

# STONY BRIDGES

Issue 86

A Newsletter for the Members of



District 23, North York

February 2006

## President's Message

by Helen Wiber

Welcome to District 23's winter issue of updates on past and future events and issues of interest. Your executive committee of twenty-one members has been busy planning speakers, organizing trips and clubs, managing monthly meetings and representing our interests on provincial committees including our health and benefits package and political action.

According to the evaluation sheets completed by the participants, our first Retirement Planning Workshop held in the fall and winter for active teachers was a success. Participants stated that they went into the workshop feeling unsure of the retirement process, uneasy about leaving the routine of education and concerned about the financial changes that retirement brings. By the end of the workshop these teachers reported that they had the information to make the necessary decisions and felt very confident about tasks that must be completed 60 days before and 60 days after retirement.

Their excitement about future life changes reminded me of the promises that I made to myself when I made that decision to retire four years ago. Looking back on that time, yes, I have traveled; I have spent more time with my family, especially my grandchildren and am able to help out more with various charity organizations.

Staying in touch with colleagues and students is difficult but the occasional supply day at Newtonbrook Secondary are wonderful opportunities to revisit the familiar classrooms. In spite of being filled with different students and youthful-looking staff, those supply days allow me to keep in touch and have enjoyable lunches with office staff and colleagues still teaching.

Future retirement years will continue to bring new experiences, new friends and travel opportunities to allow more of those goals that I set four years ago to be fulfilled. Maintaining our energy and health levels is critical. Volunteering and getting involved contributes to our motivation to face another day with joy and enthusiasm.

If you would like to get involved in some way with RTO, contact past president, Frank Saliani or one of the representatives on the executive to see if positions that may come up next year match your talents and interests. ❖

## Coming Events

**St. Lawrence Market**  
Thursday, March 23, 2006  
~See page 22

**Cotton Patch Gospel**  
Thursday, April 6, 2006  
~See page 14

**Spring Luncheon**  
Wednesday, May 3, 2006  
~See page 21

**Arms and the Man**  
Friday, May 12, 2006  
~See page 26

**Golf Tournament**  
Thursday, June 8, 2006  
~See page 21

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

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# Calendar of Events

## 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.
23 St. Lawrence Market	10:30 a.m.
28 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
29 Book Club	2:00 p.m.

## April

4 Travelogue	1:30 p.m.
6 Strollers	10:00 a.m.
6 Cotton Patch Gospel	8:45 a.m.
11 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
12 Executive Meeting	9:15 a.m.
18 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
19 Hair	1:30 p.m.
25 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
26 Book Club	2:00 p.m.

## May

2 Travelogue	1:30 p.m.
3 Spring Luncheon	11:00 a.m.
4 Strollers	10:00 a.m.
9 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
10 Executive Meeting	9:15 a.m.
12 Arms and the Man	9:15 a.m.
16 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
23 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
30 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
31 Book Club	2:00 p.m.

## June

1 Strollers	10:00 a.m.
6 Bridge	1:00 p.m.
8 Golf	10:00 a.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.

# Editor's Notebook

by Rob Fraser

In recent issues, we've heard from Lynda Pogue - first advertising a showing of her paintings, and then a trademark message of inspiration called *Remember*, which we published last issue.

I always twin Lynda with another original, Al Downs. They did workshops, courses and books together. Some of those books are still on my shelves. They were intended to assist teachers in their work, of course, but I put aside the teaching tips and just look at the lettering, page after page of painstaking script - all by hand, all by Al Downs.

What a lovely surprise it was then to receive a letter from him, in that same style.

Al is now living in Southampton, ON, and serves on the Board of Directors, and teaches for the Southampton Art School, the oldest three season art school in the province. Turn to page 23 to see the advertisement for their classes this spring, summer and fall. The school offers a broad range of courses as you'll discover from their website or course calendar. What a marvellous way to spend a week or weekend away from home! Al, by the way, will be teaching printmaking.

I learned also, from Al's letter, that he once taught at St. Andrew's Jr. H.S with Allen Strike, who has been one of STONY Bridges most prolific contributors. You'll find Allen again in this issue, delighting us with his wit and his ardor. What many of you may not know though is that he too is an accomplished artist and gifted calligrapher. Their styles are alike only in their beautiful originality. Two masters of the pen and brush. From St. Andrew's Jr. High.

But enough about them.

Don't neglect the many entertainment offerings of District 23: Bridge, Golf, Travelogues, Strollers, Book Club, The Shaw Festival, St. Jacob's Country Playhouse, St. Lawrence Market, and, of course, the Spring Luncheon at the Thornhill Golf and Country Club, at which we'll pay tribute to another North York original - George Meek. Try not to miss out on these notices and the many other articles and stories. ❖



District 23 favourites, *The Jolly Ballers* performing at the Christmas Luncheon.

## 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

P0H 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 Information

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

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## Deadline

The deadline for materials for the next issue is May 15, 2006.

# Bridge Report

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)
October 11th	Hazel Perkin & David Fleming	Inge Radko & Bob Radko
October 18th	Marilyn Storton-Butcher & Carson Klinck	Joyce Arnsby & Ilona Taray
October 25th	Eulaline & Alec Taylor	Bev & Vic Suzuki
November 8th	Mary Lutes & Mel York	Marg Jang & Barbara Woodrow
November 15th	Joyce Arnsby & Alan Ward	Clarice Giffen & Marsh Morris
November 22nd	Marsh Morris & Edward Dexter	Kathleen Elliott & Ruth Hodson
November 29th	Marilyn Storton-Butcher & Carson Klinck	Bev & Vic Suzuki tied with Donna Mighton & Eileen Stanley
December 13th	Shari Swenson & George Vanderwerf	Bev & Vic Suzuki
December 20th	Shari Swenson & Vic Suzuki	Clarice Giffen & Marsh Morris
January 10th	Elizabeth McKeon & George Vanderwerf	Clarice Giffen & Marsh Morris

## The Table Champions

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

Jack Foote, Eileen Justeson, Carson Klinck, Madaleine Merrick, Donna Mighton, Hazel Perkin, Inge Radko, Frank Saliani, Alec Taylor, Nancy Walsh .

## 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.

		<u>Contract Bid (made)</u>
October 11th	Eulaline Taylor & Madaleine Merrick	6 Diamonds
October 18th	Marilyn Storton-Butcher & Carson Klinck	6 No Trump
	Kathleen Elliott & Carson Klinck	7 No Trump
November 15th	Inge Radko & Lee White	6 Diamonds
	Nora Garvin & David Fleming	6 No Trump
	Murray Townsend & Wayne Justeson	6 Hearts (7)
November 22nd	Ruth Jacobs and A.N.Other	6 Hearts (7)
	Eileen Stanley & Nancy Walsh	6 Hearts
	Wayne Justeson & Jack Foote	6 Hearts
December 13th	Frank Saliani & Guenther Sperling (twice)	6 Hearts and 6 Hearts
	Frank Saliani & Marsh Morris (twice)	6 Clubs and 6 Diamonds
December 20th	Claire Knapp & Nora Garvin	Unspecified small slam
	David Fleming & Mel York	6 Spades (doubled)
	Bev Suzuki & Marsh Morris	6 Diamonds
January 10th	Ruth Hodson & Mary-Elizabeth Lane	6 Hearts
	Frank Saliani & Jack Foote	6 Spades

# Getting the Point(s)

by Alan Ward

Beginners learn to assess their hands by counting their high-card points: four for an ace, three for a King, two for a Queen and one for a Jack. A deck of cards therefore holds 40 high-card points. If a hand contains 13 high-card points, it is considered to be powerful enough for the player to open the bidding. However, distribution is usually more important than high-card points in suit contracts as the hands below illustrate.

The first hand, known as the Mississippi Gambler's Hand, shows that the possession of a mammoth hand (29 HCP + five for the void) does not guarantee success, even at the one level. Of course, the chance of the West hand occurring in the same deal as the South hand is vanishingly small. This hand caused great amusement when visited upon unsuspecting club members at the December 20th meeting.

Most Souths, after regarding their hands with stark amazement, opened the bidding with seven hearts. Clearly partner could have very little and South did not wish to be stranded in a low contract. However, seven Hearts goes down seven tricks: only the top trump can win as West leads out a diamond and ruffs any club or spade return.

The second hand was played in the duplicate competition on January 10th. Once again, South has an amazing hand with 29 HCP and two more for the shortage in spades and diamonds. A contract of six No Trump is unbeatable if played from the South hand, but goes down five if played from the North hand with a low spade lead from East. Six Hearts or six Clubs by South is beaten by a diamond lead from West.

Astonishingly, the East/West hands constitute an unbeatable Grand Slam in spades. Any lead is ruffed, trumps are led through South and by ruffing two rounds of diamonds, the suit is established. How often can a Grand Slam be made with only six high-card points? Of course, the contract is unlikely to be found unless East/West, with a courage born of desperation, decide to sacrifice at seven spades against the six no trump contract. What a surprise awaits them all!

Of course, the odds are against any honest deal ever producing such a combination of hands. However, the very fact of the existence of such hands goes to show that in assessing a Bridge hand, length is often more important than strength. ♦

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# Health Services Report

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By Sam Habib

## Group Benefits, January 2006

### Reminder

*The deadlines for submission of claims is the end of the calendar year following the year in which the expense was incurred. If you have any claims not submitted for 2005, they must be submitted to our plan Administrator, Johnson Inc. by December 31, 2006.*

The largest population of RTO/ERO Health Plans participants resides in Ontario. Recently, the Government made significant changes to the health coverage available to us.

### Recent delisted services were:

- a) Coverage for routine eye exams for anyone ages 20 to 64,
- b) Chiropractic services and
- c) Physiotherapy services for most situations

As our population ages, the use of drugs or services increases. The cost, then, has shifted from the Ontario Government to private insurance plans, such as the RTO/ERO Group Benefits Program.

### Sudden and Unforeseen – Clarified

Effective, January 1, 2006, the 2005 definition is being revised to better describe the intent of the RTO/ERO Extended Health Care Plan's Out of Province/Canada benefit. The following would be excluded from coverage:

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

### Important

The 2005 definition of a "medical Emergency" only applies to trips booked or commenced in 2005. Therefore, if you book or commence a trip in 2006 then the 2006 definition will apply.

### Examples:

Q: I booked my trip in November 2005, for travel in February 2006. Within 90 days prior to my departure date, I was hospitalized for my Lung condition. Would I have coverage for my lung condition while on my trip? Would I have to cancel my trip?

A: You would not have medical coverage for your lung condition as you were hospitalized within 90 days prior to your departure date. You would have coverage for any medical emergency that was not related to your lung condition. If you choose to cancel this trip, it would be covered to a maximum of \$6000 per person per trip.

Q: There's no change in my heart condition in the 90 days prior to my trip, but my doctor has changed one of my heart medications. Will I have coverage for my heart condition while I'm traveling?

A: Yes

Q: I'm a supplemental travel Plan policyholder. My trip starts in February 2006 and I return in May 2006. Which definition do I use?

A: The goal is to have the same definition for both the Extended Health Care Plan Out-of-Province/Canada benefit (the first 62 days) and the Supplemental Travel Plan. Because the policy years are different, the new definition applies during the first 62 days and the 2005 definition applies from day 63 onward. We (Group Benefits) will be considering whether the 2006 definition will also apply to the Supplemental Travel Plan effective September 1, 2006.

## More for you to Know!

1. The following Complaint Handling Protocol has been developed by Johnson Inc. to deal with the concerns arising from either Automobile claim or general service:

A. The insured should first address the issue with their representative from Johnson Inc. if it is a service related issue, or their adjuster, if it is a claim issue.

B. If the matter is not resolved at that level, the policyholder will be asked to put their concerns in writing to Mandy Hillhouse at Unifund Assurance Company, 1595 – 16<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 600, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3S5.

C. As the Johnson Inc. Representative for RTO/ERO, a member of the Consulting team will receive a copy of the policyholder's letter and the response.

D. Should the insured person wish to take the matter further, they will need to contact the Insurance Ombudsman at FSCO. The appropriate department Manager at Johnson Inc. will then work with the Ombudsman's office toward final resolution.

E. At any time throughout this process, the policyholder may choose to involve RTO/ERO by forwarding a copy of their letter of complaint to the RTO/ERO Provincial Office, Attention - Chair, Health Services and Insurance Committee. A copy of the letter to the HBTC Chair should be sent to Johnson Insurance so they will be prepared to address the matter. Written consent by the member is required for the Provincial Office or Chair of the HS&I Committee to be able to discuss their coverage. The member may want the Johnson Inc. Representative to acknowledge receipt of the complaint letter.

2. Research carried out by Johnson Inc. indicates that there is a wide range of both pharmaceutical dispensing fees and ingredient costs. They have also been able to confirm that this holds true for different store locations within the same pharmacy chain. In a sample, a dispensing cost range of \$6.47 to \$11.99, and an ingredient cost range of \$127.98 to \$142.29 for the same drug occurred when three pharmacies were compared. Members should be urged to check both the individual components and the total cost of prescriptions and thereby maximize the drug reimbursement of the EHC. RTO/ERO participants and their families pay the total dispensing fee and 15% of the drug's ingredient costs for drugs not covered by the province's healthcare plan. As prudent consumers, it is important we "shop around" to ensure we minimize our out-of-pocket expenses.

3. Johnson Inc. confirms that Ambulance charges are eligible for reimbursement under the RTO/ERO Extended Health Care Plan's Out-of-Province/Canada benefit if there is a covered medical emergency. Therefore all members traveling for trips up to 62 days in duration, and insured under the RTO/ERO Extended Health Care Plan can submit medically necessary ambulance charges to Johnson Inc. for reimbursement.

4. It has been confirmed that for the calendar year 2006, there will be no renewal premium changes for the Long Term

Care Plans. For policyholders that come to the end of their initial five-year premium guarantee during 2006, their premium will be adjusted based on the 2004 premiums negotiated for the post-April 1, 2004 Long Term Care Plan.

5. The Health Canada website ([www.healthcanada.gc.ca](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca)) offers 50,000 pages of plain language, easy to find facts and figures to help Canadians make more informed decisions about their health. The site is written by and for Canadians and covers hundreds of topics from diseases and conditions, to food and nutrition, to legislation and policy, all broken down by subject. All members would be well advised to visit this website.

### Special Note:

When in doubt about any of your coverage, ALWAYS contact Johnson Inc. to clarify the situation.

### Finally

**Take care of your finances**

**Take care of your health**

## 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)

### World Access Canada

**From Canada and USA**

1-800-249-6556

**From other Countries:**

519-742-6683

(ask the operator to reverse the charges)

**Fax:**

519-742-8553

**Mailing Address:**

World Access Canada  
PO Box 277  
Waterloo, ON N2J 4A4

# Membership Report

For January 1, 2006-from June 30, 2005

by Jean Wilson, Membership Convenor

**A**s of the beginning of January 2006, we are pleased to report that District 23 ( North York ) has 2030 members. Your Executive welcomes all members to participate in our great events. Please encourage new members to join us for fellowship and good times.

## New Members June 2005-December 2005

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

Heather Allington, John M Anderson, Rosetta Angelini, Edward Barnard, Rochelle Basil-Masic, Verna Baksi, Gerald C Bird, Margaret E Bornhold, Adele M Boy, Sandie Brauti, Mary D Bullen, Karen Carlson, Ka Cheong Chan, Julia M L Chmilnitzky, Maria Anna C Cioppa, Peter Clifford, Evelyn Cohen-Strasberg, Barbara J Cooper, Mimi C. De Castro, Izabela Cunningham, Anna Maria Di Carlo, Maria De Manche, Margaret V. Desouza, Lorraine C Dupuis, Vija Edgington, Peter Englehutt, Diane Freeman, Adam Fuerstenberg, Diane Glen, Patricia Good, Jacqueline Greaves, M. Suzanne Harkness, Dorothy Hume, Anne Jardine, Florence C. Jarrett, Angela Jutlah, Andrew Kowalski, Lois P Law, Adele Lieberman, Eleanor McCaslin, Gloria Nazar, Robert A North, Wendy Nurgitz, Mary Alice O' Connor Hayes, Margaret P Schuman, Allan R Todd, Beveley L Torrville, Linda Langero, Katherine Lipson, Marianne Marcella, Stephanie M Meredith, Judith Parnis, Cathy Sgro, Helen I Simons, Sandra Starkman, Lynda Stiefelmeyer, Mary Wilson, Trevor Wilson, Shirley E Wlodarczyk, Elke Yuzwa

## 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.

Pearl Baldeo, Stephen V Baski, Nora C. E. Dawson, Edward Devai, Peter J. Farrell, Jean W. Featherstone, Marvin J. Green, Jane Heath, Christine Hebscher, John Hodgson, D. Ross Kennedy, Edgar Landry, Jessie M. Little, Lorne Lundy, William Maloney, Barbara H. McDowell, R. Kenneth McKee, Jocelyn Scott, Frank C. Sues, Harold G Threapleton, Louise Turnbull, Margaret J. White

*Prize Winners at  
the Christmas  
Luncheon: L.  
Dish, M. Frank,  
N. Brown, Z.  
Borota, D.  
Doulson, R.  
Joshua, Y. Wahab*





# Goodwill Report

by Eileen Justesen

## 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 send a card.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

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

## CONVENOR

Eileen Justesen 416-222-0706

## CARDS

Ruth Bradshaw	905-472-4142
Nancy Walsh (over 80's)	416-968-2067

## TELEPHONE CALLS

Vinny Coetzee 416-621-6681

# STONY BRIDGES BOOK CLUB

This group meets the last Wednesday of each month at the Edithvale Community Centre, Edithvale Ave., North York (the corner of Edithvale and Finch Ave, west of Yonge St) from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The Convener for the Club is Irene Kitchell.

Telephone : 416-733-8711.

Everyone is welcome. If you have questions, please call Irene.

The schedule is:

January 25, 2006  
2:00 p.m.

**Balzac and the Little Chinese  
Seamstress**

February 22, 2006  
2:00 p.m.

**Shake Hands with the Devil  
by Romeo Dallaire**

March 29, 2006  
2:00 p.m.

**Accordion Crimes**

April 26, 2006  
2:00 p.m.

**Testament of Youth**

May 31, 2006  
2:00 p.m.

**No Great Mischief**

# Travelogues

## Main Streets of Ontario with Ron Brown

by David Fleming

Ron Brown delighted the audience on December 6, 2005 with a superbly illustrated travelogue on the interesting main streets of almost every city and town in Ontario. Most people drive through towns without ever seeing the unique characteristics of the architecture present in their buildings.

Ron has researched carefully all the architecture of the towns and cities he has visited and taken numerous photos that portray this in so many places, such as historical Merrickville, just one example of hundreds of interesting main streets in Ontario.

At the conclusion of his travelogue, Ron offered for sale several of the illustrated books he has written on Ontario and many of us were eager to purchase them as keepsakes.

## Northern Italy with Manfred Petz:

By Kerry Peters

On November 1st, we toured Northern Italy with Manfred Petz. We traveled from Lago Maggiore to Milano, Terino, Mt. Blanc and the Aosto Valley, the Barollo Valley, Pisa, Florence (what a reflection shot of the Ponte Vecchio bridge), Gimiguano, Siena, Umbria and Rome. What a slide presentation it was!

Manfred reminded us that luck plays a part in photography. Much more than luck was included though in his superb shots. Some

*Travelogue Convenor,  
Kerry Peters, playing  
a little Ragtime.*

excellent framing was obvious too. The amazing sculptures, the beautiful frescoes, the incredible architecture of churches, cathedrals and castles, ornate towers and spell binding scenery made this a special "alternate" travelogue.

Hopefully, all those who sampled the Hungarian hot peppers that Manfred brought, at least had a taste of Hungary too.

## Really Heading South with Iona Bell

by Kerry Peters

No doubt Iona Bell has the spirit of adventure. This time she rested overnight with about 80 other "outdoors" people and a Weddell seal on the snow and ice at Andvera Bay in Antarctica - lots of fresh air!

This time, Iona took us with her as she experienced the Drake Passage and then headed further south of the Antarctic

Circle, farther than most travel (usually sea ice impedes progress.)

Iona made several landings by Zodiac on the Peninsula Islands and on the mainland. A variety of birds, including albatrosses, petrels, skuas, and sheathbills were seen. Also Crabeaters, Weddell, Leopard (snakelike) and Elephant (large) seals were observed. Hundreds of Adelie, Gentoo, Chinstraps, and Macaroni (bad hair day) penguins were enjoyed. No - no Emperor penguins (March of the Penguins) live on this side of the Antarctic Peninsula. She learned to stay off the penguin highways on the snow (visitors play second fiddle to the animals in Antarctica, special Iaato regulations) Iona visited some research bases too. And Zodiac cruising among the icebergs was another trip highlight - incredible shapes!

In this part of the world,

**"Man proposes, God disposes."** ❖



# A Letter to the Baycrest Centre

*The Baycrest Centre advertised for volunteers in the last issue of STONY Bridges.  
This letter was written in response to that call.*

## Travelogues This Spring

**Tuesday, March 7, 2006**

*1:30 p.m.*

**Sculptures in Downtown  
Toronto**

*with Helen Nolan*

**Tuesday, April 4, 2006**

*1:30 p.m.*

**Polar Bears in  
Churchill, Manitoba**

*with Suzanne Southon*

**Tuesday, May 2, 2006**

*1:30 p.m.*

**The Story of the Taj Mahal -  
Why it's a Masterpiece of  
Architecture  
(India, Iran & the Moghul  
Empire)**

*with Irwin Patterson*

NOTE: All Travelogues are held at Willowdale United Church on Kenneth Ave. (South of Finch, East of Yonge) on the first Tuesday of the month.

Dear Research Division of Baycrest Centre

I saw your ad asking for volunteers for your research project on memory problems. I read this yesterday, or was it about the time when Diefenbaker resigned? Anyhow, I saw it and I would like to volunteer. You want people over 60 and I believe that includes me although I am not absolutely certain of this. In addition, I have been free of dementia ever since I dusted my parts with Gold Bond Medicated Powder. As to other major medical illnesses, I do not have any now and I told the doctors that I was ready to return to my old job in an architectural firm. They thought that I was an architect, which made me laugh. In fact, I was teapot. I see that you will provide a small stipend. I have never ridden one but it can't be harder than my tricycle.

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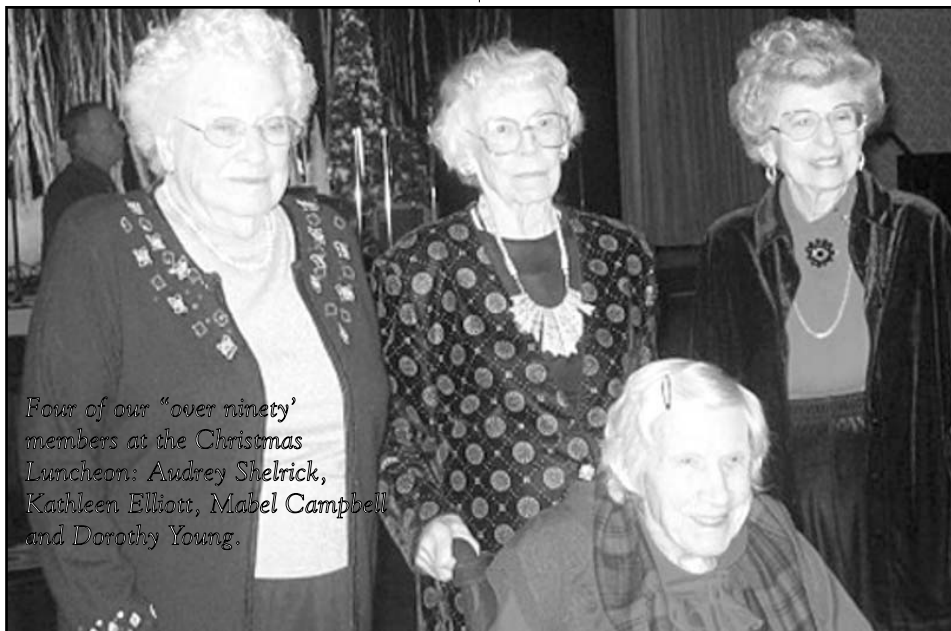
*That paragraph looks familiar.*

Dear Research Division of Baycrest Centre

Have you nothing better to do than bother old people? I am going to come down there and blow you all away.

Yours truly,

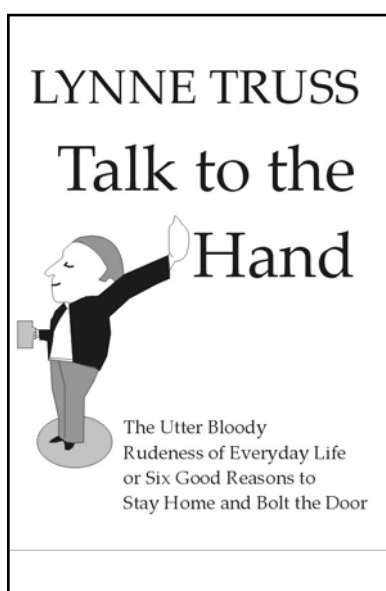
Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor (Retired.)



*Four of our "over ninety" members at the Christmas Luncheon: Audrey Shelrick, Kathleen Elliott, Mabel Campbell and Dorothy Young.*

## The hand that rocks the cradle Can you direct me to Massey Hall or should I just eff off?

By Allen Strike



**Talk to the Hand,**  
by Lynne Truss.  
Gotham Books, 2005,  
206 pages \$20.00

It is unlikely that older teachers need Lynne Truss' book to tell them that manners have declined abysmally. Nonetheless, they will enjoy the retelling. Most of us spent our careers in the business of promoting civility. We were the second of the hands to rock the cradle and we took the job seriously. Sadly, in spite of our efforts back then, bad manners, boorish behaviour and a lack of courtesy have become points of pride for many; far too many. The problem is widely recognized. Seventy percent of Americans, in a poll, consider bad manners to be a serious problem. Torontonians just told the pollster to eff off, I suppose.

One thing, though, that sets teachers apart from the general public is that we feel that we have a *responsibility* in matters of deportment; even if the offenders are not our pupils. Sometimes I forget this when I talk to non-teachers. Most are puzzled over why I don't just walk away, as they do, and pretend that it is not happening. However, just as the old war horse stamps and snorts at the clamour of the battle trumpet, the nostrils of old teachers flare at the sight and sound of plain bad manners.

I have distinguished between older teachers and newer teachers because the corrosion in society eventually oozed into the public schools. Private Schools and Catholic Schools did not succumb so readily. These schools drew a line at the threshold of the building and said, "When you come in here, you play by our rules; because they are the right rules, and we insist." I too thought that this was what responsible educators should be doing. In the Public Schools, the new breed of politico-administrators had their ears so firmly fixed to the ground that they did not notice the wagons were rolling over their skulls. I was reminded of this attitude when recently I read of the French Field Marshal who, in 1940, set up his headquarters half the distance between Paris and the German line of attack. He was charged with the defence of France but he did not want to get too far from Paris in case somebody in the War Office politically outflanked him. In the dying days of my career I witnessed the flight of teachers from their traditional roles. They knew that the administrations would no longer support their efforts. Witness a hallway jammed with a great scrum of chatting students. Hall traffic could barely move. Teachers slid by, up against the lockers, and never said a word. *Requiescat in pace* "Up the Down Staircase."

Lynne Truss is not one to walk away from the problem. She is the one who wrote, "Eats, Shoots and Leaves - The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation." "Talk to the Hand" is not a book on good manners as such. Truss sets out, as she says, "to mourn the apparent collapse of civility in all areas of our dealing with strangers; then to locate a tiny flame of hope in the rubble."

It is a plea to show some consideration to others. The six areas she chooses are:

- (1) "Was That So Hard to Say?" ("Thank you");
- (2) "Why am I the One Doing This?" (Punching doggedly through the automated switchboard);

(3) “My Bubble, My Rules” (Forcing others to listen to a private conversation on a mobile phone);

(4) “The Universal Eff-Off Reflex” (Outrage when antisocial behavior is pointed out);

(5) “Booing the Judges” (Active disrespect for the umpire, the older person, anyone in authority);

(6) “Someone Else Will Clean It Up” (Rubbish tossed out of the car window).

Truss writes well; she writes breezily and easily. She has the enviable knack of the best British writers who use the right word at the right time. Some American critics more tuned to their own portentous writing find Truss’ style much too light. The form of writing they approve reminds me of the mortician character in the strip-cartoon “Pogo” His grave utterances were always written in Old English script.

Truss weaves the causes of the lack of deference, consideration, and good manners into her writing. Maybe this book is not the place for it but a diagnosis of the causes, somewhere outside of academe, is needed. I believe that only in this way can a popular prescription for improvement be written. That there is great unhappiness behind it all is unquestioned. Truss cites the New Yorker cartoon that says it all.

Dog says to dog: “I’ve got the bowl, the bone, and the big yard. I know I should be happy.”

Once it was widely thought that poverty and starvation were the major cause of society’s ills and unhappiness. Refinements were the preserve of the rich. In “My Fair Lady,” Alfred P. Doolittle is asked, “You mean to say you’d sell your daughter for fifty pounds? Have you no morals, man?” He replies, “No. No, can’t afford them, governor.”

There have always been ill mannered and rude people. What I think is new is the emergence of hostile and aggressive rudeness which seeks an opportunity for itself. The fellow who cuts you off on the road does so deliberately. His finger is on the way up even before you blow your horn. It may even be more profound than this. Consider the popularity of Reality Television shows. It has been suggested that the shows portray real people, as opposed to plastic sit.com people but these are not real people to me. The shows provide another way to transfer an excess of hatred towards other people and destroy them; by firing them, taking their jobs, shipping them off the island, lying and cheating. People scramble to be on the shows because they think that they can be even more ruthless. In almost all the popular computer games the object is to kill off as many “bad guys” as possible. The definition of “Bad Guy” seems to be anyone besides the operator. Like baby birds in the nest, the objective is to push the others out and be alone. This is primitive, infantile, and destructive to society. So we come back to education, don’t we?

Today, in the midst of unparalleled creature comforts and spare cash, Western peoples contrive to be unhappy and rude. As Truss says:

“It is a well-observed fact that people are happier when they have some basic idea of where they stand and what the rules are...Every so often, a television experiment will place ungovernable modern school children in a mocked up old fashioned school with bells and a merit system, and they not only visibly flourish and calm down, they even learn the capital of Iceland and a bit of Latin Grammar. Virtually every day on television, unruly toddlers undergo miraculous transformations when their parents are taught to stop ingratiating themselves and start imposing discipline. Not having respect for other people is clearly incredibly tiring and alienating, if only because the ego never gets a rest.”

You want to know the cause of the utter bloody rudeness of the world today? Start with three letters, EGO. This fits in nicely with the story of the actor who says to his friend at lunch,

“Here I have been talking about myself for two hours and you have not had a chance to say anything. Now you must speak. What did you think of me in my last play?” ❖

**T**here have always been ill mannered and rude people. What I think is new is the emergence of hostile and aggressive rudeness which seeks an opportunity for itself.

Presents  
St. Jacob's Country Playhouse  
**Cotton Patch Gospel**  
Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006

*(Cut-Off Date: March 15, 2006)*

**Cost \$84**

*Cost includes: Coach, Lunch and Show.*

*Tickets and name tags will be given out on coach*

Set in contemporary Georgia, this reverential retelling of the Gospel of Matthew features the best work of Harry Chapin, one of the world's greatest song writers. This toe-tapping, foot-stomping, handclapping production of Cotton Patch Gospel is a joyous celebration of life and love. This unforgettable production is at once humorous, dramatic, prophetic, and ultimately, deeply compelling.

8:45 a.m.	Board coach at Willowdale United Church*
11:15 a.m.	Arrival at Millbank and Anna Mae's for a wonderful home style lunch
1:15 p.m.	Board coach for theatre
2:00 p.m.	Enjoy the performance of "Cotton Patch Gospel"
4:15 p.m.	Departure for home. Arrival approx. 6:15 p.m.

\*On Kenneth Ave., south of Finch, east of Yonge

# CHALK DUST MEMORIES

*Farcical and humorous tales submitted by our readers*

## The Meeting in the Library

*by Allen Strike*

**T**he men who had served in the forces in the Second World War and who returned to be teachers were a very different breed from their successors. They had experienced life in the bigger world outside of Canada; had learned how to work well with other men, and many had learned Command. They came back as fine leaders. If anyone tried to toady up to them they would be shot down in flames. It was a pleasure to work with them.

Major Al Young was the principal of Earl Haig Secondary School. He had a gruff bass voice and a brusque sort of delivery. It was all very military and reminiscent of the real Earl Haig, Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force. There must be a legion of stories about Major Young, this is one I enjoyed hearing.

Sometimes, he used to make the afternoon P.A. Announcements. On the days of staff meetings he would announce that there was to be a staff meeting after school. The students who were supposed to serve a detention or carry out some teacher-assigned task would use this information cunningly to not follow orders. The next day they would claim that since there was a staff meeting they assumed that they did not have to

**A**fter school, Mrs. Fitzsimmons and I will be having an affair in the Library. If any teachers wish to drop in, they will be most welcome.



turn up. To avoid this problem, the teachers asked Major Jones to not announce that there was to be staff meeting. They knew that there was one, anyhow.

The Head Secretary, we shall say, was Mrs. Fitzsimmons. She also attended staff meetings to take minutes. On the next staff meeting day, and bearing in mind the staff's appeal for secrecy, Major Young decided that he would camouflage his announcement. As he turned on the P.A. system for the school, he inadvertently flicked on the toggle for the outside speakers which broadcast across the school field.

He grumped, "Humph! After school, Mrs. Fitzsimmons and I will be having an affair in the Library. If any teachers wish to drop in, they will be most welcome."

There followed, at once, a number of phone calls from the houses, which surrounded the playing field. They all asked if they too could come to watch the show in the library. ❖

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## Euphony in Names

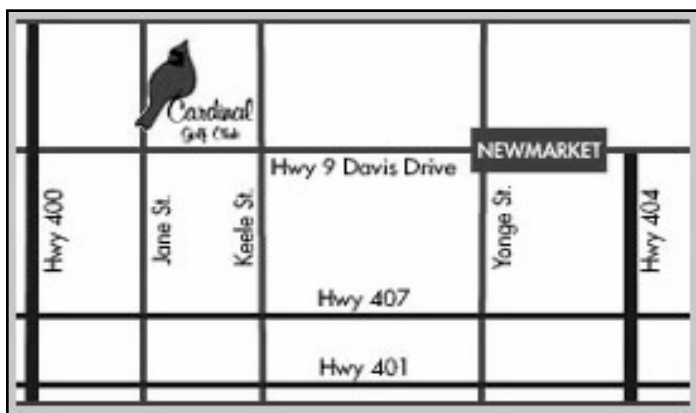
**H**ave you ever thought how lucky it is that so many of the products and inventions that we have are named after people and places with euphonious names?

Take for example: "He ate his sandwiches in the Rolls-Royce on the way to Waterloo Station. His Patek-Philippe watch

showed him that he just had time to board his Pullman Coach." If the inventors bore less melodious names this might read something like:

He ate his spitalfields in the Crotch-Crappier on the way to Knokke Station. His Cunegonde-Guillemot watch showed him that he just had time to board his Sweedlepipe Coach. ❖

# Cardinal Golf Club



Thursday, June 8, 2006

\$45.00 per golfer

10:00 a.m. shot gun start

(Check-in 8:45 - 9:45 a.m.)

Register your team of four, a twosome or just yourself. After April 15th, members from other RTO districts will be invited to join with us, so register early to reserve your place.

We have many prizes for our best teams but everyone gets a prize. If you are able to help out by donating a prize or prizes for this tournament, please

contact Helen 416-485-0131 or Darlene 416-221-7242.

Golf carts are available for \$12.00 extra per golfer and must be reserved with your registration.

Barbeque lunch with salads, drinks and desserts is included in the registration fee.

Register your team of four, a twosome, or just yourself. Also please indicate if a power cart is required.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Power cart (\$12 per golfer) requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

# golfers \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 # using golf cart \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12 each golfer = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cheque enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 and mail to:  
 Marilyn Johnson, 114 Lund St., Richmond Hill ON L4C 5V9



# Warnings from the Ontario Clean Air Alliance

The Ontario Clean Air Alliance ([www.cleanairalliance.org](http://www.cleanairalliance.org)) is a coalition of health, environmental and consumer organizations, faith communities, unions, utilities, municipalities and individuals working for cleaner air through a coal phase-out and the shift to a renewable electricity future. Our partner organizations represent more than six million Ontarians.

## Is your electric utility reducing your bill?

Energy conservation and efficiency are the best options to phase-out our dirty coal-fired power plants because these options also reduce customers' bills and make our industries more competitive.

Within the last year, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has approved initial energy conservation budgets for Ontario's 80 municipal electric utilities (e.g., Hydro Mississauga, Toronto Hydro) and Hydro One totaling \$163 million. In addition, the OEB has made the promotion of energy conservation a profitable course of action for Ontario's electric utilities. Today, your local municipal electric utility is eligible for an energy conservation profit bonus equal to 5% of the bill savings its

energy conservation programs generate for customers. This profit bonus can be passed on to the utility's shareholder usually the municipal government) to pay for municipal services (e.g., libraries, recreation centres).

Currently, Toronto Hydro has the most aggressive conservation program goals among Ontario's utilities: Its goal is to reduce its customers' total peak day demands by 5% (250 MW) by 2007. But we are also pleased to note that nine of Ontario's electric utilities (Bluewater Power, Brantford Power, Burlington Hydro, Hydro Mississauga, Milton Hydro, Chatham-Kent Hydro, Festival Hydro, Halton Hills Hydro and Peninsula West Utilities) are currently seeking permission

from the OEB to increase their conservation spending in 2006. For example, Hydro Mississauga wants to increase its conservation spending by 65%. ❖

*If your municipal electric utility is not seeking permission to increase conservation spending in 2006, you might want to ask your Mayor: Why not?*

*If you are a customer of Hydro One, which is owned by the Government of Ontario, please ask Energy Minister Cansfield, at [Donna.Cansfield@energy.gov.on.ca](mailto:Donna.Cansfield@energy.gov.on.ca), why Hydro One isn't doing more to reduce your electricity bills.*

## Ontario Power Authority recommendations a blast from the past

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) is recommending that Ontario take a large step backwards by building up to 24 nuclear reactors. This a 1950s solution to meeting Ontario's 21st century energy needs that ignores the long and bitter history of cost overruns, delays and poor performance in the province's nuclear program.

The OPA is forecasting that Ontario's electricity consumption will grow by 0.9% per year - roughly double the actual growth rate (0.5%) from 1990-2005. The OPA's projections also ignore the fact that Ontario's annual electricity consumption growth rate has been declining for years. Meanwhile, Toronto Hydro is forecasting that its newly launched energy conservation programs will reduce the city's peak day electricity demands by 5% (250 MW) by 2007.

The OPA's electricity demand forecast and analysis of the economics of nuclear power are a blast from the past. They are based on the idea that, rather than encouraging efficiency and productivity, Ontario will continue to encourage wasteful consumption by offering large taxpayer-financed subsidies to nuclear power,

There is a better 21st century answer. The Ontario Government should order the OPA to develop a strategy to raise Ontario's electricity productivity (goods and services produced per kilowatt hour) to New York State's level by 2020. This would reduce our total electricity consumption by approximately 30% by 2020 relative to today's level despite significant population growth.

A key part of such a strategy would be the elimination of taxpayer-

financed subsidies for nuclear power, which would allow the province to move to a real-cost rate for electricity. This, in turn, would encourage the adoption of leading-edge technologies and approaches that would allow Ontario to move aggressively toward a cleaner and more reliable 100% renewable electricity system. ❖

*Please email Premier Dalton McGuinty ([Dalton.McGuinty@premier.gov.on.ca](mailto:Dalton.McGuinty@premier.gov.on.ca)) and tell him to get the OPA moving in the right direction by focusing on closing the electricity productivity gap between Ontario and New York State instead of on costly and unreliable nuclear power. Please send copies of your message to Opposition Leaders John Tory ([john.tory@pc.ola.org](mailto:john.tory@pc.ola.org)) and Howard Hampton ([hhampton-qp@ndp.on.ca](mailto:hhampton-qp@ndp.on.ca))*

# The Ontario Health Coalition Raises the Alarm

## Local Health Integration Networks (LHIN's) promote privatization!

In Bill 36 the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care has given itself major new powers to order health system restructuring and contracting out.

The legislation covers hospitals, certain psychiatric facilities, long term care facilities (public, non & for-profit), homecare, community mental health and addiction agencies, community health service providers, community health centres and others by regulation. It does not include family doctors, chiropractors, dentists, optometrists, independent health facilities, labs, public health and certain corporations of health professionals. If the purpose of the legislation is to create an integrated health system, it is impossible to see how this could be done without the inclusion of the major providers of primary health care.

The legislation centralizes - rather than regionalizes - control over the health system. The Minister shall issue a strategic plan for the health system. The LHINs are appointed by cabinet and will be provided with funding from the Ministry at the Minister's discretion. They will be bound by Accountability Agreement to allocate that funding and find integration opportunities following the direction of the Minister's strategic plan. In turn, in their regions, the LHINs will come to Service Accountability Agreements with the health providers covered in the legislation. These Service Accountability Agreements will be required to comply with the direction of the strategic plan set out by the Minister. They will be backed by court order. The legislation overrides current provisions for democracy and community control over health provider organizations. The legislation mandates the LHINs to seek opportunities to transfer

or merge services, to coordinate interactions and create partnerships (between non-profits or for-profits). Note: the legislation also allows services to be moved to third parties - ie. contracted out.

The most recent major round of health restructuring through the creation of the Health Restructuring Commission in 1996 covered only hospital services and did not include the extensive powers and scope set out in this legislation.

This is a very complex piece of legislation with many implications that will no doubt lead to much legal wrangling if it is passed. Some of the major issues of interest to patients, caregivers, careworkers, health professionals and providers are covered in our analysis. However, the full implications of the legislation's provisions pertaining to powers to transfer property and services, the funding arrangements and implications for hospitals with deficits, and the amendments to other legislation cannot be covered here.

There are some significant dangers in this legislation. While the legislation specifies how the LHINs, Ministry and cabinet can exercise their powers to order restructuring and indemnifies them from liability for those decisions, it is short on provisions for democratic control, public input, public notice, and principles to guide this health restructuring. For those of us who support an enhanced and strengthened public non-profit health system, this legislation does nothing to extend the public health system or promote non-profit health care. In fact, the legislation promotes privatization in several ways and facilitates the spread of competitive bidding through the hospital system.

## Some of the main concerns with the legislation are:

- 1) The provisions for democratic input and community control are weak or non-existent.
  - the legislation supercedes democratic safeguards set out in other pieces of legislation.
  - the Minister of Health is not held to any democratic process for his strategic plan or his restructuring decisions.
  - the provisions for community input are vague and to be left to regulation.
  - all democratic safeguards are inadequate: there are no provisions for community appeal, few requirements for public notice, inadequate protection from conflict of interest, no protection of equality-seeking groups.
- 2) The legislation facilitates privatization.
  - cabinet is expressly given new powers to order wholesale privatization of non-clinical services.
  - there is no protection or promotion of non-profit and public delivery of services, in fact the legislation empowers the Minister to order these services to be closed down but does not give him the power to do the same to the for-profits.
  - there is no protection against OHIP services being cut. In fact, LHINs may insulate the Minister from the political consequences of such cuts.
  - there is no protection against a corporate for-profit bias on LHINs boards or among key LHINs personnel.
  - the current Ministry strategy of spreading competitive bidding through key acute care services in hospitals will create new opportunities for for-profit corporations to bid on services. There is

no protection against this for-profit privatization in the legislation.

3) The principles governing the direction of health restructuring and accountability for the government are inadequate.

- although all health providers covered are made accountable through Service Accountability Agreements to be backed by court order, the Ministry itself is held only to the undefined principle of acting in the public interest in the preamble (not legally binding) to the legislation.

- Canada Health Act principles of comprehensiveness, universality, accessibility, portability and public administration are not included.

- The lack of clear direction or principles to protect the public interest is of deep concern since recent speeches and interviews by the Health Minister indicate that his strategic direction is to centralize and consolidate hospital services and community mental health agencies. Under the provincial "wait times strategy" the Ministry is implementing a competitive bidding system for hospital services such as cataract surgery or hip and knee replacements. This bidding system is structured to result in fewer hospitals providing such services, thereby worsening inequalities of local access to health services.

4) The legislation sets up an expensive

extra administrative tier for no clear benefit.

- the 14 LHINs entities will operate like regional ministries with awesome powers, heavy administrative requirements, and little public accountability for improving the health system. Experts agree that the legislation and restructuring is likely to spawn many expensive legal battles. The added administration and legal fees will be costly. Yet there is no promise of improved comprehensiveness, or accessibility, or extension of public coverage envisioned in this legislation. No rationale is given for setting up the LHINs or for centralizing powers. ❖

[www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca](http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca)

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## Joseph Benoit's House, Nfld, Canada



This impossible house  
has no address  
other than:

Joe Benoit's house  
(said with a smile)

Union Jack and Maple Leaf fly  
in no particular order  
Found art, sculptures, junk  
fill  
the space out front

Out back  
the over-the-water-platform  
supports a large overstuffed too well  
used  
pink arm chair  
from which he controls  
four fishing poles  
that yield much less  
than tourists  
who snicker and leave  
guilt coins

*Elka Enola is a regular contributor to STONY Bridges. For several years, we have published her poems, which describe the places she has visited in her travels. Additionally, we published a piece that she wrote in opposition to the introduction of Sharia Law as an alternate means to settle disputes in Ontario under the Arbitration Act.*

*The campaign to stop Sharia in Ontario was successful.*

# North York Strollers

We walk on the first Thursday of every month regardless of the weather, so come dressed appropriately, and be prepared to enjoy friendship and the beauty of nature and our city.

**All walks begin at 10:00 am.**

**Thursday, February 2, 2006**

**Underground Toronto**

Meet at Union Station,

*(outside the Main Front Street Entrance under the dock.)*

**Thursday, March 2, 2006**

**University of Toronto**

Meet at St. George Subway Station

*(St. George Exit)*

**Thursday, April 6**

**Garrison Creek Discovery Walk**

Meet at Christie Pitt Subway station

**Thursday, May 4**

**Humber River Marshes and Discovery Walk, south to the Western  
Beaches**

Meet at Old Mill Subway Station

**Thursday, June 1**

**Center Island**

Meet at 9:45 a.m. at the Ferry Docks

*(Ferry leaves at 10:am)*

For more information and/or directions:  
please call Beatrice Connolley at 416-482-9032 or  
Margaret Schuman at 416-924-0267.

**Note: If you are running a little late, but definitely coming, let us  
know and we will delay the start of the walk**

# Uniforms

Skin tight, low slung,  
ragged edged  
faded blue jeans;  
matching denim jackets,  
above  
pierced navels.  
Adolescents.

Unrelenting black,  
sole sophisticated statement  
for all occasions;  
sleek dresses, pants,  
over  
shapely knees and ankles.  
Women.

Tilley Endurables,  
creamy floppy hats,  
zippered jackets,  
loose-fitting chinos,  
beige walking shoes,  
for  
retired recreation.  
Seniors.

Only the brave  
defy  
Fashion's Laws.

Carole A. Martyn



Helen Wilber Photograph

*Part of the group that enjoyed the Murder  
Mystery Theatre at The Old Mill*

# Annual Spring Luncheon

at the Thornhill Golf & Country Club

This year, our honoured special guest will be

George Meek

## Wednesday, May 3, 2006

(Cut-Off Date: April 28, 2006)

Cocktails: 11:00 a.m.

Entertainment

Lunch: 12 noon

\$27

To Be Announced

### MENU

*Fresh rolls*

*Green salad with roasted pears, sunflower seeds and crumbled Danish blue cheese drizzled with poppyseed vinaigrette dressing*

*Panko-crusted pork tenderloin with honey and black bean reduction, roasted red potatoes, medley of spring vegetables*

*Dulche le leche - shortbread crust with light custard and milk chocolate glaze*

*Coffee or Tea*



George, our honoured guest has served RTO/ERO locally and provincially with great dedication for more than a decade. As he did in all the schools in which he worked, and in federation politics, his work has made a difference for all of us. Though retiring from provincial obligations, we are thankful that he will continue to serve RTO/ERO District 23. Come join us to celebrate, say thank you, and to hear a few more of his stories.

Annual Spring Luncheon  
Wednesday, May 3, 2006  
(Cut-Off Date: April 28, 2006)

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

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

# of tickets \_\_\_ @ 27 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 North York and send to:  
Mildred Frank  
705-505 Cummer Ave. Toronto ON M2K 2L8 416-221-5328

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Take a trip back in history with a visit to:  
**Toronto's First Post Office**

260 Adelaide Street East

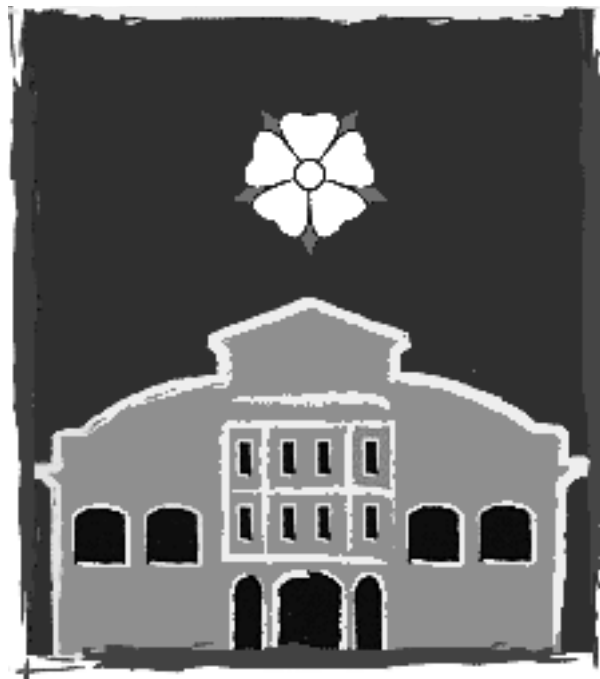
**Thursday, March 23, 2006**

(Cut-Off Date: March 14, 2006)

**10:30 a.m.**

Meet at the Post Office

Followed by lunch (on your own) at the St. Lawrence Market



After lunch, visit

**Windows, Gables, Gingerbread & Gargoyles**

The original artwork and photographs of Toronto artist, Linda Goldman

at

**The Market Gallery**

(Upstairs in the Market)

Few of the original furnishings from this 19th Century Council Chamber remain but the Mayor's chair has been restored and is often on display.

**\$5.00**

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*~See page 27 for registration form*

# Stony Bridges Bulletin Board

"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."

## SOUTHAMPTON ART SHOOOL

### Oldest three-season art school in Ontario

week-long and weekend, location and studio workshops on Lake Huron's sunshine coast.

featuring, among others,

Jacqueline Baldini,

Jane Champagne, Doug Mays,

Kai-Liis McInnes, Doug Purdon,

Stephanie Rayner, Fay Sproule

and miles of sand beach, tennis, golf, and boating.

Access our online catalogue at [www.theartschool.org](http://www.theartschool.org) or call 1-800-806-8838 to be added to our mailing list.



## thetravelcompany.ca

Start your "NEXT" career as An Independent Travel Consultant with [thetravelcompany.ca](http://thetravelcompany.ca)

Work at your own pace and share the fun and benefits of this exciting opportunity.

If you are interested in expanding your horizons, please give us a call or simply come in and visit with us at:

3383 Yonge St. in Toronto  
North of Lawrence subway station  
Tel: 416.489.8855

## SCHOOL REUNION

James Robinson Public School Markham ON  
50th Anniversary Celebrations: Oct. 13 & 14, 2006.

Current and alumni staff and students are invited.

Details and updates available:

Website [www.jamesrobinson.ps.yrdsb.ed.on.ca](http://www.jamesrobinson.ps.yrdsb.ed.on.ca)

Phone contact: Call 905-294-3484 to receive a return call.

## BULLETIN!!

### Tickets to HAIR

Doug Tallon has been able to snaffle a few more tickets for HAIR. He may still have some left.

But call right away!

416-441-4096.

## Radio City

### Christmas Spectacular

with

# The Rockettes

Friday, December 1, 2006

at

The Hummingbird Centre

Watch for it in the next STONY  
Bridges

# Let us now praise famous men and women

**W**e owe a debt to the notable people who took time from their otherwise busy schedules to mess about in the kitchen, the drinks cupboard, and around the house, to bring us things outside of their usual interests.  
Thanks to:

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Pope Benedict</b>          | (Roman Catholic C.E.O.) for the thing with the muffin and the poached egg.      |
| <b>Sir Isaac Newton</b>       | (Scientist and Mathematician) for those fig cookies.                            |
| <b>The Duke of Wellington</b> | (Military Leader and Politician) for the rubber boots and for his beef dish.    |
| <b>Napoleon Bonaparte</b>     | (Military Leader and Emperor) for the brandy and the cake.                      |
| <b>Giuseppe Garibaldi</b>     | (Politician and Patriot Leader) for the biscuits.                               |
| <b>Dame Nelly Melba</b>       | (Opera Singer) for the ice cream dish as well as that THIN toast.               |
| <b>Mandarin</b>               | (One of the Chinese Rulers - not sure which one) for the oranges.               |
| <b>Prince Albert</b>          | (German Consort of Queen Victoria) for the neat watch chain and the Light Bulb. |
| <b>Queen Mary</b>             | (16thC Tudor Queen) for her tomato juice cocktail.                              |
| <b>Julius Caesar</b>          | (Military Leader and Emperor) for his salad, and a clam juice cocktail.         |
| <b>John D. Rockefeller</b>    | (Billionaire philanthropist) for his oyster dish.                               |
| <b>Alexander</b>              | (Macedonian Military Leader, called The Great) for his brandy cocktail          |
| <b>William Gladstone</b>      | (19thC Prime Minister and saviour of Fallen Women) for his nice leather bag.    |
| <b>Anna Pavlova</b>           | (Russian Ballerina) for her meringue and cream cake.                            |
| <b>Horatio Nelson</b>         | (England's Naval Hero and Emma's Navel Hero) for the painful arm hold.          |

## Personal Ads

From

Florida

Mint Condition: Male, 1932, high mileage, good condition, some hair, many new parts including hip, knee, cornea, valves. Isn't in running condition but walks well.

Memories: I can usually remember Monday through Thursday. If you remember Friday, Saturday and Sunday, let's put our heads together.

Long Term Commitment: Recent Widow who has just buried fourth husband and is looking for someone to round out a six-unit plot. Dizziness, fainting, shortness of breath not problems.

## Road Signs for Seniors



STEEP SLOPE



VERY STEEP SLOPE



WALL

Allen Strike Design

### Can You Do This?

While sitting, raise your right foot and make clockwise circles with it. Now, while doing this, draw the numeral six in the air with your right hand.

Your foot changed direction didn't it?



# Workshop planners surprised and gratified by the large turnout

## Retirement Planning Workshops

by David Fleming

One of the most exciting and gratifying endeavors attempted by District 23 and the other three Toronto Districts has been the presentation of Retirement Planning Workshops. The first workshop was held at York Mills Collegiate in the former City of North York on November 17, 2005.

One hundred participants from all panels in both the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board, arrived between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. for registration and refreshments. Assisting with the registration were our Membership Convener, Jean Wilson and Past President of District 23, Frank Saliani. First Vice president, Mary-Ellen Lawless also helped to welcome the participants.

Acting as M.C. for the evening was District 23's President, Helen Wiber, who made sure the entire program ran smoothly. Between presentations, there were lucky draws for prizes donated by Johnson Insurance Inc., Travel Groups, Starbucks Coffee Company and others.

Three main themes were presented to the future retirees present: the retirement process, health benefits available and new challenges facing the retired teacher. The presenters were members of the RPW Committee. The RTO/ERO Provincial Office and Provincial Member Services Committee produced much of the material in a binder. The Power-Point slide presentation was supplemented by prepared material by the presenters. The participants had an opportunity to ask questions at the conclusion of the presentations.

We obtained feedback from carefully prepared appraisal sheets of the many participants. Most of the respondents had very positive comments and many of the suggestions made will prove useful in the planning of the next two workshops on February 7 at Don Bosco C.S.S. and February 25 at the Blue Danube Restaurant in Scarborough. Principals of all T.D.S.B. and T.C.D.S.B. schools will have flyers available for interested teachers.

This is the first year for the involvement of the RTO/ERO Toronto Districts in providing these workshops in conjunction with the two school boards. We hope to continue to do so in future years.

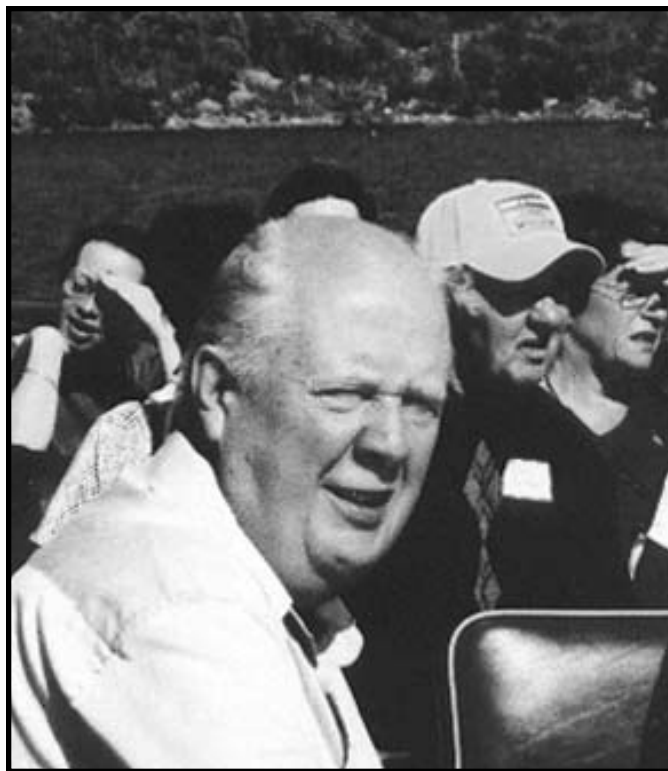
## Recruitment Workshop

On November 28, Jean Wilson and I attended a Recruitment Workshop, presented by the RTO/ERO Provincial Member Services Committee and its Recruitment Work Group.

The workshop was excellent and very worthwhile. Both Jean and I were pleased that we had the opportunity to attend. Delegates were present from all districts in the province.

All of the participants had an opportunity to discuss strategies for successful recruitment. We were divided into small groups, which allowed for a free exchange of ideas. Talking with people from all over the province was beneficial; we could share our successes and shortcomings in recruitment. One group emphasized the need to advertise, advertise, advertise.

As a result of what we learned at this workshop, we shall be working through our Executive to encourage more retirees to join RTO/ERO District 23 and become actively involved with the many programs we offer. ❖



Kathleen Elliott Photograph

Travel Convener, Doug Talon on the tour boat cruising through the 30,000 islands in Georgian Bay.

## ARMS AND THE MAN

by George Bernard Shaw

Unconventiona[n]l courtship of a heroic young woman and her 'chocolate cream soldier.'

### Friday, May 12, 2006

*Cut-Off Date: April 3, 2006*

## \$91.00

9:15 a.m.	Leave Willowdale United Church *
11:30 a.m.	Lunch at Lakehouse Restaurant in Vineland Choice of: Roast Beef, Grilled Chicken Breast or Penne Polo
1:15 p.m.	Arrive in Niagara on the Lake
2:00 p.m.	Performance - Arms and the Man
5:00 p.m.	Board bus for home
6:30 p.m. (approx.)	Arrive at Willowdale United

\* Willowdale United Church is on Kenneth Ave.

(South of Finch, east of Yonge St.)

# Registration Forms

*Note: Please write separate cheques for each event*

**St. Lawrence Market**  
Thursday, March 23, 2006  
(Cut-Off Date: March 14, 2006)

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

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

\_\_\_ tickets @ \$5 = \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (You may post date the cheque for March 14, 2006)

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

**St. Jacob's Country Playhouse**  
Thursday, April 6, 2006  
(Cut-Off Date: March 15, 2006)

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

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

\_\_\_ tickets @ \$84 = \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (You may post date the cheque for March 15, 2006)

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

**Arms and the Man**  
Friday, May 12, 2006  
(Cut-Off Date: April 3, 2006)

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

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

Lunch Choice: Circle One    Roast Beef    Crilled Chicken    Penne Pollo

\_\_\_ tickets @ \$91 = \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (You may post date the cheque for April 3, 2006)

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

**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:  
RTO/ERO c/o 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.**



*President Helen Wiber*

STONY Bridges  
C/O George Meek  
414 - 4005 Bayview Ave  
North York, ON  
M2M 3Z9

