

STONY BRIDGES

A NEWSLETTER FOR RTO/ERO DISTRICT 23, NORTH YORK

ISSUE 82

DECEMBER 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Frank Saliani

It is an honour for me to serve as President of District 23 North York for the coming year. We have a terrific group of people on the Executive who work tirelessly to organize events for the membership and I look forward to working with them on your behalf.

Notice to Schools

Please place STONY Bridges in the staff room to introduce the *Retired Teachers of Ontario* to soon-to-retire-teachers in your school.

I would like to welcome the new faces that are joining the Executive this year. They are: Dave Harlton – Assistant Treasurer, Eileen Justesen - Goodwill, Guy Léger- Treasurer, Mary Ellen Lawless - Second Vice President.

The Executive meets on the second Wednesday of each month except in

July and August at Willowdale United Church, 393 Kenneth Avenue. We are always looking for new ways to serve the membership. If you have some ideas or suggestions, and/or would like to make a presentation to the Executive, give me a call at 416 281 3542 or e- mail me at frank.elaine@rogers.com to make arrangements.

Here are some of the events planned for the upcoming year:

Christmas Luncheon

Don't forget to join us at our Christmas Luncheon at the Granite Club on December 3rd. It promises to be a great afternoon of catching up with long time friends, live entertainment and good eats. Call Mildred Frank 416-221-5328.

Travelogues

These afternoon sessions occur

~See *PRESIDENT/* page 10

COMING EVENTS

Murder Mystery at the Old Mill
Wednesday, January 26, 2005
~See page 15

Textile Museum of Canada
Thursday, February 17, 2005
~See page 14

Famous People Players
Wednesday, March 23, 2005
~See page 12

Ain't Misbehavin'
Wednesday, April 6, 2005
~See page 11

Visit us at

www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org

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E-Mail List

by Frank Saliani

From time to time, information, events, or announcements that need to be passed on to the membership come to the Executive and we find it impossible to pass them along in a timely manner. "Stony Bridges" publication dates and deadlines for inclusion just don't work for pending messages or announcements.

I am willing to create an e-mail listing for those with e-mail accounts in order to ameliorate the situation.

If you wish to be included in such a listing, please send me an e-mail message at frank.elaine@rogers.com with the line "count me in".



Travelogue Presenter, David Legget

RWTO

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

We meet regularly for lunch and other activities.

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

Calendar of Events

December

- 3 Christmas Luncheon 11 a.m.
- 7 Travelogue 1:30 p.m.
- 8 Executive Meeting 9:15 a.m.
- 14 Bridge 1:00 p.m.
- 21 Bridge 1:00 p.m.

January

- 4 Travelogue 1:30 p.m.
- 11 Bridge 1:00 p.m.
- 12 Executive Meeting 9:15 a.m.
- 18 Bridge 1:00 p.m.
- 25 Bridge 1:00 p.m.
- 26 Murder Mystery 11:30 a.m.

February

- 1 Travelogue 1:30 p.m.
- 8 Bridge 1:00 p.m.
- 9 Executive Meeting 9:15 a.m.
- 15 Bridge 1:00 p.m.
- 17 Textile Museum 11:15 a.m.
- 22 Bridge 1:00 p.m.

March

- 1 Travelogue 1:30 p.m.
- 8 Bridge 1:00 p.m.
- 9 Executive meeting 9:15 a.m.
- 15 Bridge 1:00 p.m.
- 22 Bridge 1:00 p.m.
- 23 Famous People's 11:30 a.m.
- 29 Bridge 1:00 p.m.

April

- 6 Ain't Misbehavin 1:30 p.m.



Newsletter Editor, Rob Fraser (left) was the guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting. Past President David Fleming presents an honorarium.

EDITOR'S LETTER

by Rob Fraser

One of the benefits of editing Stony Bridges is hearing from or about people I worked with in North York, but have lost track of. So it is a pleasure to have heard from Lynda Pogue. Like many of you recent retirees, I took courses with Lynda when she was delivering them with Albert Downs.

Lynda sent a postcard announcing a solo art show of her paintings called **that intangible thing** appearing at the OSSTF Gallery on Mobile Drive. The advertisement for the show appears on page 24. The show runs through November and may, therefore, be over by the time you receive your copy of STONY Bridges, but I'm sure that there are many ex-North Yorkers who would be happy to hear about her, and I'm pleased to express congratulations from District 23. We hope your show is a sell-out!

In this issue, we have contributions from regular contributors, Al Strike, Elka Enola, James Treliving, and Carole Martyn, plus the customary offerings from your Executive Committee. I also received, from former Travel Convenor

Hazel Perkin, one of those internet stories that fly around the world and take on the mantle of truth, but are, of course, urban myths. We have a poem from Donald Dolson that he wrote more than 50 years ago, and a funny piece called "Spelling" that Alex Bartholomey gave me at the Annual General Meeting. There is also the latest news from 86 year old stamp enthusiast and former District 23 Convenor, Herb McNaught. We also have the summary of the Member Survey, which many of you completed. One of the issues in which you expressed an interest was Energy Policy. Therefore, the Political Action Committee has submitted a couple of articles from the Clean Air Alliance alerting us to a "sweetheart deal" for Bruce Power that may have a smell to it. Have a look at that. And for those of you who want to monitor energy issues, there are addresses and websites to assist you to do that. Somebody must keep an eye on politicians. While they do pledge to serve, it is often surprising and disturbing to learn how well they and their friends make out as a result of that "service." ♦

SUBMISSIONS

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:

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



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 Information

Please use the form found on the back page of this newsletter to notify us of your new information, **and call provincial RTO/ERO 416 - 962-9463 or 1-800-361-9888 to change your address information.**



Deadline

The deadline for the next issue is February 9, 2004.

SIX YEARS ADRIFT

How I Made My Way After Teaching

by Rob Fraser

It would be a terrible sailor who stepped aboard ship and cast off from shore without a compass, a rudder or chart to guide him. And yet that is what I did in 1998 when the 85 factor was announced in May of that year, and I discovered that I was among the new group suddenly eligible to retire. I was 54.

I pretended to think about it. I asked other people what they thought. I made lists of the pros and cons, and played at weighing them. But in the silence of the night, I asked only this of myself, "Is there really any reason not to do this?"

I mean, come on, forget freedom 55! I was only 54. And I could stop work? Earth to Fraser - Hello!

And so I set myself adrift.

To do what? I didn't know.

Who will I be? I didn't know.

What will I be about? I didn't know that either.

The future will look after itself, I said. And so began my six years adrift.

✕

Let me be absolutely clear about this, though. I haven't been inactive as I've floated along - I have joined and worked within worthy organizations, moved to Lake Nipissing, served in soup kitchens, bought snowmobiles, learned to play bridge, joined clubs. I even went to Portugal! On the surface, even to myself, I appeared to be engaged in my new life. But I really had no worthy goals at all, and thus was merely putting in time, and slipping toward irrelevance. No longer a teacher or principal, I didn't know who I was anymore. And while my life appeared active on the outside, there was big trouble cooking inside my head. My thoughts were thoughts of a life in decline - fuelled by too

many negative suggestive influences - hours spent with T.V. and radio, internet surfing, internet solitaire, and reading newspapers.

But I wouldn't be writing this or making presentations about it if I thought I was still adrift. Obviously, I must have smartened up. I call it -

My Awakening

Some people have to go through an illness, or a death in the family or other tragic episode for their epiphany. But I was lucky. I only had to go to a movie. Still, like Saul of Tarsus who was blinded and knocked off his horse on the road to Damascus, I paid attention too.

Actually, my Awakening was really two events over one weekend - a one/two punch. The first was Mel Gibson's movie, "The Passion of Christ", and the second was a sermon on Easter Sunday morning.

I didn't go to see "The Passion" with any enthusiasm, let me tell you. I had read about it, and I knew that the movie portrayal of the story of Christ's passion was a powerhouse, and not at all like the gospel versions that I grew up with as a comfortable Anglican. But I was ill prepared for Gibson's graphically brutal portrayal. It was shocking and I left the theatre saying, "Jesus made that sacrifice for

me? So that I could spend my time trying to beat the computer at Hearts? I don't think so. I don't think that's my destiny."

Then, on Easter Sunday morning, I attended service at St. Paul's on Bloor Street in Toronto. The sanctuary was undergoing major renovations. Even the organ was gone for repairs, and the usual spectacle was muted to say the least. Naturally, the minister used the renovation setting to frame his sermon, which he called *Extreme Makeover - From The Inside Out*. Now I may not be the sharpest tack in the box, but he had my attention. And when he was finished, I looked around - from under hooded eyes - certain that someone would be pointing at me, saying, "Hey you, boy. He's talking to you. You need to shape up!" That's how pointed the sermon was to me. Well, I wasn't about to ignore it, that's for sure. When the Lord (or if you prefer - life, the collective unconscious, the universal mind or whatever) speaks with such clarity, I pay attention.

"I'm going to find my compass," I promised.

✕

I began the search at the library. I had no particular book or tape in mind because anything would do - one book would lead to another. Of that I was certain so I went to the audio books, self-help section and flipped through looking for a

familiar name. I found one – Stephen Covey, a tape called, “Living the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.” It was a single cassette recording, and I listened to it repeatedly. Next I bought the book and read that. Since then, I have read or listened to dozens of authors talk about success, winning, goal setting, change, living and so on. One message particularly, was common to all of them:

You become what you think about.

What had I been thinking about? A life in decline - an irrelevant, old, arthritic, balding, washed up guy with no tomorrows. And so that’s what I was becoming.

If I was to stop the drift, I was going to have to undergo an *Extreme Makeover, From the Inside Out*, to change my thinking and discover - Who am I now? What am I about now? What do I want to do now?

To unearth that, I decided to do something quite out of character - to do one of the exercises suggested by Stephen Covey – to build a principle - based personal mission statement. It’s taken many months and endured many revisions, but it now captures pretty well how I want to function now. It’s my personal constitution. When first I began to work on it, I kept it a secret. It just seemed too goofy a thing to do- build a personal mission statement. Spare me! But it’s made all the difference. I wrote it in the form of a prayer. Here it is -

“Thank you Lord for the abundance of my life. And in all areas of my life teach me to:

- give more than asked or expected of me,

- be proactive and to take responsibility for my life,
- strive for excellence,
- be competent and trustworthy,
- look for good in every person and situation,
- live from my imagination, not my memory,
- faithfully use the talents that you have given me.”

✕

I wrote it to break out and stay out of the loser’s circle inside which I was resting, living by my old “less than perfect but good enough” philosophy that permitted lazy, shoddy work. I aimed each statement at specific bad thought habits that kept me from productive, honest, committed participation in my own life. I recite it daily to myself, especially in moments of choice - like whether to put the quarter in the parking meter or not - and it works! I’m finding my compass.

To nurture and protect this new-sprung frame of mind and to prevent slipping back into bad habits, I also decided to change some of my daily practices that were sustaining the bystander life I was leading:

- a) No TV, no radio, no internet or newspapers first thing in the morning. These are all bad for me. Too apocalyptic, and I’m prone enough to existential woe. Instead, I begin each day reading something inspirational. There are mountains of books in this category. I start with a Bible reading and then move along to something else. No less than two hours now.
- b) I almost never listen to the radio in the car anymore. Instead I listen to motiva-

tional tapes and inspirational biographies. It’s become a positive addiction.

c) I set achievable weekly goals in all the important areas of my life -relationships, STONY Bridges and RTO/ERO, the Rotary Club, health and fitness, learning and finally legacy goals.

I write them down and discipline myself to do them or else daily chores, or worse, negative activities bump them aside. Especially when the chore list is on the fridge or the newspaper is on the table. But I don’t allow that much anymore. I try to keep my promises to myself, and so if it’s on my list of weekly goals, I make sure that I do it. And do it well.

I haven’t been tentative about my Extreme Makeover, in the, “Well, I’ll try it,” sense. I pledged to myself that I would do whatever it takes to change course and see into tomorrow with definite purpose, and that I would be worthy of the blessings granted to me in life.

I’ve found my compass and in calm or stormy waters, I have control of the rudder. Anyone can do it. ❖

Rob Fraser retired in 1998. Currently, he lives on the shore of Lake Nipissing in the postal district of Callander, Ontario, the birthplace of the Dionne quintuplets. He is the editor of STONY Bridges. Rob was the guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting of RTO/ERO, District 23, North York. This article is a summary of that talk. If you would like the full presentation for your organization and/or the bibliography of titles referred to in this article, contact him at 705 752 5697 or by e-mail - robertpf@hotmail.com.



Something you Don’t See Every Day

As of January 1, 2005, fees for membership in RTO/ERO, regardless of membership status (full, associate etc.) will be going DOWN by 12%.
 e.g. Full membership drops from \$1.25 per \$1000 of gross annual pension to \$1.10 per \$1000.
Check your January statement, from The Ontario Teachers’ Pension Board, when the annual deduction is made.

An appeal for Mentors

by Andree Nottage



The PRIME MENTORS CANADA PROGRAM from OISE, is looking for teacher retirees willing to volunteer an hour a week during the day, in GTA elementary schools sharing life's wisdom, interests and learning with grade five to eight youngsters.

Students will develop ambitious projects over a period of ten-twelve weeks, with the help of Mentors who will assist students to develop skills such as research, the processing of information and its communication to audiences of their classmates & teachers at a final presentation.

The PRIME MENTORS program was founded in 1988 by Professor Conchita Tan-Williams at OISE. Ms Tan-Williams was concerned that some creative young people may not have the opportunity to explore and develop ideas stimulated by rapidly expanding knowledge. In this program, you will share your interests not by teaching or tutoring, but rather as a partner in exploring the widening fields of knowledge e.g CD-ROMs, the Internet, and TV.

Mentors range in age from early twenties to late eighties! An opportunity for an intergenerational experience while helping a youngster. ♦

Call:

**Fred Speed, Program Director,
416-222-1071**



RTO /ERO Members Jerry Daca, Webmaster, Helen Wiber, Vice President, and George Meek, Newsletter Distribution Convenor attended the ARM (Active Retired Members of OSSTF) semi annual Golf Tournament on September 22nd. The tournament was held at Mill Run, which was an excellent venue. The weather was perfect, and with four chances to get the perfect shot, the scores were low and team spirit was high. RTO/ERO encourages contact, such as this, between the two retired teacher groups. Everyone benefits.



Travelogue Convenor, Kerry Peters (centre) pictured aboard the Kapitan Khlebnikov as it cruised the high Arctic this past summer. He is shown in discussion with other members of the cruise. (Picture submitted to STONY Bridges by Iona Bell.)

Children Samana, Dominican Republic

by Elka Enola



Four young boys
grass skirts over shorts
white patterns painted
all over
brown bodies
except
exuberant faces
Every rhythmic step toward us
trusting

They laugh and sing and
dance away
fate's scorn
and never never beg

Adult astuteness
tourist guilt underline the pathos
and we are very generous

Travelogues

Travelogues occur on the first Tuesday of the month (except July, August, September and June) at Willowdale United Church, Kenneth Avenue (South of Finch and east of Yonge) in the gymnasium. Admission is \$2.00 for which you receive refreshments after the show and a chance at the lucky draw. The program begins at 1:30 p.m.

Canyonlands and the U.S. Westcoast

with Ray Burton

Tuesday, January 4, 2005
1:30 p.m.

Thailand

with Ed Martin

Tuesday, February 1, 2005
1:30 p.m.

Salzburg, Vienna, and Prague

with Alan Ward and the Toronto
Mendelsohn Choir

Tuesday, March 1, 2005
1:30 p.m.

If you enjoy our Travelogues, introduce a newly retired friend to come along with you. They might win the lucky draw!

CHALK DUST MEMORIES

Farcical and humorous tales submitted by our readers

Tests and Skulduggery

by Allen Strike

The Scarborough Board of Education had central testing of Spelling. Each Grade Level had its Speller and for each week there was a list of words to master. The Board would send out a weekly test to each teacher and it would be in the mail box on Friday morning. When, as a young teacher, I rambled into this setting I was a lamb going to the slaughter.

In the first week I taught the words as prescribed and gave the Friday test. The results looked reasonable to me. Probably the average would be around eighty five percent and I submitted this to the office. Then there was published a list of all the results for the school. I was stunned. My eighty five percent stood out like a frog on a wedding cake. The other results were all over 99% and were calculated to two decimal places; so they looked like 99.23%, 99.48% and so on. The principal noted in kindly fashion that my results were lower than the others. The same thing happened in the second week. Naturally I had to find out what was going on, and I did.

Since this was a Board-wide test all the results were collated and published. The intent was to ensure good standards across the area but some principals, notably mine, had extended this to be a life and death struggle. In their turn the teachers had responded. They would pick up the Friday test before eight a.m., have the students come in early, give a long spelling test with all the day's words in it, and then correct the results. At nine a.m. they gave the formal test. Everybody got ninety nine percent. The competition now was over the next two decimal points. I joined in with gusto.



Another Board-wide test was administered at the end of Grade Eight. It covered English, Mathematics and some general knowledge. The score that each student got on this test was divided by the student's I.Q. to come up with a ratio. If you got 150 marks and your I.Q. was 150 your ratio was 1. If you got 100 marks and your I.Q. was 100 your ratio would also be 1. However, if you got 150 marks and your I.Q. was 100 your ratio would be 1.5. Do you see where this is going?

It was well known in the school that our competitive principal had for several years boosted all the marks so that the school's overall ratio would be higher. The trouble was that other schools had glommed on to this and now they were doing the same thing and catching up. The principal called me in one day and handed me the tests to mark. "This will be good experience for you," he said. I was deeply moved by this gesture. I marked the tests and he probably incinerated them

immediately afterwards to destroy the evidence.

A few days later I saw him in the office and he had a pile of O.S.R's on his desk. He noticed that I noticed this. "I'm working on the Grade Eight I.Q.'s," he said. "Everybody knows that they are too high so I am reducing them. Maybe after I work out the ratios you will check them for me?"

"Of course." I replied, "It will be a good experience for me."

"You have an excellent attitude," he said.

After he retired he went to help out in Africa. ♦

Allen Strike is a regular contributor to STONY Bridges. He is pictured above with his class at St. Andrew's Junior High School. Al has recently moved to a new home in Port Hope, Ontario where he continues to paint, sculpt and write farcical tales for STONY Bridges.

INTRODUCING.....

by Helen Wiber

Our Treasurer Guy Leger



Since retiring in 1995, Guy (pronounced as in French), has been using his time to the fullest. After working with a small computer firm, he finally retired in 2002 and we are fortunate that he has decided to volunteer as our Treasurer on the executive of District 23.

Guy began his very successful career in science with the Catholic system in the Welland and London area of Southern Ontario. As a teacher of Physics and Chemistry, he became interested in the 'new' Audio-Visual focus of the early 1970's in classrooms and libraries. Eventually, Guy and his family returned to Toronto where he was raised. He assumed a number of positions with the Metropolitan Separate School Board and was Superintendent of Information Services when he retired.

Woodworking, playing bridge, and his cottage are sources of pleasure for Guy. He has also built sets for the TCDSB Staff Arts productions (musicals and comedies) for a number of years. Besides his passion with the game of golf, he

enjoys sharing in the successes of his three children, two of whom are teachers and one a priest.

Guy came to volunteer with District 23 when he answered a call for help to organize our first golf tournament, which we held in June. We learned to appreciate his talents with spreadsheets and accounts, which he will put to good use on our behalf as Treasurer.

Since Guy had decided that it was time for him to give back in some way to his profession, we didn't have to twist his arm very much to convince him that he would be the one for the job. Welcome to the Executive, Guy. ❖

Our Second Vice-President, Mary Ellen Lawless



According to Mary Ellen, her one claim to fame is having graduated from the very last group of teachers from a 'Normal' school in 1953. As we get to know her better, we'll learn that she has other 'claims to fame' making us very pleased that she has accepted the position of second Vice-President of our District.

Mary Ellen comes to us the way many of the other members around the executive table have come, that is through the Bridge group where her talents as a skillful partner and formidable opponent shine.

Since the young age of 18, Mary Ellen has been involved in education, having a "peripatetic career" meaning that she taught at various times in both panels, from a one-room school house with all eight grades in Grafton, to larger centres such as Mississauga and Toronto. She recalled the days when to adopt a child, a woman had to be a stay-at-home mom. So for many years, she worked part time assessing and programming for special needs children, teaching special education courses at night school and completing a BA and M. Ed. while assisting her husband, Daniel to raise their three adopted children.

In 1957, (no that is not an error) Mary Ellen was invited to apply for the position of teacher/principal in a newly constructed Catholic (Separate) school in Erindale. Later she was the founding teaching principal of St. James Catholic School in Port Credit, eventually retiring from St. Gabriel Catholic School in North York in 1995.

Besides the pleasure she gains from her four grandchildren and her gardening, Mary Ellen participates in the Liturgical activities of North York's Blessed Trinity Parish and volunteers with the food preparation program for the Good Shepherd and St. Felix Centres. For the past nine years, she has been on the Board of Directors for the Toronto Catholic School Board Employees' Credit Union. In spite of all of her commitments, she has time for the theatre and loves to travel at every opportunity.

We are very pleased that Mary Ellen has decided to take on this position that is at least a four year stint as she progresses to first vice-president, president, then past president of District 23. ❖

~PRESIDENT/continued from page 1

on the first Tuesday of each month and have some great speakers and presentations of places that some of us would not know about. They might even entice you to become a traveller. I know- it happened to me. Some of the places in the line up include dissertations on the "Queen Mary", *Christmas in Art and Song*, *Canyon Land-U.S. West Coast*, *Thailand*, and *Salzburg, Vienna and Prague with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir* by Bridge Convenor, Alan Ward.

Recreation / Travel

Trips that are being planned include a tour of the Textile Museum of Canada, Famous People Players - tour of facilities, lunch and performance, and the St. Lawrence Centre Can Stage performance of "Ain't Misbehavin". Check out this issue for details or call Doug Tallon or Audrey Cousins for further details.

Bridge

I think most of us are aware that we have a dedicated group of people that meet each Tuesday of the month except the first of each month to socialize and play this exciting game that claims to ward off senility, Alzheimer's and old age boredom. Join us for fun and great afternoons of socializing. Call Alan Ward for details.

For beginners, or people who want to learn this great game: there is a group that meets on Mondays at Goulding Park Centre. The emphasis here is on socializing, learning the game and playing at a leisurely pace where help in the bidding or play is always available. Call me for details.

Website

Sometimes, we can't get information in quickly enough to meet the publication deadlines for STONY Bridges. If you wish to keep up to date, visit our website at www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org and click on "North York District 23", then click on "Activities" for the latest goings on. If you have misplaced your copy of the STONY Bridges Newsletter, it is also posted there. ❖



Past President David Fleming receiving the famed District 23 coffee mug, as a token of appreciation for his year of service as President, from incoming President Frank Saliani.



Archivist and Assistant Treasurer, Kathleen Elliot, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday, is seen here at the Annual General Meeting with Past President David Fleming. Kathleen was aboard the Queen Mary 2 this summer and presented her trip at a Travelogue on November 2, 2004.

Ain't Misbehavin'



The Music of Fats Waller
featuring Jackie Richardson

Wednesday Matinee: April 6, 2005

(Cut-Off Date: March 5, 2005)

1:30 p.m.

St. Lawrence Centre

(Bluma Appel Theatre)

27 Front Street East

\$25.00

Notes:

- a) Arrive at the theatre on your own
- b) Meet Doug Tallon in the lobby after 1:00
- c) Show starts at 1:30 p.m. sharp

p.m.

~See page 27 for registration form

What if...

A star above the stable bright
As shepherds gather in th night
The ox and ass in silence stand
And cattle low in holy land.

A woman groans with throes restrained
A man awaits the forordained
The baby comes and angels sing
As hallelujah chorus ring.

She lays the child on manger hay
In swaddling clothes in disarray
And brushing back a wayward curl
Calls..."Joseph, see, a baby girl."

James Treliving
Palgrave , Ontario

Another Urban Myth!

Submitted for our amusement by Hazel Perkin, who picked it off the internet.

This is the message that the Pacific Palisades High School (California) staff voted unanimously to record on their telephone answering service in response to a lawsuit launched by parents against the school for giving their children failing grades.

“Hello! You have reached the automatic answering service of your child’s school. In order to assist you, please make a selection from the following choices.

To lie about your child’s absence - Press 1.

To make excuses for your child not doing his/her work - Press 2.

To complain about what we do – Press 3.

To swear at a staff member – Press 4.

To ask why you didn’t get information that was contained in your newsletter – Press 5.

If you want us to raise your child – Press 6.

If you want to reach out and touch, slap or hit someone – Press 7.

To request another teacher for the third time this year- Press 8.

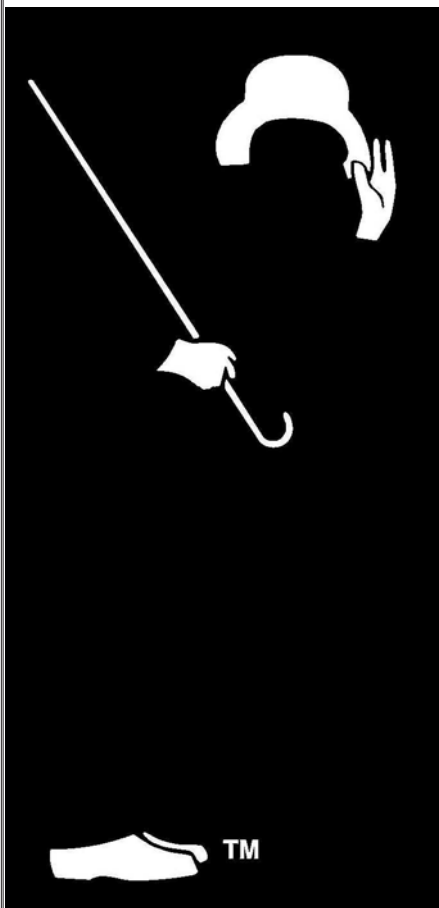
To complain about bus transportation – Press 9.

To complain about school lunches – Press 0.

If you realize that this is the real world and that your child must be accountable for his/her own behaviour and work, and that it’s not the teacher’s fault for your child’s lack of effort, hang up and have a nice day.

Famous People Players

presents



Black Light Night at the Theatre

Wednesday Matinee, March 23, 2005

(Cut-Off Date: February 16, 2005)

110 Sudbury Street, Toronto

416 - 532-1137

\$48
(inclusive)

11:30 a.m	Arrive at the theatre
12:00 noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Performance
afterward	Dessert and coffee

~See page 27 for registration form

GOLD AT LAST

by Herb McNaught

Herb McNaught was awarded the coveted Gold award and the Reserve Grand award for his eight frame, one hundred and twenty-eight page exhibit of *Canada - 1897 Diamond Jubilee* issue of stamps at National VANPEX show in Vancouver, B.C., October 8 - 10.

During this year, this exhibit also was awarded five Vermeil medals (small gold) in Edmonton, Ottawa, Charlottetown, Halifax and Vernon. And now, having received a Large Silver for five frames at the International Exhibition in Tokyo, Japan in 2003, it is eligible for consideration by the Royal Philatelic Society for Canada at the *World Expo* in Sydney, Australia next April, 2005. If accepted and awarded a Vermeil, it could be considered for the *International Exhibition* in April, 2006 in Washington, D.C. It is Herb's hope that it will go all the way.

His exhibit is the only one of this issue of beautiful Canadian stamps - sixteen in number from a half cent black to a five dollar green- to be shown nationally and internationally for many years. Naturally, Herb is proud of this very striking contribution to each show.

In 2004, Herb retired his world famous exhibit of *Canada - Half Cent Small Queen 1882 - Issue* after receiving two Gold awards nationally and three large Vermeils international at Seoul, South Korea, Madrid, Spain and Copenhagen, Denmark, the highest award granted for a one stamp exhibit in international competition. To preserve the exhibit for posterity - before Herb (perhaps) breaks it up and sells it - Canada Post photographed three sets and compiled three books: one for Herb and the other two for the Postal Museum Library in Ottawa. A fourth book was produced by the British North America Philatelic Society for its library, and for sale in its book department.

Recently, Herb has become interested in a new class called "The One Frame Class," and he has created one of his Half Cents with which he has won a Silver, four Vermeils and a Gold. Herb hopes it will be accepted for competition in Washington in 2006. There are 50 to 60 countries involved in this show and Herb will be extremely excited to compete with these top notch philatelists.

Herb began collecting stamps in 1934 and it continues to give him pleasure, a purpose in life and keep him young at heart, if a little "broke" buying hard-to-acquire items. And he continues to practice this lifelong hobby with enthusiasm.

Herb always listens to the remarks of the judges at the Judges' Critiques after each show and he strives to heed their suggestions for additions and improvements.

In 2005, Herb begins his 29th year of retirement. He enjoys his hobby and plans - God willing and good eye sight- to pursue and take pleasure in it for many, many years to come. ♦



Herb is 86 years old. He retired 29 years ago, and served on the executive of RTO District 23 as the Travelogue Convenor for many years. He keeps STONY Bridges and its readers well informed about his philatelic interests.

British Columbia: Portrait of a Province - A Kaleidoscope

The land of earthquakes, fast ferry projects, leaky condos,
Slippery ski-hills, and slipperier politicians,
Tree-cutters and tree-huggers
Vying for her great forests.

Sporting jaunty names like
Sooke, Smithers and Sointula.

A great beauty sprawled on the Pacific
sea

With an Oriental twinkle in her eye,
Patrolled by whales and dolphins
Along her rugged coastline.

Fishermen with empty nets,
Gazing out to empty waters.

Forced to live with the Alaskan
Panhandle
Sliding off her northern border,
Stoically Canadian about it.

Indifferent to her Eastern siblings,
Glancing at her with envious sniffs;
A new home for Ontario refugees -
Leaving their snow shovels behind them.

Starbucks aficionados,
Leaning over lattes.

Sharing a double-barrelled name
With Nova Scotia and New Brunswick,
Yet less and less British in her people.

Home of the wood chipper, 4X4's, mountain bikes,
And sleek Mercedes cars gliding from
West Van mansions.

Growing the best rooftop moss in
Canada,
Emily Carr country,
Luscious Lotus Land!

Carole A. Martyn

Join Us For A Tour of the



Textile Museum of Canada Exhibitions

55 Centre Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
(Near the St. Patrick Subway Station)

Thursday, February 17, 2005

(Cut-Off Date: January 26, 2005)

11:15 a.m. - Meet in the Lobby

11:30 - Tour begins

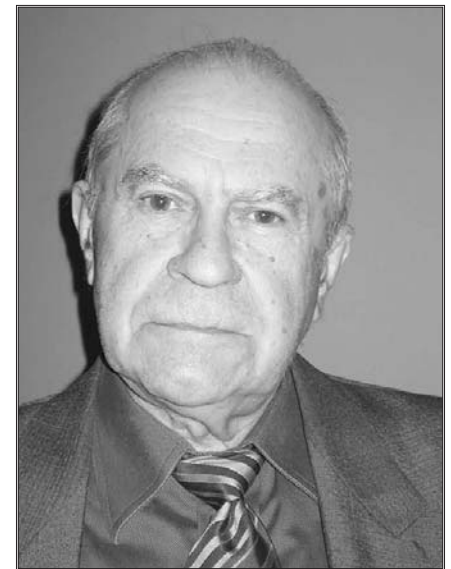
\$8.00

Your name tag will be your admission

~See page 26 for registration form



Entertainer Adam Timoon "singing for his supper" at the District 23 Annual General Meeting.



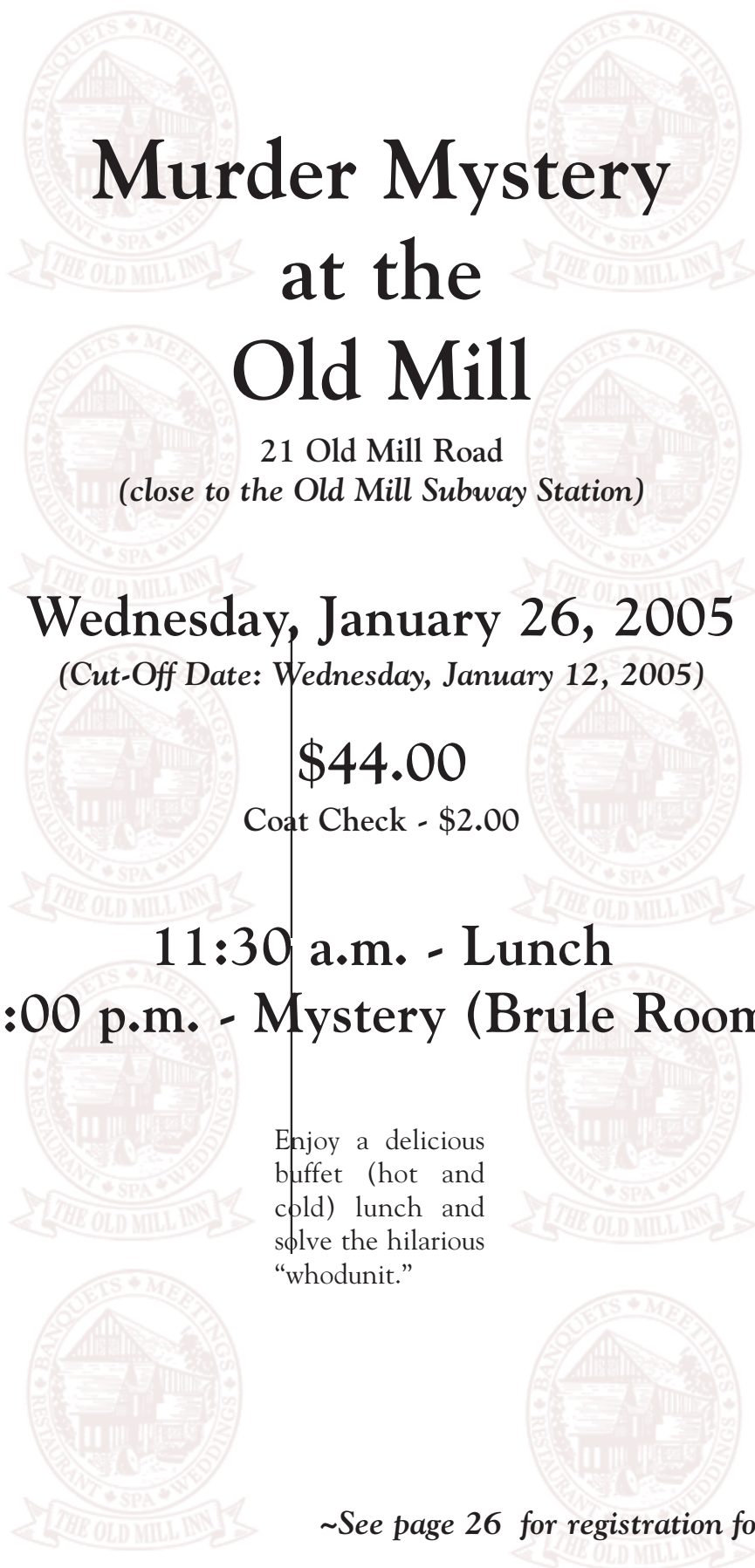
Retiree and RTO/ERO member Alex Bartholomey at the AGM. Alex submitted the poem called "Spelling" on page 17.



Goodwill Convenor, Eileen Justesen. Look for her profile in the next issue.



Alec Taylor at the AGM. He was there with his wife Eulaline who was one of our "Slam Champs" in the last issue of STONY Bridges.



Murder Mystery at the Old Mill

21 Old Mill Road
(close to the Old Mill Subway Station)

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

(Cut-Off Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2005)

\$44.00

Coat Check - \$2.00

11:30 a.m. - Lunch

1:00 p.m. - Mystery (Brule Room)

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

~See page 26 for registration form

HEALTH SERVICES REPORT

by Sam Habib

Premium Rates

There are no changes to premium rates for 2005.

Semi-Private

Single	\$16.43
Couple	32.82
Family	38.56

Extended Health Care

Single	\$51.73
Couple	103.47
Family	124.17

Dental

Single	\$40.55
Couple	79.96
Family	99.71

Plus applicable taxes

Dental Plan

The dental plan will reimburse claimants based on the Ontario Dental Association (O.D.A.) 2005 fee schedule.

Extended Health

Effective January 1, 2005, the plan will **no longer pay** the Ontario Drug Benefit deductible dispensing fees.

Long Term Care

A new long term care plan design, including revised premium rates, is available to RTO/ERO members, their spouses, children and parents. A mailing in September outlined the various plan options available, the premiums and the need for long term care insurance.

Policyholders (members and spouses) under the prior long term care

plan received a personal letter last spring outlining their renewal options, which included:

- no change until the end of the initial five year premium rate guarantee period,
- renewing early to receive a discount off of renewal premium rates,
- maintaining their current premium by reducing the daily benefit.

“Wellness”

The Provincial Health Committee established a sub committee on “Wellness” this year. This resulted in a list of best “Wellness” events such as *Aquatics* and *Cholesterol*, and a formal connection with the *Active Living Coalition for Older Adults*. (ALCOA). A presentation on *Cholesterol* was presented in October to District 23 and associated Districts.

In this edition of STONY Bridges, you will find a centrefold from the ALCOA called, *Be Active, Eat Well*, which you should keep with your Health Plan information.

“Take care of your finances

.....

Take care of your health.”

Contact Information

Service:

416-920-7248

1-877-406-9007

FAX: 416-920-0939

Claims:

905-764-4888

1-800-6384753

FAX: 764-4041

Website:

www.rto-ero.org

E-mail

healthcommittee@rto.org

Driver Request

I need a driver to get to events.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address from which you need a ride:

Other information:

Please send to : Eileen Justesen
39 Newton Dr., North York,
Ontario, M5M 2M6 or call 416-222-0706

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 : Eileen Justesen
39 Newton Dr., North York,
Ontario, M5M 2M6
or call 416-222-0706

SPELLING

~Author unknown

A king, on assuming his reign,
Exclaimed with a feeling of peign:
"Tho I'm legally heir
No one here seems to ceir
That I haven't been born with a breign."

A merchant addressing a debtor,
Remarked in the course of his lebtor
That he chose to suppose
A man knose what he ose
And the sooner he pays it, the bedtor!

A young lady crossing the ocean
Grew ill from the ship's dizzy mocean,
She called with a sigh
And a tear to her eigh
For the doctor to give her a pocean.

And now our brief lesson is through-
I trust you'll agree it was trough:
For it's chiefly designed
To impress on your migned
What wonders our spelling can dough!

*Submitted to STONY Bridges
by Alex Bartholomey*

PRIVACY CODE

Privacy Statement

RTO/ERO values the relationship it has with its members and therefore is committed to respecting your privacy. We protect this privacy by maintaining personal information in the strictest confidence and securing it using appropriate safeguards. RTO/ERO does not share members information with other organizations without your consent.

to ensure that members' personal information is protected against loss, theft, and unauthorized access or disclosure. These procedures include physical measures such as the use of locked cabinets; technological tools such as computer passwords and firewalls; and internal organizational controls such as restricted access.

Collection, Use and Disclosure of Information

RTO/ERO collects, uses and discloses personal information only for those purposes necessary to administer membership and in accordance with the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (January 1, 2004). This information includes, but is not limited to: Name Address, Telephone, E-mail, Date of Birth, Date of Retirement, and Social Insurance Number (required by Teachers' Pension Plan to directly deduct your annual membership fee (if appropriate).

Collection of this information allows RTO/ERO to establish and maintain communications with members, provide ongoing programs and services, and respond to inquiries. Personal information collected from members prior to the implementation of the Act is subject to the Act. Since it has already been collected, RTO/ERO assumes the right to continue to use and disclose such personal information, unless notified otherwise by individual members.

Safety & Security Measures:

RTO/ERO has developed, implemented and reviews its security procedures

Accessing Personal Information:

RTO/ERO members have the right to access and amend personal information. You may withdraw consent, at any time, to the collection, use or disclosure of personal information, understanding that RTO/ERO, upon request, will explain the implications of withdrawing such consent, as it may hamper or prevent the provision of service.

Contact for Further Information:

In accordance with the Act, RTO/ERO has appointed a Privacy Officer who will ensure that we comply with all aspects of the legislation and continue to uphold all of the principles for protecting members' personal information. Individual members may contact RTO/ERO to ask questions about, access or amend personal information, withdraw consent on having information used, or file a complaint on this use. Questions and concerns should be directed to RTO/ERO's Privacy Officer, Executive Director, Harold Braithwaite or designate Simon Leibovitz, Information Officer at privacy@rto-ero.org or 416-962-9463 or 1-800-361-9888. ♦

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

(April 1- September 30, 2004)

by Penny McLeod-Smith, Membership and Recruitment Convenor

WHO IS NEW?

As of the end of September, as RTO/ERO tries to recruit possible new members, we are pleased to report that District 23 North York has 1969 Regular and Associate members. Your Executive welcomes all members to our great events this year.

Please keep up the good work finding potential RTO/ERO members, especially during the September - December retirements. This is a particularly hard group to locate and contact as the teachers who retire from September to February may not receive our school invitations to the September Champagne Breakfast.

The following have joined District 23 as regular or associate members, and we hope to welcome them soon to our North York events:

April, 2004

Diane Haag, Kenneth B. Hills, Lynne E. Hindle, Robert D. Mosey, Ethel Patt, Jean Patterson, James G. Pollock, James M. Purcell.

May, 2004

Katherine Brodtkin, Martinus H. Coffeng, Roslyn Harris, Ralph Muller, Catherine Starkman, Anne Vieira, Norma J. Young.

June, 2004

Florence A. Barik, Margaret Y. Dayholos, Luba Denaburg, Leslie L. Duncan, Marguerite A. Palmer, Brian J. Richardson.

July, 2004

Mary-Ellen Anglin, Joyce L. Arnsby, Felicity Ashby, Joyce H. Deyong, Nina Emery, Lorna Gamboz, Linda Gorgonio, Joan Gunning, Brenda Julie, Pauline McKenzie, Abdul K. Moola, Mary Rivers, Barbara Rodrigoe, Josette Sassoon, Margaret P. Schuman, Marcello E. Tanzini, Mildred Tanzini, Geraldine Teplitz, Lida Tersigni, Vivien Thompson, Stephen C. Willerding.

August, 2004

Carlene Calabrese, Annie S. Cheng, Diane M. Chenier, Sonia Day, Judy Fitzner, Joyce L. Frew, Harriet Gaizutis, Connie Gidaro, Edward Gould, Bernard Gurian, James Holdwachuk, Anne Marie Keogh, Antonio Nigro, Faith Ospalak, Bruce W. Patten, Noel S. Pietersen, M. Christine Russell, Aleksander E. Sentek, Sandra Sigal, Judith M. Titov, Brenda J. Weinberg, Marjorie M. Williams, Anna Zuccon.

September, 2004

Liliane Bichay, Theresa Borkowski, Peter J. Brennan, Claudio Chichiarelli, Marsha Greenberg, Arlene Murison, Mary Sue Nutson, Sonia Walsh, Daniel N. Yielding.

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 families and share fond remembrances of their contribution to the teaching profession.

Note: Month shown is the date we received notification.

April, 2004

Ruth M. Cowan, Anne M. Fowle, B. Edmund Nelligan,

May, 2004

Nye I. Levy, Sylvia Simonoff, Norman R. Todd

June, 2004

Leonard Canning, Helene Mikhail, Wilma E. Swain

July, 2004

Valentine Anson, Lois E Darroch, Kathleen M. McCarthy, Barnett Taylor, Walter Wilson

August, 2004

S. Jean Bower, George McColl

September, 2004

William Foster

Thanks to the provincial RTO/ERO office for keeping us informed of these changes. ❖

OUR MEMBERS SPEAK!

Political Action Survey Results by Andree Nottage

A sincere thank you to RTO members who took time to reflect and return the Political Action Committee (PAC) Survey. Your comments will serve to guide the discussions/action of the PAC from the four Toronto Districts.

Here are the priority topics as tabulated:

A- Environment and Fresh Water followed closely by Energy supply

B- Universal Health Care, followed by Long Term Care, Prescription Drug Cost, and Elder Abuse.

C- Ethics in Politics was also a priority concern to our members.

✕

We were able to connect, and place in categories, similar concerns which received top votes, i.e., they received most votes under the Strongly/Fairly agree statements.

Many other topics received strong support - if all the votes under all statements (Strongly, Fairly, Somewhat, Least agree) - were tallied. However, we have agreed to concentrate our efforts on the issues that received the most mention under the first two statements: Strongly/Fairly agree.

The District #23 Political Action Committee members will be meeting with the representatives from the other three Toronto Districts in late October, at which time we will compare responses from all the districts. The compiled results will guide us in formulating an action plan.

For now, our District 23 committee will begin to research the topic of Environment: re Safe Water and Energy Supply. We will examine the Provincial RTO position papers on these topics along with other pertinent information with the view to publishing articles in STONY Bridges. Also proposed is an article on "How individuals can make a difference": to reenergize our commitment to the 3 R's

✕.

Many articles have already appeared on the subject of Universal Health Care. We will continue to provide you with information from the Ontario Health Coalition, and any position papers developed by the RTO/ERO District 23 North York Provincial Executive. We will also continue to keep you informed so that you may respond to those who are in a position to make decisions on these matters.

Additionally, the information

gathered from the Survey will be submitted to the Provincial PAC for their consideration in formulating their action plans for the coming year(s).

Many of you added comments regarding additional concerns that you have. These were read with interest and noted. Here are a few of them:

- a) Animal abuse
- b) Electoral reform
- c) Rights of parents and grandparents in custodial cases
- d) Our court system needs reform
- e) Care provided for street people
- f) The Arts curriculum in our schools
- g) Shari'a: possible misuse

If you would like to serve on the Political Action Committee please call Andree at 905-472-3784. We would greatly appreciate your contribution.

Once again, many thanks, and we will keep you posted. ✧

Political Action Committee

Andree Nottage (chair), Maureen Donaghy, George Meek, Jean Dilcock



Rose Marie Zupan and Vicki DeMarco (left) and Donna and Frank Lunn (right) seen at the recent Annual General Meeting and Luncheon at the Moonlight Ballroom.



GOODWILL REPORT

by Eileen Justesen

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

In District 23, North York, we have a policy of donating money to causes or people who are in immediate need. We have a budget of \$3000 per year for this purpose. Deliberations carry on throughout the year as we receive requests, and decisions are made by October.

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

Eileen Justesen: 416-222-0706

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

Vinny Coetzee: 416-621-6681

Our Pension Plan in the News!

Originally published by the Ontario

Teachers’ Federation

Late last week there were news stories across the province about the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan (OTPP) and its current funding status.

Every year, the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan Board has an independent actuary conduct a valuation of the Plan. To determine the financial health of the Plan, the actuary compares the assets to the liabilities. If the assets match the liabilities, the Plan is fully funded. If the assets are greater than the liabilities, the Plan has a surplus. If the liabilities are greater than the assets, the Plan has a deficit or funding deficiency.

In mid-February, the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan reported on its earnings for the year 2003. It was a banner year for the Plan. The overall return on the Plan’s assets was 18%. Even though the Plan’s assets have been increasing in value, its liabilities are increasing faster.

Everyone is aware of how badly the stock markets performed in 2001 and 2002. The Plan had losses in each of those years. Because both gains and losses are smoothed over five years, those losses will continue to be a factor in the valuation of the Plan until 2006.

The Plan uses the rate of interest on Canada Real Return Bonds (RRB) to establish interest rates in calculating the amount needed today to pay all pensions promised in the future. For each 0.1% decline in this rate, the



liabilities increase by \$1.5 billion. What all of this means is that at the end of 2003, there is a \$6.2 billion deficit in the plan valuation.

By law, the OTPPB must file a valuation every three years with the Financial Services Commission of Ontario. Since the OTPPB filed last year, a filing is not required again until 2006.

Notwithstanding any media reports you may have heard or read about the Teachers' Pension Plan, you should remember:

- . OTF and the Government of Ontario are the sponsors of the Plan;
- . any decisions on how to handle the shortfall will be made by the Plan sponsors jointly;
- . there is no current plan for a contribution rate increase;
- . if the 2006 valuation shows a significant deficit, the contribution rate will have to increase in 2007;
- . if the Plan status improves, however, then a contribution rate change may not be required; and
- . the Plan sponsors will continue to monitor the situation of the Plan and keep you informed.

If you have any questions about the Pension Plan you can contact OTF's

Director of Pension and Economic Affairs or your Affiliate Pension Officer. In the meantime, you should remember that unless you hear from OTF about contribution rates, anything you do hear is rumour or speculation. ❖

Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF-FEO), 1300 Yonge St., Suite 200, Toronto, ON M4T 1X3
 Tel: 416-966-3424 Toll free: 1-800-268-7061 Fax: 416-966-5450



Members of the Executive (l to r) Rob Fraser-Newsletter Editor, Eileen Justesen-Goodwill, Kathleen Elliott-Assistant Treasurer, George Meek-Newsletter Distribution, Alan Ward-Bridge, Gerry Daca- Website, Andree Nottage-Political Action, Kerry Peters-Travelogue, Sam Habib-Health Services.



More members of the Executive (l to r): David Fleming-Past President, Mary Ellen Lawless-2nd Vice President, Frank Saliani-President, Helen Wiber- 1st Vice President, Guy Leger-Treasurer.

BRIDGE REPORT

by Alan Ward

The Bridge Club reconvened for the first time since the summer holiday on September 7th and we have mustered seven or eight tables of players every Tuesday since then. We hold our ses-

sions at Willowdale United Church on Kenneth Avenue every Tuesday except for the first Tuesday of the month when there is a travelogue. New members are cordially invited to try us out: it is suggested that

players arrive between 12.45 and 1 pm. For more information please contact Alan Ward through email at alanward@interlog.com or by telephone at 905-889-3687.

Challenge Hand Winners: Duplicate style competition

Date	North-South Pair(s)	East-West Pair(s)
June 15th	Lila Belbin & Eileen Stanley tied George Vanderwerf & Frank Saliani	Barbara Woodrow & Mary Butler
June 22nd	3-way tie	Alec & Eulaline Taylor
Sept 7th	Nora Garvie & Hardie McNeil tied Alec & Eulaline Taylor	Wayne & Eileen Justeson
Sept 21st	Nancy Walsh & Joyce Arnsby	Bob & Inge Radko
Sept 28th	Mel York & Frank Saliani	Jerry Daca & Alan Ward
Oct 12th	Mary Butler & Barbara Woodrow	3-way tie

The Table Champions

Congratulations to the following players who were undefeated in the first five rounds at least once during the past eight sessions.

Mel York, Marilyn Storton-Butcher, Nada Dimitrievich, Barbara Woodrow, Eulaline Taylor, Helen Wiber, David Fleming, Jack Klempner, Lois Lewis, Mary Butler.

The Slam Bidders

To recognise those players who have the courage of their convictions and the skills to succeed in high level contracts, a small prize will be given to any player who bids and makes at least two small slams in the course of an afternoon's play.

Contract Bid (made)

June 8th	Mary-Elizabeth Lane & Alan Ward Eileen Justeson & Polly Clarke Lois Lewis & Elizabeth McKeon	6 Spades 6 Clubs + 1 6 No Trump + 1
June 15th	Nancy Walsh & Ruth Jacobs Nancy Walsh & Ruth Jacobs Helen Wiber & Jean Cameron	6 No Trump 6 Spades 6 No Trump
June 22nd	Marilyn Storton-Butcher & Frank Saliani	6 Spades
June 29th	Frank Saliani & Hardie McNeil Frank Saliani & Joyce Arnsby Mary Lutes & Wayne Justeson Bev Suzuki & Helen Wiber	7 Diamonds doubled 6 Clubs 6 Spades + 1 6 No Trump + 1
Sept 7th	Donna Mighton & Alec Taylor Frank Saliani & Hazel Perkin Frank Saliani & David Fleming Darlene McCowan & Bev Suzuki	6 No Trump 6 Diamonds 6 Spades 6 Clubs + 1

Sept 21st	Polly Clarke & Jean Cameron George Erwin & David Fleming Nora Garvie & Eulaline Taylor Jack Klempner & Bert Gates	6 Spades + 1 6 Clubs 6 No Trump +1 6 No Trump
Sept 28th	Frank Saliani & Mel York Elizabeth McKeon & David Fleming Jack Klempner & Johanna Burt Carson Klinck & Hazel Perkin	6 Clubs 6 Clubs 6 Hearts 6 Spades
Oct 12th	Eulaline & Alec Taylor Shari Swenson & Nancy Walsh Polly Clarke & Inge Radko	6 Diamonds 6 No Trump 6 Hearts + 1



Bob Radko, "Another fine mess you dealt me."

Bridge is a family game.



Inge Radko, "Does that mean you're passing?"

The Challenge Hand

North: S: 8752 H: A965 D: QT986 C:			
West: S: AK3 H: KJT4 D: J4 C: KJ92	South: S: QJ94 H: 87 D: 32 C: T8543	East: S: T6 H: Q32 D: AK75 C: AQ76	
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
PASS	1NT	PASS	4NT
PASS	6NT	PASS	PASS
PASS			

The October 12th Challenge Hand posed some interesting problems for both sides. West will normally open 1NT with 16 HCP, a balanced hand (at most one doubleton) and no five-card major suit. East has 15 HCP and a possibly useful 10 of spades. Lacking a four-card major, East cannot use Stayman, but considers that a slam may be possible in notrump. 33 HCP is the recommended point count for 6NT (the opponents cannot have two aces). Although East should have 16 HCP he (Hal the computer) makes a Quantitative Raise, asking West to bid a 6NT with a maximum of 17 HCP and pass with 15 HCP. West has 16

HCP and is also willing to gamble for the sake of a top score. North has to lead. Most will lead the fourth highest of the longest suit against a notrump contract. West's only chance of a 12th trick is to duck and let the trick ride to the diamond Jack. Once this trick holds, the play is routine. Sadly for North, any lead but a diamond will defeat the contract. On the day, the gods of Bridge were fickle. One bold pair bid to 6NT and were defeated when North failed to lead a diamond. Three other pairs signed off at 3NT or 4NT and made 12 tricks when North did lead the eight of diamonds. ♦

Ontario has a Choice For Clean Power

Ontario Clean Air Alliance

Sweetheart Deal for Bruce Power?

Released October 19 2004

In response to its request for proposals to provide 2,500 megawatts (MW) of clean new electricity supply, the Ontario Government has actually received proposals totalling more than 60,000 MW. This amount is more than double the peak-day demand in Ontario and dwarfs the current production of Ontario's five dirty coal plants.

More than 150 companies submitted proposals, but one company was most noticeable by its absence from the list of bidders. Bruce Power, which runs the Bruce Nuclear Station and is Ontario's

largest independent power producer, chose not to participate in the competitive bidding process. Instead, Bruce is asking for a special deal from the province - an implicit admission that its power is not price competitive with other sources like high-efficiency natural gas.

To protect public health and the environment and to ensure that electricity consumers get the best possible deal for new power, any agreement with Bruce Power must include the same stringent performance standards that the companies participating in the public bidding process have agreed to accept. Given the long history of cost overruns and delays in the Ontario nuclear sector, including these conditions will be critical if we want to avoid any delay in shutting down our dirty coal plants by 2007.

More information on this issue is available in our new "Bruce Power: Does It Deserve a Special Deal?" fact sheet available on our website at www.cleanairalliance.com



Special Benefits for the Bruce Restart?

Released September 9, 2004

The Ontario Government has announced that it is starting negotiations with Bruce Power to restart two shutdown nuclear units. However, the government's news release doesn't explain why it is starting special negotiations for power from these units rather than simply inviting Bruce Power to participate like any other company in its already announced request for proposals for new generation capacity.

Given the history of cost overruns and delays on nuclear projects in Ontario, it is hard not to assume the real goal of these negotiations is to develop special terms that will allow a nuclear restart to proceed despite its doubtful economics.

Instead of negotiating special benefits for the Bruce restart, the Ontario Government should be ensuring that nuclear is treated the same as any other potential suppliers. In fact, the government should apply the same conditions to the Bruce project as it does to new gas-fired electricity supply contracts, including:

a.. Requiring Bruce Power to participate in the competitive bidding process for new generating capacity rather than conducting separate negotiations that may lead to higher prices for Bruce-supplied power.

b.. Requiring Bruce Power to pay penalties of up to \$300 per megawatt per day for each day that it is late in bringing

that intangible thing

A solo exhibition and sale of Lynda Pogue's innovative paintings

The OSSTF Gallery

60 Mobile Drive, Toronto
416-751-8300

Opens November 6, 2004 noon -4 p.m.
continues Monday-Friday 9-5
until Nov. 26

For more on how you can contribute to clearing Ontario's air through your electricity purchases, please see our consumer-advice website:
www.electricitychoices.org.

its units into service (the Pickering restart was three years late in being completed). As with its natural gas-fired power supply contracts, the government should also retain the option to terminate the contract if Bruce is more than one year late in returning its units to service.

c.. The Government should also retain the right, as with gas-fired power contracts, to terminate the Bruce Power contract if the restarted units fail to achieve a minimum performance rate (capacity utilization) of 80%. Such a rate is easily achievable by any new high-efficiency gas generator, but the restarted Pickering A Unit 4 has had a capacity rate of 74% in the first half of 2004, while the Pickering B units have run at only 67% over the same period.

d.. If the Government terminates the Bruce Power contract because the Bruce units are a year late in returning to service or fail to achieve an 80% capacity utilization rate, Bruce Power should be obligated to pay the Government for its extra costs of obtaining replacement power over the remaining term of the contract.

These conditions are now standard in Ontario for new gas-fired electricity suppliers, so there is simply no reason not to also apply them to the Bruce restart.

By contrast to these rigorous performance conditions, a CIBC World Markets analysis of the Pickering A Unit 1 restart, obtained by the OCAA under the Freedom of Information Act, reveals that the Pickering project will be another nuclear money loser on a total cost basis. But this doesn't seem to have cooled the government's enthusiasm for subsidizing nuclear power.

If nuclear truly is the low-cost option that companies like Bruce Power claim, then there should be no need to negotiate special deals. Already, the province has agreed to take on all of the liability for the long-term storage of nuclear waste from the now privately operated Bruce plant. Are more generous special benefits going to be on the negotiating table again?

Please write Premier Dalton McGuinty and tell him that more special deals for nuclear power are not the answer to meeting Ontario's power needs. Tell the Premier his government would be better to focus on developing an

Despairing

I walked along the viaduct, the world felt empty, drear,
 There seemed no use in going on, why not end it here?
 Then I thought about my mother and my dad,
 Of the many trials, sorrows that they had had.
 It all seemed so hopeless, I was such a useless thing,
 But did they deserve the heartache my death was sure to bring?
 It didn't seem to matter as I stared out in the dark,
 And the streetcars made their clatter,
 As folks hurried home from work.
 Just one person in a crowd, and who would even know?
 I could dimly see the river that was flowing far below.
 Then I heard that inner voice, felt the comfort it can bring,
 It said, "whatsoever things are beautiful, think about those things,"
 and so I turned around and went back to my home,
 As long as I can hear God's voice, I'll never be alone.

Donald Wm. Dolson, Toronto, 1947

This poem was taken from a collection of poems called, "People," written by Donald Dolson.

integrated program of aggressive energy efficiency measures, renewable power and high-efficiency gas-fired generation to meet our future power needs and to phase-out coal. ❖

Premier McGuinty can be contacted at:
Dalton.McGuinty@premier.gov.on.ca.

The Ontario Clean Air Alliance is a coalition of health, environmental and consumer organizations, faith communities, unions, utilities, municipalities and individuals working for cleaner air through strict emission limits and a phase-out of coal in the electricity sector. Our partner organizations represent more than six million Ontarians.

SPECIAL HOTEL RATES FOR MEMBERS

RTO/ERO members can stay at the **Courtyard by Marriott Hotel** at 475 Yonge Street, Toronto at the following rates:

November 1 - December 30: \$109 per night

April 1 - October 31: \$139 per night

Call 1-800-847-5075 and reserve the room under "RTO/Retired Teachers of Ontario," and at check-in supply RTO/ERO identification.

TEAR OFF SLIPS

NOTE: Please write separate cheques for each event and enclose all tear-offs.

Murder Mystery at the Old Mill
 Wednesday, January 26, 2005
 (Cut-Off Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2005)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

GUESTS: _____

OF PERSONS __ @\$44.00 Cheque enclosed for \$_____

Make cheque payable to: RTO/ERO District 23 North York and mail to: David Harlton,
 P.O. Box 128
 Arden ON
 K0H 1B0

Textile Museum of Canada
 Thursday, February 17, 2005
 (Cut-Off Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2005)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

GUESTS: _____

OF PERSONS __ @\$8.00 Cheque enclosed for \$_____

Make cheque payable to: RTO/ERO District 23 North York and mail to: David Harlton,
 P.O. Box 128
 Arden ON
 K0H 1B0

MORE TEAR OFF SLIPS

Black Light Night at the Theatre
Wednesday, March 23, 2005
(Cut-Off Date: Wednesday, February 16 2005)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

GUESTS: _____

OF PERSONS __ @\$48.00 Cheque enclosed for \$_____

Make cheque payable to: RTO/ERO District 23 North York and mail to: David Harlton,
P.O. Box 128
Arden ON
K0H 1B0

Ain't Misbehavin'
Wednesday Matinee April 6 23, 2005
(Cut-Off Date: Saturday, March 5, 2005)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

GUEST _____

OF PERSONS __ @\$25.00 Cheque enclosed for \$_____

Make cheque payable to: RTO/ERO District 23 North York and mail to: David Harlton,
P.O. Box 128
Arden ON
K0H 1B0

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 David Harlton 613-335-2108 (trips), or Mildred Frank 416-221-5328 (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: _____



Madge Parker and May Childs enjoyed the Travelogue on October 5, 2004 that frequent contributor David Legget presented. His topic this time was Cathedrals, Castles and Countryside in England and Wales.

Look for a report in the March issue of STONY Bridges about the November and December Travelogues. In November, Kathleen Elliot reported on her trip on the Queen Mary 2, and in December, Tom and Kay Hayes led the group through a Christmas in Art and Song.

Our Travelogues continue to be popular with members. See page 13.

STONY Bridges
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