

Report Thirty-One

Fall 2011

Published by RTO/ERO District 31 Wellington

No. 49



President's Message



Welcome to our new members! I hope that everyone had a good summer.

The Chicago trip was a great opportunity to get away for a few days in June. We toured Oak Park, Water Tower Place on Michigan Avenue, the John Hancock Observatory, Navy Pier and, in my case, the Shedd Aquarium. Thank you, Lynn, for putting this adventure together.



The Chicago Trip group posed in front of the bus on our last day.

Upon my return, I was informed by Joanne Murphy, Provincial President, that I had been appointed to the Member Services Committee. It will be an honour to serve our membership at this level.

This is my last message as your President. The three years in this role have been rewarding and I enjoyed representing Wellington at the Senate and district meetings, as well as keeping our district vital. Thank you is sincerely offered to a hard-working executive.

Brenda McGinnis, a friend since high school, will serve you well as President. She has much experience and the skills needed to be a good leader. I will continue to sit on the executive and help where needed.

Stephen O'Connell



Travel News



Hi folks,

Summer has flown and fall will soon be here. Time to think RTO travel.

We still have a few seats left for Stratford's Camelot. The cost of \$99 includes balcony seats, a buffet lunch at the Stratford Country Club, transportation with Great Canadian coaches and gratuities for meal and driver. Deadline for tickets is September 30th. Pickups will be 9:00 a.m. in Guelph (Canadian Tire, Woodlawn entrance), 9:15 a.m. in Fergus (Zellers parking lot), 9:30 a.m. in Arthur (Liquidation World parking lot), and 10:00 a.m. in Harriston (lot behind police station).

After a successful and fun-filled trip to Chicago, we decided to organize a tour to New York City next fall. Plans are in the making for a five-day tour from September 23rd to 27th which will include a guided tour of the city, as well as visits to Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty and Tribute Centre, Central Park and 5th Avenue, the Empire State Building, Radio City, the United Nations and an optional matinee theatre show. We have not arrived at a price as yet but I will pass this info on when available. If you wish to be on my email list for New York, contact me at lynnmorrison@wightman.ca.

For spring, I am considering two possibilities for a See Ontario trip. First could be to Owen Sound and include such places as Grey Roots, the Billy Bishop Heritage Museum, Inglis Falls, the Tom Thomson Art Gallery, or the Marine and Rail Museum. Second is to Uxbridge and area which could include Lucy Maude Montgomery's Manse and Church, the Thomas Foster Memorial, the Sharon Temple, or the York Durham Heritage Railway. I will be looking for feedback on these suggestions at the fall luncheon or by email or phone (519-323-2419). If there is enough interest, we will go!!

Hope to hear from you,
Lynn Morrison



The provincial election will take place on Thursday, October 6, 2011.

The Provincial executive, with input from the Political Advocacy Committee, developed a list of provincial issues deemed important by RTO/ERO members for advocacy purposes and distributed these to the Districts in the spring. An insert on these issues was contained within the summer issue of *Renaissance*. Also, advertisements outlining RTO/ERO's provincial issues will be placed in weekly newspapers delivered free to residents in each of our 46 Districts in Ontario.

It is important to note that RTO/ERO is a non-partisan, issue-based organization. RTO/ERO does not support any political party, but will meet with members of all political parties to promote its issues and positions.

It is also important to note that as informed, caring individual citizens we have the right to become actively involved in the political campaigns of candidates who represent our views. Nothing is more rewarding than working hard on the campaign of a candidate whose ideas you support.

As has been stated many times too, the encouragement of eligible citizens of all ages to participate in the democratic process by voting is one of RTO/ERO's key philosophies at times of election. So, let's not just get out and vote, let's encourage others to do so as well.

Some Key Issues for RTO/ERO :

RTO/ERO's 65,500 members share the view of most Ontarians that the province's highest priority must continue to be timely access to quality health care.

RTO/ERO seeks a re-affirmation of a commitment to the principles of the Canada Health Act and to the provision of adequately funded programs and services that ensure timely and equitable access.

RTO/ERO believes it is essential that a provincial government makes a commitment to the provision of adequately funded programs and services, as well as tax rebates that allow and encourage seniors to age with dignity.

RTO/ERO recognizes and appreciates its diverse membership of educators and support staff from Public,

Catholic, French, Elementary and Secondary schools, Colleges and Universities. The majority of its members helped to build and strengthen the publicly-funded education system in Ontario. RTO/ERO, therefore, remembers and respects those still teaching and working in the school system and has a position that states : "RTO/ERO also recognizes that the future growth of the province depends on a quality, publicly funded education system".

Over the next little while, as the provincial election campaign intensifies, and, as members consider which candidates to support, we are encouraged to determine how well the candidates' views mesh with our own and those of RTO/ERO.

Members are encouraged to carefully review campaign literature and attend all-candidates' meetings which we will post on our website as these dates become available.

Members are reminded that we have a lot of political influence. Politicians know that we vote. They listen to what we have to say. There was much media attention given to the "youth vote mobs" during the last Federal election. Sadly, these events did not result in larger voter turn out among the younger population. Seniors, though, continued to have the highest percentage of voters. Use your influence to lobby for our causes.

I also leave you with this final extremely relevant thought: "Those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it."

See you on the campaign trail!

Brenda McGinnis,
Political Advocacy Officer



The United Way

When I was teaching, I was always very aware of the United Way Campaign each year. Our schools were always very actively involved in promoting fundraisers and we had the option of contributing through payroll deductions – an option I always chose. Since retiring, I am sorry to say, I have not been as aware of the United Way Campaign and I have contributed very sporadically to it. In talking to a number of retired colleagues, I have discovered that they have also had the same experience. (Good for you if you have kept up your contributions!) All of us strongly support the goals and work of the United Way. We have just lost the opportunity to contribute to the campaign in a convenient fashion.

Enclosed with this newsletter is an opportunity for you, if you choose, to continue to contribute to this year's United Way Campaign.

In reviewing the work of the United Way, I have been reminded that contributing to the United Way is a great way to help all kinds of groups in our own community.

This year, United Way will support over 80 vital social and voluntary sector programs at 50 organizations in Wellington County and the City of Guelph. Chances are these programs will help someone we know –our family, friends, neighbours – every day.

In 2010, donations to United Way helped :

- ✍ Action Read Community Literacy Centre provides specialized, computer-based, literacy training to 92 people;
- ✍ Chalmers Community Service provides food and basic necessities to 4,145 visitors at their downtown food pantry;
- ✍ Community Torchlight volunteers answer to 12,400 calls to Distress Line;
- ✍ Food & Friends serves 15,800 meals and snacks to 12,000 students at 69 local schools;
- ✍ Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis provides more than 3,600 hours of counselling through the Rural Women's Support Program.

This is just a very small sampling of the ways that donations to United Way are helping people in our community.

We are constantly being asked to contribute to many excellent causes. We can't, of course, contribute to everything we'd like but a contribution to United Way is a very cost effective, efficient method of donating. The United Way's volunteer board of directors assures us that our donation will be directed to where it will have the greatest impact, stay in Guelph and Wellington County, and provide stable funding to maintain programs for those in need.

Thank you for considering contributing to United Way this year.

Brenda McGinnis,
First Vice-President



Pension Matters



In the spring newsletter, I provided a detailed summary of proposed changes that were being addressed by the Pension Partners. On July 6, 2011, the Ontario Teachers' Federation and the Ontario government agreed to a three-part plan to address the projected 17.2 billion funding shortfall in the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan. The proposed changes were approved and will be implemented on January 1, 2012. These changes include:

- a 1.1% contribution rate increase phased in over the next three years;
- slightly smaller annual cost-of-living increases for teachers who retired after 2009;
- recognizing the current contribution rate as the permanent base rate.

Funding challenges will likely continue in the immediate future because of the uncertain economic conditions worldwide.

Retired teachers are in an enviable position! We may never be wealthy but we are fortunate to have a guaranteed pension income to sustain a healthy lifestyle.

Marina Howlett

Membership



Welcome to all the people who have retired and chosen to join RTO/ERO. You are now members of the best organization to take care of all your health and medical insurance needs, as well as all of your travel insurance needs.

Along with insurance, our local District 31 (Wellington) provides our members with social opportunities where you can meet new or reconnect with old (I mean former) colleagues. We offer luncheons, dinners, travel opportunities, book clubs and any other interest groups that you, our members, can suggest.

Last April we held a **Retirement Planning Workshop** and plan to hold another one on April 25th, 2012 at Victoria Park East golf course. These workshops are open to anyone thinking of retirement, whether it is in the immediate or distant future. Our membership is comprised of Teachers, Educational Assistants, Office and Clerical staff, Administrators, Bus drivers, Caretakers and Maintenance workers, College University and Private School personnel. If you know of anyone in any of these categories who would like information about RTO-ERO, please have them contact me at carolchristie2@hotmail.com or 519-822-6307.

Again, welcome to the 2011/2012 year. If you or anyone you know would like to join the executive of our local RTO-ERO, please contact me. We'd love to have you!

Carol Christie



Our fall luncheon this year is on September 28th, 2011. It will be held at the Alma Bible Centre. Check out the enclosed flyer for details.

Gordon Cressy will talk to us for a few minutes. He is the administrator of the new RTO Charitable Foundation.

Singer, songwriter Andrew Coombes will be performing for our entertainment at the luncheon. We are very lucky to be able to have such a young talented musician play for us. Born from the vibrant music scene in Guelph, Ontario; a playground



for emerging independent musicians; Andrew Coombes, has been collaborating with Steve Hamilton, Paul Farmer and Brian Ward since 2008 to bring a new energy to the singer/songwriter format. His band, *Noise and the Ghost* have found their niche with a mixture of intimate, melodic songwriting teamed with an epic, hair raising delivery. Sharing many different influences spanning from decades of avid music appreciation, the collaboration of each member's particular taste in music has resulted in a very unique sound to their band. As quoted by Aaron Levy from CIVL Radio, "Bittersweet harmonies and softly strung instrumentation blankets

Andrew Coombes' songwriting like the nostalgic return to some long forgotten site of youthful memories. Noise and the Ghost boast a series of opening slots for bands like Mother Mother and Wintersleep under their belt, and seem poised to step into a place in music lovers' minds that stands somewhere between Great Lake Swimmers and Elliot Smith."

Please return the form attached to the flyer to Mike Curtis by September 22, 2011 as per the directions. Once again the cost is being subsidized by District 31.

What a Theatre Line Up for our Luncheon Door Prizes

by Pamela Niesiobedzki-Curtis, Social Convener

The fall is very busy in the community theatre world. It is the time of year when everyone is working hard on their first show of the season, and trying to sell subscriptions to help their group to continue to offer the high quality of live theatre that they are famous for producing.

Georgetown Little Theatre has generously donated two tickets as luncheon door prizes, to each of their main stage shows. This year, they are performing at Heritage Acton's Town Hall Centre. Their shows will run for three weekends and will include two Sunday matinees. This intimate newly renovated Victorian theatre is just the place for this season's line up. Opening Oct. 28th is the magnificent period play "*The Lion in Winter*" by James Goldman. Following on February 3rd is "*The Dinner Party*", served up in a chaotic mode that only Neil Simon, that master of comedy, could create. Their third play, "*Looking*", is from one of Canada's most popular playwrights, Norm Foster, and starts April 13th. All three plays can be purchased for less than \$50 from their box office at [905-877-3700](tel:905-877-3700). Georgetown is also presenting a one-act play festival Sept. 8, 9, 10 for a cost of \$10 at their studio at 33 Stewarttown Road in Georgetown. Why not come out and support their ventures, for they have certainly made it worth the drive to Acton?

Among Caledon Townhall Player's offering this winter is the world premier of "*Can Lightning Strike Twice?*" written and directed by one of our very own RTO members. It opens Feb. 16 and runs until March 3rd, with both a matinee and dinner theatre (church dinner and show for \$28) on Feb. 25th. This farcical comedy that is set in Acton is one of CTHP's festival entries and another one of our door prizes. It is full of twists and turns and good fun. For tickets to this show or to buy a season subscription, call [519-927-5460](tel:519-927-5460).

Orangeville Musical Productions is new to our luncheon ticket line-up. They will be presenting “*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*” in November at the Orangeville Opera House. This warm and touching Christmas play is an excellent outing for the whole family. Why not take your grandchildren to see this wonderful show? Tickets can be purchased at [519-942-3423](tel:519-942-3423).

Guelph Little Theatre has also generously donated tickets to their opening play, “Frozen Dreams” by Robert Ainsworth. It opens Oct. 14th and runs until the end of the month. You certainly don’t want to miss Bev Matson (retired Ottawa Cres. librarian) as the crazy bag lady. Their line-up continues with their WODL festival entry “*Picasso at the Lapine Agile*”, written by Steve Martin and opening Feb. 3rd. Tennessee William’s “*The Glass Menagerie*” begins April 13th and the controversial “*The Laramie Project*” by Moises Kaufman and company starts May 25th. All four shows can be purchased at one subscription price of \$50. Their Christmas family show is written by retired teacher Don Macrae. This fun-filled musical is full of pantomime overtones and will thrill the whole family with songs, riddles, laughter and adventure. Excitement you could only find with a girl named Alicia and only in a place called Wonderland, “*Alisha in Wonderland*” begins Nov 25, and runs until Dec. 11th with many matinees. For GLT tickets, please call their box office at [519-821-0270](tel:519-821-0270) or go on-line to their website.

The Wellington area has been blessed with a great number of wonderful theatre companies. These amateur groups depend upon local support in order to keep their doors open and to provide opportunity for individuals from all walks of life to develop confidence, skills and artistic sensibilities. Why not check them out, or even get involved, whether it is as a participant or a patron? One does not have to be an actor to be part of such a satisfying experience.

So, over the next few months, check out the season’s offerings by the local groups. Get out and see the best professional productions that amateur theatre can give. I’ll guarantee that you will be pleasantly surprised and, what’s more, you may even find that you like it and come out for more. Hope to see you there.

<http://www.guelphlittletheatre.com>..... box office at 519-821-0270 . Morris at York Rd., Guelph
<http://www.georgetownlittletheatre.ca>..... box office at 905-877-3700, Acton Town Hall Centre
<http://www.globeproductions.ca>..... box office at 905-877-4323, Milton Centre for the Arts
<http://www.caledontownhallplayers.com>..... box office at 519-927-5460, Caledon Village

<http://www.eloracommunitytheatre.com>..... box office at 519-787-1981, 5 East Mill, Elora
<http://www.orangevillemusictheatre.com>.....box office at 519-942-3423, Orangeville Opera House
<http://www.centurychurchtheatre.com>.....box office at 519-855-4586, 3 Hill Street, Hillsburgh
<http://www.rcmpi.ca>.....box office at 519-763-3000, River Run Centre, Guelph

Pam Niesiobedzki

WHITE CHRISTMAS

The Royal City Musical Productions Inc. donated tickets for their show as door prizes at our spring dinner; unfortunately we missed them in our newsletter. Our sincere apologies.

This year they are performing Irving Berlin’s White Christmas on the Main Stage of River Run at 7:30 p.m. from November 23-12th and 1:30 p.m. on November 26-27, 2011.



Health Matters



A special welcome to new members of RTO You will soon be taking advantage of our benefit plans. They are the best. Please read your benefit booklets and, if you have a question, phone Johnson Inc.

Our provincial health care system is admired by people from all over the world.

Canada's immigration policy is to allow 250,000 people to immigrate each year; however, in the last few years just under 290,000 people have been allowed to settle in our great country. Is it our vastness or our Health Care System?

Our Health Care System is sometimes compared to a hospital gown. You think that you are fully covered when you reach age 65, but you’re not. That is why our benefit plan is great. It helps to pay for these additional costs.

Always remember that if you are in hospital, everything is usually covered but if you are an out-patient, you usually have to cover additional expenses out of your pocket. (Submit a claim to Johnson Inc.)

Independent Review of Extended Health Plans by Coglin Employee Benefits Specialists

In April of 2011, an independent review of your health care benefit plans was done by Coglin Specialists. They said that our RTO/ERO plan is equal to, or superior to, other plans in most areas of Ontario. Our plan is superior to plans offered by elementary and secondary employee and support staff by our competitor RTIP. Your plan is a group plan and, as a member, you own it. **Johnson administers it**. Members are getting good value from their plan but there are some recommendations which are currently being investigated. Our travel plan is superior to them all. It is rather comforting that, as a group, we all pay the same premiums. Not so with other plans where, as members age, the premiums increase. The last point that I will mention is that the reviewer felt that our plans were more grounded to our membership's needs and feedback.

Points of Interest/Review

1. The **average age** of an RTO/ERO member is 71.
2. **OHIP** delisted 2,200 drugs between 2009/10. Some generic drugs took their place. The bottom line is less drugs that are covered by OHIP are available for your physician to prescribe.
3. **Organ Donor Registry:** Remember that old piece of paper that you had in your wallet with your driver's license. It is no longer valid. You have to go online and fill out the registration forms from www.giftoflife.on.ca. The website is run by the Trillium Gift of Life Network, which is the province's central donation agency. Donors then mail the forms to Service Ontario or take them to their local OHIP office to expedite registration. Many states have this donor identification put on their driver's license. To my knowledge, no province has this. Wouldn't it be nice if Ontario was the first province to do this and therefore save more lives? Organ donations in Ontario saved 218 lives in 2010.
4. **Asbestos:** Having spent the last 17 years of my teaching career involved with Health & Safety and still being an active instructor for the Worker's Health and Safety Centre, I am so glad that most schools are free of chrysotile asbestos. A few schools have some but it remains encapsulated and safe. Our new teachers and students are safe. I find it extremely disturbing that Canada still exports, from Quebec mines ship-loads of this stuff to India and will continue to do so for the next 50 years. Our current Federal government continues to support this practice. Brake material for automobiles has not used asbestos for close to 2 decades. Why? Excessive

WSIB claims from auto mechanics.

5. Trips and Falls: 20% of injury-related deaths among seniors can be traced back to a fall. Hip fractures are the most common. Start now to de-clutter. To get started read "healthmatters", the December 2010/February 2011 article that you will find on-line. It is well researched and written.

6. Travel Insurance: You know that you are covered for 62 continuous days while out of province or country; however, many people fail to document their departure date and therefore it takes a long time to get your claim settled. Buy something from Duty Free and charge it to your card. It's that easy.

There are so many issues to deal with concerning Health. I hope that this brief read will help you become a little bit more aware of issues.

Be safe! Be healthy!
Patrick Bruder



22nd Annual Hills of Erin Studio Tour

You are invited to travel from studio to studio in this self-guided tour, where you will meet participating artists, including RTO newsletter editor Anne Smith, and watch captivating demonstrations in the beautiful hills of Erin, Hillsburgh and Grand Valley.

Dates:	Sept. 17 - 18, 2011, Sept. 24 - 25, 2011
Times:	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Cost:	Free
Contact:	Anne Smith 519-833-9577
Web Site:	www.hillsoferinstudiotour.com



District 31's Goodwill Committee works diligently to recognize, support, comfort and bring cheer to members and families of our RTO/ERO. Since January, our committee has sent over 120 cards for birthdays of our members over 80, as well as get well and sympathy cards to members. Please help us to continue to bring "goodwill" to our members by contacting the following people by phone, email or through our District 31's RTO website www.rto31.org.

Arthur, Harriston

Joyce Barnes 519-848-2351
Joyce.barnes@sympatico.ca

Mount Forest

Pat Corrigan 519-323-1147
darcypat@wightman.ca

Drayton, Moorefield, Palmerston

Jean Brodhaecker 519-638-2291
Darje@bell.net

Elora, Fergus, Salem, Alma

Marg Hall 519-846-5235
marg.carl@sympatico.ca



Rockwood, Hillsburgh, Erin

Marina Howlett 519-836-8585
marina.howlett@sympatico.ca

Guelph

Brenda McGinnis 519-824-5263
dmcgin602@rogers.com

Rosa Lugosi 519-763-1358
Vinros@sympatico.ca

Nancy Baker 519-822-6653
nanbaker@rogers.com

Mary Hermann 519-821-3892
maryhermann@rogers.com

Dates to Remember

Thurs., Sept. 22, 2011 Last date to register with Mike Curtis for Fall Luncheon

Wed., Sept. 28, 2011 10:30 a.m. RTO District 31 Fall General Meeting/Luncheon/Election
Alma Bible Centre

Wed., Oct 19, 2011 Stratford Trip to see Camelot

Mon. - Wed., Oct. 24-26, 2011 RTO Fall Senate
Marriott Hotel, Toronto, ON



Reminders

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR STATUS

It is imperative that you let the Teachers' 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.223).

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. 223) or e-mail her at dvezeau@rto-ero.org.

Have a Friend who is Not a Member of RTO/ERO?

If you know of a retired educator who is not a member of RTO/ERO, this information may be of interest to that person. Membership in RTO/ERO is **not automatic** when one retires. It is necessary to complete the appropriate membership form.

To apply for membership, contact RTO/ERO membership services at 1-800-361-9888 for an application or go their website, www.rto-ero.org and complete the application form on line.

Spring Senate

May 16-18, 2011



*Brenda McGinnis and
Stephen O'Connell
District 31 Senators*

*Anne Smith and
Carol Christie
District 31 Observers*





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.



Muriel J Miller
Francesco Pirico
H Gail Snyder



Donations

Bring a Book Campaign Thank You

The 40 new books donated at our Spring Dinner were well received by the Action Read Community Literacy Centre. Mira Clarke, Director of the Centre sent a reply to our group in which she states, "I wish to thank you all for the donation of gorgeous new books. What a wonderful gesture this is! ... We so appreciate your support!"

You can contact the Centre at 2 Quebec St., Guelph, 519-836-2759 or www.actionread.com.



Going Green

FREE FALL LUNCHEON TICKETS

In a draw at our Spring Dinner, one free Fall Luncheon ticket was drawn from the names of those already receiving the newsletter by email and the winner was Margaret Kingdon. A second draw from the names of those signing up at the dinner was won by Deborah Dryden. Congratulations!

RTO NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Thank you to those who said that they would like to receive their RTO District 31 newsletter by email. One hundred sixteen members have signed up, 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.



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.



Proposed Slate of Officers for 2011-2012 RTO/ERO Executive District 31

President/ Political Advocacy	Brenda McGinnis (519-824-5263)
Past President	Stephen O'Connell (519-265-2125)
1st Vice President/ Membership	Carol Christie (519-822-6307))
2nd Vice President	
Secretary	Joan Miller
Treasurer	Mike Curtis
Goodwill	Joyce Barnes
Health	Pat Bruder
Newsletter Editor	Anne Smith
Pension Concerns	Marina Howlett
Travel	Lynn Morrison
Website	John Ritchie
District Counsellors	
OECA Liaison	Nancy Baker
Social	Pam Niesiobedzki
Shopper	Mary Hermann
	Joan Berry



REPORT THIRTY-ONE

published by
Wellington District 31
R.T.O./E.R.O.
Editor - Anne Smith
519-833-9577



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

RTO/ERO DISTRICT 31

Fall Luncheon and General Election Meeting

ALMA BIBLE CENTRE

59 Peel Street, Alma, Ontario

(From Guelph, turn right at the one and only traffic light in Alma.)

Wednesday, September 28, 2011

10:00 a.m. Coffee and Social
10:30 a.m. Meeting Reports and Election
11:45 a.m. Lunch
12:30 p.m. Entertainment
1:30 p.m. Door Prizes

Menu

Salad
Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables
Roast Beef Dinner
Home-cooked Pie, Tea/Coffee

Fantastic Door Prizes

Gift Cards
Centrepieces
Theatre Tickets



- CTHP "Can Lightning Strike Twice"
- OMT "Best Xmas Pageant Ever"
- GLT "Frozen Dreams"
- GLT "Lion in Winter"
- GLT "The Dining Room"
- GLT "Looking"



Entertainer:
Guelph-born
singer, songwriter

**Andrew
Coombes**



Detach and send before Sept. 22, 2011 to:

Mike Curtis, Treasurer

9450 Copeland Path, RR#2 Erin, ON N0B 1T0 905-877-4134

Cost: \$15.00 per person
Subsidized by District 31

Fall Annual Luncheon Meeting and Elections OF RTO/ERO DISTRICT 31

Wednesday, September 28, 2011

PLEASE RSVP before September 22, 2011.

Please make reservations for: _____
Name

and

Name of Guest

Special Dietary Requirements: _____

Enclosed is a cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 31 in the amount of \$_____ (\$15 per person).

This meal is subsidized by RTO District 31.



August 2011

Dear friend,

I'm writing to you on behalf of an organization that brings together thousands of people in our community to make real and lasting change—United Way of Guelph & Wellington.

For over 70 years, United Way has been working in our community, helping people from all walks of life. Every day, donations to United Way help:

- individuals and families as they move from poverty to prosperity;
- local youth to grow and flourish; and
- those with health concerns to live supported and independent lives.

One of those people is Liz, whose story you'll find on the back of this letter. With support from the amazing staff and volunteers at Action Read Community Literacy Centre, Liz has learned skills to get back into the workforce. In her own words, she's "back at work. I love it!"

United Way donations made a lifetime of difference to Liz.

Like many of the programs donations to United Way support, Action Read doesn't offer a band-aid solution to the problem at hand. While not ignoring immediate needs in our community, United Way uses donations to fund programs that make substantial, long-term changes.

We need your support to continue this work in the community.

I ask you to consider giving to United Way. Your donation will improve lives and build community right here in Guelph and Wellington County, every day.

With best wishes,

Stephen O'Connell

Stephen O'Connell
President, Wellington County District 31, Retired Teachers of Ontario

P.S. There's been a lot of talk in the media about how charities use donations. Be assured that United Way is accountable to you, using every dollar wisely. See their annual report at unitedwayguelph.com/about_us/annual_reports for more information.



United Way
Guelph & Wellington
unitedwayguelph.com

85 Westmount Rd., Guelph, ON, N1H 5J2
519-821-0571—info@unitedwayguelph.com
Reg. Charitable No. 10745 7053 RR0001

Name _____

Home Address _____

Tel _____ Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

My United Way Community _____

I would like to make my donation by:

- ☐ **Pre-Authorized Payment** of \$_____/month
- ☐ Pre-authorized cheque (VOID cheque enclosed)
- ☐ Credit Card
- ☐ **One-Time Donation** of \$_____
- ☐ Cheque (enclosed, made payable to United Way)
- ☐ Credit Card

If paying by credit card:

Type (MasterCard or Visa): _____

Card Number: _____

Expiry: _____



How can you help out a neighbour, a friend, every day?

With the recent economic downturn Liz found herself out of work for the first time in over 20 years. While everyone looking for new employment faces challenges, Liz was confronted with what seemed an insurmountable problem. Most factory jobs now require a high school diploma; Liz left school in the seventh grade. As she explains it, that's the way things were when she was growing up in a small Maritime village. Her father got sick, and Liz and her sister left school to earn money to support the family.

A dependable, hard worker, Liz needed new skills to get back into the workforce. She got help with computers and math at **Action Read Community Literacy Centre**.

As she puts it, "Action Read gives people an idea of what skills they need to get their next job, and sends them in the right direction."

Action Read provided Liz with more than hard skills.

"When you aren't working, you always feel alone out there," says Liz. "When you come here, you feel like there's a family, you feel like you're part of something." Liz met other people in the same

situation, and valued the social interaction she had with them.

Liz also got help in searching for a new job and building her resume. She learned about online job sites and other ways to find work, building her computer savvy while hunting for jobs.

For Liz, like 88% of clients who reach their learning goals, her training at Action Read paid off.

"I have just found a job and am back at work. I love it!"

Your donations to United Way of Guelph & Wellington support Action Read as they provide people with the skills that will lead to brighter futures for them and their families. Maybe like Liz, you are a long-time United Way donor that never expected to need the services you've been supporting. Your donations ensure programs are there for your family and friends when they need them most.

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Questions?

Contact us at 519-821-0571 or info@unitedwayguelph.com.