

# STONY BRIDGES

Issue 85

A Newsletter for



District 23 North York

November 2005



President Helen Wiber  
Her message on page 4

## Coming Events

- Christmas Luncheon **December 2, 2005**  
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- Travelogues **Monthly**  
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- Bridge **Most weeks**  
~ See page 22
- Murder Mystery **January 25, 2006**  
~ See page 21
- Naturopathics **February 16, 2006**  
~ See page 7
- Strollers **Monthly**  
~ See page 17
- Hair **April 19, 2006**  
~ See page 20

[www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org](http://www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org)

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# Calendar of Events

## December

1 Strollers	10:00 a.m.
2 Christmas Lunch - Granite Club - page 9	11:00 p.m.
6 Travelogue	1:30 p.m.
13 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
14 Executive Meeting	9:15 a.m.
20 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
27 Bridge	1:00 p.m.

## January

3 Travelogue	1:30 p.m.
6 Strollers	10:00 a.m.
10 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
11 Executive Meeting	9:15 a.m.
17 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
24 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
25 Murder Mystery - Old Mill - page 21	11:00 a.m.
31 Bridge	1:00 p.m.

## February

2 Strollers	10:00 a.m.
7 Travelogue	1:30 p.m.
8 Executive Meeting	9:15 a.m.
14 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
16 Naturopathic Seminar - page 7	10:00 a.m.
21 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
28 Bridge	1:00 p.m.

## March

2 Strollers	11:00 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.
28 Bridge	1:00 p.m.

## April

4 Travelogue	1:30 p.m.
6 Strollers	10:00 a.m.
11 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
12 Executive Meeting	9:15 a.m.
18 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
19 Hair - page 20	1:30 p.m.
25 Bridge	1:00 p.m.

# Editor's Letter

I produce *STONY Bridges* using QuarkXPress. It's a licensed, registered copy, which District 23 purchased for me on E-Bay for less than half price. It was still expensive but a bargain nonetheless.

I've not always worked with a licensed copy. I bought my first disk of QuarkXPress for \$30.00 from a guy who knows a guy. It worked just fine. But if I was still using it, I'd have been in a bigger pickle with this edition of *STONY Bridges* than I needed to be.

I had completed the newsletter and was reviewing it and making minor adjustments when the program refused to accept the changes. Worse still, it sucked the whole file into its vault and wouldn't give it up. Disaster.

However, because I use a licensed version, I have access to technical support from Quark. They were prompt, responsive and willing to work with me to retrieve the newsletter, including, if I wanted, e-mailing the file to them for a Quark technician to work on. If I had high speed service here in Callander, I would have done that. But downloading a file of this size would have taken days over the phone line, so when the home-based

fixes they suggested didn't work, I had to redo the whole blessed newsletter. Thankfully, the second effort didn't take nearly as long as the first. I knew where everything was supposed to go. Working day and night, I put it back together again.

There was a benefit to this catastrophe, though. The Quark technician told me how to avoid losing files in the first place - automatic back-up, built right into Quark if you turn it on, he says. As many back up copies as you want. I have five of this newsletter right now. No sense leaving it at just one, I say. Some of you computer experts are likely saying,

"Well, I guess, eh! Who doesn't know about automatic back-up!"

Yeah well, not me. I knew about automatic save but not back-up.

This preamble leads to my main point about the newsletter. I know for sure that some items that are supposed to have been included are not here because they were lost in this fiasco, and I couldn't recover them. I'm sorry if one of them was yours. Send it again, and I'll try again next time, with automatic back-up turned on.

Oh... and always buy licensed software. It pays. ❖



*The Invictones and Westenders performing at our Annual General Meeting and lunch.*

## 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, 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 RTO/ERO of your new information.

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## Publication Dates

STONY Bridges is published in February, June and November. The deadline for the next issue is January 15, 2006.



# President's Message

by Helen Wiber



Welcome to the autumn edition of District 23 in print. In this and in the next two issues for 2005-2006, you will be kept up to date on the clubs, events and opportunities for volunteering with this growing organization. I welcome this opportunity as your President to introduce myself and your Executive committee's plans for this coming year.

Our executive, both District 23 with about 2,000 members, and the provincial Executive representing 55,000 retired teachers, dedicate their time and talents to making our retirement meaningful and as worry free as possible. As reported in this issue, the Executive Director reassured us that our pension is secure. Our Provincial Executive has also confirmed that RTO's relationship with our

health benefits provider, Johnson's Inc is indeed providing us with a wide range of services at the best cost. With such assurances, we are free to pursue retirement with as much vigor and commitment as we demonstrated when we were in the classroom.

For me, the golf course has provided a learning ground that has captured my interest and motivation to improve. Twenty years ago, I would never have believed that even fishing my golf ball out of the stream would bring me such satisfaction and be part of the feeling of accomplishment that my improved scores have brought me.

Whatever your sport or your recreation, it behooves us to get involved. Longevity experts continually advise us to

increase our fitness levels and to have active, positive role models in our circle of friends and acquaintances. Golf challenges my fitness level, and volunteering with the RTO/ERO and other groups introduces me to the Kathleens of the world! To see our over ninety year olds still donating their time to the service of others is inspiring and lends hope to our own futures.

Your District has elected a hard-working group of retirees, dedicated to bringing you a wide variety of interest groups and activities to encourage you to get involved. Your suggestions are welcomed.

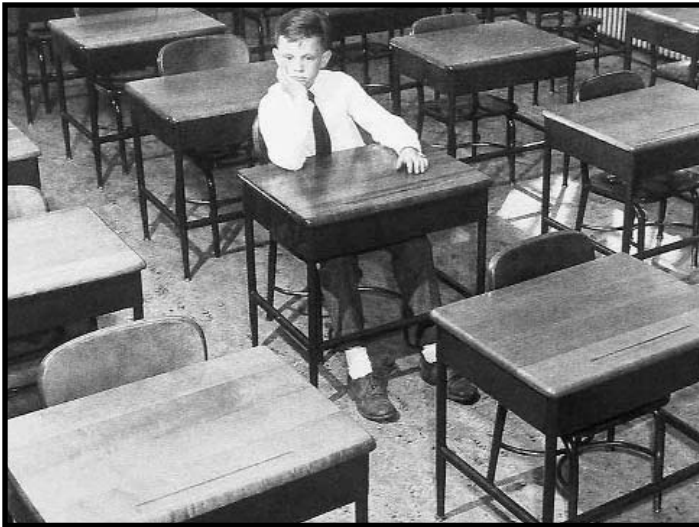
I'm looking forward to meeting you during my term as President. ♦

# Chalk Dust Memories

*Farcical and humorous tales submitted by our readers*

## How I handled the Cuban Missile Crisis

*by Allen Strike*



When I was a boy, the Germans used to fly over my house every night and drop bombs on me. At the time, there was no doubt in my mind that these were definitely Germans who had this homicidal intent upon my person. However, the American historians, who were elsewhere at the time, have since decided that I was confused and that the perpetrators were actually somebody called Nazis from what I suppose is Naziland. This is not to be confused with Nyasaland which was some distance away.

It was not until 1962 that I realised that my wartime experiences in a bomb shelter had made me into a sort of veteran. That was the year of the Cuban Missile Crisis. The North American population had gone into a tizzy over the thought that Mister Khrushchev might start lobbing large cigar tubes at it, from Cuba. It was a time for civil defence and the schools had to have a *plan* to deal with the sudden arrival of one of these missiles.

Central to the plan was the idea that anything fired at

Toronto would land at the corner of Yonge and Bloor. North York Schools upon hearing of the imminent arrival of an atomic weapon downtown would assemble the pupils along the corridor walls where they would assume a foetal position. That was about as far as the plan went. Presumably when the bell went at 3.15 the children would go home as usual.

I had a particularly inept principal at the time. Mind you, that was not to prevent his later elevation to senior posts and eventually a directorship. His incompetence seems to have been a requirement for advancement. He had one unique feature though; he was the only man that I knew whose legs hung parallel when he crossed them. One late afternoon I was checking my mail box, to see if the Board had inadvertently sent me a bonus cheque, when he saw me and beckoned me into his office.

“You have had experience of the war, haven’t you?” he said. I replied that I had withstood the wrath of the Hun on many occasions. “What do you think that we should do about this missile business?” he went on. I said that we should fill as many containers as we could with water and lay our hands on a supply of picks and shovels. I pointed out that nowhere in the plan was there any thought that the school and the surrounding area might be damaged and that we may be stuck with caring for the pupils for some time. A supply of water was vital to that eventuality; food was not as immediately important.

This intimation seemed to make him quite wobbly and he went out of focus for a while.

He asked faintly, “What are the picks and shovels for?” “To dig people out of the rubble and to bury the dead,” I replied. He turned to jelly right before my eyes and said finally, “Well I think we should stick to the Board’s plan for now.”

And that is how I handled the Cuban Missile Crisis. ❖

*Allen Strike is a regular contributor to STONY Bridges.  
He also paints, sculpts and renovates in Port Hope.*

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# Beverley Henricks

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## Assistant Treasurer

by David Fleming



The Executive of District 23 is pleased to welcome our new Assistant Treasurer, Beverley Henricks. Beverley joins us following her acclamation at the Annual General Meeting, September 13, 2005.

Bev began her teaching career at East York Collegiate, and then moved to Downsview Secondary School in the former North York Board in the 1970's. At Downsview, she was a Department Head and Programme Team Leader. During her career, she taught English, French and ESL.

Since her retirement from the TDSB, she and Lee have enjoyed many trips abroad. When at home she finds many things to occupy her time: bridge, books, cooking, gardening, photography, a family cottage, RTO/ERO trips, and all-too-infrequent trips to the gym. Bev is looking forward to joining the RTO/ERO District 23 Executive.

She will be receiving your cheques for all the trips and major events. ❖

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# Jean Wilson

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## Membership Convener

District 23 of RTO/ERO welcomes to the Executive Jean Wilson who has accepted the duties of Membership Convener. Jean's teaching career spanned twenty-six years, all with what many of us know as the North York Board of Education, excluding a hiatus of fifteen years when her three children, Bob, Douglas and Karen were young.

Jean is following in the footsteps of her brother John Wilson, a past-president of our own District 23, but she brings to her new commitment her own set of special skills and a background of experience helping others. Jean is a "people" person in her quiet way.



While teaching - especially Primary level children - was her passion, Jean has given generously of her time over the years to a wide range of special interests. She has thirty years of cottaging experience with family and friends in Haliburton. She sits on the Board of Directors for the North Toronto Horticultural Society and the Toronto Standard Condominium Corporation. She was Chair of her School Advisory Committee, Coordinator of Christian Education at Hillcrest United Church and Waterfront Director for Lynnwood Camp, Muskoka.

Professionally, in addition to her teaching duties, Jean was a host teacher for student teachers from the Faculty of Education, York University and assisted in the professional development of workshops in the area of the Language Arts/Reading Enhancement Program.

Throughout her life Jean has found time to enjoy many activities: traveling abroad and within Canada, her Book Club, Bridge, the theatre, and learning to use the Internet.

Jean's greatest joy is her family: three adult children, ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild who buoy her

up with their love, their hugs, kisses and babysitting opportunities.

Jean Wilson's "people first" focus on life qualifies her to be a great asset to District 23 RTO/ERO in her new role as Membership Convener. ❖

### Mysteries

Where is the land of the vast unborn?

Is it a fair domain on  
glorious mountain peaks,  
shimmering at sunset;  
or a pristine paradise,  
anchored on misty Atlantis,  
Where eager spirits  
await a call to flesh?

Where is the land of the unconceived?

Is it more distant still,  
in remote realms  
beyond the spheres,  
over wavelengths  
not measured nor imagined,  
Where trembling cells  
await a cataclysm?

Carole A. Martyn

# Naturopathic Medicine

*A Seminar with your good health in mind.  
With guest practitioner Dr. Caryn Thompson N.D  
Bosnar Centre for Health  
2462 Yonge Street*

## Thursday, February 16, 2006

*(Cut-Off date - Friday February 3, 2006)*

## Moonlight Ballroom

*3125 Bayview Avenue (South of Finch East side)*

### \$10.00

### 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

*Followed by light refreshments*

*Learn:*

- ~What homeopathic medicines are.*
- ~The types of treatments that Naturopaths use.*
- ~How to take a more active role in your own health  
(lifestyle, nutrition, exercise etc.)*
- ~Natural medicines and preventative health care integrating  
~scientific knowledge with traditional healing methodologies.*

*~See page 24 for registration form*



*Golfer Brian Hodge at the recent District 23 Golf Tournament. Brian is also the auditor for District 23.*



*President Helen Wiber hiking a trail on Manitoulin Island.*

# REVIEW

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## Dark Age Ahead

By Jane Jacobs, Vintage Canada, 222 pages, \$21.00

*Reviewed by Allen Strike*

People of my generation grew up in a world in which universal health care was a fact; New Zealand in 1938, Canada (with Tommy Douglas leading the way) in 1947, and Britain in 1948. The citizens who voted for the idea were formed or re-formed by ten years of The Great Depression. These people stood in soup lines, had hunger marches, rode freight cars, and watched loved ones die for lack of medicine. If they had not experienced these appalling things in person they had witnessed them. Besides this there were bloody memories of brutal mine owners and captains of industry like Andrew Carnegie and Henry Ford. There was no doubt in citizens' minds about the aridity of the trickle-down theory of capitalism. After the Second World War, and its accompanying deluge of money and jobs, they emerged determined that the experience would never be repeated. That is why Winston Churchill lost the first post-war election, much to the confusion of right wing Americans

The evils of that recent history of unrestrained capitalism were told to the new generation. To me, the story was as remote as Attila's Huns or The Black Death. I did not understand the experience of the man who climbed the lamp-post on election nights and shouted, "What about The Means Test?" In my childish fancy, I assumed that malignant greed and criminal self-interest had disappeared from the face of the earth. This is what I thought that progress was all about. Around me there was health-care, unions, price controls, public enterprises of all types, and there were government departments to oversee all of it. The only times I had reason to question this happy state of affairs was when I became aware of the insistent malice of American Republicans towards any form of social democracy.

They put it under the heading of Communism and was therefore, by first principles, bad. Many things have happened since then but central to events is the fact that the old folk have died off and with them has perished the general will for social democracy. Now we teeter on the brink of another Dark Age. Jane Jacobs gives us a succinct, very readable, and yet scholarly, analysis of the causes and the mechanism of decline. As she says: "People living in vigorous cultures typically treasure those cultures and resist any threat to them. How and why can a people so totally discard a formerly vital culture that it becomes literally lost?" The Internet, writing, and printing give us a false sense of security about the permanence of our culture; but cultures do not live on by these means, really. Instead, they live on through word of mouth and by example. I like my metaphor of a culture as a tapestry. Thousands of strands, the nuances of the culture, make a Dutch tapestry different from an English one and different again from a Canadian tapestry. This vital idea has escaped the mavens of Canadian multiculturalism who have consigned our cultural heritage to being second rate compared with all the others. There is not much weaving going on.

Forgetting or Mass Amnesia, Jane Jacobs says, bring about "the subtractions which combine to erase a previous way of life, and everything changes as a richer past converts to a meager present and an alien future." Affected by the subtractions, says Jacobs, are the Family which is rigged to fail, Credentialing as opposed to Education, the Abandonment of honest Science, the estrangement of Government (and Taxation) from its people, and the myth of Self Policing by Professions and Corporations. Jacobs shows how all of these are merging to bring about a Dark

Age as profound as any in the past.

To my mind the most telling of the multitude of Jacob's examples concerns the mother who in locking the front door says to her daughter, "When I was a girl, we didn't have to lock our front doors." That daughter does not pass on this observation to her daughter, because it is not her experience, and so a standard disappears. Another memory of how things could be has vanished. This small anecdote contains the essence of what has been happening to us.

Recall the assault on the teaching of Grammar. This was based on the notion that everybody was a budding writer and that grammar was a restraint. Stuff and nonsense! Most people are not writers; for example, I am not. Writers write in spite of teachers, mathematicians drift off into esoterica, musicians play and compose all on their own. Our job was to make sure that the mass of the non-gifted could communicate efficiently with their civilization. We were sideswiped by ignorant leadership. The result was that there have been thirty years of growing gibberish and obscure language. It surrounds us on every front, as anyone who knows the difference can see. A few years ago there came calls to return to the teaching of grammar. Who was going to teach it? Those who could teach it had retired or died. I do not know if the reconstruction of Grammar is officially judged to be a triumph - all educational experiments are a success, you know. But, on the evidence that I have, it has not gone well.

Jacobs says; "Any culture that jettisons the values that have given it competence, adaptability, and identity becomes weak and hollow. A culture can avoid that hazard only by tenaciously retaining the underlying values responsible for the culture's nature and success. The many



indispensable minutiae for expressing and safeguarding that core were added into the culture over centuries; as long as they are not lost to practice and memory, the possibility remains that they can be augmented for centuries to come." I think that "Dark Age Ahead" is a very important book but I am sobered by the observations of Lewis Lapham in Harper's magazine for September. One of the besetting problems of our civilization, he points out, is that the overwhelming mass of people either no longer read or do not know how to read. So do not wait for cultural riots in the streets. Maybe Jane Jacob's book is as doomed as were the writings of Aristotle, Socrates, and Cicero before those annoying Arabs saved them from oblivion. Is al Qaeda going to save The West in the end? Now there's a thought! ❖

### Determined George

by Allen Strike

George Allan, the brother of Dick Allan, recently had open-heart surgery. As he lay recuperating from the operation, an earnest doctor came to him saying,

"Mr. Allan, all the indications are that you should start to have a much more active life-style."

George replied, "But I don't like being active."

"Well" the doctor said, "It is better than having to have open-heart surgery!"

George pondered this for a moment and said, "Oh, I don't know; this isn't so bad."

*Richard "Dick" Allan has recently become a member of District 23, and his name appears in this issue for the first time. We hope he enjoys this account of his brother's encounter with the surgeon.*

## Christmas Luncheon

Friday, December 2, 2005

(Cut-Off Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2005)



Granite Club  
2350 Bayview Avenue  
(\$5.00 parking)

Social Hour with Cash Bar - 11:00 a.m.  
Luncheon - 12 noon

**\$35**

Your name tag at the door will be your entry.

**Entertainment: The Jolly Ballers are Back!**

### Menu

- Granite Club assorted bread basket.
- roasted red pepper bisque topped with herb-brushed crouton and melted woolwich goat cheese.
- grilled chicken in an aged port and pommery mustard sauce.
- seasonal vegetable.
- potatoes.
- traditional English trifle topped with vanilla chantilly and strawberries.

## Christmas Luncheon

Friday, December 2, 2005

(Cut-Off Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2005)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_ tickets.

Make cheque payable to **RTO/ERO District 23, North York** and mail to:  
Mildred Frank, 705 - 505 Cummer Avenue,  
Toronto ON M2K 2L8  
416-221-5328

# Humour

## CAA PLUS

By Brian Doyle

*Used with permission from Harper's magazine where it appeared in September 2005. In the original, all references were to AAA.*

One night my car breaks down and dies not a mile from the shop where I have just spent more than eight hundred dollars on a new starter and timing mechanism and assorted other holy mysteries, and after I coast it choking and lurching to the side of the road, and sit there banging the steering wheel so hard that my wrist still hurts on rainy days, and step out squelching into the mud, and call CAA to get them to tow the car back home because the shop has shut and I can't call my wife, since she doesn't live with me and the kids anymore, but the tow truck guy who comes refuses to tow the car that far because my coverage is only CAA Standard, not CAA Plus, and your CAA Plus allows us to tow cars anywhere in these United States, says the tow-truck driver, you could tow a car from Alaska to Florida, technically, but your CAA Standard coverage limits your emergency towing capability to three miles or less, that's the way it is, he says, and he is about as big as a house, so I decline to argue, and he tows the car three miles down the road and is going to leave it there by the side of the highway in accordance with the CAA Standard coverage limit, but I swear to high heaven that I will immediately purchase CAA Plus, even doing so retroactively if he thinks it necessary, such is my good opinion of his professional judgment in this matter, and he takes the compliment and takes pity and takes my car to my house, where my children pour out to watch his truck, which is indeed a majorly large truck, as one of my sons says.

So next day I purchase CAA Plus, which takes effect immediately upon issuance of your major credit card, says the operator politely, so we seal the deal, and when I hang up the phone I am a member of CAA Plus. I actually feel different, no joke, I feel taller.

So I call the tow-truck guy again and he comes back to tow my car back to the shop where I got the new starter and

timing mechanism and such. He's cheerful as a jaybird now that I have CAA Plus. He can tow me from here to kingdom fecking come, he says. He can tow me from sea to fecking sea. His name is Denny, he says, and he is a towing fool. YOU BLOW, WE TOW is written in letters a foot high on the side of his truck.

I've towed everything with an engine, he says. They all break down in the end. Cars, tucks, boats, ski-doo's, even a biplane one time, this old guy dressed like fecking Charles A. Lindbergh landed his plane in a supermarket parking lot and hit a shopping cart and wrecked his plane and I had to tow him home. Guy was wearing a scarf and goggles and everything. The whole nine yards. Must have been eighty years old if he was a day. I tell you, the things I seen! One time I towed a car with a naked guy. Guy was driving around naked when his car blew. I made him stay in the car when I towed it. Which is illegal, but I didn't want a naked guy who I found out later he just robbed a diner but his car died after like three blocks, but he called for a tow, is that hilarious or what? Guy had CAA Plus, too. Another time towed a guy who when he opened his trunk looking for a jack or something I see his trunk is full of guns. I didn't say anything to anyone about that. You rat a guy like that he comes and shoots you in the face. I don't need trouble. I got enough trouble. We all got troubles. You got troubles?

I got troubles, I say.

People think when you drive a tow truck you must get the girls, says Denny, because you have to tow women of course, I mean half the world is women, right, and their cars are always breaking down because they don't change the oil, they just don't, I don't know why, and a little smoke coming out of the hood freaks them out totally, but you take a guy, a guy would drive with fecking flames shooting out of his car, he would probably think

that was cool, you know what I'm saying?

A guy, I say, would speed up to make the flames look cooler.

That's exactly correct, says Denny. That's absolutely fecking so.

At that point the guy from the repair shop comes out to tell me that my car needs another thousand bucks' worth of repairs, even though they just got finished fixing it, or saying they fixed it, and he says what do you want to do? And I say I don't want to do anything, you owe me a car I can drive away from this crime scene after the last eight hundred bucks I spent here, and he says it's not their fault, it's a piece-of-shit car that hasn't been properly maintained, and I say hey, I am not paying another cent for repairs that don't repair, and he says okay, fine, they'll junk it, and I say okay, fine, junk it then, it's junk now anyway since you guys mangled it, and he stomps off, so there I am, up a creek and carless.

Denny gives me a ride home to the kids, whereas I have CAA Plus now and am golden, and he says in fact he can tow the car from the repair shop to my house if I want, whereas I have CAA Plus, and it's a shame to leave a perfectly good car someplace ratty like that, which is true, so the next day he comes and gets me and we get the car and he tows it back to my house. That was a Saturday and the kids were going bonkers because I was supposed to take them up the mountain skiing and now we couldn't go. But Denny, who turned out to be a good guy, says hell, you got CAA Plus, man, you are golden, I can tow you from here to fecking kingdom come, which includes of course the mountain.

The kids think this is hilarious and they throw their stuff in the trunk and pile in the car and get in a huge argument about who gets to sit behind the steering wheel and who gets to ride shotgun and who is the total loser in the back seat. I ride in the truck with Denny and he tows

the car with the kids in it all the way up the mountain, which is like a hundred miles away, and we ski all day and nobody breaks an arm or anything, and then Denny tows us to a little restaurant he knows on the east side of the mountain, where all the truckers go for the best pies and fries, and then late at night he tows us all home again, the kids all asleep in the car.

That was a really great day and the kids still talk about it. We were going to do that once a month or so with Denny but a little later he got a job driving long haul and he sold his tow truck to a guy who didn't want to do CAA, so that was the end of fecking that. ❖



**District 23 Convenors**

*Brian Doyle is the editor of Portland Magazine at the University of Portland. His stories and essays have appeared in many publications.*

*Clockwise from upper left: Kerry Peters, Alan Ward, Mildred Frank, Rob Fraser, Andree Nottage, Audrey Cousins, David Fleming, Doug Tallon, George Meek, Eileen Justesen, Jean Wilson, Kathleen Elliott, Sam Habib, Jerry Daca*

# Remember

*by Lynda Pogue*

**A**t this time of every year, as we get ready to cocoon for the winter, and as November 11<sup>th</sup> comes once again into our lives many of us take a few moments to remember.

Here's a list of 20 things worth remembering. Please read each one slowly, pause and consider the implications then go on.

1. Remember to slow down ... like right now.
2. Remember who you are. Who you really are.
3. Remember your critical life-changing moments.
4. Remember each person who has taught you about really listening.
5. Remember those "speed bumps" and "road blocks" and how you got through it all.
6. Remember to stop and say hello to the next frail, old person you meet.
7. Remember to smile and say thank you for little gestures of kindness.
8. Remember to purposefully start your day with laughter.
9. Remember the heartfelt joy of a child's hand in yours.
10. Remember how a newborn smells.
11. Remember your first kiss.
12. Remember that gossiping is cruel to someone.
13. Remember to use nature as a healer.
14. Remember that you earned each of those little badges you wear known as wrinkles.
15. Remember to floss.
16. Remember to catch that teenager doing something good.
17. Remember the secrets that you shared with your first best friend.
18. Remember to take the word "try" out of your vocabulary: either commit do something or don't.
19. Remember that unbalancing your life may make it far more interesting and vital.
20. Remember to love life and it will love you right back.

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# Goodwill Report

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*by Eileen Justesen*

**M**y first year as Goodwill Convener has passed quickly and smoothly thanks to Nina Hillier (former Convener for ten years) and the rest of the team. Vinnie keeps in contact with at least 13 of our older members on a regular basis. Nancy has done an impressive job of sending out approximately 350 cards to members 80 and over. Ruth and I also send out seasonal card (Christmas, Valentine, Easter, etc.) to 17 elderly members as well as making visits at Christmas with a small gift. If you know of

members who are unwell, hospitalized or restricted, please inform us.

We are still looking for a volunteer who would be prepared to take telephone inquiries regarding retirement living.

This past year, we have made donations to: The Russo Fund, Covenant House, Toronto Star Santa Claus Fund, Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Toronto Public Library Foundation.

Last year, we submitted a successful proposal to financially support, through the provincial "Service to Others" cam-

paign, the clown program at the Hospital for Sick Children. Recently, however, our proposal to purchase consumables to operate five hemo-dialysis machines in Ghana was not approved. We would welcome your suggestions for future proposals (up to \$4000). They must be community and education related, especially for the disadvantaged. Member participation is favoured and projects will only be funded once. ❖

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## A Farewell Tribute to Edna Bradley

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*by Eileen Justesen*



**E**dna was our oldest member at 103. She was a remarkable woman. She started teaching in 1921 after attending a one-year training program at Normal School (now known as Ryerson University). Unfortunately, upon marrying, she was forced to retire but rules were changed during the Second World War and she returned to the classroom with great enthusiasm.

Edna's two great passions were politics and literature. She shared her love of books with her students and took pride

that no child left her grade one classroom unable to read. She instigated the successful petition for a public library at Yonge Street and Lawrence Avenue and was honoured to lay the cornerstone of the new George Locke Library.

Edna was active in the community and one of her projects involved staffing soup kitchens in the 1930's, and lobbying to have displaced persons camps closed after the war.

I think you will enjoy the pictures of Edna in her youth. ❖



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# A Wedding to Remember

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by David Fleming

On Saturday, August 20, my wife and I had the privilege of attending the wedding of Paul Gibbons to Tanya Hedley. Paul is the youngest son of a former colleague of mine, Ed Gibbons. Every aspect of the wedding was unique. The ceremony itself took place on the beach of the family cottage on Henshaw Lake near Port Carling in Muskoka. The Anglican priest, who officiated, was attired in summer clothing and wore a straw fedora. All the guests were seated either on the beach or in the terraced garden. The signing of the wedding certificate took place on the dock, witnessed by the mother of the bride, who was also her maid of honour, and by the father of the groom, who was also his best man. At the completion of the signing of the wedding certifi-

cate, the groom's brother roared up to the dock in a boat with an outboard motor and the newly weds began their married life exploring the entire lake at rather high speeds in this boat. Among the guests, were five generations of the groom's family, on his mother's side. These included his grandmother, Florence Mall, a great, great grandmother; his mother, Patricia Gibbons, a great grandmother; his sister, Karen Taylor, a grandmother; his nephew, Ryan Taylor, Karen's son and father to Zackery Taylor, age three, the great, great grandson of Florence. The reception was held at the Inn on the Falls in Bracebridge and included a great dinner, excellent speeches and dancing.

Among those present were four retired teachers from North York and

their spouses: Ed and Pat Gibbons, the parents of the groom, Al and Heather Keith, Gord and Peggy Curlew, and David and Barbara Fleming. Ed taught Science at Victoria Park S.S. and George S. Henry S.S./Academy and was V.P. at several North York high schools. Al Keith taught Science with Ed at Victoria Park S.S. and completed his career as a Guidance Counselor at Earl Haig S.S. Gord Curlew taught Biology at George S. Henry and at George Vanier S.S. I taught Science and Biology at Sir Sandford Fleming S.S. and at George S. Henry with Ed on two occasions.

A unique wedding and a wonderful reunion of retired teachers. ♦

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## New Power Plant for Newmarket

*Ontario Clean Air Alliance*

Recently, the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) released its proposal to meet the incremental electricity needs of northern York Region (Aurora, Newmarket, King Township, Whitchurch-Stouffville and East and West Gwillimbury) through a combination of energy conservation and a new, small-scale natural gas-fired power plant in Newmarket instead of building a new Hydro One transmission line.

This landmark proposal by the OPA is a bold departure from Ontario's 100-year tradition of meeting electricity needs primarily by building large centralized power plants (e.g., Darlington nuclear station, Nanticoke coal plant) and

delivering the electricity to consumers via high-voltage transmission lines. However, the OPA's conservation strategy will depend on strong and effective leadership from local elected officials and the local electric utilities (Newmarket Hydro, PowerStream and Hydro One).

For example, the local municipalities and developers should ensure that all new homes in York Region meet the ENERGY STAR standard for new homes, which would make them 40% more energy efficient than those built to minimum Ontario building code standards. "ENERGY STAR is just what Ontario home-builders have been searching for," accord-

ing to Dan Gabriele, President of the Ontario Homebuilders' Association. "The ENERGY STAR label helps home builders show their clients that they are getting a comfortable, well-built, energy-efficient home that will protect them from rising energy costs."

In addition, Newmarket Hydro, PowerStream and Hydro One should implement programs to encourage residential and small commercial customers to exchange their old air conditioners and refrigerators for new ENERGY STAR models. New ENERGY STAR air conditioners and refrigerators use approximately 50% less electricity than 10-year old models. ♦

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# Recruitment

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by David Fleming

## Tell your “still teaching” friends about our RPW’s

At the October 13, 2004 Executive Meeting, a new position was created, namely, Assistant Convener - Recruitment of the Membership and Recruitment Committee. I was appointed to fill that role. In January, 2005, a Toronto Districts’ Retirement Planning Workshop (RPW) Committee was formed. I am currently acting as Chair of the Committee, which has one or two representatives from each of the four Toronto Districts. We are planning one RPW for all Toronto teachers in the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board, who are likely to retire during or at the end of the 2005 - 2006 school year. The RPW’s will be offered at three different locations on three different dates, to make it convenient for all interested teachers. Flyers advertizing the Workshops have been sent to all Toronto schools. The dates, locations and times of the Workshops are listed below.

Thursday, November 17, 2005, York Mills C.I. (6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

or

Tuesday, February 7, 2006, Don Bosco C.S.S (6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

or

Saturday, February 25, 2006, Blue Danube Restaurant, 1686 Ellesmere Rd., Scarborough  
(9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon)

*Note: Registrations must be submitted two weeks prior to the presentation date.*

*Numbers may be restricted due to space limitations.*

The Workshops, are open to all Toronto teachers and will provide information on: the retirement process, health benefits available and new challenges facing new retirees. *If you know any teachers planning retirement during the current year, they should complete the form, page 24.*

Light refreshments will be served. Cost = \$10.00

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## Taking a bite out of acid rain

*Ontario Clean Air Alliance*

Acid rain, mercury and climate change – these are just some of the impacts of the Thunder Bay and Atikokan coal-fired generating stations on the forests, lakes, rivers and people of the province’s Northwest. The Ontario government is committed to phasing-out the Atikokan coal-fired station and converting the Thunder Bay station to natural gas by 2007. Our newly revised fact sheet - *Thunder Bay and Atikokan Generating Stations: Acid rain and toxic emissions* - outlines why this is such an important step for protecting both the health of the people and natural places of this region and beyond. As the largest sources of acid rain causing sulphur dioxide and airborne mercury in the Northwest, the Atikokan and Thunder Bay coal plants are major polluters and pose major health threats. This is why it is so important to build a new clean energy future for the region and its industries, such as forestry - an ideal candidate for much more efficient combined heat and power systems fired by natural gas or mill waste.



*Social Convener, Mildred Frank addressing the newly retired at the Moonlight Ballroom. For many years, Mildred has organized the Champagne Breakfast to welcome them to their new life.*

# Travelogues

by Kerry Peters



*Travelogue presenter Penny McLeod-Smith and Travelogue Convenor, Kerry Peters.*

**W**e traveled with Penny McLeod-Smith, our past Membership Convenor, to different parts of Jordan. And what a trip it was!

Penny, for two + plus months in 2004, was chairing a team of educators in writing science curriculum (physics and chemistry) with Jordanian teachers and other Canadians. She had the opportunity to visit two 'girls only' schools. On the weekends, the Canadians took off to explore and learn much more about several different regions of this fascinating country.

In that part of the world, one had to be prepared for the extreme heat (45 degrees + Celsius). Lots of bottled water was used!

Through Penny's slides, we saw some of the Dead Sea region (easy to float but the salt can sting any little cuts). At Jerash, we saw the ruins (earthquake) of some temples, the hippodrome, the amphitheatre and the aqueduct. At Mt. Nebo, we traveled to the high land where Moses was shown the Promised Land – real desert country. Later we traveled to riveting, Petra (the Rose City). The sights were spellbinding – what cliffs and caves! Aqaba (incredible snorkeling), Wadi Ruins, Alamein – all captured my interest for sure.

Penny delivered a most relaxed, highly informative presentation. Hopefully, she'll treat us to another travelogue in the future ❖



*Back Row (LtoR): Marjorie Millar, Betty Mollet, Zera Standis, Betty Appleby  
Front Row (LtoR): Penny McLeod Smith, Nora Garvin, Alan Ward*

## Travelogues This Winter

Tuesday, January 3, 2006  
1:30 p.m.

An Antarctic Experience  
*with seven time presenter.  
Iona Bell*

Tuesday, February 7, 2006  
1:30 p.m.

Japan Adventure  
*with Marg Perschy*

Tuesday, March 7, 2006  
1:30 p.m.

Sculptures in Downtown  
Toronto  
*with Helen Nolan*

# Health Services Report

by Sam Habib

Effective January 1, 2006, transfer to RTO/ERO Health Plans from RTIP and ARM plans will require medical evidence of insurability. This is not required if transferring from the Board plan or other group plan provided you transfer within the 60 day open enrollment period. Once enrolled in the RTO/ERO plan(s), members are eligible to fully utilize the available benefits, no matter when they enroll within the calendar year.

In your fall issue of *Renaissance* magazine, look for the centerfold entitled, 'Your Health Matters.' Remove and keep this information with your important medical information. Topics covered include: a) Travel Reminders, b) Important Health Plan Bits and Bites and Others.

The publication, "A Guide to Programs and Services for Seniors in Ontario is available at [www.gov.on.ca/citizenship/seniors](http://www.gov.on.ca/citizenship/seniors) or by calling 1-888-910-1999 **NOTE: Disponible en Francais**

## World Access provides our members with these services:

- ~Pre trip planning assistance
- ~Emergency Medical Assistance
- ~Emergency medical Centre
  - ~Legal referral
- ~Lost document assistance
- ~Emergency translation assistance
- ~Coordinate medical care and communication
  - ~Emergency Evacuation
- ~Cashless medical services (beyond \$500)
  - ~Claims payment
- ~Recovery OHIP submission
- ~Coordination of benefits
- ~Subrogation – 3<sup>rd</sup> party liability

## Convenience Services

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

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

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Johnson Insurance

#### Service:

416-920-7248 or  
1-877-406-9004  
Fax: 416-920-0939

#### Service Address

Johnson Inc. - Service Dept.  
18 Spadina Road, Suite 11A  
Toronto, ON M5R 2S7

#### Claims:

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

#### Claims Address

Johnson Inc. - Claims  
1595 16th Avenue, Suite 600  
Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3S5

#### Fax:

905-764-4041

#### Website:

[www.rto-ero.org](http://www.rto-ero.org)  
(with links to Johnson Inc.)

#### e-mail:

[healthcommittee@rto-ero.org](mailto:healthcommittee@rto-ero.org)

**"Take Care of Your Finances**

**Take Care of Your Health"**



# Rate Hikes and Improved Benefits

Effective January 1, 2006, the premium rates for benefits will increase by 10% for Semi-Private Hospital, 15% for Extended Health Care and 15% for Dental.

## **Semi-Private \***

Single - 18.07

Couple - 36.10

Family - 42.42

## **Extended Health Care \***

Single - 59.49

Couple - 118.99

Family - 142.80

## **Dental \***

Single - 46.63

Couple - 91.95

Family - 114.67

**\*plus PST**

With the higher rates, however, come some improved benefits.

- ~The maximum for Post Surgical Appliances will be increased to \$100.00 per insured person in any two consecutive years.
- ~The maximum benefit for prescription drugs will increase to \$1900.
- ~The Extended Health Care Plan's educational Program will increase to \$200.
- ~The lifetime maximum for Out-of-Province/Canada Emergency Medical benefit be increased to a per trip maximum of \$1,000,000.
- ~The Out-of-Province/Canada repatriation of remains benefit will be amended to include burial at place of death.
- ~The Semi-Private Hospital Plan's "Convalescent Care" benefit will be amended to include non-elective day surgeries, to a maximum of one day or \$50 per calendar year.
- ~The Dental Plan reimburses claimants based on the 2006 Fee Guide for general practitioners.

The "Sudden and Unforeseen Medical Stability Clause" shall include the following parameters:

- 1) Any cancer, heart or lung condition for which, in the 90 days prior to your date of departure (or date of booking for the purpose of trip cancellation):
  - a) You were awaiting the outcome of medical tests (except routine monitoring), the results of which show any irregularities, or abnormalities;
  - b) Except routine monitoring, you require future investigation, consultation with any physician, treatment or surgery recommended by your physician or planned before your trip;
  - c) You required hospitalization; or
- 2) Any condition for which you have been advised by a physician not to travel.

# STONY BRIDGES STROLLERS

**Thursday December 1, 2005**

10 a.m. - 12 noon  
High Park

**Thursday January 5, 2006**

10 a.m. - 12 noon  
Rosedale

**Thursday February 3, 2006**

Underground  
10 a.m. - 12 noon

Please call Margaret Schuman  
416-924-0267 or  
Beatrice Connelly  
416-482-9032  
for meeting points.

Wear comfortable shoes, clothing suitable to the weather conditions and be ready to enjoy friendship and the beauty of the season. We have built in a washroom and coffee break midway through the walk.

Future strolls will be planned for the first Thursday of each month.

# Champagne Breakfast

by Helen Wiber



*New retirees: Lorraine Dupuis, John Anderson, Georgina Gough, Jackie Greaves, Lois Law, Diane Glen were treated to a Champagne Breakfast at the Moonlight Ballroom on September 27th. District 23 executive members and convenors of special interest programs ( Bridge, Travel, Travelogue etc. ) presented their line-ups for the year ahead. All our guests were invited to join RTO/ERO, to contribute their suggestions for future activities and to participate in our growing organization.*

## New mercury emission limits would require Ontario coal-phase-out

*Ontario Clean Air Alliance*

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment's draft Canada Wide Standard for mercury emissions from coal-fired plants calls for mercury emissions from Ontario's coal plants to be reduced to zero by Jan. 1, 2010. The only way for Ontario to comply with this new regulation would be through a complete coal phase-out.

The draft standard would also require Saskatchewan, Alberta, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to reduce the mercury emissions from their coal plants by 39%, 50%, 57% and 82% respectively by 2010.

## STUFF THE TURKEY!

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me, I'm glad we bought fresh turkey and a proper Xmas tree,  
On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard  
As we tucked into the turkey, a most delicious bird.  
On the third day we entertained the people next door  
The turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before,  
Day four relations came to stay, poor gran is looking old  
We finished up the Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold,  
On the fifth day of Christmas outside the snowflakes flurried  
But we were nice and warm inside, we had our turkey curried,  
On the sixth day, I must admit, the Christmas spirit died  
The children fought and bickered, we ate turkey rissoles fried,  
On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love he did wince  
When he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince,  
Day eight and nerves were getting frayed - the dog had run for shelter

I served up turkey pancakes with a glass of Alkaseltzer,  
On day 9 our cat left home - by lunchtime Dad was blotto  
He said he had to have a drink to face turkey risotto,  
By the tenth day the booze had gone - except our home-made brew  
As if that wasn't bad enough, we suffered turkey stew,  
On the eleventh day of Christmas, the tree was moulting  
The mince pies were as hard as rock, and the turkey was revolt-ing,  
On the twelfth day, my true love had a smile upon his lips  
The guests had gone, the turkey too - and we dined on fish and chips.

*This piece (author unknown) was submitted by Herbert Worthington, a member of District 23 since 1986. He lives with his wife in Willowdale.*



## RTO/ERO Executive Director Speaks at Our AGM

*by George Meek*

**H**arold Braithwaite, recently appointed Executive Director of RTO/ERO, spoke to the North York Annual General Meeting on September 13 at the Luna Ballroom prior to lunch. Harold commenced his remarks by informing the group that he would be giving an overview of the issues with which he has been dealing.

1. He serves on the Pension Committee of OTF. In this role he is aware of the potential actuarial deficit of our pension and the factors that are contributing to it. He pointed out that we have one of the few pension plans that is indexed to the cost of living. Actuarially, during this time of low returns on investments, a great deal of pressure is placed on our pension plan. The plan is secure; however, there may be an increase in dues for active teachers in January 2007.

2. He has been involved in the examination of the services provided by Johnson Insurance to our members. A survey of members indicated that they are pleased with the service provided. AON is doing an assessment of what Johnson is providing to our organization and its members since we want to be sure that we are getting value for our money.

3. The Provincial Executive has looked at the Nominations Committee process—the objective is to have representation from across the province so that as many Districts as possible are actively involved.

4. There was a projected deficit in RTO/ERO's Health Plan and Johnson recommended an increase in our fees. Since there was a significant surplus in the plan, the Provincial Executive decided not to recommend an increase in premiums and part of the surplus was used to offset higher costs. As we look ahead we know that the cost of drugs is going higher and the Provincial government is covering less so we can expect premium increases in the future.

5. In the area of budget, the Provincial Executive is attempting to present a balanced budget while trying to improve services to members. For example, previously, when a member contacted the RTO/ERO Office & needed to be referred to Johnson Inc. the person was given a Johnson number to call. That step has been eliminated and a seamless transfer is made. More telephone lines have been added so you can contact Johnson immediately; however, this increases costs

and thus puts pressure on the budget.

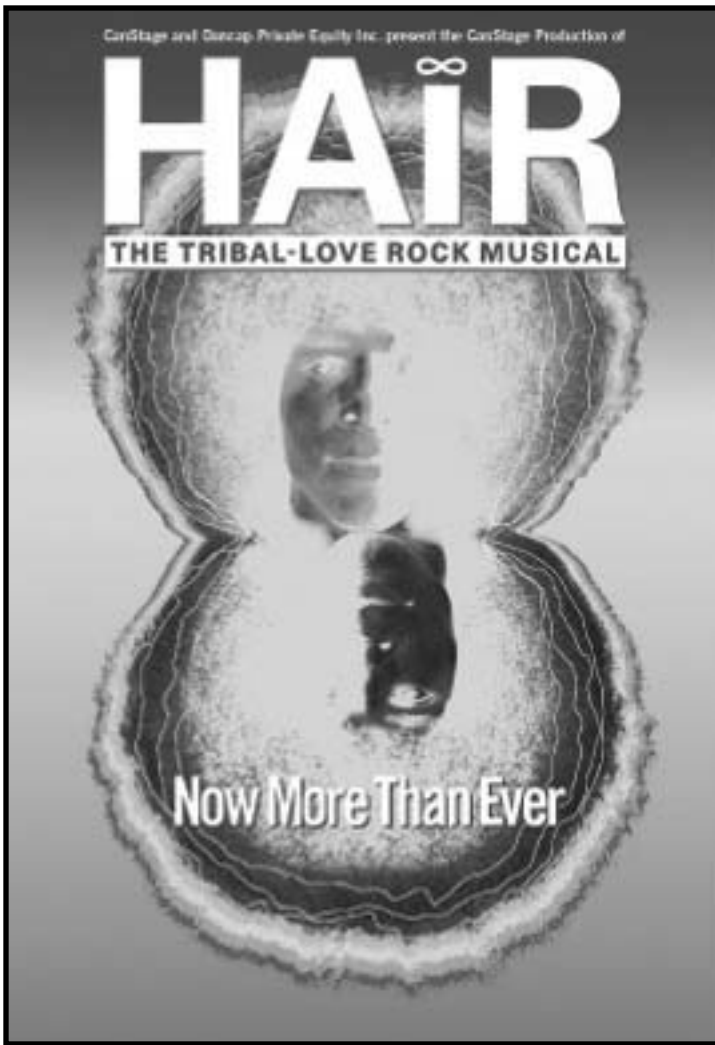
6. The RTO/ERO President and Executive Director have been liaising with the other OTF affiliates concerning the various health plans that are in place in the province. Ours is the best!! It would be better if there were only one plan for all teachers; however, this concept will take a long time to implement.

7. Senior Staff have been completing an internal review of services to our members as well as our office operations.

8. There are many areas of interest—for example: income splitting of pensions and having the provincial government paying for PSA testing are issues that RTO/ERO is actively pursuing. Efforts are being made to engage with provincial party leaders and other politicians. However it is very difficult to “pin them down” to a meeting.

Harold thanked everyone for their attention and welcomed questions from the audience of which there were many. ❖

*Pictured above are: First Vice President Mary Ellen Lawless with Executive Director, Harold Braithwaite*



Book and lyrics by  
Gerome Ragni and James Rado

Music by Galt MacDermot

It is the dawning of The Age of Aquarius. The tribe is rebelling. American youth are screaming out against The Establishment, Vietnam, segregation and sexual rigidity. *Hair*, the iconic 60s musical is part pop, part rock, part nostalgia and total visual delight. Recapture your spirit of hope in a strife-torn world.

# Wednesday, April 19, 2006

*(Cut-Off Date - Wednesday, March 1, 2006)*

## 1:30 p.m.

# St. Lawrence Centre

Bluma Appel Theatre  
27 Front Street East

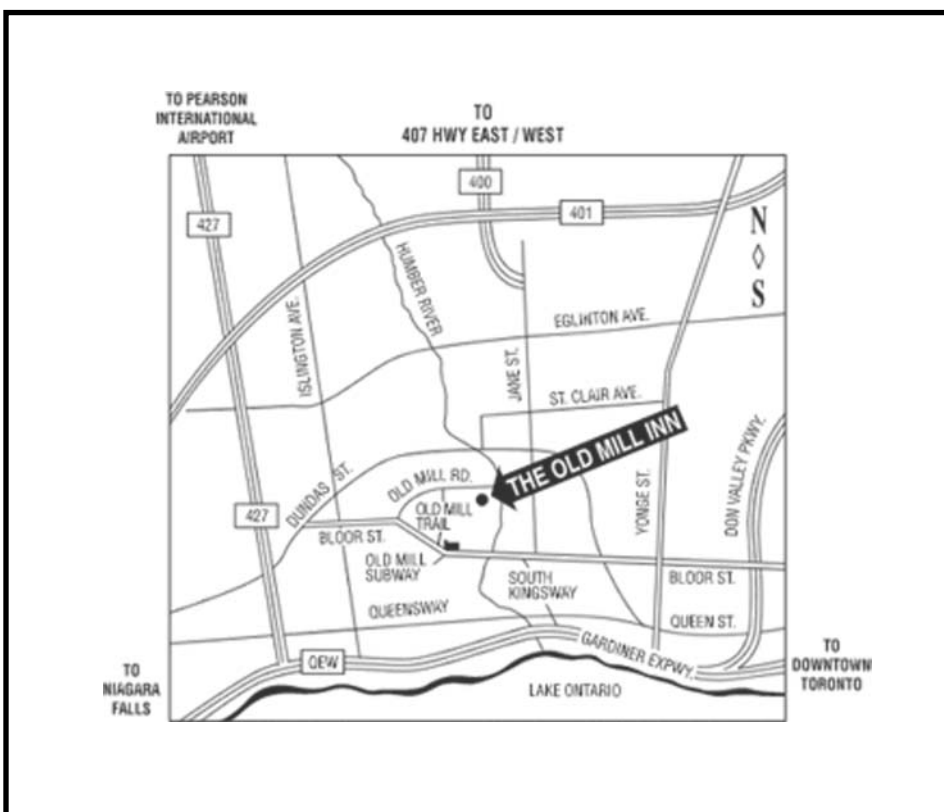
# \$28

*(Pick up your ticket from Doug Tallon after 1:10 p.m. in the lobby)  
~ See page 24 for registration form*



## Old Mill Restaurant

21 Old Mill Road, Toronto  
*(close to the Old Mill Subway Station)*



# Murder Mystery at the Old Mill

Wednesday, January 25,  
2006  
*(Cut-Off Date - January 12, 2006)*

Lunch - 11:30 a.m.  
Mystery - 1:00 p.m.

**\$44.00**

*(coat check extra)*

*Enjoy a delicious buffet (hot and cold)  
lunch and solve the hilarious "who-  
dunit."*

*~See page 24 for registration form*

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# Bridge Report

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*by Alan Ward*

The Bridge Club continues to meet at Willowdale United Church on Kenneth Avenue at Church St (south of Finch, east of Yonge) every Tuesday except for the first Tuesday of the month. New members are cordially invited to try us out: it is suggested that players arrive no later than 12.45 p.m., since the afternoon's play begins promptly at 1 p.m. with four duplicate hands. 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)
May 17th	Jean Cameron & Hardie McNeil	Polly Clarke & Lee White
May 24th	Lee White & Marilyn Storton-Butcher	Eulaline & Alec Taylor
May 31st	Clarice Giffen & Marsh Morris	Inge & Bob Radko
June 7th	Gunter Sperling & David Fleming	Clarice Giffen & Marsh Morris
June 14th	Marilyn Storton-Butcher & Mel York	Jean Cameron & Nada Dimitrievich
June 21st	Lois Lewis & Nada Dimitrievich	Barbara Woodrow & Mary Butler
June 28th	Ruth Jacobs & Lee White	Jean Cameron & Lois Lewis
September 20th	Eulaline & Alec Taylor	Marilyn Storton-Butcher & Carson Klinck
September 27th	Mary Lutes & David Fleming	Helen Wiber & Hardie McNeil

## The Table Champions

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

Bev Suzuki, Bev Henricks, Mary Lutes, Marsh Morris, Inge Radko, Guenther Sperling, Lee White (3), Mel York

## The Slam Bidders

To recognize 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)
May 17th	Wayne Justeson & Ilona Taray	6 No Trump
	Lee White & Barbara Woodrow	6 Hearts (7)
May 24th	Alec Taylor & Joyce Arnsby	6 No Trump
May 31st	Clarice Giffen & Marsh Morris	6 Clubs
	Clarice Giffen & Marsh Morris	6 No Trump
	Gunter Sperling & Bev Suzuki	7 Spades
	Gunter Sperling & Marilyn Storton-Butcher	6 No Trump
June 21st	Alan Ward & Bev Suzuki	6 No Trump (7)
	Lee White & David Fleming	7 Spades
June 28th	Claire Knapp & Lee White	6 Diamonds
	Alec Taylor & Nora Garvin	6 No Trump (7)
	Alec Taylor & Nora Garvin	6 No Trump (7)
September 20th	Bob Radko & Joyce Arnsby	7 Spades

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# Membership Report

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for February 1, 2005 - June 30, 2005  
by Penny McLeod-Smith, Membership Convenor

As of the beginning of July, 2005, we are pleased to report that District 23 (North York) has 2001 members. Your Executive welcomes all members to our great events this year, and suggests you bring a newly retired teacher with you to enjoy the good times with us.

Please keep up the good work finding potential RTO members, especially during the September -December retirement period. 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 in May for the September

Champagne Breakfast and Information Session.

Also, please note that this year of 2004-5, there were no OTF Retirement Workshops. We need your help to find teachers who have retired! RTO/ERO Provincial Member Services has put together a package of materials so that RTO/ERO Districts can run their own retirement planning sessions (RPWs). There has been much activity in the Toronto Joint Districts about the RPW sessions, and our Joint Toronto Retirement workshops will begin in the Fall, 2005 for our newly retiring teachers. This should be very exciting. ❖

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## New Members

The following have joined us as regular or associate members. We welcome them and invite them to become active participants in our activities.

Richard Allan, William Baggaley, Robert Bailey, Heather Boshan, Lorraine Bramm, Larry Dinsmore, Denise Donovan, Evelyn Dunn, Stephen Edson, Diane Fair, Anne Galt, Wayne Ginou, Arnold Goldstein, Jackie Gorlick-Alspector, Barry Griffiths, Basile Hacetoglu, Lynne Kee, Kelvin Matheson, Peter Maxwell, David McGinn, Thomas McLauchlin, Carolyn Moras, June-Anne Neilson, George Nesheigh, Penelope O'Neill, Anne Powell, Carole Riddolls, Jose Romero, Denise Sinclair, Leonard Sparks, Jean Stephen, Larry Swartz, Maria Vatalaro

## In Memoriam

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

Wilfred Bourne, Edna Bradley, Ruth Christman, Helen Clarridge, Jean Crack, Betty Dawson, William Ellman, Carol Fiorotto, Carl Hogg, Jean Glazer, Lawrence Goldmintz, John Harkness, Vern Landon, Florence Luke, Gabrielle McCabe, Barbara McCarron, Andrew McEwan, Matthew Noble, John Ohi, Robina Rodger, R.S. Scott, Doreen Simpson, Kenneth Turner, Nora Wilson

**Murder Mystery**  
**Wednesday, January 25, 2006**  
*(Cut-Off Date: January 12, 2006)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ people @ \$44 = \_\_\_\_ . Cheque enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_ *(You may post-date cheque for January 12, 2006)*

Make Cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 and mail to:  
Bev Henricks 21 Dawnmist Crescent Toronto ON M1V 4K5

**Retirement Planning Workshop**

I wish to attend the RPW at

York Mills C.I., Nov. 17, 2005 ( ) Don Bosco C.S.S., Feb. 7, 2006 ( ) Blue Danube Restaurant, Feb. 25, 2006 ( )

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheque payable for \$10 to RTO/ERO, Toronto Districts and return to:  
David Fleming, 1 Paddock Court, Toronto ON M2L 2A7

**Hair**  
**Wednesday, April 19, 2006**  
*(Cut-Off Date: March 1, 2006)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ people @ \$28 = \_\_\_\_ . Cheque enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_ *(You may post-date cheque for March 1, 2006)*

Make Cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 and mail to:  
Bev Henricks 21 Dawnmist Crescent Toronto ON M1V 4K5

**Naturopathic Seminar**  
**Thursday, February 16, 2006**  
*(Cut-Off Date: February 3, 2006)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ people @ \$10 = \_\_\_\_ . Cheque enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_ *(You may post-date cheque for February 3, 2006)*

Make Cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 and mail to:  
Bev Henricks 21 Dawnmist Crescent Toronto ON M1V 4K5



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# Stony Bridges Bulletin Board

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"Publication of initiatives by members of District 23 does not constitute an endorsement by the Executive of District 23. The information is being provided to assist our members to share in available activities other than those sponsored by RTO/ERO District 23."

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## CLUB 48.

.is an association of retired teachers and friends meeting socially for luncheons, stimulating lectures and outings. Founded in 1948 by a group of forward-looking Toronto educators, the Association generally meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (October to June) in a central location. All retired teachers are most welcome to join as Members, along with other interested people as Associate Members. A small membership fee assures you of full details and an invitation to a season of convivial and collegial, social and cultural experiences. To receive our autumn program with application, contact Gwen Smith at 905.426.1553, or Linda Rose at enfj50@hotmail.com

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## Remarkable Travel Opportunities for RTO Members

**Accessible Paris Tours**  
**February 11/19, 2006 \$2525**

Tour includes seven nights in a central, heritage four star hotel, breakfast daily, one lunch, coach tour of the city, walking tours of Montmartre and the Left Bank, guided visit to the Louvre and optional tours to Versailles and Fontainebleau. All performing arts are in season. Our fifth year for this popular tour.

## Czech Republic, Prague, Spa and Golf Tour

**10 days April 13/23, 2006, just \$2650**

Three days, two nights in Prague in a 5 star hotel and a week in the royal spa town of Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) at a four star spa hotel. Flights from Toronto on Czech Air, most meals, guided tours and spa treatments are included. The Golf Program includes five rounds and spa services (\$150 extra).

## Russia, Boating and Bridge Cruise

**May 29/June 11, 2006 \$4200**

Cruise between Russia's two most significant cities, St. Petersburg and Moscow. Tour includes flights on Czech Air, 10 night cruise, all meals on board and all shore excursions, extra day in St. Petersburg, overnight in Prague. Pre-cruise Prague extension and post-cruise one week tour of Poland also available.

Tour escorted by RTO member Dorothy Hollingsworth, former

teacher and Counselor in North York. President of KNOW THE WORLD Tour Organizers.

Check the prices of comparable tours to see the value in ours.

Ask Dorothy for brochures  
at 416-781-6661 or 1-800-554-9754,  
e mail her at ktwtours@rogers.com or write to her at  
124 Ava Road, Toronto, M6C 1W1

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## Lend us your brain for a few hours

The Research Division of Baycrest Centre is looking for people with memory problems who are over 60 years old and free of dementia and other major medical illnesses. Call us at **(416) 785-2500 x2080** to participate in memory studies. A small stipend will be provided.

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## Ski For Life

provides equipment and CANSI qualified instruction in a relaxed, rustic location away from the hectic pace at commercial centres. Suitable for beginner, novice, and intermediate skiers aged 8 to 80. Half day or single day outings For more details see [www.skiforlife.net](http://www.skiforlife.net) or call us at 519-842-4652

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## The Friends of the Sesquicentennial Museum and Archive

The Friends is a group of former employees, mainly retirees from teaching and support staffs, who are interested in preserving the history and heritage of the Toronto District School Board. The Friends meet bi-monthly for formal meetings. During the intervals between we assist staff of the Museum and Archives in a volunteer capacity to undertake various work related to the operation of the Museum and Archives. In addition, the Friends, in collaboration with the Music Department, sponsor noon-hour musical concerts featuring students from elementary and secondary students from across Toronto.

The Friends would welcome former staff who have time available to participate in our activities.

Contact:

Arlene Freeman 416-630-3672 or  
Russell Pickering 416-247-6857 or  
Greg McKinnon 416-397-5682

# Political Action Update

by Andree Nottage

The district #23 Political Action Committee members continue to monitor issues of importance to our members. It is our mandate to provide information through *Stony Bridges* articles and postings on our Web site, and to take appropriate action on certain issues. Each edition of *Stony Bridges* contains an article from members of our committee. We work in collaboration with the Provincial Political Action Committee, by providing input, which they then consider for inclusion in their yearly Action Plan, and assisting in the implementation process. Additionally, we are part of the Toronto Districts PAC where the members of the four regions meet together on a regular basis to bring action/resolution to various concerns and issues. In the fall of 2004, a survey was conducted in all Toronto districts to determine the priority issues for our members. The results of our findings were published in *Stony Bridges* and were the following:

1-Environment: water and elec-

tricity cost and availability

2-Universal Health Care: prescription drug cost, long term care, elder abuse

3-Ethics in politics

The above priorities were then submitted as Resolutions to the RTO-ERO spring senate '05. We requested that these priorities become part of the Provincial Executive's Action Plan 2005-2006, and that like-minded organization be contacted to support RTO/ERO initiatives. The first two resolutions were passed by Senate, but the third resolution was felt to be too broad in scope and was defeated. You can catch up with the Provincial Executive's summary of subsequent implementation activities in the Renaissance publication or on the rto-ero.org website.

## CURRENT ISSUES:

The provincial PAC has organized a petition calling for the modification

of the personal Income Tax Act to allow Income Splitting for spouses/common law partners. The petition appears here in *Stony Bridges*. If you are in agreement, please photocopy it, gather as many signatures as you can and return the form to me. My address is 45 Drakefield Rd. Markham ON L3P 1G8. We thank you for your support.

Federal elections may be in the offing in the New Year! PAC will provide information and suggestions for action through the Provincial and the District committees, through *Stony*, and through our web site [rtoerotorontodistricts.org](http://rtoerotorontodistricts.org)

My thanks to PAC members Maureen Donaghy, Jean Dilcock, and George Meek. Their research contribution and articles for *Stony Bridges* are much appreciated.

If you would like to get involved in our work, please contact us. We would be grateful for your assistance. ❖



Political Action Committee members: (clockwise from upper left): Andree Nottage, George Meek, Maureen Donaghy, and Jean Dilcock.

## Coober Pedy, Australia

Tiny ant hills from airplane  
swell into pillaged earth mines  
where greedy men grope for opals

Barren, arid  
the land  
forces people  
to work, play, sleep, eat  
underground

The ravaged landscape  
no one's obligation  
gradually orphaned  
by the bottom line

Elka Enola



**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 Bev Henricks 416-293-3890 (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:  
Dianne Vezeau  
Suite 300, 18 Spadina Rd.,  
Toronto, ON  
M5R 2S7  
Phone: 416-962-9463 or 1-800-361-9888  
www.rto-ero.org

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

New Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Old Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: The Provincial Office will inform District 23 of these changes.**



***RTO/ERO District 23 Executive Committee***

*L to R: Bev Henricks - Assistant Treasurer, Frank Saliani - Past President, Mary Ellen Lawless - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Guy Leger - Treasurer, Helen Wiber - President*

STONY Bridges  
C/O George Meek  
414 - 4005 Bayview Ave  
North York, ON  
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