need the surgery will get operations. In a public-pay system, patients with mild problems — early cataracts for instance — are encouraged to wait. In private-pay, if you have the money, you are in the door.

That means less opportunity for those who really need it. It also provides yet another reason that for-profit clinics actually increase public-pay waiting times.

Our tax dollars subsidize the private clinics' profits. That's because even low-risk patients sometimes get complications. Then they go back into the public-pay not-for-profit hospitals that are equipped to deal with the problems.

Private clinics won't shorten waiting times. They benefit the investors, some of the doctors, and wealthy patients. The rest of us subsidize the investors, and wait longer.

© 2004 Winnipeg Free Press. All Rights Reserved.

Extraordinary Secrecy Obscures Billion-Dollar P3 Hospital Deals says the Ontario Health Coalition.

THE massive private (P3) hospital deals scheduled to be signed by the provincial government any day now are purposefully obscured by an astonishing lack of accountability and

transparency, the Ontario Health Coalition charged in a media conference this morning.

"We have been trying for a year and a half to get the hospitals

and the government disclose, even the first documents relating to the

~See P3/page 30

Tear - Off Slips For Peter Lynch



Please prepare separate cheques for each event and be sure to include all tear - off slips

Gardening for Small Spaces
Air Canada Centre/Hockey Hall of Fame
Pygmalion
42nd. Street
Guys and Dolls

Gardening for Small Spaces

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

(Cut-off Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2004)

Name(s): _____

Telephone: _____

of tickets @ \$20 _____ = \$ _____ Make cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 North York and mail to:
Peter Lynch
135 Church St.,
Weston, ON M9N 1N6

Air Canada Centre and the Hockey Hall of Fame

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

(Cut-Off Date: May 26, 2004)

Name(s): _____

Telephone: _____

of tickets @ \$14 _____ = \$ _____ Make cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 North York and mail to:
Peter Lynch
135 Church St.,
Weston, ON M9N 1N6



Tuesday, April 27, 2004
 (Cut-Off Date: March 26, 2004)

Pygmalion

Name(s): _____ Telephone: _____

Guest(s): _____

of tickets @ \$96 _____ = \$ _____ Make cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 North York and mail to:
 Peter Lynch
 135 Church St.,
 Weston, ON M9N 1N6



Tuesday, June 1, 2004
 (Cut-Off Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2004)

42 nd. Street

Name(s): _____ Telephone: _____

Guest(s): _____

of tickets @ \$70 _____ = \$ _____ Make cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 North York and mail to:
 Peter Lynch
 135 Church St.,
 Weston, ON M9N 1N6



Friday September 24, 2004
 (Cut-Off Date: September 7, 2004)



Name(s): _____ Telephone: _____

Guest(s): _____

of tickets @ \$92 _____ = \$ _____ Make cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 North York and mail to:
 Peter Lynch
 135 Church St.,
 Weston, ON M9N 1N6

~P3/continued from page 27

requests for proposals”, noted Steven Shrybman, lawyer for the coalition and a group of unions who have launched a legal challenge against the P3 hospitals. “The government and hospitals are playing a shell game, joining cause in resisting the disclosure of records despite the major commitments of public funding to build the new hospitals. It is indefensible for government and public institutions to avoid disclosure simply to avoid public criticism.”

“The Brampton Hospital will be accompanied by deep privatization of the services at four hospital sites. The public and the hospital workers have a right to know exactly which services will be privatized and whether there has been any study or consideration about keeping those services public,” added Brad Philips of

the Service Employees Union, representing front line workers at the William Osler Health Centre in Brampton. “The public should know whether the government has studied the higher mortality rates in private facilities, or the impact of the trade agreements relating to this privatization, or where the cuts will be made to make room for profits,” he concluded.

“We have heard that the clinics in the P3 hospitals will be run for private pay patients in the so called off-hours. Since this increases two tier healthcare and pulls scarce personnel and resources out of the public health system, we have a right to a clear answer about whether or not this will be the case,” added Pat McNamara of the Ontario Public Sector Employees Union, another party to the court case. “The public has a right to know if the privatization deals in these hospitals will increase two tier health care and allow new service charges.”

“From the little information that has been released we do know that the deals will amount to over \$1 billion in public money and costs have been rising since the beginning,” said Natalie Mehra of the Ontario Health Coalition. She concluded: “Surely the people of Brampton have the right to know how much money they will have to pay for their privatized hospital and 30 year long lease deal. Given that privatized hospitals are a fundamental policy change, and given the extraordinary cost and duration of these deals, the veil of secrecy that obscures them from public scrutiny is unjustifiable.”

The coalition provided copies of documents requesting information over a 1 ½ year period to the media.

Ontario Health Coalition
tel: 416-441-2502,
www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca

They do make us laugh!

THE FERRIS WHEEL

by Hazel Perkin

ALISON and Sam were taking three-year-old Gina to the fair for the first time. She wanted to ride on the big wheel, and Alison, who is not good with heights, decided to watch.

Sam and Gina were settled in their seats and the wheel was all ready

to start when Gina said, “Daddy, I need to go to the bathroom.” Sam mouthed this information to Alison, but before there was any possibility of a response, the wheel slowly began to turn.

Alison, who could hardly contain her laughter, explained the situation to the other watching mums, and they watched in fascination. As the wheel flew through the air, suddenly a seemingly endless stream of water

came from the side of one of the cars, and drifted away in the gentle breeze. When the wheel reached the ground, Gina looked up at her father and said, “It’s all right, Daddy, I’ve been.” Sam, who had been quite unaware of this, had a quiet word with the attendant. “I think perhaps you should wipe that seat. My daughter had a little accident.” A rather wet Gina walked carefully over to the comforting arms of her mother.

Travelogues Past

by Andree Nottage

BILL WAKEHAM presented the Beauty of Ireland in our December TRAVELOGUE. The history of Ireland was revealed through the ancient churches and castles. The beauty of the land was captured through the lovely photos of the countryside and the ocean shores.



RIDING on a camel seemed like so much fun! This is what IONA BELL was up to when she visited Tunisia. Her TRAVELOGUE presentation in January took us through the desert, the oasis, and the populated cities of this picturesque country.



OUR February TRAVELOGUE revealed Romania to us through the beautiful photos of award winning photographer/presenter EVA KATO. This unspoiled land and its friendly people, along with the 15th century cities and frescoed buildings, made for a most interesting presentation. She is pictured here with her husband, Ken.



THANKS again to Jean Cameron refreshment convenor, and her many helpers who provided refreshments at each of our TRAVELOGUES. Pictured here are Irmgard Habib, Bety Appleby, and Thelma Austerberry

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: _____



Founding member and willing volunteer, Dorothy Young at the Christmas Luncheon.

STONY Bridges
414-4005 Bayview Ave.,
North York, Ontario
M2M 3Z9

CANADA POST	
POSTE CANADA	
POSTAGE PAID	PORT PAYE
PUBLICATION MAIL	POSTE-PUBLICATION
40042060	