

STONY BRIDGES

Issue 89

A Newsletter for the Members of



District 23, North York

November 2006

Service To Others - Sam Habib

Outgoing Health Services
Convenor, Sam Habib, has been
our eyes and ears on health matters
for more than fifteen years. But
now, he's retiring from that role.

Who will forget his mantra?

**“Take Care of Your
Finances,
Take Care of Your
Health!”**



President's Message

by Mary Ellen Lawless

At the Annual General Meeting of District 23 RTO/ERO, held September 13, 2006, I accepted the position of President with anticipation and trepidation; anticipation because District 23 consists of a dynamic group of some twenty-one hundred retired educators who have a history of involvement in a wide range of activities while reaching out to those who can no longer be active; trepidation because I am cognizant of the huge shoes I have to try to fill. On that date and in this message, I pledge to continue to support and encourage the current activities and to invite retirees to offer their interests toward new initiatives; such as a monthly movie with follow-up discussion, a photography club, a craft group: the possibilities are endless.

Even a cursory reading of each Stony should impress with its offerings of events, many requiring early sign-up to avoid being disappointed. Each year there are also four social events that are subsidized by District 23: the AGM, the breakfast welcoming the recent retirees, and two luncheons - at Christmas time and in the Spring. I look forward to meeting a record number of you at our next event, the ever-popular Christmas luncheon at the Granite Club, slated for Thursday, December 7, 2006.


During the few years I have been on the Executive of District 23 I am humbled and respectful of the enormous number of hours so many individuals volunteer each month toward this organization. I think it would be interesting to tally up these hours for a few months as a way to inspire others to share and assist in the many works we undertake. Nothing just happens...every activity, every communication, every social event is the result of the careful, professional planning of dedicated volunteers.

At the AGM we paid special tributes to the vol-

unteers who are moving on: Frank Saliani; Guy Leger, Sam Habib, Jerry Daca and Kerry Peters. Their reputations for commitment and dedication to District 23 warrants a big thanks and congratulations for their selfless giving of their skills and talents over so many years. THANKS

To the new volunteers who have come forward to fill these shoes, I say welcome: to Michael Scheffe as 2nd Vice-president; Jean King as assistant Treasurer; Claire Knapp in Political Action; Guenter Sperling- Travelogue and Dianne Fair- Website. You are now an integral part of the team of some twenty-three volunteers who sit around the meeting table each month, making reports, planning the many events, deciding how to reach out to our members who are unwell, shut-in or no longer able to be active in our organization.

District 23 of RTO/ERO, (geographically what used to be North York) can rightly be described as a dynamic, politically active group of retirees on the move. Our latest achievement was the awarding of \$3600. from Provincial RTO/ERO towards our "Service to Others" proposal: the "A Cappella Services to Young Women".. a teaching, mentoring programme designed to keep at risk teen-aged females in school. This initiative fits well with the District 23 intent of purpose, passed at the June 2006 Executive meeting, to implement the challenge given to those of us present at the May 2006 Senate by Judge Roy McMurtry, Chief Justice of the Ontario Courts, to individually reach out to children at risk with a view to keeping them in school until Secondary School graduation. You will be hearing more about how to volunteer for this initiative in the next issue of Stony. 2006/07 will be a busy fun year and I look forward to serving as your President. Thank you.

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| | | Travelogues Guenter Sperling |

Calendar of Events

November

| | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| 2 Strollers | 10:00 a.m. | 30 Bridge | 1:00 p.m. |
| 7 Travelogue | 1:00 p.m. | 31 Book Club | 2:00 p.m. |
| 8 Exec. Mtg. | 9:15 a.m. | | |
| 9 Woodbine | noon | | |
| 14 Bridge | 1:00 p.m. | | |
| 16 Ret/Wksp | 6:00 p.m. | | |
| 15 Antiques | 10:00 a.m. | | |
| 21 Bridge | 1:00 p.m. | | |
| 28 Bridge | 1:00 p.m. | | |
| 29 Book Club | 2:00 p.m. | | |

December

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 Radio City | 2:00 p.m. | 27 Bridge | 1:00 p.m. |
| 5 Travelogue | 1:30 p.m. | 28 Book Club | 2:00 p.m. |
| 7 Strollers | 10:00 a.m. | | |
| 7 Luncheon | 11:00 a.m. | | |
| 12 Bridge | 1:00 p.m. | | |
| 13 Exec. Mtg. | 9:15 a.m. | | |
| 19 Bridge | 1:00 p.m. | | |

January

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| 9 Bridge | 1:00 p.m. | 1 Strollers | 10:00 a.m. |
| 10 Exec Mtg. | 9:15 a.m. | 6 Travelogue | 1:30 p.m. |
| 16 Bridge | 1:00 p.m. | 13 Bridge | 1:00 p.m. |
| 23 Bridge | 1:00 p.m. | 14 Exec Mtg. | 9:15 a.m. |
| | | 14 Beaver | 1:00 p.m. |
| | | 17 Drayton | 9:15 a.m. |
| | | 20 Bridge | 1:00 p.m. |
| | | 27 Bridge | 1:00 p.m. |
| | | 28 Book Club | 2:00 p.m. |
| | | 28 Rocky | 1:30 p.m. |

February

March

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
January 15, 2007

Stony Bridges publishes in February, June and November.

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Annual General Meeting

By Past President Helen Wiber

The Thornhill Golf and Country Club was the beautiful setting for our Annual General Meeting held on September 20, 2006. The business of the District included: the installation of our new Executive for 2006/2007, receipt of the budget, saying our goodbyes to departing members with warm expressions of thanks for their years of service. We were also pleased to welcome some new members onto the Executive Committee.

There is always an open invitation for any and all interested retired teachers to attend our executive meetings as observers, and then to consider volunteering to serve in future years. Usually, we meet on the second Wednesday of each month at Mitchell Field Community Centre. It's located on the corner of McKee and Kenneth Ave. Come for coffee some Wednesday.

Our guest, Provincial First Vice-President Ron Poste, brought us up to date on topical issues, and our incoming President, Mary Ellen Lawless, in her greetings, expressed her gratitude to the members of the committee who all work tirelessly to offer the best possible programs for our members.

After a delicious lunch, our guest speaker Janet Matthews, co-author of *Chicken Soup for the Canadian Soul* offered a sample of the inspiring stories and a behind-the-scenes look at the process off compiling these works and finally seeing the finished product.

All in all, it was great day of business mixed with fellowship, great food and laughter.



Above:
Incoming President, Mary Ellen Lawless (left) receiving a commemorative pin from outgoing President Helen Wiber.



Left:
President Mary Ellen Lawless presenting the "Service to Others" cheque to Sister Sheila McAuliffe from the A Cappella project.

"Most people say when you get old, you have to give things up. I say, you get old because you give things up."

Senator Theodore Green of Rhode Island, who served in the U.S. Senate until he was 94.

Greetings from your Webmaster

by Dianne Fair, Webmaster

RTO/ERO 's Website.

<http://www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org>

How it Works:

Enter the address above into your address bar. When the site loads, this is what you'll see:

The left column lists information of interest to all members. (Just click on any item for details)

The main section lists all the Toronto Districts, but before clicking on North York District 23, scroll down to read other information that might be of interest to you. Clicking on District 23 will take you to our page and here you will not only find a list of up coming events but also links to download registration forms.

(Just think you won't have to tear your STONY BRIDGES APART in order to register for events)

So, add our website to your FAVOURITES and you will only be a click away from finding out all of the activities happening in District 23

District 23's 4th Annual Golf Tournament

at
Kettle Creek
Thursday, June 7, 2007
\$45.00, lunch and prizes included.

Watch for registration details in the
next newsletter.



Front Row (Centre) Helen Wiber and George Meek, along with other North Yorkers, representing RTO/ERO at the ARM Golf Tournament.

WELCOME



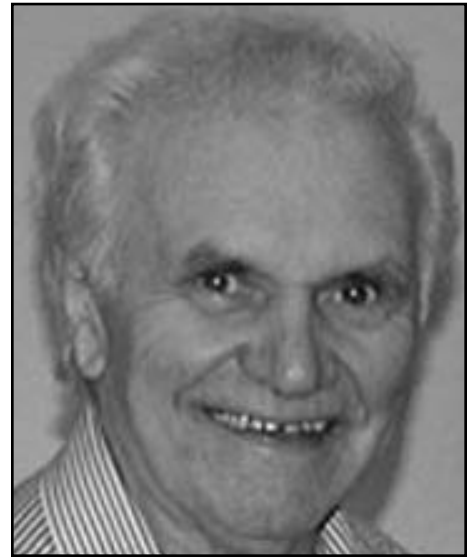
Michael Sheffe

District 23 is pleased to announce the election of Michael Sheffe as 2nd vice-president. He retired in 2000 after a varied career in North York teaching mathematics and other subjects at various elementary schools. He was also a teacher librarian, a convener and an Adult Night School Department Head. After retiring from the TDSB, he has been an administrator at three private schools. One of Michael's duties this year is to assist in the planning of special events for the members and also to represent our district as an observer at the Fall and Spring Senates. Welcome Michael.

Guenter Sperling

Replacing Kerry Peters as Travelogue convener is Guenter Sperling, who retired in 1989. He comes to us from Thornhill Secondary School - York Region Board of Education - where he taught furniture making for fourteen years. Several of his talented students won provincial awards for their work in his shop and one placed first in a Canada wide competition held by Stanley Tools. Having developed a keen interest in photography, Guenter's work won several awards nationally and internationally. In 1993 he became the president of the Toronto Guild for Photographic Art. His other hobbies are chess and bridge.

Guenter's task is to find interesting and knowledgeable presenters to share their work and experiences with our group. On the first Tuesday of most months, Guenter and his assistants will also provide homemade goodies and a warm friendly atmosphere for our new friends.



Dianne Fair

Our Webmaster, Dianne Fair comes to us at a time when e-mail and websites are taking a more prominent place in our organization. One of Dianne's duties this year is to ensure that our website has relevant and up-to-date information for our members.

She started her career teaching K-8 vocal music in Picton Ontario and retired from the Peel Board in 2005 where she taught mainly in the Junior division.

She has been involved in creating numerous musical productions over the years and we are pleased that she has chosen to use her computer skills as a volunteer with District 23.



Margaret Schuman



Margaret Schuman joined the Executive of District 23 in November, 2005 as 2nd Vice-president.

Margaret retired in June 2004 from Toronto Catholic District School Board following a distinguished career spanning several levels of elementary teaching, resource assignments, and as a skilled leader in innovative approaches to the teaching of challenging children with a range of learning difficulties. She was also a Vice-principal and an elementary school Principal.

Margaret and her family have lived in various cities in Ontario, Quebec and Connecticut. She is the proud mother of two adult sons.

She is also an enthusiastic “stroller”, a cottager, craftsperson and a bridge player.

Prior to joining the executive, Margaret was the prime mover, along with her friends Irene Kitchell and Beatrice Connelly, in the organization of the *District 23 Strollers* and the *Book Club*. She brings passion, enthusiasm and a great sense of fun to our Executive and we thank her for stepping forward as our 1st Vice-president.

Jean King

Jean King and her husband, Lindsay, a retired United Church minister, come to us from the Atlantic provinces. She joined the District 23 executive as assistant treasurer, accepting your cheques and registration forms for trips and our various events. She has also agreed to assist Kathleen Elliot, on the executive since 1979, with her work as our archivist. Educated at Mount Allison University and the Toronto Teacher's College, Jean received her special education certificate from Toronto University. Jean's teaching experience has included, New Brunswick, Labrador/Nwefoundland, Boston and North York. Most of her North York years were spent in the Special Education Department, which included working with the blind and visually impaired. She is very proud when some of these students keep in touch by informing her of their accomplishments. Jean loves choir work, gardening, playing bridge and spending a lot of time with three grandchildren—the oldest is now in her first year at the University of Guelph.



Membership Report

From February 28, 2006

Jean Wilson Membership Convenor

As of the beginning of September 2006, we are very pleased to report that District 23, North York has 2079 members. Your executive welcomes all new members who have retired in 2006, those who have joined from other Districts and those who have joined for other reasons.

The following information is taken from RTO/ERO, Provincial Office in monthly membership updates.

March 2006: Thomas Balkow, John S. Crerar, Judith Leaman, Penelope Potter

April 2006: Sheila L. Berg, Margaret R. Burrows, Judy McCarty, Karen Wason

May 2006: Susan Barclay, Doris N. Bates, Dorothy J. Brookes, Bertha Cohen, Sandra Reinsborough, Cara A. Worthington

June 2006: Maria Bernard, Hugh W. Calderwood, William D. Crew, Doris Gibson, Maureen E. North, Bernice Rambert, J. Clement Sharp

July 2006: Gail Carr, Linda Cheeseman, Judy Cohen, Lynda M. Deeth, Jaroslaw T. Didiuk, Lina Giannotta-Bafaro, Joy Goodman, Carole Holtzman, Sheryl C. Johnston, Patricia I. Jones, Larry D. Lloyd, Karin Lynett, Susan Macfadyen, Harvey Mandel, Judith Mitchell, Mary Mundle, Margaret Ann Pal, Angela Puma, Susan Savage, Linda Savoy, Henry Seidel, Christa Steinmayr, David Stiefelmeyer, Pamela Strashin, Guy Thomas, Gina Tramonte, Suzanne Weymouth

August 2006: Marisa Celenza, Sandra Cordingley, Armando Cristinziano, Rosalie Dalfen, Ughetta De Piero, Judith A. Harrison, Stan Korolnek, Mary Ann Lane, Maria T. Lee, Al Rashid, Arvo Liuk, Margaret, J. McColl, Margot McElligott, Lynda Moore, Ronald Walters, Stuart F. Wason

September 2006: Marcello Bernardo, Norma-Jean Connors, Joanne C. Famiglietti, Joshua Goldhar, Teresa Gri, Thangarajah H. Jeyarajah, Angelina Kucera, Margot Levitt, Jane Markowitz, Mary Jean Nicolson, D. Grace Patterson, Janet Peaker, Bella Rolnick, Annette Snow, Bernadette Walsh, Benjamin Wilson

BETTER GOLF FOR SENIORS

Submitted by Slamimin' Cedric Snavely

Mark Twain once said that "golf is a good walk spoiled." I think that he was right. Many retired folk either take up golf or increase the amount of golf that they already play. This is expensive, very hard on an aging body and the frustrations of the game probably increases the chances of having a heart attack. Why put yourself through it.

I am proposing a new game. It re-establishes the "good walk" and golf courses are better employed. The principle of getting a ball into a cup is maintained. It works like this:

One goes to the first tee, picks out a ball from a bucket there and then walks to the first green, enjoying the countryside along the way. At the first hole the ball is dropped into the cup from a height of one foot. This is a score of one. A second ball is picked up at the second tee and carried to the second hole and deposited there. All the holes are treated similarly. Unless you are seriously inept you should have a score of about eighteen. You will have enjoyed the sunshine, the breeze, nature, had some exercise, and the satisfaction of a low score. The player can go to the club house bathed in satisfaction and without sand in his shoes.

Winter Rules are much the same except that mitts might cause scores to be a tad higher. There is also an exciting Ultimate Senior Golf version. In this you are allowed, without warning, to body-check your playing partner twice per round.

In Memoriam

We regret to inform you that some of our members have passed away. We express our condolences to family and friends and hope they will find comfort in the many fond memories that they cherish.

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Glen B. Burke | 28/07/2005 | B. Ann Mortimer | 03/05/2006 |
| Patricia Good | 17/01/2006 | Ann Rostrup | 24/05/2006 |
| Elsie M. MacCall | 22/12/2005 | Rose Speirs | 10/05/2006 |
| Isabel MCPerson | 19/12/2005 | Karen Wason | 24/06/2006 |
| W. David Freckelton | 12/04/2006 | Marion M. Fitzsimmons | 03/08/2006 |
| M. Joyce Prentice | 02/04/2006 | Joan E. Gorel | 7/07/2006 |
| Geraldine Teplitz | 02/04/2006 | James Livingston | 03/07/2006 |
| Herbert Worthington | 10/04/2006 | Donna MacDonald | 08/07/2006 |
| George H. Herman | 01/05/2006 | Jean Helen Pyke | 22/08/2006 |
| James Lorenz | 10/05/2006 | Ruth P. Seidman | 21/08/2006 |
| Katrina C. Menzies | 26/04/2006 | Cornelis Vandenberg | 30/08/2006 |

THE MAURICE IZZARD MEMORIAL AWARD

For high school graduates who have physical disabilities. The award was established in 1994 to honour Maurice, who was principal of the Ontario Crippled Children Centre School. During intervening years, this fund has awarded \$10 000 to deserving candidates.

We ask for your donations to assure the availability of the annual \$1,000 award. This is a tax receiptable donation, which sends 100% to the recipient.

If you would like to donate, make cheque payable to:

**Bloorview School Authority, Maurice Izzard Memorial Award
and mail to**

**Bloorview School Authority
150 Kilgour Rd. Toronto, ON M4G 1R8
Attn: Paula Gerolimon**

For further information, email: m_lewarne@yahoo.ca



**Fish
Campbell River, B.C.**

by Elka Enola

no longer a work of the people
a fish out of water

gawked at
photographed

essential energy
long lost
into integration

A sculpture

For sale

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 tele-

phone at 905-889-3687.

As convenor, I was unable to run the Bridge Club between April and June, when I temporarily returned to teaching. I should like to thank Lee White and Marilyn Storton-Butcher especially and all the other members who stepped in to keep the Bridge Club running during my absence. The Duplicate was temporarily discontinued and was resumed in September. This November report will therefore list the Duplicate winners from January

31st to March 21st 2006 and from September 2006 onwards.

Between September 2005 and March 2006, 59 members came out for at least one session with us. More than 40 members have attended at least 10 sessions. Given the size of the room, which can accommodate about 12 tables, it is perhaps as well that our members did not all come on the same afternoon. Normally we have between 24 and 40 members in attendance with an average of 30.

Challenge Hand Winners: Duplicate style competition

| Date | North-South Pair(s) | East-West Pair(s) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| January 31 st | Marsh Morris & Clarice Giffen | Darlene McCowan & Shari Swenson |
| February 14 th | Guenter Sperling & Ilona Taray | Bert & Margaret Gates |
| February 21 st | Frank Saliani & David Fleming | Marjorie Rozon & Madeleine Merrick |
| February 28 th | Marg Jang & Hardie McNeil | Guenter Sperling & Ruth Jacobs |
| March 14 th | Mary-Elizabeth Lane & Dianne Fair | Vic & Bev Suzuki |
| March 21 st | Bob & Inge Radko | Alec & Eulaline Taylor |
| September 4 th | Mel York & Joyce Arnsby | Bev Suzuki & Donna Mighton |
| September 12 th | George Vanderwerf & Hazel Perkin | Marg Jang & Madeleine Merrick |
| September 19 th | Joyce Zabinski & Nora Garvin | Alec & Eulaline Taylor |
| September 26 th | Guenter Sperling & Mary Lobraico | Mary Lutz & Mel York |

The Table Champions

Congratulations to the following players who were undefeated in five rounds at least once since January.

Dianne Fair, Bert Gates, Bev Henricks, Marg Jang, Carson Klinck, Donna Mighton, Marsh Morris, Hazel Perkin, Guenter Sperling, Alec Taylor

The Slam Bidders

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

Contract Bid (made)

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| January 31 st | Vic Suzuki & Kathleen Elliott Claire Knapp & Dianne Fair | 6 Clubs (7) 6 Spades |
| February 14 th | Hazel Perkin & Guenter Sperling | 6 No Trump |

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| February 28 th | Alan Ward & Bob Radko | 6 Spades |
| | Bev Henricks & Joyce Arnsby | 6 Hearts |
| | Bev Suzuki & Donna Mighton | 6 Hearts |
| March 21 st | Vic Suzuki & Guenter Sperling | 6 Diamonds (doubled) |
| April and May | Barbara Woodrow & Clarice Giffen | 6 No Trump (7) |
| | Helen Wiber & Marsh Morris | 6 Hearts |
| | Mavis McKernan & Nancy Walsh | 6 Spades |
| | Hardie McNeil & Nancy Walsh | 6 No Trump (7) |
| | Dianne Fair & Shari Swenson | 6 No Trump |
| | Joyce Arnsby & Clarice Giffen | 6 No Trump |
| | Clarice Giffen & Marsh Morris | 6 Hearts |
| | Mavis McKernan & Clarice Giffen | 6 No Trump |
| | Mary-Elizabeth Lane & Donna Mighton | 6 Hearts |
| | Alec & Eulaline Taylor | 6 Hearts |
| | Art Bell & Ruth Jacobs | 6 Diamonds |
| | Marg Jang & Joyce Arnsby | 6 Hearts |
| | Dianne Fair & Donna Mighton | 6 No Trump |

Travelogues

by Guenter Sperling

Homes & Gardens of England

by David Legget

After having met David for the first time, I was impressed by his ingenuity even before his show had started. Instead of using the 8 ft wide screen on stage, he utilized the rear white wall, turning it into a 24 ft wide screen for his panoramic presentation. After introducing us to the largest Ferris wheel in the world - London Eye -, he took us through several locks. Mahogany boats sparkled in canals, which ran parallel to narrow cobble stone streets in front of sunny Tudor style cottages with morning-glories hanging from their little white fences. Cockington's thatched Village was another fascinating facet, displaying diverse roof styles with individualized thatched ridges, each being the protected property of its thatch master.

David's concept, displaying his slides of English homes to the left and close-ups of their respective gardens to the right, turned two images into one breathtaking panoramic unit. His production was something to remember. It stretched from the frugal Banburg House of 1643, the green but flowerless surroundings of Windsor Castle, Henry VIII gardens, the most colourful flowering places with little curved wooden bridges and conservatories, to countless stunning interiors of those beautiful homes. After the lights came back on, lively discussions about his show followed, while a variety of home-made biscuits and beverages - English tea - served as the perfect ending.

The Galapagos

by David Fleming
Tues., Nov. 7, 06
1:30 p.m.

Israel - Ancient & Modern

by Steve Fuller
Tues., Dec. 5, 06
1:30 p.m.

Ecuador

By: Eva Kato
Tues., Feb. 2, 07
1:30 p.m.

A Taste of Tibet

By: Jack Bennett
Tues., Mar. 6, 07
1:30 p.m.

The Best Wilderness Parks

By: Stan Bain
Tues., April 3, 07
1:30 p.m.

All Travelogues take place at Willowdale United Church on Kenneth Ave. (east of Yonge, south of Finch). The \$2.00 entry fee includes refreshments and the lucky draw.

GOODWILL REPORT

by Eileen Justesen

I would like to thank Nancy Walsh for her contribution sending birthday cards to the 80's and over for many years and to welcome Judy Neilson who has assumed this role. Judy has sent out approximately 375 birthday cards in the past year. Members of North York District 23 seem to be blessed with longevity.

Get-well and other seasonal cards (Easter, Christmas, Valentine, Thanksgiving, etc) were sent to 20 elderly members. Sympathy cards were sent to the families of 50 deceased members. Vinnie Coetzee keeps contact by telephone with 13 of our older members on a regular basis. Also, visits were made to seven elderly members with flowers at Christmas or Springtime.

A donation of \$1,000 was made to The Teresa Group. This is an organization working with children living in families affected by HIV/AIDS. Last year they published a book "Hope, Wishes and Dreams" containing art, poetry and writing by these children. They sponsor summer camps, family support, pre-natal and new-moms groups. Back-packs are distributed with age-appropriate school supplies. A tutoring program was introduced this year.

Our proposed "Service to Others" project for "A Cappella" was successful and received a grant of \$3,600. "A Cappella for Young Women" is an early intervention initiative designed to reach adolescent girls who are apt to drop out or be excluded from high school before graduation.

We are now considering ideas for this coming year's "Service to Others" project. Suggestions are most welcome. However, projects should be community and/or education-related, especially for the disadvantaged. Member participation favoured. Projects are capped at \$4000 and will only be funded once.

We rely on you to inform us of members who are hospitalized or in ill-health as well as special anniversaries and awards.

CONVENOR

Eileen Justesen 416-222-0706

CARDS

Ruth Bradshaw 905-472-4142
Judy Neilson(over 80's) 416-256-2731

TELEPHONE CALLS

Vinny Coetzee 416-621-6681

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club meets the last Wednesday of each month at Edithvale Community Centre (Finch and Edithvale - on south side west of Yonge St.) from 2 to 4 p.m.

Books to be discussed



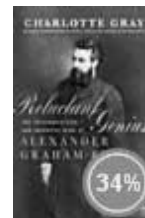
January 31
Can You Hear the Nightbird Call?
By Anita Rau Badami



February 28
Small Island
by Andrea Levy



March 28
Never Let Me Go
by Kazuo Ishiguro



April 25
Reluctant Genius, Inventor the Passionate Life and Mind of Alexander Graham Bell
by Charlotte Gray



May 30
Iran Awakening
by Shrin Ebadi

Previously advertised

Nov. 29, 06 - Saturday by Ian McEwan
For further information
Contact Irene Kitchell 416-733-8711

North York Strollers

Walk on the first Thursday of every month regardless of the weather. Come dressed for the weather and prepared to enjoy friendship and the beauty of nature and our city. Meeting places are listed for each walk.

Walks begin at 10:00 a.m.

The North York Strollers are a friendly and enthusiastic group who have been investigating and discovering various locations within the city. The goals of the walks are to enjoy the companionship of other nature lovers and to enjoy the natural beauty of our city and the changing season. Walks are planned with a minimal amount of steps and grades. The pace of the walk is determined by the needs and desires of the group. A refreshment and washroom break is planned approximately one hour into the walk. Walks last approximately two hours but we have been known to continue a little longer and some often enjoy lunch together at the conclusion of our stroll. New walkers are always welcome. Walks for the 2005 -2006 year included the University of Toronto, The Garrison Ravines, The Brickworks, Rosedale, The Underground Path, The Humber River, Center Island, The Beaches and The Northern Ravines.

For more information and/or directions please call Beatrice Connelly 416-482-9032 or Margaret Schuman at 416-924-0267. If you let us know that you are definitely coming we will delay the start of the walk if you are a little late.

| | |
|------------|---|
| December 7 | <i>Historic Walk</i> Union Station |
| January 4 | NO WALK |
| February 1 | <i>Forest Hill</i> St. Clair West Subway Station (Spadina Line) |
| March 1 | <i>York University</i> Student Services Building (off Keele onto Pond Rd) Public transit recommended - limited paid parking |
| April 5 | <i>Earl Bales Park</i> Parking Lot - off Bathurst south of Sheppard on east side |
| May 3 | <i>Edwards Gardens</i> Parking Lot - Lawrence and Leslie |
| June 7 | <i>Centre Island</i> Ferry Docks (meet at 9:45am. The ferry leaves at 10:00 am.) |

Me and my Cell Phone

On a TV scan I came upon one of the endless supply of teen programmes. I paused there because the master of ceremonies said he had some “Do’s and Don’ts.” I was surprised because social strictures, these days, are as rare as hen’s dentures. This “Don’t” one was about cell phone use. He said that if you use your phone in a public place, people will give you dirty looks. As a card-carrying dirty looker I was with him to this point. His

next leap of logic left me gasping, “If you don’t want people to listen to your conversation you should go somewhere more private.” So this was still about me, me, me. He had never considered that he was a social pain in the posterior. No, the other people were a pain because they wanted to listen to his private conversation.

Allen Strike

Health Services and Insurance Report

by George Meek

A Big Thank You

I assumed the role of North York's Convener- Health Services & Insurance following our District AGM in September. On behalf of all of us I would like to thank **Sam Habib** for his dedicated service to this role for the past 15 years. Any of you who have had the privilege of dealing with Sam in this role, know how seriously he took his responsibilities. He (as I) will always end our conversations about health and insurance matters by saying - "do not take my word for it, please call Johnson Inc. or RTO/ERO and check it out further to be certain". Sam will now have a bit more time to be truly retired but knowing Sam, the time has probably been filled already with some other family responsibility or some other volunteer project. Once again Sam- **a big thank you**. I am sure we shall continue to see you at the many upcoming District events which you and your fine wife have always enjoyed.

Group Benefits, Program Booklets and Other Information

Normally these two booklets would be updated and reprinted for January 2007 (*every other year with Updates in the off-year*). The Provincial Committee has determined to not reprint the two booklets until January 2008 due to cost (\$115,000) and other considerations. Updates will be issued in November for changes for 2007 which should be kept/filed with your January 2005

booklets.

In the Fall 2006 *Renaissance* on pages 11 to 14 you will find a number of articles pertinent to your health and our health plans. This four page centerfold can be easily removed and should be filed with your Health Plans information for future reference.

Out-of-Province or Canada Travel

Remember to photocopy your passport and your World Access card and provide copies to your next of kin prior to such travel.

There will be a change in procedure in regard to use of World Access **beginning 2007**. Johnson Inc. will no longer handle/process of emergency medical claims of \$500 CAD or less. All claims related to all benefits under these travel plans will be handled by World Access. **At the first sign of any medical emergency while travelling Out-of-Province/Canada, contact World Access within 48 hours for information and advice.** Failure to do so will result in a \$2000 CAD limit being placed on your coverage. This change allows for one process being in place irrespective of the potential dollar amount of the claim and allows World Access to obtain any recoveries from government health agencies such as OHIP instead of you having to do it for smaller claims (*refer to the specific language in the upcoming Update*).

The RTO/ERO Supplemental Travel Plan, which

provides for 15 day blocks of travel time beyond the 62 days provided in the Extended Health Care Plan now includes, effective September 1, 2006, the 90-day medical stability clause, and the \$1,000,000 per person per trip overall maximum benefit that is provided in the Extended Health Care Plan (*refer to the specific language in the two plans*).

October Senate Recommendations that Impact the Plans

(*These will be dealt with at the October 17/18, 2006 Senate- see the November Update for specific language.*)

a) Any premium changes to the plans beginning in 2007 will come into affect on February 1 (rather than on January 1- a cost saving of \$40,000).

b) Proposed premium changes for 2007: Semi- Private- 0%; Extended Health Care- 9%; Dental- 3%- claimants will be reimbursed on the 2007 Fee Guide for General Practitioners, effective February 1 2007.

c) Laser eye surgery is to be included as a covered expense under the Extended Health Care vision benefit, subject to the \$225 two consecutive calendar year maximum, effective February 1, 2007.

d) The Vision Care eye exam benefit be broadened to include eye exams every two calendar years, to a maximum of \$50, effective February 1, 2007.

Walking- The Activity of a Lifetime

(A Wellness Program)

RTO/ERO encourages all members, consistent with the Ontario Government Active 2010 Program, to become active by walking 10,000 steps each day. You would be surprised at how many steps you already take each day (*counting sleep walking and water walking in the pool*). There are many healthy benefits to walking especially if you do more, and it is something you can do on your own or with others. More information on this program can be obtained at www.active2010.ca.

A pedometer(s) which is a device that automatically measures your activity, is being made available through your District at a cost of \$20.00 each if you can pick it up at a District REO/ERO event, or for \$26.00 for one by mail, or for \$25.00 each for two or more by mail. This device, which includes a panic alarm on it for security purposes, retails for as much as \$35.00 plus taxes before mailing costs. To order one or more, please complete the form on page 26.

Finally

(As Sam always says)

Take care of your finances !

Take care of your health !

I look forward to serving and working with you.

Antiques Evaluation

Sponsored by District 23 North York

Bring ONE of your precious antiques for display and valuation by expert appraisers

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Cut-Off Date: November 12, 2006

**Thornhill Golf and Country Club
7994 Yonge Street Thornhill ON L4J 1W3
Phone: 905-881-3000**

10:00 a.m. - display your item for all to see
*coffee, tea and light refreshments available
as you view the items*

10:30 - watch/listen while the appraisers select
a few interesting items to present

11:45 - appraisers available for individual evaluations

12:00 noon - buffet

*Please advise of any dietary requirements
salad/sandwich/dessert bar available as appraisers
continue to evaluate your items*

Cost: \$20.00

See page 26 for registration form

Not so Inconvenient Answers

by The Ontario Clean Air Alliance

Climate change may be an “inconvenient truth” and that often seems to be the way our federal and provincial governments treat the reality of a rapidly destabilizing and increasingly dangerous climate. But the simple fact is that Ontario remains in an ideal position to actually tackle the problem that others just nash their teeth about.

Phasing out Ontario's four remaining dirty coal plants could bring this province half way or more to meeting our so-called impossible Kyoto targets. We can start by eliminating the single largest industrial source of greenhouse gases in Canada - the Nanticoke Generating Station - by converting its dirty coal boilers to cleaner natural gas. Then we can fully exploit the enormous potential for high efficiency combined heat and power projects in schools, hospitals, shopping malls, factories, and other institutions to quickly offset the power coming from our remaining inefficient coal plants. The result would be a dramatic decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, a more productive economy, and more reliable electricity supplies - nothing terribly inconvenient, in reality.

Our new pamphlet - Nanticoke: Canada's No. 1 air polluter to keep pumping out pollutants - outlines how we can all win by ending coal burning at Nanticoke. But we need your help to get the message out about the advantages of going coal free. Please help us promote Canada's best single climate change solution by distributing our pamphlets to your family, friends, schools, neighbours and others. You can order these free pamphlets online at www.cleanairalliance.org/getin. Take action to address climate change today!

Bounty in the Garden of Eden

By Allen Strike

"THE BOUNTY – *The True Story of the Mutiny on the Bounty*; by Caroline Alexander, Penguin Books, 491 pages, \$ 22.

This is the book that I wanted to read, long before anyone wrote it. My problem was that I never could make sense of the movie versions of the story. When Lieutenant William Bligh returned to England he was exonerated from all blame for the famous mutiny; this is shown in the five films on the subject - 1916, 1933, 1935, 1962, and 1984. In a navy where the Articles of War provided that any person who failed to perform his duties was to be hanged from a

yardarm, writing-off even a slightly guilty Bligh would have posed no problem to anyone, except Bligh. The Royal Navy has traditions, you see; bearing in mind, as Winston Churchill said, "The

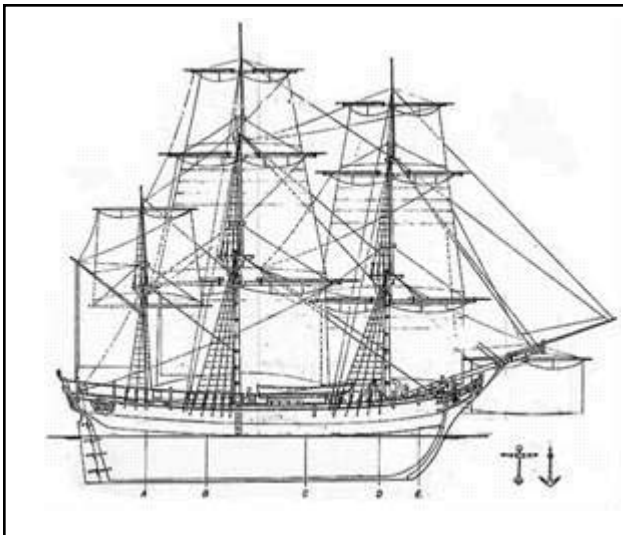
real traditions of the British Navy are rum, buggery and the lash." In spite of the energetic machinations of Edward Christian, the Abolitionists, and the likes of William Wordsworth - when Wordsworth was not wandering around as a cloud he seems to have been a right-royal pain in the rudder- Bligh subsequently was made a captain on nine fighting ships, made Governor of New South Wales, made a Commodore of two capital ships, and ended as a Vice Admiral.

Hollywood prefers the unrighteous to the righteous. In telling the story of the *Bounty* they adopted the myth of a dashing Fletcher Christian and a dastardly William

Bligh. The mate being portrayed as a version of the long-limbed, savvy Yankee opposing the stuffy British Officer – another trite rehash of the American Revolution by Hollywood jingoists. Thus Christian was acted, in turn, by Clark Gable, and Marlon Brando. As far as Brando's performance is concerned, prudent reserve is the best approach. Good old Charles Laughton as Lieutenant Bligh, reprised his famous rôle as good old Charles Laughton, Trevor Howard growled, stiff upper-lipped, through his part while contending with Brando's ridiculous assortment of upper class English accents. Incidentally, Fletcher Christian was well bred and had connections but he was not an aristocrat. Prior to this voyage he had sailed for three years in the Caribbean as a common sailor, because he needed the work. Anthony Hopkins performed his Bligh convincingly. Mel Gibson's Christian was good too. This 1984 film was much closer to the truth. It helps that the script was by the Englishman Robert Bolt and that the actors were mainly British. If Britons promise never to make cowboy movies, Americans should pledge to not make British History films.

Caroline Alexander goes right to the core of the *Bounty* story by using the wealth of written material that still exists. After all, the story was huge at the time; there were hearings, courts martial, memoirs, newspapers, and books. The promoters of the expedition and the families of the participants were all writers of diaries and letters. We forget that ordinary people were prodigious writers before the advent of the telephone and the telegraph. For example, the founder of the expedition, Sir Joseph Banks, is estimated to have written up to 100,000 letters in his lifetime. There is no shortage of material, so there is no need for authors and scriptwriters to invent.

The central inaccuracy has been that Bligh was a tyrannical captain; he was not.



He tried to avoid punishments; he saw that the men's diets prevented scurvy, he made them exercise and practise good hygiene. As well, the ship was scoured and disinfected regularly. Crossing the equator was a time of rough merriment and yet Bligh forbade the common ceremony of ducking from the yardarm on the grounds that it was "brutal and inhuman." When he was unable to round the Horn (because Admiralty procrastination had delayed his departure at the most propitious time for so doing) Bligh wrote in his log, "All I have to do now is to nurse my people with care and attention."

The difficulty is that Bligh tried to emulate his great mentor, Captain Cook, without the safeguards that Cook enjoyed. Cook had a full complement of Royal Navy officers and a small company of Marines to support him. Bligh had no regular officers and no marines. The common sailors of the time were unruly and if they detected, what they saw as, weakness they would act capriciously and defiantly. (I am reminded, here, of the Duke of Wellington who after inspecting his troops said, "I don't know what they do to Napoleon but, by God, they frighten me!") Being so exposed, Bligh had to countenance more from his crew than he would otherwise. When warrant officers refused to obey orders, Bligh could only withhold a man's rum ration or confine him to his quarters for a day. On any regular Navy ship the man would be clapped in irons until he could be tried and quite likely hanged or transported to a penal colony. On this ship there were present all the elements for a disaster. When they were combined with the delights of months spent in a tropical paradise the outcome is not so surprising. Life, for the able-seamen, was, to use Thomas Hobbes' words: "No arts; no letters; no society; and which is worst of all, continual fear and danger of violent death; and the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." This is reflected in the events at the settlement on Pitcairn Island. The mutineers had abducted Tahitian women, mistreated their Tahitian men, formed factions and fought amongst themselves to the death. The last living mutineer on Pitcairn, the "Patriarch" John Adams, had more versions of what happened to Fletcher Christian than

you can shake a breadfruit at.

The events on the *Bounty* occurred at a cusp. There was revolution in the air; the French one being just part of it. Mutinies had begun to occur in many ships. Before the time of the *Bounty's* sailing, Charles Christian, Fletcher's brother, had been involved with a mutiny on his ship the *Middlesex*. As Caroline Alexander significantly points out, "It was Lieutenant Bligh's ill luck to have his own great adventure coincide with the dawn of this new era, which saw devotion to a code of duty and established authority as less honourable than the celebration of individual passions and liberty. Coleridge's *Ancient Mariner* was a crude forerunner of the full-blown Romantic hero to be glamorized by Byron; but Fletcher Christian was the forerunner of them all." Caroline Alexander places the story in a realistic historical context and it rings true. There is everything here: weasels, the love and the agony of the families, the desperate manoeuvrings of sundry parties, the politics of the Navy, and the growing need to punch-out the French again. I was intrigued particularly by the ubiquitous Aaron Graham who pops up as a spy, a banker and, what we might call a facilitator. It is a totally satisfying, salt-caked yarn.

As I read the excerpts from the court testimony, diaries, and other primary sources I found myself admiring, once again, the quality of eighteenth century writing and speech. People from every stratum of society used words so well, so clearly, and *cared* about it. We have replaced clarity and precision with banality, circumlocution, verbosity, a limited vocabulary, clichés, obscurity, and outright misuse of words. Is there a revisionist out there who contents himself with the notion that contemporary communication is superior? Had Lord Nelson's famous signal to the fleet, "England Expects Every Man Will Do His Duty" been sent instead as: "A member-state of The European Union is most anticipatory that all military personnel and collateral combatants will personally deploy themselves in anticipatedness of a hostile fire-fight," the signalman would have been keel-hauled - the long way, from bow to stern; and that smarts.

"I overhead a man say to his companion, "I never have ideas and I am not ambitious." It struck me that this was a man at peace with himself. The dangerous man is one who never has ideas but is ambitious".

Al Strike

Allen Strike is a regular contributor to Stony Bridges. He retired from the Board of Education for North York more than fifteen years ago. He lives, writes, paints and sculpts in Port Hope.

CHALK DUST MEMORIES

Farcical and humorous tales submitted by our readers

Where's the Ham? The Second Slice.

By Allen Strike

In the first part of "Where's the Ham?" I write about tendency of Music teachers towards narcissism. One who turned out to be afflicted with this was a man I shall call Mr. Vayne. When he came to us, his condition was not obvious.



At first, I was more concerned with his approach to the cash that he collected from the ticket sales for his first concert. He seemed to think that the money belonged to him. He had come to the Junior High School from a Senior High and maybe that is how they did things there. We did not do it that way. All money collected from the efforts of our body of pupils went for the general good. The Departments which headed the public shows would get the nod for a special need but the bulk of any ready cash had to be dispensed centrally. This did not sit well with Mr. Vayne and we had regularly to get him to unload the wads of notes from his Samsonite briefcase.

When the big music show of the year was coming up Mr. Vayne's preparations were extensive. The auditorium was to be filled with risers, extra lighting brought in, and a special sound system was needed. All that material could come from the Board so we were not spending anything. Then the Audio Visual man came to say that Mr. Vayne wanted him to go to pick up a rented Ultra Long Throw Follow-Spot Arc Light from a theatrical supply house. We asked if he knew what it was for but he did not know. Since we had not spent any significant amount of money, the spot was approved.

On the night, the auditorium was packed with people sitting on the risers. The orchestra was massed at the front. High in the back stood the sinister black shape of the mysterious follow-spot. The lights in the hall were lowered and a hush fell. Then the augmented sound system began to hum. The speaker was on of those older kids who had The Voice and who probably had aspirations to work for the popular radio stations. Every school has one of these voices.

"And now, ladies and gentlemen we would like to present the man behind this concert, the Head of Music, and your conductor for the evening, our own Jack Vayne!"

The spot hissed into a blinding light which was focussed on the front auditorium door. Through the door burst the vision of Mr. Vayne. He was clad in a white Tuxedo, sported a red carnation in his lapel, and carried a very long baton. The light followed him as he bounded to his podium and activated the orchestra. Stunned parents applauded politely. The light was used again to follow Mr. Vayne at various points in the show and, of course, at the ending. Mr. Vayne was happy.

The following week an unanticipated and expensive professional tape recorder was delivered to the school; for the attention of the music department. I had it engraved, on every surface, with the name of the school before it was delivered to Mr. Vayne.

From the District Updater
September 06

New Website for Seniors

The provincial government, in cooperation with federal and municipal partners has launched ~

seniorsinfo.ca

Seniors can easily access information, programs and services from all levels of government and local community agencies.

For example:

Free Resource on Prostate Cancer

A free copy of "Understanding Prostate Cancer", as well as "Living with Prostate Cancer" can be obtained by emailing your name and mailing address to:

prostatebooks@gmail.com.

These extensive and easy-to-read booklets provide answers to questions about the prostate and related cancer.

SPRING FLING 2007

The Beaver Show

A musical variety show with lots of laughs

**Martin Grove
Secondary School
Etobicoke, ON.**

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

(Cut Off Date - January 31, 2007)

1:30 PM

Doors Open at 12 30 PM

NOTE: Seats are NOT reserved.

Tickets - **\$15.00**

***Your tickets will be mailed to you one month in advance.
A map to the school will be included.***

~See page 27 for registration form

Exciting Happenings in York Region *by The Ontario Clean Air Alliance*

This month, two farsighted development projects in York Region have unveiled combined heat and power facilities that will help reduce the need for dirty coal power and high risk, high cost nuclear energy in Ontario. These "self-generation" projects will also avoid the need for expensive new transmission lines.

Earlier this month in Kleinburg, Villa Colombo Vaughan, in partnership with OZZ Corporation, commissioned a new natural gas-fired combined heat and

power plant for its new long-term care facility. Meanwhile in Aurora, the Highland Green Condominium, in partnership with BluePower, recently celebrated the installation of its new natural gas-fired combined heat and power plant.

By meeting their own heating and electricity needs very efficiently (combined heat and power plants are 80-90% efficient versus the 34% efficiency of a coal plant and the 30% efficiency of a nuclear reactor), these projects are really demonstrating the way of the future. They are

also protecting their residents by ensuring that lights and heating systems stay on if there is ever a local or provincial blackout.

These projects are also great examples of how we can take control of the energy agenda in Ontario. If you don't like smog and think climate change is a tremendous and growing threat, then push your condo board, landlord or workplace to consider the huge benefits of combined heat and power systems. For once, we'll be putting hot air to good use.

District 23 RTO/ERO Receives a “Service to Others” Grant

by Mary Ellen Lawless

The Executive of District 23 is excited to announce to its members that we were awarded a grant of \$3,600.00 from Provincial to support the “A Cappella Services for Young Women”. Each year The Retired Teachers of Ontario apportion about \$100,000. to support a wide range of initiatives suggested by District Executives. This year the provincial committee reviewed 37 applications and awarded various amounts of funding to 30 of those who applied.

The “A Cappella Services for Young Women” is an early intervention initiative designed to reach those adolescent girls who are apt to drop

out or be excluded from school before graduation. The approach is two pronged: a mentoring and a psycho-educational program designed to teach practical skills in a peer-supported environment.

Currently the program is being offered in three public and three Catholic Secondary schools in North York and Toronto. This gender-specific program is rooted in results from sociological studies indicating that the implications for young women lacking a basic education are much more severe than for males.

This founding director of this program is Sister Sheila McAuliffe,

CND who listened and responded to the anguish of caring teachers in all parts of Ontario, asking what could be done for the female teens who felt so disconnected with school, as she traveled the province in her role as Executive Director for OECTA.

A Cappella is now managed by a Board of Directors and is a registered charity: #89316 2164 RR 0001. The organization can be reached at 50 Euston Ave., Toronto, M4J 3N3; telephone 416- 406-0202.

District 23 is proud to support this essential service in our schools.

Retirement Planning Workshops

Do you have friends who are likely to retire this school year? The RTO/ERO Toronto Districts are once again offering retirement planning workshops for teachers who will be retiring now or in the near future. Teachers can learn about living a full life in retirement, and available health benefits.

A Retirement Planning Workshop is available at one of three locations on the dates shown:

- (i) Thursday, November 16, 2006, York Mills C.I., North York (6:00 pm - 9:00 pm)
- (ii) Saturday, February 24, 2007, Blue Danube Restaurant, Scarborough (9:30 am - 12:00 noon)
- (iii) Wednesday, April 18, 2007, Don Bosco C.S.S., Etobicoke (6:00 pm - 9:00 pm)

Cost: \$10

Please complete and submit the form found on page 27

Registration must be submitted two weeks prior to the presentation date. Numbers may be limited due to space.

Perspective



Backing into eternity
I see the decades
tumbling and swirling
like dry leaves
in an Autumn windstorm.



Flaming scarlet,
Golden orange,
Sunlit yellow,
Sombre purple,

Dusty brown.
Silently they drift
to the welcoming earth.



Wistfully,
I wave them
farewell.

Carole A. Martyn



An expert is a man from out of town

The BBC has apologized to viewers after conducting a live interview with the wrong man. "We interviewed the wrong person," a British Broadcasting Corp. spokeswoman said. "We apologize to viewers for any confusion."

The man was mistakenly ushered into a BBC television studio for a reaction interview about the verdict in the legal dispute between Apple Corps Ltd. and Apple Computers Inc. The man, who appeared startled at first, said: "I'm very surprised to see this verdict because I was not expecting that. When I came, they told me something else." However, he soon warmed up to the interview and answered several more questions about the state of music downloading on the internet.

The real guest, technology expert Guy Kewney, watched the mix-up unfold as he sat watching a monitor at reception. On his website, Kewney wrote that the man "seemed as baffled as I felt" when asked about the consequences of the lawsuit. What made the mix-up more unlikely is that the show producers had previously seen a photo of Kewney: who is a fair-haired, bearded, Caucasian man. The mystery guest the BBC host had interviewed is a clean-shaven black man.

Kewney added on his website Monday that the mystery guest has been discovered to be a Congo-born Information Technology specialist named Guy Goma, who was at the BBC that day waiting to apply for a job and thought the on-air bit was an initiation gag.

The short TV segment is now being circulated on the internet, including on the website of the Daily Mail newspaper.



Eulaline and Alec Taylor, who are celebrating 62 years of marriage, are still active Bridge players and regulars at many other District 23 events.

Murder Mystery at the Old Mill Restaurant



21 Old Mill Road, Toronto
close to the Old Mill Subway Station

Wednesday, February 7th, 2007
(cut-off date: *January 8th, 2007*)

\$44.00

Enjoy a delicious hot and cold buffet lunch
and solve the hilarious 'whodunit'.

*Note: Murder mystery is different each year
so come out and enjoy the fun.*

11:30 a.m. - Meet for lunch
**1:00 p.m. - Mystery in the
Brule Room**

Your name tag at lunch will be your admission to the mystery.

See page 26 for registration form

SPRINT

Senior Peoples' Resources In North Toronto

is a community support agency committed to helping older adults live at home. We are seeking senior volunteers to plan and lead a peer support program for housebound seniors. These volunteers - called "project lead volunteers" - will recruit other seniors to become a friendly visitor to a housebound senior who is unable to participate in community life.

Project lead volunteers will:

- Develop, implement and evaluate a senior-to-senior peer support network for housebound seniors
- Help recruit seniors to become friendly visitors to housebound seniors
- Provide information and support to volunteer visitors

All project lead volunteers will be expected to commit to the program for six to eight months. The Project Facilitator and SPRINT's Volunteer Coordinator will provide ongoing support for volunteers. As a project lead volunteer, you will have the opportunity to: Actively contribute to the social well-being of your community, work with peers who come from a rich array of life experiences and diverse backgrounds, build a successful model of providing supportive visits to isolated seniors who are housebound, participate in a senior-led project that will make a positive difference in the lives of others, be involved in the federal government's New Horizons for Seniors initiative

Orientation and health and safety materials will be provided

For more information, please contact:

Faith Malcolm, Program Facilitator, @ 416-481-6411, ext. 295
E-mail: sprint@sprint-homecare.ca Website: sprint-homecare.ca

Christmas Luncheon



Thursday,
December 7, 2006

Cut-off date: Friday, December 1th

\$36.00

~ 11:00 a.m.~ Social hour with cash bar

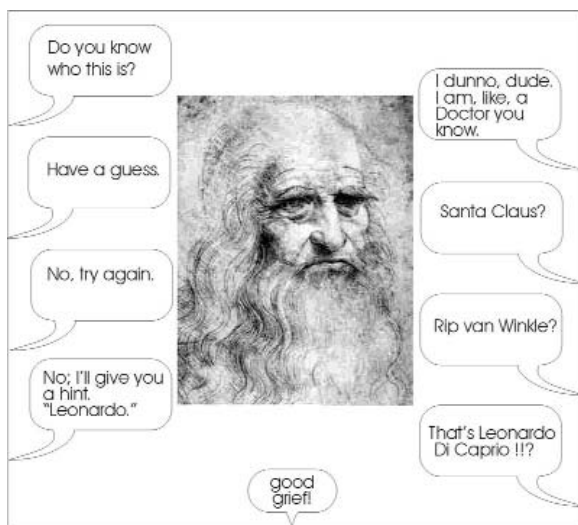
**Plus: The Vocal Stylings
of Ken and Andy**

Lunch menu

- ~assorted bread basket
- ~roasted red pepper bisque with herb-crushed croutons and melted woolwich goat cheese
- ~chicken in pommery sauce (red currant and pommery mustard)
- ~seasonal vegetables and potatoes
- ~English Truffle topped with vanilla chantilly and strawberries
- ~coffee and tea

Note: Please advise Mildred of any dietary requirements.

See page 26 for registration form



Al Strike

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Celebrating World Teachers' Day

by Dalton McGuinty, Premier

Mr. Speaker, I rise on this day, World Teachers' Day, for three very good reasons.

The first is: if I don't, I am going to be in a lot of trouble when I get home tonight. My wife Terri is a teacher, and an excellent one at that, and if I fail to recognize her work, and the work of so many talented teachers like her, I would deserve the detention she would undoubtedly give me.

The second is, simply and most importantly, our children. There is a saying that captures the joy and angst that come with parenthood and it goes like this: to be a parent is to forever have your heart walk around outside of your body. Well, Speaker, every day, we parents entrust what we treasure most of all in this world, our children, and our hopes and dreams and ambitions for them, to our teachers. And it gives us great comfort to know our heart is in good and caring hands.

The third reason I stand before you today, Mr. Speaker, is, clearly, our teachers. An author by the name of Henry Adams once said that "a teacher affects eternity — he can never tell where his influence will end." I am sure that each of us in this House can recall a teacher that

profoundly touched our lives. I remember my Grade 5 teacher, Madame Guillet.

Madame took a class of unruly, rambunctious boys, and worked miracles. She kept us in line. And she literally got us all singing from the same songbook. But more than that, she shared with us a passion for music that made us look forward to singing with a joy that we had reserved, up until then, for road hockey after school. Today, when I hear a song I love, I can't help but think of the teacher who so loved song. You see, as much as our teachers teach, and teach well, they do so much more. They coach and mentor, lead and illuminate, enable and encourage, and include and inspire. Most of all, they are purveyors of hope: hope for a brighter future, hope for a stronger society.

It's been said that teaching is the greatest act of optimism. A cynic cannot be a great teacher, because cynicism is corrosive, and great teachers are creative. A pessimist cannot be a great teacher, because pessimism sees only limits, while great teachers see only potential. And a defeatist cannot be a great teacher, because defeatism knows only how to

give up the fight, and great teachers never, ever, give up on a child.

Mr. Speaker, our province is a province of great teachers. I know that because, when we offered our teachers enhanced training, on an optional basis, and on their own time, they packed the place. I know that because, when we asked them to embrace change, and work with us, on behalf of our kids, they met us with open minds and tremendous professionalism. I know that because we set the bar high for student achievement and student performance is improving, year after year after year. But I know that, most of all, Mr. Speaker, because while governments can be transient, policies can be temporary and politics are almost always volatile, Ontario teachers' commitment to our kids is a constant. I want to end, Mr. Speaker, with a final quotation. And it's this: "To learn, and never be filled, is wisdom. But to teach, and never be weary, is love."

On behalf of all Ontarians, Mr. Speaker, I thank our teachers, for passing on wisdom, of course, but for sharing their love, most of all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

"A LEGACY FOR OUR CHILDREN"

The Garbage Management Crisis.

Incineration? Land Fill? The 3 R's?. What other countries are doing, and what can I do? Have your questions answered.

Thursday, April 19, 2007 ~ 10 a.m. to noon

The North York Civic Centre

Details: In the February issue of Stony.

Planned by the joint Toronto Districts' Political Action Committees.



Crazy Harry and His New Bride

Dr. Day's Election a Disappointment

The Ontario Health Coalition

The Ontario Health Coalition reacted with disappointment to the election of Dr. Brian Day as president elect for the Canadian Medical Association this morning.

"The choice of the delegates is an unfortunate one for the majority of patients in Canada," noted Natalie Mehra, director of the Ontario Health Coalition. "Brian Day has spent years advocating for the dismantling of the public health system through privatization and the de-listing of health services. These are not innovative ideas. They are old ones relentlessly pushed by the small but well-heeled group who have personal business interests in promoting privatization. We are deeply disappointed."

"The pretense that two tier advocates are concerned about wait lists is stunningly disingenuous. In fact, the two-tier proposal would quickly turn a doctor and health professional shortage situation into a crisis as physicians and health professionals would be siphoned out of the public health system to serve queue-jumpers in the private system. Two-tiering encourages wealthy people to purchase unnecessary procedures while those in real need languish on longer wait lists in the public system. Two tiering means that regional disparities in access to care intensify as more health professionals move into private businesses in larger cities where they can make money. While the greediest physician-turned-businesspeople make more money, patients suffer," she added. "No one with an accurate understanding of the demand and supply of health resources and the well-being of the majority of Canadians in mind could advocate for destroying the gains and efficiency of the public health system through this type of privatization."

"In response to Dr. Day's election, we need to reach out to physicians with the world-wide evidence that for-profit health care costs more for less care. We will use this opportunity to remind people that those

who are pushing privatization almost inevitably are those who stand to profit directly from the higher costs of private health businesses. With redoubled urgency, we will communicate a clear message that the creation of a parallel system for those who buy private health insurance or pay out-of-pocket for procedures are actually advocating for dismantling public health care - not improving it. We need to remind physicians and Canadians alike

that the values that underlie our public health system are sound and critically important for our communities and our economy."

"Dr. Day's election will no doubt embolden those that want to profit from privatization. For advocates of public health care, it will be a catalyst for us to re-dedicate ourselves to the fight to protect the economic and social gains made when Canadians adopted our public health system," she concluded.

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW



St Lawrence Centre
In the
Bluma Appel
Theatre

Wednesday Matinee

1:30 p.m.

March 28, 2007

*Cut-Off Date -
February 20, 2007*

\$30.00

Pick up your ticket
from Doug Tallon
in the lobby after 1 p.m.

~ See page 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 provided to assist our members to share in available activities other than those sponsored by RTO/ERO District 23.

Remarkable Travel Opportunities for RTO members

KNOW SOUTH AMERICA

April 14 to 28 or April 14 to May 5, 2007

Visit Iguassu Falls; Santiago, Chile; Buenos Aires and Peninsula Valdes, Argentina; and Rio de Janeiro with an optional extension to Manaus and the Amazon, Brazil; La Paz, Bolivia and Cuzco, Macchu Pichu and Lima, Peru. Escorted from Canada by a knowledgeable Tour Director, the tour includes all flights; 4 and 5 star hotels; most meals; ground travel by deluxe coach; all sightseeing, admissions and performances.

KNOW SOUTH AFRICA

April 28 to May 14 or April 28 to May 18, 2007

See wondrous South Africa. Visit Durban; Zululand; Phinda National Park and Kruger National Park for four days of game viewing; the Panorama Route; Pretoria; Cullinan Diamond Mine; Cape Town and Johannesburg. Enjoy an optional excursion to Victoria Falls. Escorted from Canada by a knowledgeable Tour Director, the tour includes all flights; 5 star hotels; most meals; ground travel by deluxe coach; all sightseeing, admissions and performances.

KNOW RUSSIA CRUISE

May 6 to 17, 2007

Cruise aboard the MS Pakhomov, one of the few European owned and operated ships sailing Russia's inland waterways. Cruise from St. Petersburg to Moscow. Cruise package includes return airfare, 11 days and 10 nights aboard ship, all shore excursions, all meals, performances and onboard lectures and entertainment. Ask those who took our 2006 cruise about this package. Optional extension in Prague available.

KNOW CHINA TOUR

July 7 to 22, 2007

Visit fascinating China. See an ancient society in the course of its evolution to an economic powerhouse. Visit Shanghai, Suzhou, Guilin, Xian and enjoy a week in Beijing. Escorted from Canada by a knowledgeable Tour Director, the tour includes all air fares, 4 star hotels, most meals, ground travel by deluxe coach; all sightseeing, admissions and performances.

Tours arranged by **KNOW THE WORLD Tour Organizers Inc.** whose President is RTO member Dorothy Hollingsworth, former teacher and counsellor in North York.

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

Casey House Foundation, established in 1993, to support Casey House Community Programmes, is in urgent need of volunteers to perform a range of activities such as writing to thank donors, organizing files, mailing reports, cataloguing the video library and Jim Shea art. This would be a commitment of about three hours per week.

Casey House was opened in 1988 to provide a supportive, respite and palliative care environment for people living with HIV/AIDS. The contact person is Tracy Hatton at 416-962-4040, Ext. 233.

Interested in Holistic Health

The physical, mental, spiritual, economic, ecological, educational and cultural kinds? If so, I want to dialogue with you.

Check out <http://www.flfcanada.com> and the recommended links. Also

<http://brainmeta.com/forum/index.php?act>

York Mills C.I. 50th Anniversary

April 27-29, 2007

Information at www.yorkmills50.com

If you changed your name and/or address since leaving YMCI or want more information, call Al McKellar at 416 - 447-3012



Are You My Mommy?

Drawings by Al Strike

Tear - Offs

*Please make a separate
cheque for each event.*

Antiques Evaluation
Wednesday, November 15, 2006
Cut-Off Date: November 10, 2006

Name: _____ Email _____ Telephone: _____

Guest(s): _____

___ tickets @ \$20 = _____ Cheque enclosed for \$ _____

**Make cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 and mail to:
Jean King, 6 King's Inn Trail, Thornhill, ON L3T 1T7**

Christmas Luncheon
Thursday, December 7, 2006
Cut-Off Date: December 4, 2006

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Guests: _____

of tickets ___ @ \$36 = \$ _____ **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
You may postdate your cheque December 4, 2006

Murder Mystery
Wednesday, February 7, 2007
Cut-Off Date: January 8, 2007

Name: _____ Email _____ Telephone: _____

Guest(s): _____

___ tickets @ \$44 = _____ Cheque enclosed for \$ _____ *(You may post date the cheque January 8, 2007)*

**Make cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 and mail to:
Jean King, 6 King's Inn Trail, Thornhill, ON L3T 1T7**

Pedometers

Number Pedometers Ordered

1 @ \$26 = \$26 or ___ (2 or more) @ \$25 = \$ _____

**Make your cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23, and send it to:
George Meek, 414-4005 Bayview Ave., North York ON M2M3Z9.**

Name: _____ Address: _____

_____ Telephone: _____

THE BEAVER SHOW
Wednesday, March 14, 2007
Cut Off - January 31, 2007

Name _____ Email _____ Telephone _____

Guest(s) _____

of tickets ___ @ \$15.00 = _____ (*You may post date the cheque for January 31, 2007*)

Make cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 and mail to:
Jean King, 6 King's Inn Trail, Thornhill, ON L3T 1T7

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW
Wednesday, March 28, 2007
Cut-Off Date: February 20, 2007

Name _____ Email _____ Telephone _____

Guest(s) _____

of tickets ___ @ \$30.00 = _____ (*You may post date the cheque for February 20, 2007*)

Make cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 23 and mail to:
Jean King, 6 King's Inn Trail, Thornhill, ON L3T 1T7

Retirement Planning Workshops

I wish to attend the RPW at:

- A) York Mills C.I., November 16, 2006
- B) Blue Danube Restaurant, February 24, 2007.....
- C) Don Bosco C.S.S., April 18, 2007.....

Name: _____

e-mail _____ Phone _____

___ tickets @\$10 each = \$ _____

Please include your cheque (\$10.00/person) payable to **RTO/ERO Toronto Districts** and mail to:
Tom Caster, 2548 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto ON M4B 1M1
e-mail: tacaster@rogers.com Phone: 416 751-9629

Good men sometimes take a break from doing good.

Bad men never take a break.

Al Strike

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, Treasurer 416-293-3890 (trips/theatre), or Mildred Frank 416-221-5328 (Social Convenor).

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.



Left to right: Allen Strike, Dick Allan, Rob Fraser, John Franks, and Ron Dutcher.

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.

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

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