

# STONY BRIDGES

Issue 90

A Newsletter for the members of



District 23, North York

February 2007



Andree Nottage

*Taken at the Christmas Luncheon, from left to right are: President Mary Ellen Lawless, Photographer Andree Nottage, and Social Convenor Mildred Frank*

## THINGS TO DO

### Fair Vote Canada

Thursday, March 22, 2007  
~See page 17

### Canon Theatre

Saturday, April 14, 2007  
~See page 20

### Waste Management

Thursday, April 19, 2007  
~See page 21

### Spring Luncheon

Thursday, April 26  
~See page 5

### Shaw Festival

Friday, May 4, 2007  
~See page 25

### Drayton Festival Theatre

Tuesday, May 29, 2007  
~See page 19

### 4th Annual Golf Tournament

Thursday, June 7, 2007  
~See page 10

### Retirement Planning Workshops

~See page 22



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## Calendar of Events

### February

1 Strollers 10:00 a.m.  
6 Travelogue 1:30 p.m.  
7 Mrdr. Myst. 11:30 a.m.  
13 Bridge 1:00 p.m.  
14 Exec. Mtg 9:15 a.m.  
20 Bridge 1:00 p.m.  
24 Ret/Wksp 9:30 a.m.  
27 Bridge 1:00 p.m.  
28 Book Club 2:00 p.m.

### March

1 Strollers 10:00 a.m.  
6 Travelogue 1:30 p.m.  
13 Bridge 1:00 p.m.  
14 Exec Mtg. 9:15 a.m.  
14 Beaver 1:00 p.m.##  
20 Bridge 1:00 p.m.  
22 Fair Vote 1:30 p.m.  
27 Bridge 1:00 p.m.  
28 Book Club 2:00 p.m.  
28 Rocky Horror 1:30 p.m.##

### April

3 Travelogue 1:30 p.m.  
5 Strollers 10:00 a.m.  
10 Bridge 1:00 p.m.  
14 Canon Theatre 2:00 p.m.  
17 Bridge 1:00 p.m.  
18 Ret/Wksp. 6:00 p.m.  
19 Waste Wrksp. 10:00 a.m.  
24 Bridge 1:00 p.m.  
25 Book Club 2:00 p.m.  
26 Luncheon 11:00 a.m.

### May

1 Travelogue 1:30 p.m.  
3 Strollers 10:00 a.m.  
4 Shaw Festival 9:30 a.m.  
8 Bridge 1:00 p.m.  
9 Exec Mtg. 9:15 a.m.  
15 Bridge 1:00 p.m.  
22 Bridge 1:00 p.m.  
29 Bridge 1:00 p.m.  
29 Drayton 8:45 a.m.  
30 Book Club 2:00 p.m.

### June

5 Bridge 1:00 p.m.  
6 Exec. Mtg. 9:15 a.m.  
7 Strollers 10:00 a.m.  
12 Bridge 1:00 p.m.  
19 Bridge 1:00 p.m.  
26 Bridge 1:00 p.m.

## Note: There are seats still available for these shows (previously advertised). Call Doug Tallon 416-441-4096.

## 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.

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## Change of Information

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

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## Deadline

The deadline for materials for the next issue is  
May 15, 2007

Stony Bridges publishes in February, June and November for the Retired Teachers' of North York, District 23.

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## GOODWILL REPORT

*by Eileen Justesen*

### CONVENOR

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416-256-2731

### TELEPHONE CALLS

Vinny Coetzee  
416-621-6681

## Travel Convenor Vacancy

*by Doug Tallon*



After nine years of dedicated work in the position of Travel Convenor for RTO/ERO District 23, Audrey Cousins has decided to retire to spend a well deserved rest with her family and friends. She has been a

great asset to our district and has initiated many exciting trips to Stratford, Drayton, Woodbine and Murder Mystery as well as others.

Audrey and I have worked together for about four of those nine years and it has been a great joy to work with someone with a great sense of humour, great organizational skills and effective communications skills. Those traits are really the three qualifications required to be a Travel Convenor for RTO. Audrey possesses them in spades.

We are currently looking for an RTO member who possesses those same skills, enjoys travel, and could bring into the position some different ideas for our travel events.

Audrey, along with myself,

would be willing to work with this member for the remainder of her term, which ends with the September 2007 AGM. This way he/she would work into the position gradually and then be prepared to move full steam ahead beginning with the October 2007 Executive Meeting.

If you have any questions concerning the position, feel free to contact Audrey or myself. If you would be interested to shadow Audrey and her work as a Travel Convenor, please contact Helen Wiber. Helen is our past president and is responsible for preparing the new executive for the 2007-2008 year. Helen may be contacted by telephone (416 485-0131) or email: [wibermccowan@rogers.com](mailto:wibermccowan@rogers.com) ❖

# President's Message

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by Mary Ellen Lawless

As I collect my thoughts for this Newsletter, the days are still short, dark and drab, relieved only by the sparkle of the Christmas lights along the street. But, probably a first for this part of our country, the grass is green and may even be growing, a scary reminder to those of us who care about "mother earth" that our climate seems to be changing.

It cheers me to think that, by the time you are reading this issue of Stony, the days will be getting longer; the sun getting stronger and those of us who love to garden will already be reading the seed catalogues and making our plans for "Spring 2007".

Your Executive continues to plan for and offer you a wide range of activities for the coming months while continuing to try to maintain contact with those of you who may not be able to get out and about as you once could.

Did you know there is an Emergency Assistance Program available to anyone who may be in need, as a member, through you or your caregiver? To investigate this offer, contact RTO/ERO at 416-962-9463 and ask for Pauline Duquette-Newman, the contact person for the Emergency Assistance Program. Every request is dealt with in absolute confidence. No one should feel alone in times of crisis and/or unusual need.

All other activities are outlined in detail in this issue of Stony, including the dates for reserving and paying for the activities that interest you.

I would encourage those of you who enjoy reading to attend the Book Club, which meets the last Wednesday of each month.

"The Strollers" has become a

very popular activity as the members who attend snoop around the parts of Toronto we miss when we whiz by in our vehicles.

The months of March and April each feature a special event, both timely topics which deserve our attention:

~ March 22 you are invited to attend a presentation on the issues around "Fair Vote Ontario," and

~ in April the Political Action Committee representing the four Districts of RTO/ERO that now constitute Toronto are working together to offer a workshop dealing with "Waste Management".

Regarding the topic of "Fair Vote Canada", did you know that our Provincial Government established an Ontario Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform? This Assembly is composed of 104 randomly selected voters empowered by the Ontario Government to study and recommend a new provincial voting system. During the last election campaign our current Premier, Dalton McGuinty promised that this issue would be a referendum item on the ballot for the next election, scheduled for Oct. 4, 2007. This Assembly is holding hearings until the end of January, 2007 to which interested citizens have been invited to make submissions. Unfortunately, little information was evident in the local media until the last few days, (the first week of January, the deadline for this message to be on the editor's desk). Because your Executive strives to keep you, our members, informed about issues, a meeting has been planned to provide you with the information that "Fair Vote Canada" has available on this topic.

We hope to have a huge turnout for this event, which our 2nd Vice-president, Michael Sheffe has organized for us. In the meantime, if you want to research this issue yourself you may contact [www.fairvote.ca](http://www.fairvote.ca) or [info@fairvote.ca](mailto:info@fairvote.ca).

Details regarding the Waste Management Symposium, as organized by the four Toronto Districts is available in this copy of Stony.

Recruitment of new members continues to be a challenge, as those of us who understand, value and benefit from the achievements of this organization strive to share these attributes with our teacher friends. Regardless of how long it is since someone retired, the benefits derived from joining RTO/ERO District 23 far outweigh the small amount that is taken out of our pension cheque each January for our membership fee. If you know of any teacher planning retirement or already retired, you, our members are our best advocates for encouraging them to join. We are as strong as our weakest link and given the recent federal government decision to implement income splitting for tax purposes, we must be viewed politically as a strong voice for retirees, given that this was an issue on which our organization lobbied hard and had us, as members, signing petitions favouring this tax change.

Also, as members, your Executive continues to invite you to help us by making suggestions, offering your skills for any new initiative that interests you, or volunteering to be on one of the committees listed in this newsletter. Finally, my personal wish for 2007:

**TO YOU AND YOURS, GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPY TIMES**

THURSDAY APRIL 26, 2007  
THORNHILL GOLF AND COUNTRY  
CLUB  
7994 YONGE ST.  
FREE PARKING

SOCIAL HOUR WITH CASH BAR 11:00 - 12 NOON  
LUNCHEON - 12 NOON

**MENU**

~MEDLEY OF BABY SPINACH, RADICCHIO, STRAWBERRIES AND  
PECANS WITH RED WINE VINAIGRETTE

~SLICED GRILLED FLANK STEAK WITH  
FIVE PEPPERCORN COGNAC SAUCE

~MEDLEY OF SPRING VEGETABLES

~GELATI KISSES WITH INDIVIDUAL FRUIT COULIS

**\$28**

SPRING LUNCHEON  
THORNHILL GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB  
THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2007  
(CUT-OFF DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2007)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

GUESTS: \_\_\_\_\_

# OF TICKETS @ \$28 = \_\_\_\_\_ MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO  
RTO/ERO DISTRICT 23 AND SEND TO:

MILDRED FRANK, 705 - 505 CUMMER AVE.,  
TORONTO ON M2K 2L8; (416) 221-5328

SPRING LUNCHEON

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# Bridge Report

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by Alan Ward

The Bridge Club continues to meet at Willowdale United Church on Kenneth Avenue at Church St (south of Finch, east of Yonge) every Tuesday except for the first Tuesday of the month. New members are cordially invited to try us out. It is suggested that players arrive no later than 12.45 p.m., since the afternoon's play begins promptly at 1 p.m. with four duplicate hands. Normally we have between 24 and 40 members in attendance with an average of 30.

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 10 <sup>th</sup>	Marsh Morris & Clarice Giffen	Nora Garvin & David Fleming
October 17 <sup>th</sup>	Joyce Arnsby & Nancy Walsh	David Fleming & Lee White
October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Marsh Morris & Hazel Perkin	Mary Lutes & Marjorie Rozon
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	Eileen Justeson & Linda Savoy	Sandy Merelaid & Champa Nambiar
November 28 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Walsh & Nora Garvin	Bev Suzuki & Vic Suzuki
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Inge Radko & Bob Radko	Hazel Perkin & Hardie McNeil

No Duplicate Hands were played on October 24<sup>th</sup>, November 21<sup>st</sup>, December 19<sup>th</sup> 2006 or January 9<sup>th</sup> 2007.

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## The Table Champions

Congratulations to the following players who were undefeated in five rounds at least once between October 10<sup>th</sup> 2006 and January 9<sup>th</sup> 2007: Ivan Currie, Ruth Jacobs, Marg Jang (twice), Madeleine Merrick, Donna Mighton, Hazel Perkin, Guenter Sperling, Eulaline Taylor

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## 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)

October 10 <sup>th</sup>	Wayne Justeson & Vic Suzuki	6 No Trump (7)
	Eulaline Taylor & Alec Taylor	6 Spades (7)
October 17 <sup>th</sup>	Mary-Elizabeth Lane & Mel York	6 Diamonds
October 24 <sup>th</sup>	Mary-Elizabeth Lane & Mel York	6 Hearts
	Marilyn Storton-Butcher & Carson Klinck	6 Hearts (7)
	Joyce Arnsby & Helen Wiber	6 Spades
	Joyce Arnsby & Eulaline Taylor	6 Hearts (7)
October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Margaret Gates & Mel York	6 Diamonds
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	Mavis McKernan & Vic Suzuki	6 No Trump (7)
	Dianne Fair & Tony Cribbin	6 No Trump
November 21 <sup>st</sup>	Linda Savoy & Tony Cribbin	6 Clubs
November 28 <sup>th</sup>	Mary-Elizabeth Lane & George Vanderwerf	6 No Trump (doubled)
	Jean Cameron & Alan Ward	6 No Trump (7)
	Jean Cameron & Ilona Taray	6 Hearts (7)

*Continued on page 7*

December 19<sup>th</sup>  
January 9<sup>th</sup>

Ilona Taray & Jack Foote  
Bev Suzuki & Mel York  
Donna Mighton & Ivan Currie  
Bev Suzuki & George Vanderwerf  
Darlene McCowan & Donna Mighton

6 No Trump  
6 Spades  
6 No Trump  
6 Spades  
6 No Trump (7)

A recent addition to the convenor's library of Bridge books was *The Bridge Player's Bible*, by Julian Pottage, published by Barron's (www.barronsedu.com). This 256 page, hard-cover book contains a large number of useful ideas for bidding and playing, whether as declarer or defender. Page 190 explains the principle of the Dummy Reversal.

		North		
		Spades	10 8 7 3	
		Hearts	Q J 10	
		Diamonds	A K 9	
		Clubs	J 9 3	
	<b>West</b>			<b>East</b>
Spades	AQ64			Spades
Hearts	876			Hearts
Diamonds	10 4			Diamonds
Clubs	K875			Clubs
		South		
		Spades	K	
		Hearts	A K 9 4 3	
		Diamonds	Q 7 5 3	
		Clubs	10 4 2	

Playing in a 3 Heart contract, South must lose one spade trick and three club tricks, so cannot afford to lose a diamond. If the opponents' diamonds divided 3-3, which is only a 35.5% chance, South could win four diamond tricks and five heart tricks upon gaining the lead. A statistically better option is to hope for a 3-2 split in the trump suit, a 67.8% chance, and to ruff three rounds of spades in hand, using the Ace and King for two of these ruffing tricks in order to preserve low trumps in the hand for entries to the board. In this way, declarer wins six heart tricks (including the three spade ruffs) and three diamond tricks. The term Dummy Reversal implies that the North hand will eventually hold the Last Trump, making South the effective Dummy hand. This is the only way to generate the sixth trump trick.

Normally when playing in a suit contract, declarer will attempt to ruff short suits on the board (in dummy) but in this case the distribution of the North hand is flat and has no ruffing potential.



Seated at Lower left: Mabel Campbell flanked by three former students and Kathleen Elliott. Middle: Susan Wahab, Blossom Joshua, Priobala Khan; Right: Joan Young and Margaret Perschy. Taken at the Christmas Luncheon.

Andree Nottage

# Health Services and Insurance Report

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By George Meek

## RTO/ERO GROUP BENEFITS PROGRAM ~ BOOKLETS AND OTHER INFORMATION

The Update on all changes for 2007 were issued in late 2006 and should be kept/filed with your January 2005 booklets. Remember to photocopy your passport and your World Access card and provide copies to your next of kin prior to Travel Out-of-Province/Country. Effective January 1, 2007, all claims-related Out-of-Province/Canada inquiries are to be directed to World Access Canada. Coverage inquiries should continue to be directed to Johnson Inc. This is described in detail in the aforementioned Update from RTO/ERO. See the Update for specific language and details of all other changes. If you did not receive this Update, please contact Johnson Inc. What follows is a summary of rate adjustments and plan improvements:

### THE RATE ADJUSTMENTS, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2007 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- a) Semi-Private Hospital Plan: No change
- b) Extended Health Care Plan: +9%
- c) Dental Plan: +3%

### THE PLAN IMPROVEMENTS, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2007 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

~ The Extended Health Care Plan will cover all types of eye examinations reimbursed at 80%, subject to an overall maximum of \$50 for one eye examination every two calendar years. Eligible dependents continue to be covered on an annual basis.

~ The Extended Health Care Plan will cover laser eye surgery under the prescription eyeglass benefit. Laser eye surgery is still subject to the existing reimbursement level of 80% and combined maximum of \$225 per person in any two calendar years. The post-surgical eyeglass benefit will not apply to laser eyesurgery.

~ The Dental Plan reimbursements will be based upon the 2007 Dental Fee Guide for General Practitioners.

### NEW RTO/ERO HEALTH BENEFIT CARD COMING

Due to problems with fading and smudging with our current health benefit card, the HSI Committee has decided to phase-in a new integrated benefit card. This card is embedded into the paper for printing, and has a plastic covering, making it more durable. The cost of the new card is similar to the current card, and the same administrative procedures for processing would be followed by Johnson, without the need for the purchase of new equipment. To switch to "credit card" type cards would require the purchase of new equipment and accrue significantly higher operating costs. A toll free hot line for pharmacies will be included on the reverse side of the card. The cost to process an electronic claim is considerably less than the cost of processing a paper claim. Drug and dental claims that are submitted electronically are on the increase, but there will always be a need for possible manual in-

tervention. Some examples are:

~ Claims where a duplicate is found in the participant's claims history.

~ Major dental work that has not been previously approved.

~ Dental work where x-rays are required.

~ Claims that would require review by Johnson Inc.

### TEACHER PENSION BOARD STATS

There are now over 104,000 teachers receiving an OTPP pension received a 2.3% increase this year to reflect the increase in cost of living. About 95% of those recipients reside in Ontario. The number of new pensioners should plateau for about four years then begin to decrease as the number of 'baby boomers' retiring, declines.

### TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE

On October 24, 2006, the McGuinty government's proposed legislation to regulate Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and acupuncture passed second reading. Currently, TCM is an unregulated profession in Ontario, with no restrictions on who may call themselves a TCM practitioner or who may practice the profession. If passed, the legislation will make TCM the first new health profession to be regulated in Ontario since. Ontario will be the second province in Canada to regulate Traditional Chinese Medicine, after British Columbia.

### BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS

Health Canada is warning



Canadians that certain Lifescan, Inc., One Touch Brand Test Strips, Basic/Profile and Ultra, sold in the United States are counterfeit.

The counterfeit glucose strips could potentially give incorrect blood glucose values, either too high or too low, which could result in a patient taking too much or too little insulin, leading to serious injury or death.

The test strips can be used with various models of Lifescan Inc., One Touch Brand Blood Glucose monitors.

Lot numbers, located on the outer carton and vial, can identify the counterfeit test strips. One Touch Basic/Profile test strips: 272894A, 2619932, 2615211, and 2606340. One Touch Ultra test strips: 2691191 and 2691261.

Health Canada is not aware of any distribution of the counterfeit version in Canada; however Canadians may have purchased the product while traveling in the United States.

Consumers who have the counterfeit test strips should stop using them, replace them immediately and contact their health care provider.

#### **ASSISTIVE DEVICES PROGRAM**

##### **COVERAGE FOR BREAST PROSTHESIS**

Effective July 1, 2006, breast prosthesis are eligible every two years, through the Assistive Devices Program (ADP). If during the two years, a patient requires a new prosthesis because of size or shape or a change in medical condition, the patient may apply once for a replacement. The patient can purchase the breast prosthesis, and then request an application from the ADP website or by calling 1-800-268-6021. Patients need to send the original receipt with the grant application. It takes approximately four to five months for the patient to receive payment from ADP. The patient does not need to apply to ADP for approval, prior to the

purchase of the breast prosthesis. The amount that is reimbursed by ADP for the breast prosthesis is always the same amount.

##### *ADP Reimbursement:*

- \$195 for one full breast prosthesis;*
- \$390 for two full breast prosthesis;*
- \$105 for one partial breast prosthesis*
- \$210 for two partial breast prosthesis.*

#### **MACULAR DEGENERATION:**

##### **WHAT IS IT?**

Macular degeneration is a group of diseases that affect the macular area of the retina. Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of blindness of severe and irreversible vision loss in the developed world.

##### **WHERE DOES IT STRIKE?**

The retina is a thin tissue that lines the inside wall of the eye. The macula is a geographic area within the retina that is responsible for sharp central vision. In 10 to 15 % of cases, bleeding can occur into the retina, which results in scarring and central vision loss.

##### **AM I AT RISK?**

- People over 50 years of age (increases with age)
- Family history
- Ultra-violet exposure
- Smoking
- Poor Diet
- Lack of particular nutrients

##### **WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP**

##### **REDUCE MY RISK?**

Visit your optometrist regularly for a comprehensive eye examination, especially if you have any of the risk factors. Wear sunglasses to protect against ultra violet rays.

Good diet including dark, leafy green vegetables. Special dietary supplements may be recommended to slow the progression of the disease. Don't smoke!

#### **TREATMENT & MANAGEMENT**

Your optometrist may give you a grid for regular home monitoring, to detect any distortions or dim areas in your vision at the earliest opportunity. The "Amsler Grid" is used to test the macula, the very central part of the retina. The test is simply a grid made of evenly spaced horizontal and vertical lines. A small dot is located in the center of the grid for fixation. Other treatment includes magnification aids, dietary supplements and photodynamic therapy.

#### **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](http://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 27 and send it to George Meek. ❖

##### **Finally**

*(As Sam Habib still says) :*

**Take care of your finances !**

**Take care of your health !**

# 4th Annual District 23 Golf Tournament

Thursday, June 7th

Kettle Creek Golf Club

\$45.00 per golfer



*This short, picturesque 18-hole course is at the west end of Cardinal Golf Club at Hwy 9 and Jane Street just east of Hwy 400.*

**Check in from 8:45 a.m. to 9:45**  
**'Shot-gun start'- 10:00 a.m.**  
*(each team begins on a different hole)*

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 and everyone gets a prize. If you are able to help out by donating a prize or prizes for this tournament, please contact Helen.

***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.

Questions and/or comments to Helen 416-485-0131  
Register your team of four, a twosome or individually,  
***and please indicate if a power cart is needed.***

*~ See page 27 for registration form*

## Email Fan Out Service

*by Michael Sheffe*

Occasionally, RTO-ERO District 23 has items of interest to share with its members. While most of these are published in *Stony Bridges*, many others arise between issues. We have an email fan-out service, which we use to inform our members of such events. This is an efficient, expeditious, and economical way to deliver relevant information to our members. If you would like to be included, please email your name and email address to: [msheffe@rogers.com](mailto:msheffe@rogers.com).

For the Subject line, please use, "Add me to the District 23 email list." For your convenience, there is also a link to this service from the RTO website at: [www.rto-erotorontodistricts.org](http://www.rto-erotorontodistricts.org). Just follow the links, once on this website.

If you are receiving these email notices, you need not do anything. Some members may have received such email in the past, but no longer are receiving them. Please check that I have your current email address. Ensure that you set your *Preferences* to receive email from the above email address. If your email address changes, please let me know.

Your information is kept confidential. I have the only copy of the email list. I do not distribute it, or sell it to anyone else. When you receive an email from this service, it does not show anyone else's email address. ❖

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# North York General Hospital Volunteer Services

**N**orth York General Hospital Volunteer Services is currently recruiting new volunteers to help bring our evolving Vision, *Community of Success: Serving with Kindness* to life.

By giving freely of your time, you will contribute to the well-being of our health care community, the vitality of our services and the quality of patients' experiences at our Hospital.

Our volunteers are a very crucial part of delivering compassionate care to our patients and their families, and making the business of our community teaching hospital run smoothly.

More than 1,000 women, men and students are actively involved in over 50 services at three hospital sites: General, Branson, and the Seniors' Health Centre.

If you are interested in further information about joining our

## *Community of Success*

contact our office at 416-756-6088, Monday through Friday, or visit our website at [www.nygh.on.ca](http://www.nygh.on.ca)

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# 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

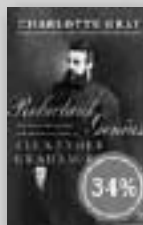


February 28, 2007  
**Small Island**  
by *Andrea Levy*

March 28, 2007  
**Never Let Me Go**  
by *Kazuo Ishigura*



April 25, 2007  
**Reluctant Genius,**  
Inventor: the  
Passionate Life and Mind of  
Alexander  
Graham Bell  
by *Charlotte Gray*



May 30, 2007  
**Iran Awakening**  
by *Shinin Ebadi*



Contact Irene Kitchell 416-733-8711

# Kathleen Elliott Lights our Way

by Helen Wiber



## KATHLEEN THE ARTIST

When a decorating touch is required, Kathleen is the one. An artist in her own right, an accomplished painter and weaver, she lends her talents to enhance our events, and often she finishes our luncheon tables with seasonal flowers from her garden.

## KATHLEEN THE TRAVELLER

Her love of life, expressed through her extensive travels, is released in her paintings, photographs and her travel lectures. To celebrate her over-ninety status, she recently booked a Mediterranean Cruise and we, in District 23, are looking forward to her pictures and commentary in one of our monthly Travelogues.

## KATHLEEN THE BRIDGE PLAYER

Kathleen remains a formidable opponent at the bridge table too. In each issue of this publication, we publish the names of those players who successfully bid and make Slam contracts, and Kathleen's name appears regularly.

## KATHLEEN THE GARDENER

Through the years, she has won prizes for her vegetables as a member of the Thornhill Horticultural Society, and in all she takes on, we see that competitive spirit in her eyes.

Experts say that each of us should have a model of excellence at least 25 years older to light our way. In District 23, we've got one!

In her 92nd year, she remains an RTO/ERO executive member, is active in her community and busy with her son and grandchildren.

Our Lady, Kathleen Elliott, has capably served RTO/ERO since her retirement in 1976 when she accepted the challenge of forming the first group of retired teachers in York Region. And then, in 1979, she moved to District 23 where she continues to volunteer.

## KATHLEEN AND RTO/ERO

In District 23, she has worn many hats but presently is our assistant treasurer, collecting entrance fees at our travelogues, welcoming most participants by name. Kathleen is also our archivist, keeping watch over our photos and records.

## KATHLEEN THE TEACHER

Those who had the pleasure of teaching with Kathleen, report that Mrs. Elliott (as she was called by students) brought out everyone's creative potential. She was also known to be frugal with materials and a professional through and through.

Since 1932, when she started

her career in her father's school in Kenora - the first Junior High in Ontario - she has given her best to her colleagues and students. Kathleen remained in her family town until she repaid her tuition costs to her family. That very typical sense of responsibility enabled her sister to further her education.

1942 saw Kathleen - as a new bride with her Air Force husband, Jack - posted to Sydney, Nova Scotia, Mont Jolie, Quebec and eventually to Toronto. At the end of Jack's tour of duty, the young couple settled in Thornhill where Jack took up a position with the Canada Farm Loan Board. Kathleen resumed her career as a teacher in the elementary panel where she remained until her retire-



*One of the many paintings that Kathleen has produced.*

ment in 1976, the same year in which she was awarded *The Best Teacher Award* in North York. What a way to end a distinguished career!

Her retirement party was a large celebration. Many colleagues, family and friends turned out to honour her long and successful career. But never one to relax, Kathleen began teaching in Art Schools for the Department of Education and with the University of Toronto evening art classes. She continued until 1986.

Kathleen also remains busy with Alpha Delta Kappa, fund-raising for underprivileged children. Moreover, she spends time with her son, Richard, her granddaughter, Catherine and her two energetic great grandchildren: Jacob, three and one year old, Emma.

Our lady Kathleen is our model of excellence, lighting the way in District 23, North York. ❖

## Blue Jays

There will be another Blue Jays Game for members on Sunday, August 19, 2007. Tickets on the 100 level, third base side, that normally sell for \$44 are available to Districts for \$30, which includes a small donation to the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, on behalf of RTO/ERO. Watch for details about ticket purchase in the Spring 2007 Renaissance and the June Stony Bridges.

## Member's Only Website

Member's Website at [www.rto-ero.org](http://www.rto-ero.org) (See *Winter 2006 Renaissance*, page 21 for more information on the RTO/ERO Website) Visit and register using your nine digit membership number to obtain information that is only available to members such as: 45 Fact Sheets on very pertinent topics to you, TaxTips for 2006 (also available in hard copy from Liz Timms at RTO/ERO- 416 962 9463), the Monthly District Updater (from the Executive), and other information that you may deem important.

### Horse's Head, Paris, France

Incongruous  
gilded horse's head  
stuck on  
very urbane urban apartment  
building  
indicating nothing  
reflecting nothing  
mouth open  
neighing passersby  
with plaintive request  
for liberation  
to countryside

Elka Enola



*Vic and Bev Suzuki, avid bridge players and our refreshment coordinators for the Travelogue series.*

Andree Notrage

# Chalkdust Memories

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*Farcical and humorous tales submitted by our readers*

## Deutschland uber Allen

*by Allen Strike*

Teachers who had fought in the Second World War were given teaching credits equal to their years away in the forces. This was the proper thing for the nation to do. Sometimes the veterans did not return to teaching immediately and so they would mention their war experience when they were interviewed for a position. On one occasion a teaching applicant asked the interviewer if his time in the forces could be added as experience. The answer was, "Of course! What branch of the services were you in?" "The Luftwaffe," was the reply. I don't know if this story is true but maybe somebody should have said that the credits were intended for people on our side.

It will be a hundred years before the Germans are given credit for their remarkable adventure which was the Second World War. To have produced all the modern weapons: guns, tanks, planes, rockets, battleships, and a thoroughly brilliant organization to go with it, in only ten years was an outstanding achievement. In addition, they took on the forces of Britain, the Commonwealth and eventually, the United States. If they had put Russia on hold for a while I think that they might well have got away with the whole escapade. The Americans, from 1939

right up to Pearl Harbour in 1942, were 4 to 1 opposed to entering the European war even though they provoked it with their idiotic reparation demands after the First World War. This is not to excuse the Germans; it was right to fight them, but we can still admire a worthy opponent.

My worthy German opponent was young Manfred who came to the school half way through the first term. He had come from Germany to live with his mother. His father was still



over there. I was not conscious of him until I got reports about his disappearing for two or three periods at a time. He always came back. Manfred was clean-cut; he did not adopt the uniform of a fashionable malcontent and was very polite. He did not actually click his heels but I always felt that he wanted to. At our first meeting he agreed that he had left the school without permis-

sion but that he was feeling unwell and had gone home to make some garlic tea. I had not heard of garlic tea but he claimed that it is good for what ails you. He assured me that he was now feeling much better. I made the usual sounds and he promised to conform. Manfred continued to be truant and I would phone him at home to get him back in.

One day, after Manfred's class had left, an electronic tuner was found to be missing from the Music Room. Manfred was no longer with us but I

called his home and got him to return to school. I did not ask him if he took the tuner, I asked him where it was. Matter of factly, he said that he had buried it in a field beside his house. We got it back. Shortly afterwards he moved to Newmarket. In those days, many of my problems migrated to Newmarket because there was a great deal of affordable new

housing there. I often imagined what a hell hole was developing in the north but it allowed me a change of adversaries. I thought that this was the last of him but I was to see him again at Toronto Airport, by surprise. He appeared at the table where I was sitting with my brother. Manfred was on his way back to his father in Germany, he said. He thanked me for all my help. I

was not sure what that meant but I replied, "It was my pleasure, Manfred. When next I hear of you I am sure it will be through Interpol." He seemed to like that a lot and, with the insouciance of Cary Grant, left – or I think he did.

Jürgen was not an opponent. He was, and is, a teacher friend - although I have not seen him for many years. I hope that he recognizes that I write with great affection.

During and after the war, I used to watch the newsreels and wonder what happened to all the twisted mass of bridges, towers, and military hardware, left behind by the fighting. I was to discover the answer when I met Jürgen, thirty years later. His father, along with others, was a scrap metal dealer in Vienna who bought and scrapped the detritus of war. Jürgen grew up in this world and so never saw a piece of metal that he did not like. He was genetically programmed to scrap metal. On one occasion, his father saved young Jürgen from obliteration when he found him atop a wrecked tank, armed with a

giant cutting torch, and trying to burn off the gun. Papa found that there was a live shell in the breach and if little Jürgen went on doing what he was doing there was going to be eine grosse explosion.

Occasionally, I would ride to the university with Jürgen. On Bayview Avenue South the road runs alongside the Don River. Spanning the river, down there, is an old railway bridge which is cut off from both sides. It just sits and rusts. Jürgen said that he wanted the scrap metal in this bridge. We would discuss the cost of massive barges, cranes, men, and where he would put the thing while he cut it up. In the end we decided that it was a hare-brained scheme and that is why the bridge is still there.

There were other schemes but my favourite has to be the tree transplanting idea. He had bought a large house in the country. Some referred to it as a castle because it had a turret. Over coffee one morning Jürgen said that there was a row of trees in the way

of his planned changes to the landscape and he wanted them moved. He said matter of factly, that he was thinking of using dynamite. I said that I knew that pioneer farmers sometimes cleared land using dynamite but you had to be careful to not use too much. Pierre Burton's father had turned a considerable acreage of forest into a cratered wasteland by using too much of the jelly. Jürgen said that he did not want to destroy the trees; he simply wanted to move them over a little; transplant them in fact. Close questioning revealed that his idea was to use dynamite to blow the trees out of their holes and drop them into prepared holes fifty yards away. I had to point out that this violent disconnection between tree and earth would destroy the roots and the trees would not flourish. Added to this there was a question of control of the trajectory and attitude of the arboreal projectile. An upside down tree fifty feet wide of the target just will not do. Germans are always thinking of new and more efficient ways to do things. God bless their little cotton socks. ❖

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## When I am an Old Woman

*By Jenny Joseph*

When I am an old woman I shall wear purple  
With a red hat which doesn't go and doesn't suit me.  
And I shall spend my pension on brandy  
and summer gloves  
And satin sandals and say we've no money for butter.  
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired  
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells  
And run my stick along the public railings  
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.  
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain  
And pick the flowers in other people's gardens  
And learn to spit.

## When I am an Old Man

*By Al Strike*

When I am an old man I shall not shave regularly  
Or change my shirt - unless the food droppings  
plug the buttonholes  
I shall wear odd socks and wear two different shoes  
I shall leer when I like  
and not apologize for breaking wind  
I shall cry in my beer and  
tell sad stories of the death of kings  
And claim quotations as my own  
I shall show my children's children  
the things that are not there any more  
And answer the telephone unpleasantly  
I reserve the right to shout at speeding cars  
And strange old women  
who pick the flowers in my garden.

# Retired Teachers of Ontario Offer \$1000 Scholarship for Education Students.

The Retired Teachers of Ontario/les enseignantes et enseignants retraités de l'Ontario Scholarship Program awards up to 25 individual scholarships annually of \$1,000 each. These scholarships are intended to encourage and provide financial assistance to applicants who are **pursuing full-time or part-time careers in teaching from an accredited teacher training facility.**

To be eligible, a student must be:

- ~ enrolled in a full or part-time program, which will directly lead to a career in teaching in Canada;
- ~ a resident Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant;
- ~ a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, grandniece, grandnephew, son-in-law,

daughter-in-law or step child of an RTO/ERO member.

Please note that this scholarship program is intended to only assist applicants pursuing a career in teaching from an accredited teacher training facility. Examples of eligible programs include: concurrent BA/BEd university programs and programs leading to BEd qualification.

## Application Process

To be considered for one of the Scholarships, eligible students must:

- ~ fully complete and forward all pages of the Application Form\*;
- ~ prepare type-written answers to each of the questions listed on page three and forward with your Application form

~ include evidence of enrollment in a program **which will directly lead to a full or part-time career in teaching in Canada;**

~ forward the completed Application with all necessary attachments by fax, e-mail or mail before **the close of business on July 16, 2007.**

\* Application forms are available at: [www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org](http://www.rtoerotorontodistricts.org) or call 416-962-9463.

## Selection Process

The Scholarship Committee will review all eligible applications on or before September 30, 2007 and select up to twenty-five applicants to receive scholarships for \$1,000 each. Successful applicants will be notified on or before October 31, 2007.

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# Letter to the Editor

Dear Rob:

In November 2006, I went on a two-week historical tour to South Africa. The trip was organized by John Plumpton, a former history teacher and administrator for the North York Board of Education. Mel Prideaux, a former Assistant Director of Education in North York, was also on the trip.

The principal focus of the trip was to trace the footsteps of Winston Churchill in South Africa and to visit the Battlefields of the Anglo-Boer War. However, we also went to Sabi Sabi

Game Lodge in Kruger National Park to view the animals in their native setting. And although we saw a great variety of animals, the lions proved to be elusive; a leopard was the only member of the cat family that we sighted on our various safaris into the bush.

The following limerick was written and read to our group at our gala farewell dinner in the Livingstone Dining Room at The Victoria Falls Hotel, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Carole A. Martyn



Out of Africa or  
The Case of the Missing Lion

A lion from near Sabi Sabi,  
Resembled an overgrown tabby;  
Tourists drove there to see,  
But he hid in a tree,  
Making all of them terribly crabby!



# How To Protect Our Identification In The Loss Of a Wallet

---

by Mary Ellen Lawless

**W**hen ordering cheques, use initials rather than the full name with which you sign your cheques. If your cheques are lost or stolen, they can not be forged as only your bank will know how you sign your cheques.

Rather than signing the back of credit cards, write "photo ID required."

If you write cheques to pay credit card accounts, record only the last four numbers of the account on the face of the cheque.

Photocopy the front and back of all the contents of your wallet and place in a safe location along with the toll free numbers to call if your wallet is lost or stolen. Call the police immediately.

They will provide you with an incidence report number, which you can quote to exonerate you from having to pay for any purchases made in your name after the cards were stolen/lost.

There are two national credit reporting organizations, which you need to notify if you have a lost or stolen wallet: Equifax Canada: 1-877-249-2705 and TransUnion: 1-877-525-3823

These two organizations will place a fraud alert on your name and social insurance number. Therefore, any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they will contact you to authorize any new credit requests.

If you are approached in a store by a person asking you questions about

a product or item, ignore that person and turn around to see who is behind you trying to lift your wallet from your purse/pocket. This happened to me and

---

**...They [the police] will provide you with an incidence report number, which you can quote to exonerate you from having to pay for any purchases made in your name after the cards were stolen/lost...**

I can tell you from experience that the major department/grocery stores do not have a protocol in place for handling reported thefts. A theft is treated very casually, nor do these stores train their staffs to follow a set procedure in this situation. Because of this lax attitude malls are a thieves' paradise.

Finally, never carry your social insurance card with you. If you are asked for your SIN, ask WHY. It should be reserved for legal documents only. ❖

## FAIR VOTE CANADA

with Dr. Joe Murray

Sponsored by

RTO District 23, North York

**Thursday March 22, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.**

**Mitchell Field Community Centre**

**89 Church Avenue, North York.**

(East off Yonge St., south of Finch Ave.)

*Free Parking.*

**\$5.00**

(to cover the cost of the refreshments)

***Dr. Joe Murray will discuss options to the current method of voting for our provincial government.***

For more information about Fair Vote Canada

<http://www.fairvote.ca>

*~See page 26 for registration form*

# A Lesson on Long Term Care from the Ontario Health Coalition (OHC)

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Many of you have heard or will be hearing about the campaign by some of the long term care homes, organized through the Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA). The OLTCA is the lobby group for the industry that includes the bulk of for-profit long term care homes.

The lobby group for the non-profits is the Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors (OANHSS).

We have heard about the campaign that is being undertaken across the province regarding long term care. We have some concerns about this campaign. When reviewing the information and participating in campaigns regarding long term care homes- residents, family members and careworkers should be aware of the following:

1) There are several funding envelopes for facility operators provided by the government including: a) nursing and personal care, b) programs and support services. and c) accommodation

Only in the accommodation envelope do the facilities keep funding if they do not spend it all. In the nursing & personal care and programs and services envelopes the homes must return funding received from the government if it exceeds what they spend. In the for-profit facilities this means that the accommodation envelope is the one from which they can take profits. This is the envelope also into which premiums charged for private and semi-private beds go.

Over the years, the operators have done a number of things to shift costs from the accommodation envelope into the nursing and personal support envelope, including moving incontinence supplies, moving costs for building cameras and surveillance

equipment, and shifting the work of accommodation staff to personal support staff. The fewer the costs in the accommodation envelope, the more room for profit-taking. In recent years, the government made the operators move incontinence supplies and surveillance and security costs back into the accommodation envelope so that nursing and personal care funds were not siphoned off into these other items. Remember the fee increase under the Conservative government? Those fees go into the accommodation envelope.

This information is important, since adequate care requires adequate funding in the nursing and personal care envelope to ensure that there are enough staff to provide reasonable levels of care. You might want to be aware about this when deciding whether to participate in campaigns that are directed towards increasing money for the profit seeking activities of the private homes.

2) You will hear more about the issue of funding older homes for structural compliance or capital needs (capital means the buildings). You should be aware that of Ontario's long term care beds: a) 36,000 beds are getting \$10.35 per day per bed (termed "A" & "D" homes), and b) 35,000 beds are getting from \$2.50 - \$5.00 per day per bed (termed "B" & "C" homes).

C homes are not in compliance with standards that were set 35 years ago (in 1972). They have been receiving structural compliance funding for years. The question is what have they done with it? B homes meet 1972 structural compliance standards but are not up to the 1998 standard.

3) The proposed new Long Term Care Act is going to turn the current system from annual licences to licences guaranteed for 5- 12 years. The government says it is committed to a

more rigorous renewal process at the longer interval. There is nothing in the legislation to say that homes will not have their licenses renewed at that time. Or it may well be that the government chooses to move homes to where there is more need or to adjust the balance of non-profit to for-profit homes down the road. Bottom line- the older facilities will have a longer guaranteed license than they have currently under the proposed legislation.

The Ontario Health Coalition, working with the Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens' Organizations and Concerned Friends of Ontarians in Long Term Care Facilities has come up with a substantial list of key issues identified for the protection of residents, families and careworkers in the facilities (the detailed list is available from the OHC)- you will see that a number of these items have been addressed in the draft legislation. However, we believe critical to government and facility accountability is the necessity for minimum care guarantees. For example: we shall be working to achieve a clear, enforceable, guaranteed minimum care standard as indicated in the item below as the legislation progresses:

A province-wide minimum staffing standard that ensures sufficient hands-on staff to provide a minimum of 3.5 hours per day of nursing and personal care per day per resident. This is to reach the goal of prevention of risk, it is not an optimum. Increases in staffing should be shared proportionately among all members of the health care team. The government must fund and set standards for specialty units or facilities for persons with cognitive impairment who have been assessed as potentially aggressive, and staff them with sufficient numbers of appropriately trained workers.

Some other key points to consider are:

1. Currently there are 49,700 nursing home beds of which about 10,200 are non profit. Currently there are 24,700 homes for the aged and rest home beds of which 16,700 are public (municipal) and the rest are non profit (8,000). (Total figures: 39,500 for profit, 18,200 non-profit, 16,700 public.) These beds are governed by three Acts: The Nursing Homes Act, The Charitable Institutions Act, and The Homes for the Aged and Rest Homes Act. Under the Harris government, the Red Tape Commission recommended that the three existing Acts be rolled into one. Since then, there have been reports that the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care has been drafting a new Act. Bill 140 - An Act Respecting Long Term Care Homes is the new Long Term Care Act which repeals the three existing acts and replaces them.

2. There is no obligation for the government to provide for and fund access to long term care. In fact, the fundamental principle in the previous Acts stated that homes should be run to adequately meet the needs of the residents. This is now removed. In all the sections of the act that deal with admissions and standards there is no obligation of the Ministry to provide access to care and adequately meet the care needs of residents.

3. Many of the standards and other provisions of the Act will be set out in regulations. But there is no requirement for the government to consult on the regulations. We are advocating for a consultation process. ❖

Ontario Health Coalition

15 Gervais Drive, Suite 305,

Toronto, ON M3C 1Y8

tel: 416-441-2502 fax: 416-441-4073

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

[ohc@sympatico.ca](mailto:ohc@sympatico.ca)

# DRAYTON FESTIVAL THEATRE

PRESENTS

## CASH ON DELIVERY

A RICH BRITISH FARCE



*For years, Eric Swan has made a living cheating the National Welfare Agency by claiming benefits for imaginary residents of his household- all of whom supposedly suffer from various ailments and disabilities. When Eric decides that his scheme has become too complicated and his conscience begins to get the better of him, he tries to extricate himself from the dicey situation by killing off his fictitious tenants. A delightfully wacky comedy of errors that will have you howling with laughter from start to finish.*

### Tuesday May 29th, 2007

(Cut-Off Date: May 1)

### \$86

Cost includes: Coach, Lunch and Show.

Tickets and name tags will be given out on coach

8:45 a.m.	Board coach at Willowdale United Church
11:15 a.m.	Arrival at Anna Mae's for a wonderful home style lunch
1:15 p.m.	Board coach for theatre
2:00 p.m.	Enjoy "Cash on Delivery" A Rich British Farce.
4:15 p.m.	Depart for home. Arrive at approximately 6:15p.m.

~See page 27 for Registration Form

# Membership Report

From September 30, 2006

by Jean Wilson

As of January 1, 2007, we are pleased to report that District 23, North York has 2095 members. Your executive welcomes all new members who have retired in October, November and December, 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.

Every effort has been made to contact all new members and welcome them to District 23, North York. Newsletters are sent to all new members shortly after our monthly updates have been received.

## OCTOBER 2006:

William Anderson, Eva Angyal, Isabelle Basmajian, Fred Berg, Margaret Branscombe, Navo Chinoy, Nancy Janitsch, Aida Kidikian, Rosalind B. Lofsky, Caitriona Ni Chadllaidhe, Carmen V. Sergeant, Marian J Yorke

## NOVEMBER 2006:

Robert Garland, Ann Hochkirchen, Elizabeth Legate, Bonnie O'Brien, Maria C. Piane, Lynn Rowland, David Simpson, Teresa M. Tedesco

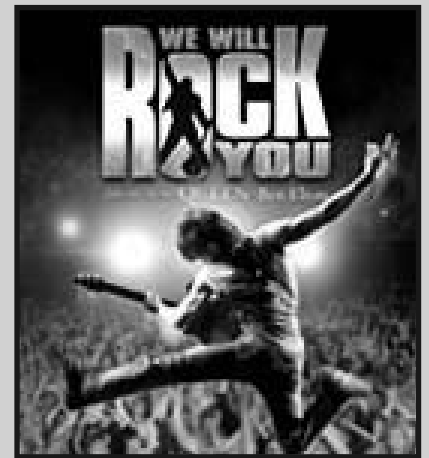
## DECEMBER 2006:

June Cooper, Ruth McDonald, Rhoda Schwartz, Anu Sepp, Kaja Telmet, Mai-Liis Toome, Paul Waldman

## In Memoriam

We regret to inform you that some of our members have passed away. Our condolences go to family and friends and we hope they will find comfort in fond memories of days gone by.

Margaret Branscombe	28/09/2006
Ken J Drew	13/09/2006
Harold P. Greaves	17/09/2006
Lillian Groves	03/09/2006
Isobel E. Wilkinson	21/09/2006
James F. Beveridge	25/10/2006
Rita A. Broger	25/10/2006
Anita H. Cohen	29/10/2006
Thomas V Dobson	19/11/2005
Frances Kelly	05/10/2006
Margaret C. Kinlin	17/10/2006
Margaret E. Peterson	11/04/2006
Zavitz Audrey Sheldrick	30/10/2006
Horace J. (Jim) Bayley	14/11/2006
Wesley A Morris	24/11/2006
C. Sydney White	05/11/2006



*We Will Rock You has been London's No. 1 show since opening in May 2002. It tells the story of a future Earth where globalization has eliminated all creativity and idiosyncrasy. Set 300 years in the future, everyone watches the same movies, wears the same clothes and thinks the same thoughts.*

*All musical instruments are banned. But resistance is growing. A hero is needed. Is the one who calls himself Galileo that man and can he help them break free?*

## SATURDAY MATINEE

**APRIL 14, 2007**

*(Cut Off Date~March 1, 2007)*

AT 2 P. M.

**\$80.00**

**Canon Theatre  
244 Victoria St.**

Meet Doug -  
who will have your ticket -  
at the Victoria St. entrance  
after 1:25 p.m.

*~See page 26 for registration form*

YOU AND THE 3 R'S-  
(REDUCE, REUSE,  
RECYCLE)

PROS AND CONS OF:  
INCINERATION,  
GASIFICATION,  
LAND FILL,  
PACKAGING,

## WASTE MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY,  
APRIL 19, 2007

CUT-OFF DATE:  
APRIL 5, 2007

COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
NORTH YORK CIVIC  
CENTRE

10 A.M.-12 NOON  
DOORS OPEN AT 9:00  
FOR REFRESHMENTS

**\$15**

### FEATURING:

JEFF RATHBONE FROM  
WASTE MANAGEMENT,  
CITY OF TORONTO,  
AND PROFESSOR  
BILL GOODING ON  
ALTERNATIVES

SPONSORED BY THE  
POLITICAL ACTION  
COMMITTEES OF THE  
FOUR TORONTO DISTRICTS

SEE PAGE 26 FOR  
REGISTRATION FORM

CONCERNED ABOUT GARBAGE?

# North York Strollers

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.

*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.

- March 1 *York University*  
Student Services Building  
(off Keele onto Pond Rd)  
Public transit recommended -  
limited paid parking
- April 5 *Earl Bales Park*  
Parking Lot - off Bathurst south  
of Sheppard on east side
- May 3 *Edwards Gardens*  
Parking Lot - Lawrence and  
Leslie
- June 7 *Centre Island*  
Ferry Docks (meet at 9:45am.  
The ferry leaves at 10:00 am.)

*For more information and/or directions please call*

*Beatrice Connelly  
416-482-9032 or  
Margaret Schuman  
at 416-924-0267.*

*If you're running late one morning, call to tell us you're coming, and we will delay the start of the walk. We're easy to get along with.*

# A First for District 23- An “Antiques Evaluation” Opportunity

On a gorgeous day in mid-November, about eighty members of District 23 gathered at the Thornhill Golf and Country Club to show off their prized antiques and collectibles and to hear three expert evaluators tell the audience a little about the most unique pieces and what their value would be in today’s market. What a thrill it was just to view the wide range of objects from old musical instruments to paintings, gold watches, china, and even a collection of exquisitely carved either ivory or walrus’ tusks in the shape of tiny fish! No one present could determine their use. During the “make your own salad and sandwich” lunch, the three evaluators spent

quality time with individuals who wanted more detailed information about their precious objects. This event was so popular that many attendees asked that it be repeated. ❖

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**...What a thrill it was just to view the wide range of objects from old musical instruments to paintings, gold watches, china, and even a collection of exquisitely carved either ivory or walrus’ tusks in the shape of tiny fish!**

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Andree Norrage

**RETIREMENT PLANNING WORKSHOPS**

THE RTO/ERO  
TORONTO DISTRICTS IN  
CONJUNCTION WITH THE  
TORONTO DISTRICT  
SCHOOL BOARD AND  
THE TORONTO  
CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL  
BOARD PRESENT:  
A RETIREMENT  
PLANNING WORKSHOP.

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE  
FOLLOWING:

(I) SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 24, 2007,  
BLUE DANUBE  
RESTAURANT,  
SCARBOROUGH  
9:30 AM - 12:00 NOON

OR

(II) WEDNESDAY,  
APRIL 18, 2007,  
DON BOSCO C.S.S.,  
ETOBICOKE  
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**COST: \$10**

*REFRESHMENTS SERVED*

THESE WORKSHOPS ARE  
OPEN TO ALL TORONTO  
TEACHERS.  
COME AND LEARN ABOUT  
HEALTH BENEFITS, AND  
LIVING A FULL LIFE IN  
RETIREMENT

~SEE PAGE 26 FOR  
REGISTRATION FORM

## Panama Canal Adventure

### Caring Clowns Ambassador Cruise

April 22, 2007

16 days.  
All inclusive.

Panama Canal, Columbia,  
Costa Rica  
and Mexico.

Visit schools and community health centres in the ports of call. No clown experience necessary.

Enjoy an exciting holiday, travel with a group of friendly, fun-loving people and bring a little joy to others.

Details at:

[www.craigtravel.com/caringclown-cruise](http://www.craigtravel.com/caringclown-cruise).

Contact Lynda Del Grande  
at [ldelgrande@rogers.com](mailto:ldelgrande@rogers.com)

or  
416-698-1939.

## WEB ALERT!!!

A reminder from your webmaster  
Dianne Fair.



All District 23 information can be found at the website below.

Log in for updates and to view pictures from RTO events.

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

# Richest 2% hold half the world's assets

By Chris Giles

Economics Editor of the Financial Times of London

Submitted to STONY Bridges by Helen Wiber



Personal wealth is distributed so unevenly across the world that the richest two per cent of adults own more than 50 per cent of the world's assets while the poorest half hold only 1 per cent of wealth.

A survey released on Tuesday shows that middle-income countries with high growth rates still have a long way to go before they have a hope of catching up with the levels of prosperity of the richest.

Adults with more than \$2,200 of assets were in the top half of the global wealth league table, while those with more than \$61,000 were in the top 10 per cent, according to the data from the World Institute for Development Economics Research of the United Nations University (UNU-Wider).

To belong to the top 1 per cent of the world's wealthiest adults you would need more than \$500,000, something that 37m adults have achieved.

So much of the world's wealth is concentrated in few hands that if all the world's wealth was distributed evenly, each person would have \$20,500 of assets to use.

Almost 90 per cent of the world's wealth is held in North America, Europe and high-income Asian and Pacific countries, such as Japan and Australia.

While North America has 6 per cent of the world's adult population, it accounts for 34 per cent of household wealth.

The concentration of wealth in different countries varies considerably, with the top 10 per cent in the US holding 70 per cent of the country's wealth,

compared with 61 per cent in France, 56 per cent in the UK, 44 per cent in Germany and 39 per cent in Japan.

According to Anthony Shorrocks, the director of UNU-Wider, the number of wealthy individuals in a country depends on the size of the population, the average wealth and its inequality.

"China fails to feature strongly among the super-rich because average wealth is modest and wealth is evenly spread by international standards", he said.

As countries grow richer, their population changes how it holds wealth, according to the report.

In developing countries, property, particularly land and farm assets are important, while cash savings tend to dominate in middle-income countries.

Only in certain advanced countries such as the US and the UK with developed financial sectors is there a strong appetite for holding equities and other more sophisticated financial assets.

Debt is also low in poor countries because financial institutions do not exist to allow people to borrow.

In contrast, the authors say "many people in high-income countries have negative net worth and, somewhat paradoxically, are among the poorest people in the world in terms of household wealth."

Wealth is difficult to measure even in the most advanced countries, so the research was based on painstaking compilation of aggregate and survey data for the 38 countries of the world where it exists and statistical models for the rest of the world. ❖

# Travelogues

by Guenter Sperling

## November - Israel, Ancient & Modern

by Steve Fuller

Steve's trip to Israel was full of surprises. Besides visiting the fascinating places of his forefathers, he discovered that besides the few relatives he already knew, there were literally hundreds more. His presentation high-



Andree Notrage

lighted that Israel is the cradle of three major religions (76% Jewish, 16% Muslim, 2% Christians) and it is worth noting that since Independence in 1949 all religious sites, controlled by Israel, have been open to all visitors, regardless of their religious persuasions. We saw important archeological sites, including Capharnaum - the town of Jesus -, the Caesarea viaduct and town, various Roman ruins and baths, amphitheatres, temples as well as Akko, which is one of the oldest cities in the world (1500 BC), better known as Acre. Very memorable was Masada, the well-known fortress where Eleazar ben Ya'ir and his people chose death by their own hands over becoming enslaved by the Romans.

Other interesting religious sites

were the tomb of King David, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Kotel, known as the Western or Wailing Wall, included subterranean tunnels. Baha'i Gardens with its view over Haifa was absolutely breathtaking. Some consider Baha'i Gardens to be the eighth "Wonder of the World". The historical sites included Ammunition Hill (1967 war), the Golan Heights, various cemeteries, museums and panoramic views of Jerusalem.

Steve mentioned also that Israel is a land of contemporary art. Pertinent paintings, sculptures and memorials are found all over the country; the stained glass windows by Marc Chagall at the Hadassah Hospital, being just one of many remarkable ones. Other noteworthy places were the magnificent sea caves at Rosh haNikra and Kfar Hasidim, the settlement near Haifa, founded in the mid 1920's by Steve Fuller's Grandfather's brother. But in a category by itself was the impressionable Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial.

As Steve pointed out, he had scratched only the surface during his ten day tour of Israel in May 2005, but whatever he had scratched was for many of us very revealing, educational and fascinating.

## December - The Galapagos Islands

by David Fleming

David, a former Biology teacher, introduced the talk / travelogue by giving a brief history of Charles Darwin, and his voyage to the Galapagos Islands on board the H.M.S. Beagle in 1835, and how many of his



Andree Notrage

Presenter, David Fleming with  
participant, Lee White.

observations of the finches, tortoises and other animal life provided some of the material upon which his Theory of Evolution and book "The Origin of Species" were based.

In the video film, there were a number of shots of a variety of species of finch with different shaped beaks that were adapted to the specific types of food available on the many islands visited by Darwin. However, the finch is a relatively small bird compared to the numerous other birds some with beautiful colours and interesting behaviour patterns. We saw the large black male frigate with its enormous puffed up red chest to attract its mate, blue-footed boobies, flightless penguins and cormorants, long-legged pink flamingos, and the majestic albatross with six-foot wingspan soaring through the air. The courting behaviour of the albatross was also interesting to watch as well as seeing a baby albatross wait long periods of time for its parents to return with food.

Of the many mammals shown: numerous sea lions, sea turtles and brightly coloured lizards, perhaps the most interesting were the tortoises.



There are eleven species of tortoise, each one found on a different island, apart from the ones raised on tortoise "farms" or at the Charles Darwin Research Station. Some of the tortoises weigh up to 500 pounds (225 kg.) and may be 150 years old.

The sea lions exhibited almost human-like behaviour patterns. When a one week-old pup strayed too far from its mother, she let out quite a howl until the pup managed to find his way back to mother in order to nurse.

The trip to the Galapagos Islands was a new experience for many in the audience ❖

## Travelogues

### A Taste of Tibet

by Jack Bennet  
Tuesday, March 6  
1:30 p.m.

### Portugal

by Irvin Patterson  
Tuesday, April 3  
1:30 p.m.

### The Best Wilderness Parks

by Stan Bain  
Tuesday, May 1  
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 famous lucky draw.*

# Shaw FESTIVAL 07

## MACK AND MABEL

A Jerry Herman Musical - (Composer of Hello Dolly! and Mame)

*A musical about the movies - the early days, as the walkies became talkies - featuring larger-than-life Mack Sennett and his galaxy of stars.*

## FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2007

*(Cut-Off Date - April 2, 2007)*

### \$95.00

*Includes : bus (\$30), theatre ticket(\$35) and lunch(\$30)  
Tickets will be distributed at the bus.*

### Lunch at the Lake House Restaurant in Vineland, Ontario

*(Meal choices: Roast Beef, Chicken Breast OR Penna Polo)*

9:30 a.m.	Leave Willowdale United Church
11:30 a.m.	Lunch in Vineland
12:45 p.m.	Leave for Niagara-on-the-Lake
2:00 p.m.	Performance of Mack and Mabel
7:00 p.m.	Arrive back at Willowdale United

*~See page 27 for registration form*

# Tear Offs

Please write separate cheques for each event. Cheques may be post dated for the Cut-Off date.

## Retirement Planning Workshops

I wish to attend the RPW at:  
a) Blue Danube, February 24, 2007 \_\_\_\_  
b) Don Bosco C.S.S., April 18, 2007 \_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:tacaster@rogers.com) Phone: 416 751-9629

## FAIR VOTE CANADA Thursday March 22, 2007

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$5.00 per person = \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheque payable to **RTO/ERO District 23** and send to:  
**Michael Sheffe, 38 Kingsbridge Circle, Thornhill, ON, L4J 8N7**  
or if you prefer email send information to : [msheffe@rogers.com](mailto:msheffe@rogers.com) and pay \$5.00 per person at the door.

## WE WILL ROCK YOU (at the Canon Theatre) Friday April 14, 2007 (Cut Off Date - March 1, 2007)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$80.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ Cheque enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Waste Management Symposium Thursday, April 19, 2007 (cut off date: April 5, 2007)

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

Make cheque payable to **RTO/ERO Toronto Districts** and mail to  
**David Shanoff, 39 Regal Rd. Toronto, M6H 2J6**

MACK AND MABEL (at The Shaw Festival)

Friday, May 4, 2007

(Cut-Off Date - April 2, 2007)

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

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

Meal Choices: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ tickets @ \$95.00 = \_\_\_ Cheque enclosed for \$ \_\_\_ (You may post date the cheque April 2, 2007)

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

"Cash on Delivery" - A Rich British Farce (at the Drayton Theatre)

Tuesday May 29, 2007

(Cut-Off date: May 1st)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests \_\_\_\_\_

# of tickets \_\_\_ @ \$86.00 = \_\_\_

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

4th Annual Golf Tournament

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Golfer #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer #3: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer #4: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Power Cart Please: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Pedometers

Number Pedometers Ordered

1 @ \$26.00 = \$26.00 or \_\_\_ (2 or more) @ \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 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.

## 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](http://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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