

# Report Thirty-One

Fall 2016

Published by RTO/ERO District 31 Wellington



## President's Message



I hope that everyone had a great summer (thus far). I have enjoyed the warmth (despite sometimes complaining) and hope that we have all been able to store up some the heat for the cold that will eventually come, according to Farmers' Almanac.

Provincial RTO-ERO has arranged for a renewed contract with Merit Travel and the list of benefits that apply to members are included in the newsletter.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Governance continues to work with the legislation and our advisors to ensure that RTO-ERO has the best possible governance model which is also compliant with current legislation for non-profit organizations in Canada. The committee's timeline is that all of the needed constitution and bylaw changes will be considered and approved by the end of the October 2017 Senate/AGM and the first AGM under the new model will occur in May 2018 (also our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year – March 14, 1968).

You will soon be hearing more about the plans for celebrating RTO-ERO's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary both provincially and locally.

I am pleased to announce that:

- Cassandra Vuylsteke, daughter of Meacheal and Judy, is the recipient of the Provincial RTO-ERO Scholarship;
- Alicia Denoon of John F. Ross CVI, Sarah Gomes of Bishop Macdonnell CSS, and Jacqueline Nelson of John F. Ross CVI are the recipients of the RTO-ERO District 31 – Wellington – scholarships.

Thank you to those who donate to our District 31 – Wellington – Scholarship Fund by sending cheques and your contact information to Mike Curtis, RTO-ERO District 31 Treasurer.

Thank you also to those who continue to contribute to the

RTO-ERO Foundation through regular monthly contributions or one-time 'In Memory' or 'In Honour' contributions. For those who wish more information, please contact Yolanda Bronstein, Executive Director, 416-962-9463 ext. 245, 1-800-361-9888, or [ybronstein@rto-ero.org](mailto:ybronstein@rto-ero.org). Her office hours are: Mon., Wed., Thurs. 8:30 – 4:30 OR you can access the information online at [rto-ero.org](http://rto-ero.org) and then by clicking on 'Support the Foundation' or entering the Members' Centre. The Foundation continues to do great work supporting programs and people who focus on improving the quality of life of all seniors.

I look forward to meeting with you at our Fall Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at the Centre Wellington Sportsplex in Fergus. David Kendall, RTO-ERO Second Vice-President, will be our guest speaker. We will also consider, and hopefully, approve some constitution and bylaw changes suggested by the Provincial and District Constitution Committees. You will find the information including registration later in the newsletter.

Enjoy reading about the many great things going on in our District as you read the articles in our newsletter.

Richard Goodbrand



## Political Advocacy



On July 1st of this year, members of our executive sent emails to wish each other a Happy Canada Day. We all expressed our gratitude for living in such a wonderful country that was free of war and dictatorship and offered its citizens such a great way of life. We all expressed the thought that we must guard and preserve our country and try to make it even better. This is essentially the whole point of political advocacy - keeping and preserving what is good and valuable and improving our country and way of life for everyone who lives here.

With this in mind, the Provincial Executive and Political Advocacy Committee wrote a letter to the Minister of

Health Canada, Jane Philpott, expressing concerns about some of the negative impacts of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) on RTO/ERO members and seniors across Canada. Our Provincial President, Martin Higgs, and Executive Director, Jim Grieve, noted that Canadian seniors now outnumber children, making up over 16 per cent of the Canadian population. 40 per cent of the population in Canada is between the ages of 40 and 70 and are either retired now or likely to retire over the next 20 or so years.

The main point of the letter was to emphasize the detrimental impact that provisions in the TPP would have on the Canadian health care system. "With drug prices at an all-time high and biologics on the rise, retirees cannot keep pace with the current Canadian health care landscape. The inclusion of further patent protections in the TPP will only worsen the current state and place undue strain on the health of Canadians for the financial gain of pharmaceutical giants."

The letter also refers to a study by the Canadian Medical Association which reports that there are only 261 geriatricians in Canada. That is only 0.7 geriatricians per 100,000 population. "We need to move forward with initiatives that improve the health of our Canadian retirees. The proposed changes to patent protection laws do the opposite."

This letter concludes with the statement: "On behalf of our thousands of RTO/ERO members and all seniors across Canada, we urge you and the Government of Canada to deeply consider the impact of the TPP on the ability of this country, and organization like ours, to ensure that healthy, active, dignified and affordable housing remains a priority."

We are awaiting a response from our government and we will continue to advocate for this issue.

Another issue of universal concern and worthy of much political advocacy is climate change. MP Lloyd Longfield is hosting a Climate Change Town Hall on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at the Italian Canadian Club at 6:30 p.m. MP Longfield invites citizens to join in "an engaging discussion on climate change and share your views on this pressing issue". I encourage members to attend this session.

As usual, there are far too many issues to highlight in this column. As always, I will try to have upcoming town halls and special political advocacy events posted on our website. Interested members are strongly encouraged to attend these events.

October 1<sup>st</sup> is National Seniors' Day. It is an occasion for all Canadians to appreciate and celebrate seniors. Members of our Provincial executive will be in the Ontario Legislature when the day is celebrated (October 1<sup>st</sup> is a Saturday this year so it will be either before or after this date) and will be recognized by the house as it honours the many contributions made by seniors now and in the past. Enjoy the day and let's keep advocating for better lives for everyone.

Brenda McGinnis



#### TURNING 65 - "The Golden Years"

The month after you celebrate your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, you'll notice an adjustment in your Ontario Teachers' Pension because our pension plan is integrated with the CPP. During your working years, you contributed to both the CPP and the OTPP. Your OTPP contributions were reduced to reflect the contributions made to, and the benefits you earned under, the CPP for the same period.

Most teachers retire before their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. Your OTPP provided a bridge benefit over and above your OTPP pension amount. These benefits make you eligible for an unreduced CPP pension the month after you turned 65. Of course you are aware that, if you started to take your CPP at around 60, you would have received around \$8,000 per year; if you took CPP at age 65 the maximum amount is around \$12,000 per year. These are individual decisions as everyone is different.

This leads us into the part of your life journey at age 65 when you can receive ODB drug benefits. This is how it works. Currently, if you have an income over \$17,000, you must pay the first \$100 starting August 1<sup>st</sup> each year for your prescriptions (\$80 is payable by Johnson Inc.) and usually just the dispensing fee for your medications. They must be on the ODB Rx list of drugs. Not all medications are approved so, in many cases, having a drug plan is a great thing.

People continue to be annoyed that usually, after a year, they have to see their Physician to get a new prescription. Prescriptions that have an LU code (meaning Limited Use) are time sensitive (12 to 15 months). Sometimes they are

for name brand medications that are expensive and the ODB prefers you to use generics. Our plan only pays for generics, unless specified by your physician.

#### BENEFITS OF BEING A SENIOR:

- discounts on home and auto insurance and car rentals
- discounts at some restaurants
- sometimes a discount at hair salons, etc.
- more time to do the things you have always wanted to do, if you still can
- free refills of coffee at McDonald's
- many dentists, if you ask, will offer you a 10% discount and don't forget those Optima Points at Shoppers
- you can add to this list

#### HIGH DRUG PRICES A Trend Coming Soon to Canada

Drug companies in the United States in 2015, in some cases, have decided to raise prices to astronomical levels. An example is Martin Shkreli, the CEO of Turing Pharmaceuticals, who increased the price of Daraprim from \$13.50 to \$750 per pill. This drug is used to treat HIV/AIDS. Mylan, the company you have heard about in the news, is the maker of the EpiPen and has reformulated the drug which gave them a new twenty-year U.S. patent. It is currently charging up to \$600 per EpiPen. Its previous prices were just under \$200. Imagine the strain on parents who have children with allergies from peanuts to bees. EpiPens sold in Canada are still around the \$100 mark and are not made by Mylan.

Many of the reasons for these increases are less competition. With less competition, a shortage of "raw" ingredients is created. Old drugs are reformulated as costly "new" drugs and have new patents. This creates generic drug shortages worldwide and, apparently, fewer manufacturers which makes the drugs more expensive and less accessible. It could all boil down to corporate greed. Drug companies have a right to make a profit but they also have a moral obligation to be transparent about their pricing. Many times, it is government money that helps with the research part of the medication.

Thank goodness that we live in a country where the government and the College of Pharmacy have a say in the cost of our medications.

#### INTERESTING FACTS

- Canadians under 60 years take 4 medications daily on average.
- Canadian over 65 years take 6 medications daily on

average.

If you don't take any medications, think of others who need them to enjoy some quality of life.

#### FOOD SAFETY

The Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic finding is that 85% of consumers throw out food based upon the date on the package. Seniors continue to get more food-borne illnesses because they buy too large quantities, keep food too long in the fridge, fail to defrost frozen food properly and fail to keep the fridge temperature below 37 degrees Fahrenheit. Saving a few cents by keeping your fridge too warm causes rapid food spoilage and can make you extremely ill.

It is recommended that butter, opened cooking oils, jam, jelly and peanut butter be refrigerated. Items that should not go in the fridge are: bananas, bread, coffee, garlic, onions, potatoes and tomatoes.

As we mature, we gain more knowledge. As usual scientists are giving us suggestions on how to have longer and healthier lives. Some of us age more gracefully than others.

Hopefully you will take advantage of our Wellness Workshop this Fall.

Stay Healthy! Stay Safe!

##### 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>



This workshop will be held on Nov. 2, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Royal Distributing Athletic Performance Centre on Marden Rd. The cost is \$5.00 and participants are asked to register in advance. The registration form which is included in the newsletter, and the fee, should be sent to Mike Curtis.

Nancy Revie is our keynote speaker and is a certified senior fitness instructor. Her motivational and entertaining talk will get everyone moving. Best Doctors, "an organization that provides a suite of services which enables you to draw on the knowledge of the best medical minds in the world to help ensure you receive the right diagnosis, the



best treatment and high quality care", will give a presentation. A representative of Ontario 211, a telephone helpline available at no cost 24 hours a day, seven days a week, will speak to services available to seniors.

A light snack, a drink and a breakfast bar, will be provided. Participants will need to bring extra shoes for walking on the indoor track.

## Pension and Retirement Concerns



### **Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan – Highlights from the 2016 Annual Meeting, April 7, 2016**

Strong investment returns, combined with conditional inflation protection, produced the plan's third consecutive funding surplus in January 1, 2016.

- January 1, 2016 – Net assets rose to a record \$171.4 billion, up from \$154.5 billion in 2014.
- January 1, 2016 – The funding surplus was \$13.2 billion. This means that OTPP is funded at 107% of the assets required to pay future pensions to all members, based on the current benefit and contribution levels.
- The plan earned a 13.0% rate of return and the annualized rate of return since 1990 was 10.3%.
- Investment returns are responsible for more than three-quarters of the plan's income with the remainder coming from member and government contributions:
  - \* 79% - Investment Income
  - \* 11% - Government (Employer) Contributions
  - \* 10% - Member (Employee) Contributions
- Changing Demographics:
  - \* 1990- Members expected to collect an OTPP Pension for 25 years
  - \* 2015- Members expected to collect an OTPP Pension for 31 years. 130 pensioners were age 100 or older.
  - \* 1990- 71 was the average pension age. 156,000 active members contributing to OTPP; 38,000 pensioners
  - \* 2015 - 183,000 active members contributing to OTPP. 133,000

pensioners; \$5.5 billion was required to pay pensioners their monthly pension payment.

- Member Satisfaction: 96% of members surveyed in 2015 said they were satisfied or better with the service received from OTPP. 61% provided a 10 out of 10 rating.

Ron Mock, President and Chief Executive Officer of the OTPP, was quite pleased to report the growth and success of the plan during the past year but was cautiously optimistic about future growth when tempered with the global investment outlook and the changing demographic profile. The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan is considered to be a mature pension plan, with a declining ratio of active teachers to pensioners (1.4:1) and a longer life expectancy than the Canadian population in general.

Also, current economic growth in the global community is quite weak. The interest rate is low and declining and the inflation rate is low worldwide. The OTPP strategy is to invest with caution and discipline; to minimize and manage risk while achieving maximum returns that will deliver pensions and retirement security for members, today and tomorrow.

### Frequently Asked Question

Members of OTPP often inquire about making personal investments in OTPP because of the plan's excellent investment returns. Members of OMERS have the opportunity to invest in their pension plan.

### Answer (from OTPP, Plan Administrator)

No, it is not possible. The plan is not set up this way. The legislation governing our plan does not allow this practice. The Partners, OTF and the Ontario government, would have to agree and make changes to this legislation. The Board and staff maintain that their fiduciary responsibility is to get the highest return for plan members. Personal investments for Members could change their focus and thus could influence these returns. A different accounting would have to be created, additional staff would have to be hired and the administrative costs would be much higher than what we see today.

Marina Howlett, 519-836-8585



## Goodwill



In June, I had the opportunity to attend the RTO/ERO Provincial Goodwill Workshop. I was delighted to learn and share ideas with district Goodwill representatives and staff who care for over 73,000 members belonging to our organization.

RTO District 31's Goodwill Committee looks forward to providing our members with caring and compassion by sending birthday cards, sympathy cards, get well wishes or celebrations of special life events.

Please help us by contacting any of the members of the District 31 Goodwill Committee listed below. We may also be contacted at the District 31 website, [www.rto31.org](http://www.rto31.org).

A reminder that Birthday cards for our members who are 80 plus will be sent at the beginning of the birthday month due to a Provincial RTO/ERO policy change associated with the Privacy Act.

Please contact RTO Provincial Office at 800-361-9888 if you change your address so our Goodwill records are up to date.

### **Arthur, Mount Forest, Harriston**

**Joyce Barnes** 519-848-2351

[joyce.barnes@sympatico.ca](mailto:joyce.barnes@sympatico.ca)

### **Drayton, Moorefield, Palmerston**

**Jean Brodhaecker** 519-638-2291

[darje@bell.net](mailto:darje@bell.net)

### **Elora, Fergus, Salem, Alma**

**Marg Hall** 519-846-5235

[margcarl.hall@gmail.com](mailto:margcarl.hall@gmail.com)

### **Rockwood, Hillsburgh, Erin**

**Marina Howlett** 519-836-8585

[marina.howlett@sympatico.ca](mailto:marina.howlett@sympatico.ca)

### **Guelph**

**Brenda McGinnis** 519-824-5263

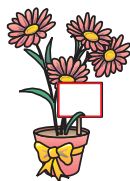
[dmcginc602@rogers.com](mailto:dmcginc602@rogers.com)

**Nancy Baker** 519-82-6653

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

**Mary Hermann** 519-821-3892

[maryhermann@rogers.com](mailto:maryhermann@rogers.com)



RTO/ERO provincial direction is to improve the lives of members and seniors. Check out the following resources:

- 2-1-1 A free phone service to connect to community services.

- Visit online at [211Ontario.ca](http://211Ontario.ca)
- A Guide to Programs and Services for Seniors in Ontario

Copies are available from RTO District 31 Executive or by calling 1-800-668-9938 or online at [www.ontario.ca/publications](http://www.ontario.ca/publications) or at [www.rto31.org](http://www.rto31.org), our District 31 website.

- Seniors INFOline 1-800-387-5599

Share a smile today,  
Joyce Barnes



## Travel News



Fall will soon be upon us and that means getting together again with our friends in RTO/ERO. For me, it means looking ahead to 2017 as this fall's tours will soon be over. I am looking to you for ideas and destinations for next year's tours.

One suggestion that was made was to go to the amazing Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. This tour would also include Amish Country, Hershey Chocolate World and the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre.

One suggested day trip was the Niagara Belle Cruise with time in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

If you have a place to suggest, please call me at 519-323-2419 or email at [lynnmorrison@wightman.ca](mailto:lynnmorrison@wightman.ca) or see me at the Fall luncheon. Looking forward to your replies.

Lynn Morrison



## Website

Members are urged to visit our District website  
[www.rto31.org](http://www.rto31.org)  
for

up-to-date information about RTO/ERO events in  
Wellington County  
and

for photos of past events.

Each edition of Report Thirty-One is posted on the web usually before you receive your copy in the mail.



## Foundation Report

We are all ageing. To make this a more positive time in all our lives, RTO/ERO established The Retired Teachers of Ontario Foundation/la Fondation des Enseignantes et Enseignants Retraites de l'Ontario.

**Vision:** Enhance the quality of life of ageing adults

**Mission:** We are a registered Canadian charity that invests in innovative initiatives promoting healthy, active ageing. Recognizing the urgency of an ageing Canadian population, we are proactively engaging with donors, RTO/ERO members, community organizations and subject matter experts to achieve our vision.

**Focus 1:** *Geriatrics/Gerontology research and training at post-secondary institutions.*

Why? Canada has one Geriatrician for every 15,495 older Canadians.

In July 2015, Dr Paula Rochon was appointed RTO/ERO Chair in Geriatric Medicine.

**Focus 2:** *Social Isolation*

“The number one emerging issue facing seniors in Canada is keeping older people socially connected and active.” -- *National Seniors report on the social isolation of seniors, Oct. 2014*

The Foundation has been pursuing outstanding research and support in the field of geriatric medicine and in service pertinent to our RTO/ERO membership and seniors.

It is not the years in your life but the life in your years that counts. - Adelai Stevenson

We can all support the Foundation by making a donation or signing up for monthly donations.

Go to [www.rto-ero.org](http://www.rto-ero.org); select: Support the Foundation; select: ways to give.

And, you can fill out In Memory/In Honour cards for donations at funeral homes.

Let's all help the Foundation keep the life in our years!

Carol Christie



## District 31 Financial Report



### RTO District 31 Financial Report Sept. 12, 2016

#### Income

Annual Rebate	17 937.84
RPW	1 151.44
Spring luncheons	1 450.00
Donation Wellington Learning Foundation	500.00

**Total** **21 039.28**

#### Expenses

Goodwill	449.66
Retirement Planning Workshop	1 157.88
Executive	174.11
District	3 089.68
Senate	1 330.30
Newsletter	4 029.99
Office Expenses	175.19
Travel	542.96
Advertisement	50.00
S. Gomes (scholarship)	400.00
Canadian Red Cross (Ft. McMurray)	200.00
RTO Charitable Foundation (In Memoriam District 31)	100.00
Com. Living Guelph Well. (Norm Jary golf tour)	300.00
J. Nelson (scholarship)	400.00
A. Denoon (scholarship)	400.00

**Total** **12 799.77**

**Surplus** **8 239.51**

**Bank Balance** **10 085.79**

Mike Curtis  
Treasurer

You and your spouse/guest are cordially invited to attend the  
RTO/ERO DISTRICT 31

# Fall Luncheon, General Meeting and Arts and Craft Show and Sale

Centre Wellington Community Sportsplex  
(Gord Brown Hall)  
550 Belsyde Ave., Fergus ON

Thursday, October 20, 2016

10:00 - 11:15 a.m. Arts and Craft Show Shopping, Coffee and Social,  
Book Exchange  
11:15 a.m. Business Meeting  
11:45 a.m. Lunch  
12:45 - 1:30 p.m. Entertainment: Musician, Paul Hock

Paul Hock has been a Professional Full-Time Musician for a good part of his life. He gears his music to his audience and plays a variety of Traditional, 50's & 60's and Country with some original numbers. Paul is from Fergus.

**Detach and send before October 6, 2016 to:**

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

Cost: \$25.00 per person  
*Subsidized by District 31*

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

Thursday, October 20, 2016

PLEASE RSVP before October 6, 2016.

Please make reservations for: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Guest

Special Dietary Requirements:

☐ Vegetarian

☐ Gluten Free

☐ Lactose Intolerant

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 31 in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$25 per person).

*This meal is subsidized by RTO District 31.*





## Membership



Membership in District 31 (Wellington) continues to grow. As of August, we have 1292 members. Although the bulk of these members is between the ages of 65 and 74, we do have 220 members below the age of 64. BUT, I am pleased to report, we have 10 members over the age of 95, with 3 of them being 100+. Way to go, folks!

As the new school year begins for many of our former colleagues, the new relationship between District 31 and some newly retired education workers begins. Many of these new members attended the Retirement Planning Workshop in April and heard from very knowledgeable people just how important it is to belong to RTO/ERO.

- We have new members who have moved to the area from other parts of Ontario and BC.
- We have new members who took advantage of the enrollment window, moving from an individual insurance plan to the RTO/ERO group plan.
- And we have new members who have joined after the passing of a spouse who was a member.

Each of these retirees has wisely chosen RTO/ERO to look after all their health, medical and travel insurance needs provided by Johnson Insurance Inc.

Through our newsletter and our website ([www.rto31.org](http://www.rto31.org)), each of these retirees will receive relevant information about many topics, as well as District 31 local opportunities for travel, luncheons, the walking club, and other events.

A warm welcome to the following people who have joined District 31, RTO/ERO:

Maureen Harrington, John Keleher, Cynthia Norman, Wayne Tarzwell, Kathryn Warren, Mitchell Zuk, Andrea Kehrer, Bonnie Nadalin, Paul Young, Ann Charles, Sharon Holbein, Simon Leibovitz, Diana Root, Donna Zuccala, Erica Churchill, Marilyn Finlayson, Harwood Nesbitt, Susan Carlyle Scott, Antonella Cenedese, Kathryn Anne Collins, Carol Davison, Catherine Masi, Colleen McKee, Catherine Novosad, Shelley Sheridan, Gillian Stevens, Joyce Stevenson, Jacqueline Venditti, Louise Coffey, Susan Cousins, Annette Dyon, Gilsele Hebert, Raymond Lehoux, Joanne Shoots, Linda Stockton-Wigmore

Carol Christie  
Chair



## In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of the following District 31 members since our last newsletter.

We are grateful for their friendship, their service and their memory. Our sincere condolences are extended to their family and friends.

Evelyn Almond  
Ethel Hindley  
John Bennett Root  
Robert Finlayson  
Shirley McKay



Marlene Wells  
John Churchill  
Edith Strickland  
Marguerite Burrows  
Doreen Sargent



## Something to Shout About...

District 31 is blessed with many talented and creative members who are engaged in many interesting and exciting activities. We continue to feature some of these achievements in our newsletters.



Please let our executive know about any of our members who are involved in interesting adventures or who have received awards or special recognition for their work. We would like to acknowledge and celebrate and support the accomplishments and endeavours of our members.

**Anne and Andy Behnan** celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary last August.

**Carol Christie** received the Cora Bailey Award presented by Guelph Wellington Retired Women Teachers for her outstanding contributions to the association.



## Local Entertainment Group

**Fall Winter Theatre Opportunities for Our New Entertainment Group**

For those regular theatre goers, this is the time to be buying



your subscription series tickets to your favourite groups. This is the best bang for your buck, and you can always change your dates later if something comes up.

**For Guelph residents,** Guelph Little Theatre at 176 Morris Street Guelph will open with the classical Norm Foster comedy, "Opening Night" (October 14 - 29). This is a bizarre play within a play about first encounters with theatre. Their Christmas family show is the musical, "The Giant's Garden" by Peter Fenton & Scott White, and runs Nov. 25 – Dec. 10, with most shows being matinees. Their winter show is the world premiere of the new murder mystery by Anthony Deciantis, "The Perfect Murder" (Jan. 27 – Feb. 11, 2017), and, last but not least this fall-winter season, GLT will be again hosting the WODL festival during March break. Tickets for this awesome event will be on sale in late October 2016. Individual show tickets for all these shows may be booked on-line at [www.guelphlittletheatre.com](http://www.guelphlittletheatre.com) or subscriptions may be purchased through the box office at (519) 821-0270.

For those Musical Theatre lovers, RCMPI will be presenting the loveable Wizard of Oz, Nov. 23-27, 2016. This is the enchanting story of Dorothy and Toto and their adventures through the Emerald Land of Oz. Tickets are available on-line or by calling the River Run Centre box office at (519) 763-3000.

**For northern residents** of the county, Elora Community Theatre will present "It's A Wonderful Life" at the Fergus Grand Theatre Nov. 4 - 13. Many of you will remember this wonderful story with Jimmy Stewart about how Clarence the angel gets his wings. A great show for the whole family! Tickets may be purchased at (519) 787-1981.

Also the Grey-Wellington Theatre Guild, 68 Elora Street South in Harriston, is presenting a heart-warming comedy by Canadian playwright Robert Ainsworth "Frozen Dreams" in the Harriston Town Hall Nov. 18 -26. Tickets may be purchase by phone (519) 338-2778 or on-line at [www.greywellingtontheatre.com](http://www.greywellingtontheatre.com).

**In the Erin and Eastern** areas of the county, there are several theatre shows you may be interested in attending. If you missed W.O. Mitchell's literary delight, "The Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon", you may be in luck. Catch them curling with the devil at Georgetown Little Theatre's John Elliot Theatre, 6 Church Street Georgetown, from Nov. 4 – 12. 2016. Tickets may be purchased through the JET box office (905) 877-3700 or on-line at [www.haltonhills.ca/theatre](http://www.haltonhills.ca/theatre). There are several Guelph, Orangeville, and area residents in this show so, if you want to be on stage, there are some wonderful bit parts

to just enjoy. Call Pam at (905) 877-4134 if that tickles your fancy.

Caledon Townhall Players, at the corner of Charleston Sideroad and Hurontario, will open with the comedy, "Drinking Habits", Nov. 3 - 12 with a dinner theatre evening Nov. 5, 2016. You may purchase tickets at (519) 927-5460 or on-line at [www.caledontownhallplayers.com](http://www.caledontownhallplayers.com).

For grandparents in the area looking for Christmas Shows to enjoy with their grandchildren, Century Church will be doing the Pantomime, "Jack in the Beanstalk", at Century Church Theatre Guild, 72 Trafalgar Road in Hillsburgh, Nov 25 - Dec. 4. Box office is (519) 855-4586. Please check their website, [www.centurychurchtheatre.com](http://www.centurychurchtheatre.com), for discounted tickets.

Community theatre provides an opportunity for individuals from all walks of life to develop confidence, skills and artistic sensibilities. Whether it is to act, direct, make costumes, create props, build or paint a set, it gives one a sense of accomplishment. An invitation is extended to all members to take this opportunity to join us in this great adventure and to get involved in a show, even curling experts are welcome. You may contact me at: [pniesiobedzki@hotmail.com](mailto:pniesiobedzki@hotmail.com).



## Benefits provided by Merit Travel for RTO-ERO Members

**Merit provides a variety of trips and excursions for RTO-ERO members, including the following:**

- **Shorter Trips:** Merit offers "Short Stays – Value Vacations", which are shorter trips that members take to destinations offering exciting experiences. Examples include fall colours in the Agawa Canyon and an urban escape in Chicago.
- **Travel for Singles:** Merit offers itineraries for small groups travelling as singles, with single accommodation. Understanding that single supplements are often high, because hotels and cruise lines set their price by the room, not by the number of people, Merit partners with Connect Solo to create single travel programs for 50-plus solo travelers seeking to travel in small groups of like-minded individuals.
- **Adventure Trips:** Merit offers specialized trips for members with a spirit for adventure, such as climbing Kilimanjaro, hiking to Machu Picchu and camping in

the Sahara. Experts in these areas prepare customized itineraries, such as for those who feel more comfortable travelling with a small group or want to venture in luxury.

- **Ski Vacations:** Merit offers skiers an industry-leading lineup of ski vacation packages for families, groups, and couples.
- **Golf Getaways:** Merit offers customized golf retreats based upon well-established relationships with the top golf resorts and destinations across North America and Western Europe.
- **Leisure Vacations:** Merit offers specialized “Leisure Vacations”, including a robust selection of itineraries for luxury ocean liners, boutique river cruises, and vacations of more than 30 days. Merit helps members plan meaningful travel experiences such as a last-minute sun vacation, a customized trip through Europe, or a multi-generational trip.
- **Longstay and Hosted Groups:** Merit provides Longstay programs that have been enjoyed by members of RTO-ERO for several years. These feature hosted and independent winter getaways for one month or longer in interesting and culturally rich destinations with warm climates, including Portugal, Costa del Sol Spain, French Riviera, Arizona, and Texas. These value vacations include round-trip air, accommodation, transfers and cultural excursions.
- **Value Vacations:** Merit features shorter and budget-friendly travel programs accessible by all Districts, promoted in each issue of Renaissance, and on the RTO-ERO Travel website.
- **Cruises:** Merit’s RTO-ERO Specialist Team members are cruise specialists and they will provide a variety of cruise opportunities, matching the right cruise with the right vacation lifestyle. As the only full service Canadian travel partner of Signature Travel Network, Merit offers members a few unique advantages. In addition to RTO-ERO member discounts, additional discounts are offered, as well as shipboard credits, complimentary shore excursions, and hosted cocktail parties. Detailed destination guides for each port of call with shore excursion recommendations also are provided.

**Merit has negotiated special RTO-ERO member-only discounts with some of its travel partners, which are combinable with the Merit 5% discount:**

- **Cruises:** AMA Waterways, AVALON River Cruises, Azamara Cruises, Celebrity Cruises, Holland America Cruises, Linblad Expeditions, MSC Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises, Royal Caribbean Cruises, Star Clipper Cruises, Windstar Cruises.
- **Land Suppliers:** A&K, Colette Vacations, Cosmos

Tours, Globus Journeys, Merit Hosted Groups, Merit Longstays, Merit Golf Vacations.

**Merit offers the following discounts:**

- G-Adventures 10% off published fare PLUS 5% member discount;
- EXODUS 10% off published fare PLUS 5% member discount.

**Merit provides special planning for travelers with physical disabilities or mobility limitations to ensure their safety, comfort and enjoyment, and those of their companions.**

- Merit has access to hotels, cruise lines and service providers that specialize in special needs travel, and will work with travelers to choose the right travel experience for them.
- The RTO-ERO Specialist assists these travelers and offers direction as it pertains to wheelchair assistance, travelling with mobility aids and service animals, and securing accessible accommodations.

**Merit provides detailed destination guides for all members in either an email, a PDF or through a complimentary downloadable travel app called “Pocket Travel Consultant”.**

- These destination guides include detailed maps, sightseeing highlights, shopping and dining information, festival and events and much more.
- Specific, multi-destination guides are available for every cruise itinerary, and custom, multi-destination guides can be created for any land-based travel program.
- The Pocket Travel Consultant is state-of-the-art and unique to Merit and its clients.

**Merit offers these special “perks for members”:**

- Premium lounge passes for all group departures;
- Complimentary shipboard credits;
- Cocktail parties;
- Pre-paid gratuities on most cruises;
- Merit branded tote bags and RTO-ERO branded luggage straps and co-branded ticket jackets and luggage tags for all group departures.



**RTO/ERO 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018**

In 2018, RTO/ERO will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we want to mark this event in some special ways. We have formed a planning committee and we invite you to

contribute ideas for making this occasion a memorable one. We will be exploring our history and experiences as RTO/ERO members, as well as looking toward our next 50 years.

Please send your suggestions to Brenda McGinnis at:  
32 Gazer Cres Guelph N1E 5Z7 or  
[dmcginc602@rogers.com](mailto:dmcginc602@rogers.com).

We encourage and welcome your ideas and hope to hear from you.



## Fall Luncheon

### ***Returning***

At our Fall Luncheon

**ARTS AND CRAFTS**

**Creative Corner**

**Show and Sale**

Register now –only a few  
tables left

\$5.00 for a table

Set up at 9:00 a.m.

To register or for more  
information call

Nancy Baker 519-822-6653 or  
Mary Hermann 519-821-3892.

For all others this will be an  
opportunity to do some  
Christmas shopping.

### **Book Exchange for Members at Fall Luncheon**



We are adding a new table to our Fall Luncheon Arts and Crafts Display. At the suggestion of some of our members, we are inviting luncheon attendees to bring a book or books that they have enjoyed reading but do not want to keep and to trade these for books that other members have also read and decided not to keep.

Don't confuse this with our spring donation of books to Action Read. This activity is just for our members.

All leftover books will be donated to the Guelph Friends of Library book sale.



## Dates to Remember

Thurs., Oct. 20

Fall General Meeting  
Book Exchange  
Arts and Crafts Show  
and Sale



Wed., Oct 19

Pre-Senate, Guelph

Mon., Oct. 24 -  
Wed., Oct. 26

Fall Senate, Toronto

Wed., Nov. 2

Health and Wellness Workshop  
Royal Distributing Athletic  
Performance Centre,

### **RTO DISTRICT 31 NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL**

Thank you to those who said that they would like to receive their RTO District 31 newsletter by email.

Two hundred seventy-eight members have signed up, saving the environment, as well as printing and increased postage costs.

If you would like to try this, email me at:  
[m.anne.smith@gmail.com](mailto:m.anne.smith@gmail.com).

***Please remember to contact me if your  
email address changes .***



RTO District 31  
c/o Mike Curtis, Treasurer  
9450 Copeland Path, RR#2  
Erin, ON  
N0B 1T0

## *District 31 2016-2017 RTO/ERO Executive*

Past President/  
Political Advocacy  
President

Brenda McGinnis  
(519-824-5263)  
Richard Goodbrand  
(519-291-2015)

1st Vice President

Stephen O'Connell  
(519-265-2125)

2nd Vice President/  
Newsletter Editor  
Membership




Anne Smith  
(519-833-9577)  
Carol Christie  
(519-822-6307)

Secretary  
Treasurer  
Goodwill  
Health  
Pension Concerns  
Travel  
Website  
District Counsellors




Joan Miller  
Mike Curtis  
Joyce Barnes  
Patrick Bruder  
Marina Howlett  
Lynn Morrison  
John Ritchie  
Nancy Baker  
Joan Berry  
Mary Gittins  
Mary Hermann  
Pam Niesiobedzki  
Joe Tersigni

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR STATUS**

### **It is imperative that, if you have changed:**

-  your address (postal or email),
-  phone number or
-  your status,

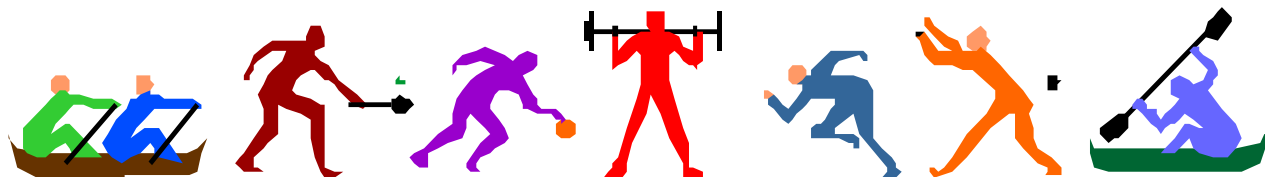
### **you contact:**

-  OTPPB (5650 Yonge St., Toronto M2M 4H5 or 1-800-668-0105) and
-  RTO/ERO (Diane Vezeau at 1-800-361-9888 ext.223 or [dvezeau@rto-ero.org](mailto:dvezeau@rto-ero.org))
-  Anne Smith at [m.anne.smith@gmail.com](mailto:m.anne.smith@gmail.com)  
District 31 for emailed newsletters.

To create the label database for the printer to send out the newsletters, the provincial office sends a monthly change list of member addresses. These changes must be made to that database manually. Every attempt is made to ensure that this information is up-to-date and correct. Please let me know if there are any errors or omissions.

REPORT THIRTY-ONE is published three times a year  
by Wellington District 31 R.T.O./E.R.O.  
Editor - Anne Smith  
519-833-9577 - [m.anne.smith@gmail.com](mailto:m.anne.smith@gmail.com)





# Fall Health and Wellness Workshop

Royal Distributing Athletic Performance Centre  
on Marden Rd.  
(west of Highway 6 on the north side of Marden Rd.)

Cost: \$5.00 in advance

Light refreshments served

Wednesday, November 2, 2016  
8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

*Enjoy*  
**Good Health**

- Keynote Speaker: Nancy Revie, Certified senior fitness instructor
- Best Doctors
- Canada 211

**PLEASE BRING INDOOR WALKING SHOES FOR THE TRACK  
AND A REFILLABLE DRINKING CUP/BOTTLE.**

**Detach and send by October 20, 2016 to:**

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

---

## **RTO/ERO DISTRICT 31 HEALTH AND WELLNESS WORKSHOP**

Wednesday, November 2, 2016  
PLEASE RSVP by October 20, 2016.

Please make reservations for: \_\_\_\_\_.

Enclosed is a cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 31 in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$5 per person).

