



DISTRICT 33 CHATHAM-KENT

TAKE THREE

www.rto-ero33.org

WINTER 2012

2011-2012 Executive



Standing from left to right - Hank Lalonde, Joanne Murphy, Dennis Hill, Paul Brown, Doreen Edwards and Lynn Moir. Seated Cathy Telfer.

INSIDE

- President's Message
- Excursions
- Free Software
- Scholarship Application
- Upcoming Events
- Curling
- Volunteer Appreciation
- A Few Stats
- Thank You
- Turning 65

Photographs

courtesy of
Gale Lovell

SPRING SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

CLUB LENTINAS

Registration and Coffee	9:30
Business	10:00
Volunteer Appreciation Awards	10:20
Guest Speaker: Gordon Cressy	10:45
Charity Draws and Door Prizes	11:30
Luncheon	11:45

**Cost: \$15.00 includes registration fee (Subsidized by District 33)
\$3.00 for those attending meeting only**

Note: You are welcome to bring a guest for the same price as your ticket. Please advise your caller. The proceeds of this year's charity draw will go to the Salvation Army.

EXECUTIVE

Past-president	Cathy Telfer	ctelfer@sympatico.ca	519.351.4378
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Social/Recreation	Theresa Dorion	trdorion@hotmail.com	519.352.8486

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 16

Deadline for newsletter submissions

MAY 16-17

Spring Senate

MAY 23

Spring Meeting

JUNE 7

Stratford Trip

SEPTEMBER 4

*"To H*** with the Bell" Breakfast*

SEPTEMBER 17

Deadline for newsletter submissions

SEPTEMBER 26-27

Autumn in Niagara

OCTOBER 17

Annual Meeting

OCTOBER 23-24

Fall Senate

TBA

Wine Tour

MOVED? CHANGED YOUR MAILING ADDRESS?

LET RTO/ERO KNOW!

CONTACT:

RTO/ERO PROVINCIAL OFFICE

18 Spadina Road, Suite 300
Toronto, ON M5R 2S7

Dianne Vezeau

1-800-361-9888. ext. 223

or email dvezeau@rto-ero.org

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Paul Brown, President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In getting ready to write this message, I did some research. I read the messages from Cathy Telfer and Adriann Pieters, my immediate two predecessors. In both cases, there was mention of snow. I do recall that we had some serious snow in late 2010, with people stranded overnight on highway 402. So it is with much delight that I enjoy this snow-free weather in the first weeks of January, 2012. Of course, having taught for 30 years in Sioux Lookout in North Western Ontario, where there was usually snow on the ground by Halloween, and -40°C was not uncommon, most winter weather “down south” here in Chatham Kent is good winter weather. I do admit that fog in January is still a bit hard to handle and it is too damp! I also know that many of our members are enjoying much nicer weather in a wide variety of warm locales all over the world. The joys of retirement!

As is traditional, this issue details the Travel Committee's plans for the coming year. I hope that you will consider taking part in one or more of these well-planned, fun excursions.

Congratulations go out to Emily Taylor, daughter of District 33 member John Taylor. Emily was awarded a \$1000 RTO/ERO Scholarship to attend a faculty of education in Canada.

A few years ago, the results of a member survey showed that our members were active volunteers in over 70 organizations within Chatham-Kent. I remember being very impressed and proud to be part of such an active group. I am certain that our members continue to be actively involved in their community, wherever they may reside in Chatham-Kent. At our Semi-Annual meeting in May, we will be honouring a few of our members for their fine efforts as volunteers. If you know of a fellow member who is deserving of this recognition, please contact Joanne Murphy, 2nd VP.

Our Semi-Annual meeting takes place on Wednesday, May 23. Our guest speaker will be **Gordon Cressy**, the Director of Advancement and Fundraising for the new RTO/ERO Charitable Foundation. Gordon is a wonderful speaker and will bring us up to date on the Foundation and the fundraising initiatives that Gordon and his Board have in place. We are going back to a luncheon format for this meeting, based on feedback from members.

Our “Bell” breakfast will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 4. If you have not attended any of our District meetings lately, why not join us for breakfast and help us welcome and congratulate our new retirees. I originally became involved in RTO/ERO to meet some new folks, who shared common interests. I certainly have never regretted that decision.

DO YOU KNOW AN OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER?

Nominations for the Volunteer Appreciation Awards are being accepted by the District Awards Committee. Volunteers are critical for the success of our communities and organizations. Please take this opportunity to nominate someone you know who has donated time and energy to make life better for others in our community.

Criteria for this award include:

- current member of RTO/ERO,
- volunteer, not remunerated,
- a variety of activities i.e. athletics, arts, social agencies, children's programs, school support etc.

Please submit the name of the person to be considered and a description of his/her volunteer activities, along with your name and phone number by March 1, 2011 to:

Joanne Murphy
602-89 Riverview Drive
Chatham ON N7M 6A4



Gale Lovell and Edwinna Rawlings
set up registration for Curling

AUTUMN IN NIAGARA

September 26 and 27, 2012 • Cost: \$260.00

Once again join us for an exceptional value filled get away to Niagara Falls and Niagara on the Lake. Your first day begins with a comfortable motor coach ride to Queenston Height's Restaurant overlooking the Niagara River for a delicious lunch followed by the classic enjoyable "Misalliance" at the Royal George Theatre in Niagara on the Lake. We spend the night in the Clifton Hill district of Niagara Falls where there's lots to see and do. Day two brings you back to visit Shaw's Festival Theatre and the powerful musical production of "Ragtime". We stop for dinner at Tucker's Market Restaurant in Burlington on the relaxing journey home.

Our accommodations are based on double occupancy and the cost is \$260.00 each. As outlined, this trip includes your transportation, both theatre tickets, accommodations, Wednesday lunch, Thursday continental breakfast and evening dinner as well as all gratuities. For your lunch at Queenston choose from one these four choices: grilled chicken breast, baked Atlantic salmon, roast prime rib of beef or Portobello mushroom ravioli.

Please note for those with mobility issues that even though our theatre seats are excellent most tickets are in the balcony. Unfortunately, there is no elevator.

BOOKING PROCEDURE

Please phone your reservation to Diane Watson 519-351-1397 and follow immediately with your payment to Joan Durdan-Fitzpatrick 153 Goldpark, Chatham, ON. N7M 4XL.

You may post date your cheque to August 15th. Each RTO member is allowed to bring a non member friend but after August 1st bookings will be open to all, if there are still vacancies.

Important cancellation note: If after registration circumstances find you cannot attend, please immediately phone **Diane Watson 519-351-1397** to check for a waiting list. If not, then you are responsible for finding a substitute or forfeiting your payment.

We are now asking you to **include your email address in your registration**. This will help speed up the process in communicating with you. Please check your email for any updates and reminders.

TRAVEL SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2012

- 7:30 Depart Thames Campus Chatham (return approx 11:00pm Thurs.)
- 7:55 Depart beside Tim Horton's Blenheim (return approx. 10:40pm Thurs.)
- 8:15 Depart behind Shopper's Ridgetown (return approx. 10:20pm Thurs)
- 12:00 Queenston Height's Luncheon
- 2:00 Niagara on the Lake for Shaw's "Misalliance" at the Royal George Theatre
- 5:30 Check-in "Travelodge At The Falls", Clifton Hill, Niagara Falls
Dinner and evening on your own

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2012

- Continental breakfast at hotel
- 9:30 Depart for NOL shopping district for exploring and lunch on own
- 2:00 Festival Theatre "Ragtime"
- 5:30 Dinner at "Tucker's Market" Restaurant in Burlington
- 7:30 Depart for home



REGISTRATION FOR NIAGARA TRIP 2012:

Names _____

Telephone _____

Email Address _____

Departure Location _____

Choose From Queenston Heights Lunch: Choose: [] Fish [] Chicken [] Beef [] Pasta

Number of spaces at \$260.00 each _____ **Total Amount** _____

*Mail payment & registration to Joan Durdan-Fitzpatrick, 153 Goldpark, Chatham, ON N7L 4X9



Ann and Ed Haydon at Queenston Heights.



Dinner at Tucker's Marketplace. From left - Joan Durdan-Firzpatrick, Donna and Pat Whelihan, Skaron Kornacker and Sandy Rizzetto

EXCURSION TO STRATFORD: Thursday June 7, 2012 42nd Street, Cost \$135.00

Spectacular dance routines abound in this jubilant backstage musical starring Cynthia Dale. We have only 48 A+ orchestra seats for this matinee performance at the Festival Theatre on June 7th. This popular excursion includes motor coach transportation, theatre ticket, dinner at the beautiful Elmhurst Inn (Ingersoll) and all gratuities. The cost is \$135.00 per person. Lunch is on your own in Stratford where you can enjoy the ambiance of the town and perhaps have the opportunity to shop before the performance. This trip requires a moderate amount of walking.

BOOKING PROCEDURE

Please phone your reservation to Diane Watson 519-351-1397 and your postdated cheque, must follow immediately to Joan Durdan-Fitzpatrick (You may postdate to April 30, 2012)

Each RTO member is allowed to bring a non member friend but after May1st bookings will be open to all, if there are still vacancies.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If after reserving circumstances find you cannot attend, please immediately phone Diane Watson to see if there is a waiting list. If not, then you are responsible for finding a substitute or forfeiting your payment.

We are now asking you to include your email address in your registration. This will help speed up the process in communicating with you. Please check your email for any updates and reminders.

TRAVEL SCHEDULE

- 8:00 am depart Chatham North parking lot Thames Campus (return approx.9:00 pm)
- 8:20 am depart Blenheim Tim Horton's (return approx.8:40)
- 8:40 am depart Ridgetown behind Shopper's Drug Mart (return approx.8:20)
- 2:00 pm Stratford Festival Theatre
- 5:30 pm Dinner at the Elmhurst Inn

REGISTRATION for STRATFORD 2012

Name(s) _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

Your departure location _____

Number of spaces at \$135.00 each _____ Total Amount _____

***Mail payment & registration to Joan Durdan-Fitzpatrick, 153 Goldpark, Chatham, ON N7L 4X9**

TURNING 65

Be Careful!

Many people think that, when they reach the age of 65, they no longer need Extended Health Care coverage. They believe that the provincial drug program will cover all their needs.

While the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program provides coverage for certain drugs, more than half of the drugs available in the Canadian market today are not covered by ODB. In addition, the RTO/ERO Extended Health Care Plan covers much more than prescription drugs. For example: vision care, 15 different paramedical practitioners, private duty nursing, and travel coverage (including trip cancellation and interruption/delay), just to name a few.

It is equally important to consider the type of plan you join. As an active educator, you belonged to the Board Plan which was a group plan. You can transfer from one Group Plan to another Group Plan without medical evidence. This must be done within 60 days of the termination of the Board Plan. However, many people do not realize that some plans are Individual Plans. If you join an Individual Plan you cannot transfer to a Group Plan without medical evidence. As you age, this becomes increasingly difficult. Make your decision wisely! The RTO/ERO Health Plans are Group Plans. Join us.

RTO/ER Provincial Scholarships

The Retired Teachers of Ontario are looking for students attending a Faculty of Education in Canada who wish to receive a \$1000.00 Scholarship. To qualify a student must be in attendance in a full or part-time program at a Faculty of Education in the year in which they apply and be a Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant. They must also be a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, grandniece, grandnephew, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or stepchild of an RTO/ERO member who will become their sponsor. They would apply on the RTO/ERO website and must use the RTO/ERO member's membership number. The deadline for applying is August 1 of the year they will be in attendance at the Faculty of Education.

The 2012 Scholarship Application is posted on the RTO/ERO website. The link to the application is <http://www.ero-rto.org/application>

RTO/ERO Scholarship Winner from District 33!



Congratulations to Emily Taylor, who in the fall of 2011 was awarded one of RTO/ERO's annual scholarships.

Emily is the daughter of RTO member John Taylor of Rondeau.

She is a graduate of Ridgetown District High School and Wilfred Laurier University.

Currently, Emily is continuing post-graduate studies at Niagara University in order to realize her dreams of becoming a teacher.

THANK YOU from President Paul Brown

A big thank you is extended to the members of the District 33 Executive Board and to the members of all the various District committees.

These people put in many hours planning meetings, organizing trips, keeping us up-to-date on the health and insurance plans, phoning members and sending out cards to members. At the same time they enjoy having some fun with fellow committee members.

Special thanks to Michael Murphy who organized a very successful "All Candidates" meeting before the October Provincial election.

More thanks to Cathy Telfer, Dennis Hill, Joanne Murphy and Hank Lalonde for their help in putting on the District Retirement Planning workshop in November. We always welcome new members to all of our committees.

If you would like to be part of one of these groups, please let me or one of the Executive members know. We'd love to have you take an active part within the District.

FREE OFFICE SOFTWARE

HISTORY

Microsoft Office Suite has been a staple software package for many teachers, retired or otherwise. This is probably due to the fact that the Ontario Ministry of Education purchased a license for this software to be distributed throughout its schools. Otherwise, the cost of purchasing this software package individually would have prevented most of us from using it. Teachers made good use of the programs in the suite, which included Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel.

PROBLEMS

One of the problems with Microsoft Office, besides its cost, is that each new release is not backwards compatible with the previous version. Anyone with a newer version who sends a document to someone with an older version has to make sure the file is saved as an older version or it can't be read. Another problem is that older versions were not optimized for use with newer computers and operating systems like Windows 7.

SOLUTION

Fear not, there is a convenient alternative to Microsoft Office and, best of all, it's free!

Anyone can download OpenOffice Suite, which is a free software package that runs on any computer and any operating system. OpenOffice includes programs for spreadsheets, databases, presentations as well as word processing, and graphics editing. All of its programs can import and save files in a variety of formats, including Microsoft Office and the increasingly popular PDF format. The various programs are easy to use and can perform virtually all of the same functions as those by Microsoft Office.

Not only is the entire suite free to download and use, it is regularly updated and improved. You are notified automatically when updates are available and you are given the option to download them. An added bonus is that each update is fully backwards compatible; no need to worry about whether your current version can be read by others.

You can find more information about OpenOffice at <http://www.openoffice.org> from which you can also download the entire suite.

Let's all spread the "Word".

A FEW STATS

In District 33 there are 880 Full Members and 70 Associate members for a total of 950 members. RTO/ERO has a total of 66,790 members spread out over all provinces of Canada as well as Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

2012 RTO/ERO FUNSPIEL

The curling fun spiel was held at the Chatham Granite Club on Friday Jan 20th. Thanks to the efforts of Mary Lou Wood, we had a full draw just days before the date. With a full slate but 2 cancellations, an almost full draw was played. Good fun, fellowship and food made the day memorable. In the 50/50 draw, \$98 was raised for the local food bank.



Edwinna Rawlings getting ready to throw a rock



Diane Byrnes giving location of next rock to be thrown

SURVEY

The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP) has asked Pollara to conduct a survey on its behalf with both active and retired teachers; the survey process will commence shortly. Some of the members of District 33 may be contacted by Pollara.

Members who wish to verify the legitimacy of any request to participate in this survey may contact any member of the RTO/ERO Provincial Executive or senior staff or their District President.

RAIN ON the GOLF COURSE!

Unheard of ... or is it?



Lawrence Ribey, Al Edmonds, Graham Smyth and Dick Roe waiting out the rain.



Theresa Dorion, Doreen Edwards and Linda Crawley sort out prizes.



John and Theresa Dorion setting up prize table.

RTO / ERO District 33
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