

Report Thirty-One

Spring 2010

Published by RTO/ERO District 31 Wellington

No. 45



President's Message



We welcome spring and the signs of new life in nature. We also welcome our new members and hope that they bring new life to our district.

One might ask why members get involved. People get involved because they believe an organization is important to their lives ... for example, to their health issues and core values. There is a sense of togetherness and, if the energy is right for members, they will participate. Many RTO/ERO members do not want to be part of the Executive but they do want to be involved in the activities that take place in the District, particularly if they are fun. Please consider participating in some of our social activities.

Your District Executive can only provide service and assistance if they are aware of issues that are on your mind. Do not hesitate to contact those who perform the functions of the office they occupy. Remember they are volunteers dedicated to the well-being of RTO/ERO members. They do not always have the answers but they will try to help you find them.



Provincial Notes

By unanimous decision, \$10,000 has been donated to the International Development Relief Foundation in aid of the Haiti earthquake. These funds will be matched \$ for \$ by CIDA.

The Executive continues its study of an RTO/ERO Major Project to establish a charitable foundation to fundraise for an endowed Chair in Geriatrics at the University of Toronto.

A letter will be sent to the Ministers of Finance and Revenue, Duncan and Wilkinson regarding HST.



Project Service to Others

Service To Others: Scholarship Application

Members of the Project - Service to Others Committee have reviewed the documentation for Scholarship and made some positive changes that will assist your families in the application process. The forms, only available on line at the RTO/ERO website (www.rto-ero.org/), are completed by the applicants and submitted electronically from the RTO/ERO website to Provincial Office for processing.

Completed applications must be received at the Provincial Office by the close of business (4:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time) on Monday, August 9, 2010 to be considered by the Committee at its September meeting.

If you have questions regarding the application process, please contact Gail Knox at: 1-800-361-988 or 416-962-9463.ext 233, or gknox@rto-ero.org.



GOING GREEN



Thank you to those who said that they would like to receive their RTO District 31 newsletter by email. **Eighty-five members have signed up now, saving the environment, as well as printing and postage costs.**

If you would like to try this, email me at: m.anne.smith@gmail.com and request this.

Please remember to let me know if your email address changes so that you don't miss your copy of the newsletter.



Political Action



Thank you to those members who e-mailed me after reading my last column in the winter edition of the newsletter. It was great to know that members are reading this column and that they took the time to comment on the issues. Feedback is always welcome! Political debate is always enjoyable for people like me who are

“political junkies”.

Our Provincial Political Action Committee has been very busy on a number of issues.

HST

The PAC Committee organized a very thorough advocacy process whereby four meetings were held with senior staff from the offices of the Premier, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Revenue. As well, RTO/ERO's President, Vice-Presidents and Executive Director met directly with the Minister of Revenue, responsible for the implementation of the HST, to share ideas and offer advice on lessening the impact for RTO/ERO's members and the organization as a whole. Designated districts met with ten Liberal MPPs, including four cabinet ministers; two PC MPPs; and two NDP MPPs including the leader. In these meetings RTO/ERO's position on the HST was shared and questions concerning the HST and its impact on seniors were posed. Issues discussed included exemptions on home energy costs, gasoline for cars, group insurance plans, and hygiene products and health-related hygiene supplies and products, and for not-for-profit organizations such as RTO/ERO.

Based on the response, RTO/ERO believes its concerns were taken seriously by the Provincial Government. Though the bill to enact the HST has been passed, RTO/ERO believes there will be opportunities to have its concerns addressed as part of its implementation.

PAC and the provincial executive agreed that any lobbying for additional exemptions for seniors should take place closer to the Provincial election in 2011 when all parties' platforms on the issues are known, e.g. impact on seniors re heating costs.

The Provincial executive met with Elinor Caplan of Len Domino & Associates who reinforced the notion that the

government has agreed that the HST will be revenue neutral and that the Provincial Executive has taken the position to wait until the HST has been implemented to consider any and all further action.

Community Care Access (CCAC)

The Provincial Political Action Committee is asking for our help on this issue. The committee is trying to get a sense of what is happening with CCAC services across the province and have asked us to collect information from our members. Most of us have had dealings with CCAC either personally or as caregivers or through our friends. The committee would appreciate anecdotal reports about these experiences. They know what services should be available but are they? Please e-mail me at dmcginc602@rogers.com about any experiences that you have had with our local CCAC – good or bad – and I will pass them on to the committee. An examination of CCAC services will be one of PAC's priorities this year.

Election Readiness

Work is ongoing with preparing documents on Election readiness. The PAC District Manual will be updated accordingly and a paper will be prepared on Federal issues that may impact RTO/ERO in the next Federal election.

If you have any ideas or concerns that you would like me to bring to the attention of the PAC committee, please let me know.

Brenda McGinnis



Goodwill Committee Report

Goodwill Workshop – March 7-8, 2010

RTO/ERO held its first ever Goodwill Workshop in Toronto on March 7-8th of this year. I had the honour and pleasure of representing our district at this very valuable workshop.

As always, this RTO-ERO workshop was extremely well-organized and very informative. The highlights for me were the presentations by Provincial staff, the panel discussion with three Goodwill Representatives representing large, medium and small sized units, and the liaison group sharing discussions.

A Goodwill Committee plays a very important role within a District or Unit and its activities may vary from District to District. A wide variety of acts of caring, compassion, and celebration is performed.

Significant milestones such as birthdays, anniversaries, awards, and accomplishments of RTO/ERO members should be celebrated. Members should be remembered in times of sickness, bereavement, or other traumatic events in their lives.

In District 31, our Goodwill Committee sends Christmas and birthday cards to our members who are 80 years of age and older. District 31 currently has 133 full members and 37 Associate Members over the age of 80. We have two members over the age of 100. Our oldest member is 102. (Our youngest members are 55.)

We also try very hard to acknowledge special occasions in the lives of all of our 1,130 members but for that to happen we need your help. If you know of a special occasion – happy or sad – in the life of one of our members, please contact the appropriate person on our Goodwill Committee. You can contact the person by phone or by going to our website www.rto31.org and completing the Goodwill Request form. This form is unique to our district and generated a great deal of interest at the workshop. Thanks to John Ritchie for devising this added help to the Goodwill Committee.

Just as a reminder, our Goodwill Areas and Committee Members consist of :

Arthur, Drayton, Moorefield:

Margaret Hall – 519-846-5235

Erin:

Nancy Baker – 519-822-6653
Mary Hermann – 519-821-3892

Elora, Fergus, Salem:

Lois Eckhardt -519-846-8189

Harriston, Palmerston:

Jean Brodhaecker – 519-638-2291

Mount Forest:

Pat Corrigan – 519-323-1147
Margie Zuccala – 519-821-9810

Guelph:

Brenda McGinnis – 519-824-5263
Rosita Lugosi – 519-763-1358

Rockwood:

Linda Meek - 519-856-9706
Ellen Thomson - 519-856-9953

Also, RTO/ERO has an Emergency Assistance Program. This program is designed to provide assistance to members who are in emergency situations. Assistance is not always monetary but it can be. Financial assistance, if recommended, is provided on a one-time only basis; it is not intended to provide long-term solutions to financial difficulties. Other forms of assistance and resources are available to members. Applications for emergency assistance can be obtained from Pauline Duquette-Newman, Co-ordinator: Provincial Office at 1-800-361-9888 ext 226 or from .

I was very happy that I could attend this first ever Goodwill Workshop on behalf of District 31 and I look forward to sharing some new ideas with the committee.

Brenda McGinnis



RTO District 31 Spring General Meeting
Victoria Park East Golf Club, Guelph
Wednesday, May 12, 2010
5:30 p.m. \$25.00 per person (subsidized)



Entertainment

Dave Hadfield is a well known Canadian musician and song writer. Dave sings to the hearts of those who live to get into the backcountry. You know you haven't seen

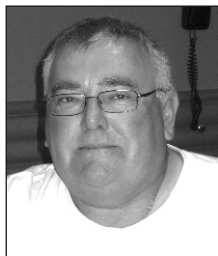
this country, until you leave the roads behind, he says in the song. His songs reflect the natural heritage and unique culture that exist in paddling a remote river, travelling with the classic tourist, or discovering the Arctic.

Hopefully we shall have several of his CD's available at the dinner for those who wish to purchase these truly Canadian ballads.

*See flyer on page 7 for details
and registration form.*



Health Matters



There is so much happening in the world that at times it is hard to focus on our own health.

In the Fall Issue of "Report Thirty-One" we listed the top 10 drugs used by RTO/ERO's Health Plan members - cholesterol reducers, beta blockers, down to gastrointestinal drugs. The reality is that our members are aging and need these medications. Members do care and are taking care of their health.

In the winter edition of "Renaissance" in an article entitled "Access to medications and drug benefits", Dan Rego mentions that almost 60% of Canadians have private insurance/third party insurance for prescription drugs and that "open plans" generally mean that all medications licensed for sale in Canada are covered. Most drugs administered in hospitals are covered for every Canadian; however, if they are administered outside of the hospital setting, they usually are not. In comes your RTO/ERO Extended Health Care.

Dispensing fees vary. In Wellington County, you pay \$9.49 at Zehrs per prescription while at Costco you pay \$4.11. Shoppers Drug Mart has a dispensing fee of \$10.49 per prescription and PharmaPlus is \$10.99. Walmart's dispensing fee is \$9.97 and, at Food Basics, the price is \$9.99 dispensing fee for each prescription. At Basics if you are over 65 and are eligible for Ontario Drug Benefits (income under \$50,000 per family) they will waive the first \$2.00 for each prescription which would make it \$7.99. Many members with set prescriptions get a three-month supply and save on dispensing fees. If you go traveling, you can obtain up to a 200 day supply by completing a "Vacation Supply" form from Johnson. The dispensing costs over a year can easily be hundreds of dollars (www.drugcoverage.ca). "A Guide to Reimbursement" provides detailed information on coverage of prescription medications by various drug plans.

What is Bill 179? This bill, which passed in December 2009, gives nurse practitioners, pharmacists, physiotherapists and other health professionals the freedom to provide a wider range of services which include writing prescriptions.

What is Eat Right Ontario? (www.ontario.ca/eatright) This website, which is updated monthly, is maintained by the Government of Ontario to help people improve their overall health and quality of life through healthy

nutritious eating, and also make healthier food choices.

Health Plan Improvements for 2010

Vision:

\$300 per person/two years for eyeglasses, prescription sunglasses, contact lenses or laser eye surgery.

Eye Exams:

\$85 per person/two years

Orthotics:

up to \$500 per person/two years

Medications:

up to \$2,400 per year

Dental:

2010 Provincial Fee Guide for General Practitioners at 85% Reimbursement

Paramedical Practitioners Benefit:

80% reimbursement up to the \$700 maximum per person for chiropractors, dieticians, massage therapists etc.

The RTO/ERO Health Plan is the largest in Canada with over 69,000 participants. Our plan is owned and managed by our members. Now, with the Olympics over, this is another source of pride for RTO members.

Have a safe and healthy summer.
Patrick Bruder

JOHNSON INC.

Service 1-800-461-4597 or 905-764-4884
Claims 1-800-461-4597 or 905-764-4888
Website <http://www.johnson.ca>



Advertising Policy



Advertising in the District 31 Newsletter

RTO District 31 established policy guidelines for advertising in our newsletter in September 2005. The policy is included in this newsletter and will be posted on the District 31 website.

In addition to the policy guidelines, members may wish to advertise and highlight events and activities in which they participate. Members who meet to play cards, attend garden or theatre groups, etc. may wish to extend

the invitation to include other RTO members through the newsletter. If the activity is purely social and a not-for-profit activity or fundraiser, it would be acceptable for inclusion in the RTO District 31 newsletter at no cost. This type of advertisement must be approved by the local executive prior to the deadline for publication.

If you have information you would like to have included in the newsletter, please forward the details to Stephen O'Connell, President, or another member of the executive prior to the publication date (September, January, April). We welcome submissions but request that you seek prior approval from the executive.

Marina Howlett
Past President

RTO/ERO District 31 Guidelines for Advertising in Local Newsletters September 2005

In an effort to promote equity and fairness, the following guidelines will be established for advertising in the RTO District 31 newsletters.

- No advertising fee will be charged for trips, events, activities sponsored by the local executive.
- A twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) fee will be charged to members who advertise travel opportunities or services not initiated by District 31 but geared to retired members of District 31.
- All advertisements to be included in the District 31 newsletter must be approved by the local executive.

medical and personal considerations of retirement...and they will have been well fed.

Our Health/Travel Insurance plan is a wonderful reason for these young retirees to join our organization, but we must offer them opportunities to participate.

This organization should be part of an active retired lifestyle. It already offers a yearly dinner and luncheon. But there could be so much more to keep it vibrant all year round. You know the saying: *You don't stop playing because you get old; you get old because you stop playing.*

Book clubs, card groups, walking groups, hiking groups, golfing groups, bicycle groups, travel groups, etc. would provide opportunities for physical, mental and emotional stimulation. These are activities for connecting with old friends and making new ones. These are activities that we can do for years and years!

If you are interested in becoming involved in these, or any other groups you can imagine, please contact me and we'll get things going.

Carol Christie
519-822-6307 or carolchristie2@hotmail.com



This Mother's Day Week-end (May 7-9) the world's most stunning stage production, Shen Yun Performing Arts, a NY-based classical Chinese dance/music company, comes to the Canon Theatre in Toronto. For each ticket purchased by RTO/ERO members, family and friends, 20% will go towards helping 'at risk' children involved in art education (through the program DAREarts, a Canadian organization building courage and confidence in children threatened by drugs, violence and hopelessness).

Visit www.ShenYunPerformingArts.com for more details. Call TicketKing at 1-800-461-3333 or the hotline at 416-248-1168. Code is RTO. Deadline: April 25, 2010



For more information, contact Madalina Hubert at the Provincial Office at mhubert@rto-ero.org or 1-800-361-9888 ext. 231.



By the time you read this newsletter, a Retirement Planning Workshop will have been held on April 14th at Victoria Park East Golf Club. To date, 45 people have registered. I'm confident they will have learned a lot about the financial,



In Memoriam

With great sadness, we inform you of the passing of the following members. We extend our condolences to their families, friends and colleagues and share fond remembrances of their contribution to the teaching profession.



Dorothy Edmunds
Kaye Gyles
Elizabeth Johnston
Harry Leeming
Corene Macrae
Irene McGuire,
George Rogers
Margaret Semple

2009-2010 Slate of Officers for R.T.O./E.R.O. Executive District 31

- President Stephen O'Connell
(519-822-9606)
- Past President/
Pension Concerns Marina Howlett
(519-836-8585)
- 1st Vice President/
Political Action Brenda McGinnis
(519-824-5263)
- 2nd Vice President/
Membership Carol Christie
(519-822-6307)
- Secretary Joan Miller
- Treasurer Mike Curtis
- Goodwill Margie Zuccala
- Health Pat Bruder
- Newsletter Editor Anne Smith
- Travel Lynn Morrison
- Website John Ritchie
- District Counsellors
- OECTA Liaison Nancy Baker
- Social Pam Niesiobedzki
- Shopper Margie Zuccala
Mary Hermann



Travel News



It's travel time again! Our spring trip on June 8th is a Mystery Tour. Come with us and be surprised and delighted with a fun-filled day in our beautiful countryside. It only costs \$48 and includes food, entertainment, and shopping. It will start in Guelph at 8.00 am and stop in Fergus at 8.15, Arthur at 8.30 and Harriston at 9.00.

Also mark your calendar for October 28th for our trip to Stratford to see Evita. It will again be \$99, subsidized by the RTO. I have both balcony and orchestra seats again this year. You can book both of these trips by calling Lynn at 519-323-2419. Payment can be made by mail or at the May meeting. More details to follow on the fall trip.



Reminder

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR STATUS

It is imperative that you let the Teacher Pension Plan Board and RTO/ERO know if you have changed your address, phone number or status. Please contact OTPPB (5650 Yonge St., Toronto M2M 4H5 or 1-800-668-0105) and RTO/ERO (1-800-361-9888 ext.23).

The mailing labels for our newsletter are made up in Toronto at RTO/ERO head office. If the label that addressed your copy is incorrect or if you are changing your address, please call Diane Vezeau at Provincial Office (1-800-361-9888 ext. 23) or e-mail her at dvezeau@rto-

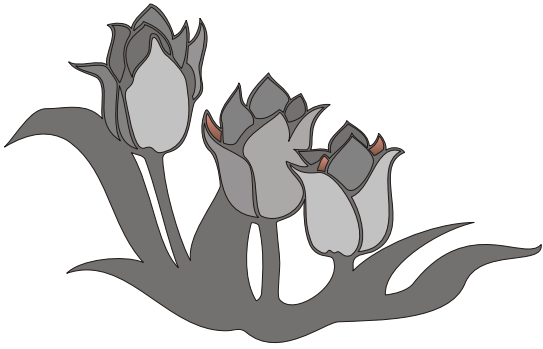


Website

Members are urged to visit our District website www.rto31.org for up-to-date information about RTO/ERO events in Wellington County. Each edition of Report Thirty-One is posted on the web usually before you receive your copy in the mail.

REPORT THIRTY-ONE
published by Wellington District 31
R.T.O./E.R.O.
Editor - Anne Smith
519-833-9577
m.anne.smith@gmail.com

You and your spouse/guest are cordially invited to attend the



Spring Annual Dinner Meeting

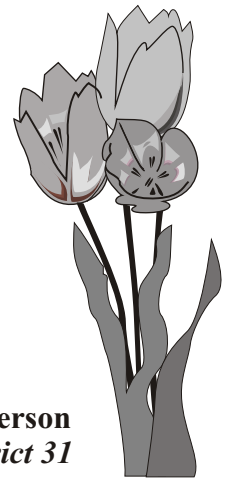
OF RTO/ERO DISTRICT 31

Victoria Park East Golf Club, Guelph
Wednesday, May 12, 2010

- | | |
|------|---|
| 4:30 | Travel presentation |
| 5:30 | Social |
| 6:00 | Dinner |
| 7:00 | Business meeting
Greetings from guest
Other business |
| 7:45 | Entertainment: Dave Hadfield, musician, well known for his
historical ballads and stories of the north |

Menu:

Boneless Breast of Chicken with white wine sauce (no flour)
or Grilled Vegetable Stacks (vegetarian entree)
fresh seasonal vegetables
roasted herb potatoes
Spinach salad, rolls
Dessert (variety including lemon meringue pie, rhubarb
custard with meringue, fresh fruit)
tea/coffee



Detach and send before April 30, 2010 to:
Mike Curtis, Treasurer
R.R. #2, Erin, ON N0B 1T0

Cost: \$25.00 per person
Subsidized by District 31

Annual Spring Dinner Meeting of R.T.O./E.R.O. District 31

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Please RSVP before April 30, 2010.

Please make reservations for:

_____ and _____
Name Name of Guest

Special Dietary Requirements: _____
Enclosed is a cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 31 in the amount of _____ (\$25.00 pp).
This meal is subsidized by RTO District 31.

RTO District 31

Financial Report

Dec. 30, 2009

Income

Annual Rebate	15 182.21
Dinner and Lunch	2 610.00
Service to Others	4 000.00
Retirement Planning Workshop	622.79
Total	22 415.00

Expenses

Goodwill	295.93
Recruitment	40.72
Service to Others (R.C.M.P.)	4 000.00
Retirement Planning Workshop	1 075.50
Meetings (District)	5 095.12
(Senate)	1 515.42
(Exec.)	386.49
Newsletter	3 715.20
Office Expenses	575.18
Travel	716.80
Website	800.00
Other Project Julien	500.00
Guelph Wellington Committee for Social Justice	50.00
ARC Industries (Golf)	200.00
Travel advance for outing	1611.25
Salvation Army (Christmas hampers)	250.00
KW record ad	100.70
East Wellington Community Services	200.00
Total	21 128.31

Surplus **1 286.69**

Bank Balance **6 156.82**