



# NEWS AT 8

The Retired Teachers of Ontario/les enseignantes et enseignants retraités de l'Ontario

[www.rto-ero-londonmiddlesex.ca](http://www.rto-ero-londonmiddlesex.ca)

FALL EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2015

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Now that summer weather and cottage time are nearly over, your Executive is looking ahead to the coming year. We have looked back at our *Teachers and Friends Night Out* with comedian Steve Brinder and other activities organized by your committee chairs. It has been a very busy year, and it's not over yet. Take a look at the events coming up, beginning with the *Annual*

*Meeting of the District* on October 8th.

Past President Doug, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, is busy putting together our team for the 2015-16 year. One of our goals has been to lighten the load for our committee chairs and make the job more fun. Teachers, especially retired teachers, have the skills (and now the time) to take part in these activities. Give some thought to volunteering some time to work with old friends this year. Or, perhaps just volunteer someone else who would be fun to work with and might have an interest to share in travel, entertainment, reading, hiking or one of our many activity groups or committees.

Another goal was to make our leadership more inclusive. That is, to try to include retired members of each of our founding Affiliates on the Executive and as members of our committees. We've made good progress, but we need help in completing the task. Don't be shy!

Members should know that our provincial RTO/ERO organization has a contract with Merit Travel to provide special deals on trips that they offer to us. We have met with the manager of their London office and will work with her to announce some of their offerings on our website and perhaps to set up a display at one of our meetings.

A number of our members have become associated with travel agencies in this area. If you and your company would be interested in setting up a display at one of our meetings, we think that our members would be pleased to talk to you. Send me an e-mail, and I'll pass it on to the Travel Committee.

*Bill*

Our new website is getting more attention all the time. Be sure to check it regularly and become a "friend" on the *Facebook* tab. We have had some lively stories and pictures of travel, but it would be good to have many more. If you have been to an interesting destination or have spent some time at a very comfortable inn in Canada or elsewhere, share it with us on *Facebook* or our *Blog* tab. Your friends may welcome getting a new idea; and will thank you for the recommendation.

Thank you to Tom Telfer for monitoring our *Facebook* page and keeping it personable and interesting.

[www.rto-ero-londonmiddlesex.ca](http://www.rto-ero-londonmiddlesex.ca)

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE [www.rto-ero-londonmiddlesex.ca](http://www.rto-ero-londonmiddlesex.ca)

### DATES TO REMEMBER

October 8<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m., District 8 Annual Luncheon Meeting - Lamplighter Inn

November 25<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m., Poinsettia Luncheon - ETFO offices - Banquet Room, 2911 Bateman Trail

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m., RTO/ERO Retirement Planning Workshop - Lamplighter Inn

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m., District 8 Spring Luncheon - Lamplighter Inn

# NEWS AT 8

Date of Issue: September 2015

*NEWS at 8* is the official Newsletter of the Retired Teachers of Ontario / les Enseignantes et Enseignants Retraités de l'Ontario, District 8 London Middlesex, published for distribution to its members and provides content on topics of interest to its membership.

The views expressed in submitted articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the District Executive.

Publication of an advertisement or a request for volunteers from an organization does not constitute an endorsement of any product, service, or organization.

Photographs taken at any of our meetings or other activities may be included in our Newsletter or on our website.

## NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

Communications Committee

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## E-MAIL ADDRESSES

A few years ago, the District 8 Executive made the decision to switch from mailed Newsletters to on-line Newsletters. For some reason, that change didn't happen. Then again in a *News at 8* last year, the editor referred to the need for making that change. The time has come for us to at least begin the process.

Most other Districts in the province have already made the change, and many other organizations have been doing it long enough to realize that it is a must. This week, for example, I received a simple e-mail advising that the Newsletter for Rotary Clubs in this part of Ontario and Michigan was attached. A click on the link at the bottom of the page brought up the full 12 pages of colourful articles and photographs. The cost of printing and delivery—almost zero. Our budget in the District is rather limited, and the savings from this change will help us to do many more things for our members. It will allow us to have more frequent communication, announcements and reminders.

The process isn't completely a breeze, though. First we have to get an up-to-date list of e-mails and do a trial run. Then we have to arrange to mail printed copies for the relatively small number of members who do not have e-mail access. Fortunately, we have people in our Provincial office, and our Web Author Cliff Kraeker to help us. We will get it done.

Please think about the e-mail address that you provided to Provincial office when you first became a member. If there is any chance that it has changed since then, please e-mail your new e-mail address to President Bill at [wgeorge1@sympatico.ca](mailto:wgeorge1@sympatico.ca) and also to our Provincial office at [dvezeau@rto-ero.org](mailto:dvezeau@rto-ero.org)

If you didn't receive an e-mail reminder of the *To Hell With The Bell Luncheon*, we do not have your current e-mail address.

Editor

## IN MEMORIAM

RTO/ERO District 8 extends condolences to families, friends and colleagues of those who have passed on since our last newsletter. We are grateful for their memory, their service and their friendship.

Douglas Ball, Rosemary J. Bartlett, Lawrence A. Beattie, Norma Bice, Irene Brine, Mary H. Burdon, Munroe Burton, Harold F. Calvert, Malcolm E. Cameron, Donald W. Cardinal, Velma L. Duff, Elaine C. Feeney, Gord W. Flanagan, Robert O. Gaukrodger, Arthur Hankinson, Phyllis Harper, Lucia Hart, Herbert R. Houston, Brenda Irwin, Ferol P. Jeanes, Joanne D. Jenkins, Mary W. Jones, Gale Kay, William Kebich, Roy King, Joan Laird, Rena M. Lundy, Cheryl MacKenzie, Barbara MacLean, Dorothy A. Martin, John J. Maycock, Rachel M. Mayos, Jean McCallum, Robert E. McLeod, Donald S. Medd, Celestine Mundy, Robert J. Panarisi, Maurice W. Pearce, Mary E. Porter, Carolyn A. Robertson, M. Rosary, Margaret Roy, Doreen Shaunessy, Jane Sullivan, William G. Traut, M. Angela Walsh, David Wasse, Marilyn E. White

Ellen Atkinson: Membership Chair

## ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

Our new Executive Director **Jim Grieve** has agreed to come to our meeting to bring greetings from the Provincial staff and Executive and to have a conversation with us about where we see RTO/ERO going in the coming years. As members, what do we need and expect from our organization? Those of us who have had a chance to meet Jim have been very impressed with him and are pleased to be able to introduce him to our members.

The Nomination Committee Report and Election of District 8 Officers for 2015-16.

A music presentation from one of our Secondary School Choirs.

Two travel companies that have had a long association with District 8 will have displays offering travel packages and long-term stay ideas.

## RTO/ERO District 8 London Middlesex

### *Annual General Meeting Luncheon*

*Thursday, October 8, 2015*

11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

### **The Best Western Lamplighter Inn**

Wellington Rd. S., London

11:30 a.m.      Meet & Greet    Cash Bar

12:00 Noon      Welcome New Members & Lunch

Travel Displays    Piano Music

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**Fall Lunch October 8, 2015**

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

Name(s) of Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons attending x \$25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ Payable by cheque - (Sorry, No Cash)

Deadline for receiving registrations - Tuesday, October 6

Mail Cheque to:      Charlene Kivell, 676 Wonderland Rd. S., London, ON N6K 1L8

**[www.rto-ero-londonmiddlesex.ca](http://www.rto-ero-londonmiddlesex.ca)**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Since our last newsletter, 89 new members have joined District 8 RTO/ERO. We look forward to having them participate in District activities and become involved in its work.

Donna Allen, Joanne Armstrong, Rheta F. Beattie, Deborah Beccarea, Catherine Boate, Estelle R. Cameron, Christine Capitano, Cheryl Chalmers, Mary Anne China, Frances Coe, Lawrence Cody, Mark Cole, Francine Cormier, Sandra Crinklaw-Jones, Anne Crunican, Doris A. Cunning, Lynne Cunningham, Ralph De Luca, Mary Frances Dorschell, Margaret Dunham, Bernadine Elliot, Nancy Elliott, Gordon Enright, Pauline Evans, Gillean Fielding, Susan Foster, Marion A. Gaukrodger, Roger W. Gervais, L. Susan Gorlick, David Graham, Susan Grieve, Celia Handsaeme, Stephen Harvey, Carol L. Head, Gail Heringer, Catherine Heyndrickx, Ona Houston, Jane Howell, Norman Howes, Kenneth G. Irwin, Gordon E. Jeanes, Margaret Jowett, Maureen Kennedy-Killeen, Susan Kjeldgaard, Charles Lorne Knapp, Jayne Lasenby, Chantale Lavoie- Fetchison, Chester Le Grow, Mary Lucas, Rena M. Lundy, Jan Macaulay, Colleen MacLeod, Thomas MacLeod, Mary Beth Marcaccio, Linda Martin, Judith Anne Mathany, P. Kim Mc Gregor, Doris McKay, Marilyn M. McLeod, Marie Medd, Karen Meeson, Garth Newton, Anne Marie Novacich, Cathryn O'Brien, Karen Owens, David H. H. Pace, Robert Poisson, Stephen Prendergast, Mark Priamo, Debra Rastin, Anita Renders, Lynne Richard-Onn, Cheryl Richter, A. Maxime Ridgewell, Diane Robb, Karen Robinson, Jean-Pierre Sanchez, Debra Scott, Ethel-Mae Seaman, Janice Telfer, Rozalyn Thomas, Richard Thompson, Nicola (Nick) Vecchio, Rokus Roger Voogt, Judith Walters, Jane Watson, Trudy Wilson, Rita Windsor, Cathy Wirick.

Ellen Atkinson: Membership Chair

**VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE [www.rto-ero-londonmiddlesex.ca](http://www.rto-ero-londonmiddlesex.ca)**

## RTO-ERO Poinsettia Lunch

*District 8 London Middlesex*

*Wednesday, November 25, 2015 11:30 am*

**ETFO Building**

2911 Bateman Trail, London (off White Oak Rd.)

**Lunch - Soup, Sandwich & Salad Buffet**

Catered by: *The Sentimental Touch*

**\$10.00 per person**

**Entertainment**

*Distribution of Poinsettias - If you are able to volunteer to deliver poinsettias after lunch, please call Catherine Schaus - 519-439-9755*

**Merry Christmas!**

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## **POINSETTIA LUNCHEON NOVEMBER 25TH**

***Please clip or copy this registration, attaching a cheque made payable to RTO/ERO District 8***

Name of Member(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of People \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Payable by cheque (Sorry no Cash)

**Mail to: Pat Leeson, 33-1443 Commissioners Road, W., London, ON, N6K 1E2**

# EMPLOYEE STORE INVITATION

## EXCLUSIVELY FOR

Members of Retired Teachers Association  
District 8 - London Middlesex

## VALID DATES

October 13th - November 15th, 2015

## LOCATION

1425 Max Brose Dr., Unit 1  
London, ON N6N 0A2  
519-644-4900



## STORE HOURS

Mon – Fri 10am – 7pm  
Sat 10am – 6pm  
Sun 11am – 5pm



You are welcome to bring up to 4 family members or friends with you when you shop, however, the invitation is NOT TRANSFERABLE. To gain access to the store, please bring:

- 1) A copy of this invitation letter and
- 2) Your RTO Provincial membership card
- 3) Photo ID

Columbia Sportswear is a leading global outdoor apparel, footwear, accessories and equipment company. Headquartered in Portland, Oregon, Columbia has produced innovative products for outdoor enthusiasts since 1938. Enjoy shopping our Employee store for the latest products from our entire brand family. New FALL products are on display this month to keep you comfortable, dry and warm outdoors.

Thank you,  
B2B Retail Marketing team; Columbia Sportswear Canada



Invitation is intended for the employee/member of the above listed company/group ONLY. It is NOT TRANSFERABLE. Columbia reserves the right to modify or cancel this offer at any time. The products purchased are intended solely for the buyer's own personal use, including gifts to others. Resale of products is strictly prohibited. Offer may not be combined with any other offer or discount. Valid from dates listed above. ©2015 Columbia Sportswear USA Corporation and Columbia Sportswear Canada.

# COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The subject of our committee structure has come up at both Core Executive meetings and District Executive Board meetings several times in the past year. Clearly, there is a problem that has existed for several years; and now would be an appropriate time to resolve the situation. For example, several people have commented that one-member committees should never have existed in the first place. Looking back through old **News at 8** Newsletters, it is interesting to see that nearly every year there was a different organization for our committees. Rarely, if ever, did they match the structure prescribed in our Constitution. Here are some guidelines that your Executive felt should be considered which might help us to better meet the needs of our 2700 members:

- to share the workload and have several minds providing the creative ideas
- to have others able and available to take care of business when the Chair is away or ill
- to provide training and experience for the day when the Chair decides to move on and one of the committee members will be ready to step up so that the transition can be seamless
- to have two or more members on each committee who are comfortable working with computers and the internet to facilitate keeping the committee's tab on our website interesting and up-to-date
- to the extent possible, include retired members from all Affiliates as members of various committees to better facilitate communication among our members.

It should be fun and satisfying to work on an RTO/ERO committee. For one person to take on the entire load is unreasonable, and we should never ask anyone to do that. Retired teachers should have a right to have a life and feel free to travel or spend a couple of months in a warmer climate. With several members on each committee, this should make all committee activity more enjoyable and more productive.

Another thought that was suggested at the Presidents' Workshop was to have two or more Co-Chairs for some committees. Several Districts have already done this, and it is definitely something that we should consider.

Based on the above guidelines and with input from committee Chairs who shared their creative ideas, this is the structure that the Core Executive has approved. These guidelines and the suggested structure have been forwarded to the Constitution Committee for consideration. These changes may be presented to the members by the Constitution Committee at our October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting:

<b>GOODWILL</b>	14 members
<b>HEALTH SERVICES AND INSURANCE</b>	4 members
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	12 members, including 3 co-chairs (Newsletter, Website, Telephone)
<b>TRAVEL &amp; ENTERTAINMENT</b>	8 members
<b>WORKSHOPS &amp; SEMINARS</b>	4 members
<b>POLITICAL ADVOCACY</b>	4 members
<b>SOCIAL</b>	8 members
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	8 members (with power to add as needed, to assist with registration and other responsibilities at luncheons and special activities)
<b>PENSION AND RETIREMENT CONCERNS (New)</b>	4 members (this would be a new standing committee, corresponding to the Provincial committee of that name).

**VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE [www.rto-ero-londonmiddlesex.ca](http://www.rto-ero-londonmiddlesex.ca)**

## RTO/ERO FOUNDATION UPDATE

### Anita Rasmussen: Foundation Representative

The Retired Teachers of Ontario started a Foundation in 2011 to raise three million dollars for a chair in Geriatric Medicine at the University of Toronto. Through active fund raising in the Districts, generous donations from corporations and enthusiastic donors, and a transfer from reserve funds from our Provincial office, the goal was reached and the chair has just been announced. It is Dr. Paula Rochon. She is a geriatrician, vice-president of the Womens' College Hospital, and a renowned Clinician-Scientist. Under her direction, collaborative research in Geriatric Medicine will be advanced.

A new phase in the Foundation is under way to raise funds for Geriatrics/Gerontology Research and Training at the post-secondary level. This is an area that North America lags behind other western countries. You will have seen in the summer issue of *Renaissance* that it is now easier than ever to donate. You will soon be seeing donation cards in various funeral homes, and you will be able to donate at RTO events and activities. If you wish to donate online, you may do so at:

[www.rto-ero.org/rtoero-foundation](http://www.rto-ero.org/rtoero-foundation)

## GOODWILL COMMITTEE REPORT

### Chair: Julie Eskra

The Goodwill Committee receives many thank-you cards and calls throughout the year from our members which make our actions feel appreciated and renews our efforts to serve them even better.

### WHAT DO WE DO?

- Send messages of support to colleagues during illness or bereavement and to acknowledge special occasions.
- send cards to members recognizing milestone birthdays 90, 95 and 100.

Thanks to RTO members who called Marie Hanlon 519-686-5073 to help us serve our colleagues during their time of need.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO DO SO AS WE DEPEND ON YOUR INPUT.**



Elizabeth Van Dongen and Julie Eskra congratulate Doreen Riggs on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!

- Send over 500 personal Spring greeting and Christmas cards to our more senior members.
- Arrange and organize the delivery of over 275 poinsettias to eligible retirees.
- Help members who need assistance with such things as a reference to a social support agency in the community.
- Provide access to Provincial Goodwill support for members in dire

**THE POINSETTIA LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2015.** We need members, "Poinsettia Elves", to deliver plants again this year. Please notify Catherine Schaus 519-439-9755 or Julie Eskra 519-642-7779 if you are willing to help.

need of financial assistance.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Shirley Aerts	519-245-1141
Ingrid Clark	519-657-2836
Maureen Elder	519-455-7921
Maureen Graham	519-472-3422
Bonnie Griffiths	519-660-1152
Marie Hanlon	519-686-5073
Dianne Heatherington	519-432-3674
Virginia Herman	519-471-6089
Pat Malone	519-660-0667
Dale McEwen	519-471-1474
Doris Robotham	519-245-1037
Catherine Schaus	519-439-9755

## BEREAVEMENT SEMINAR

Anita Rasmussen has been working on setting up a seminar on grieving for our members. Unfortunately, this is a very real part of all of our lives; and many of us have experienced it all too closely in recent years. We expect that this will be a well-attended presentation. She has been able to find a well-qualified retired teacher who is prepared to do this presentation for us. So far, we have not been able to confirm a date and time that fits our busy schedule and that of the presenter. We may have to postpone it into the new year. Watch our website for details.



Comedian Steve Brinder entertaining our members at a dinner at the Hellenic Community Centre in May.

**TRAVEL COMMITTEE: Diamond Fotiadis**

Your travel committee has reviewed a list of day trips offered by **Take a Break Travel**, and suggests these trips. Full details can be found on our website under the TRAVEL tab, or contact Take-a-Break at 519-858-9985.

**Great Lakes Crossing Outlets Auburn Hills, Michigan Sat Oct 3, Nov 28, 2015.** Tour Includes: Transportation, HST. Cost: \$42

**Lakeside & Partridge Creek Malls Sterling Heights, Michigan Sep 26, Dec 12, 2015.** Tour Includes: Transportation, HST. Cost: \$42

**Anne of Green Gables Dunfield Theatre, Cambridge Wed Oct 28, 2015.** Tour Includes: Lunch, Show, Transportation, HST. Cost: \$101

**St. Jacobs Day Out, Oct 8, 2015.** Tour Includes: Transportation, HST. Cost: \$43

**The Sound Of Music Festival Theatre, Stratford Thu Oct 15, 2015.** Lunch, Orchestra Ticket, Transportation, HST. Cost: \$146

**Motown the Musical Princess of Wales Theatre, Toronto Thu, Oct 29, 2015.** Tour Includes: Lunch, Orchestra Ticket, Transportation, HST. Cost: \$145

**Mystery, Mystery, Mystery Sat Nov 21, Tue Dec 8 2015.** Tour Includes: ???, Lunch, Transportation, HST. Cost: \$85. Special Christmas Trip Cost: \$95

**SPORTS**

Sun Sep 27 Blue Jays vs. Tampa Bay Rays Tour Includes: Field Level Bases Tickets, Transportation, HST. Cost: \$94

Please note that in the event of overtime, we will stay at the game for a maximum of 60 minutes past the scheduled departure time.

Are you interested in **NFL or NHL**? Go to [www.BigGameRoadTrips.ca](http://www.BigGameRoadTrips.ca) for road trips from London to see the Buffalo Bills, Detroit Lions, Detroit Red Wings and more.



Sod-turning ceremony at Habitat for Humanity’s newest project in Manor and Highland Park, London. RTO/ERO District 8 was pleased to make a contribution to this very worthwhile charity. Vice-President Joe Murray is second from the left.



Anita Gilvesy, Executive Director, and Cindy Machado, Community Partner Coordinator of INVESTING IN CHILDREN, receive the 2015 Project Service to Others award of \$3500 from President Bill for their Breakfast for Children program.

**HERE FOR YOU NOW...HERE FOR YOUR FUTURE.**

33 Hillhead Road, London, ON N6E 2P8

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