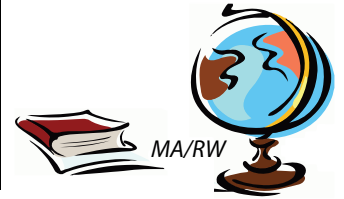


BEYOND THE BLACKBOARD



DISTRICT 24 – SCARBOROUGH AND EAST YORK



Volume 34 - Number 2

Summer 2015

<http://district24.rto-ero.org>

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

Fall Luncheon and Craft Show

Christmas Luncheon


11th DISTRICT 24

HEALTH SEMINAR

Understanding Your Health Plan

HEALTH MATTERS

Saving on Prescription Medications



Mary Billingham
Living the Dream: Teaching in Switzerland

Help Us Find Newly Retired Educational Professionals

Do you know any teachers, school and board administrators, educational assistants, administrative professionals, custodians, university and college faculty and support staff retiring in June? If you do, let us know so that they can be invited to District 24's New Members' Brunch in September!

What is RTO/ERO?

Founded in 1968, we are a full-service voluntary organization providing a strong voice for retired teachers, principals, vice-principals, educational support staff and college and university faculty and support staff.

What benefits do I receive?

- Access to superior group insurance plans
- Bilingual services
- Active peer community
- Group travel plan
- Pension support
- Member discounts and opportunities
- Advocacy on social and political issues
- Connection with member activities and initiatives

Who belongs to RTO/ERO?

We have over 72,000 members, from age 45 to 109, from every facet of education.

Can I join RTO/ERO?

Yes, if you had a full career in education as a teacher, school or board administrator receiving a pension from the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, you will be a full member. If you are a college and university faculty, and support staff from school and school boards, you will be an associate member.

What do Districts do?

At the District level, members participate in social, travel and leisure opportunities, political advocacy and District Executive Leadership.

DISTRICT 24 SCARBOROUGH AND EAST YORK

THE RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO DISTRICT 24 SCARBOROUGH AND EAST YORK

Welcomes New Members and New Retirees to a Complimentary Hot and Cold Deluxe Breakfast Buffet

Come along and meet the members of the Executive and find out more about the many benefits of being a member of RTO/ERO.

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

9:30 a.m. Coffee and Juice

10:15 a.m. Brunch Served

11:30 a.m. Cash Bar

Bluffers' Restaurant

7 Brimley Road South, Scarborough, Ontario
(Brimley Road South - at the lake)



*To reserve a seat – contact Elaine Aprile at (416) 267-2670, or by e-mail: elaineapril6@hotmail.com
by July 31, 2015.*

Beyond the Blackboard

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Beyond the Blackboard is published as a members' newsletter by RTO/ERO District 24. The content of this newsletter may or may not reflect the position of RTO/ERO District 24 or the official position of RTO/ERO. Other RTO/ERO districts are welcome to use any material contained in this newsletter providing appropriate attribution is made regarding source.

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ON OUR COVER: *Mary H. Billinghamurst, posing with the Matterhorn in the background, is “Living the Dream,” teaching in Switzerland and travelling all over Europe. Story on page 22.*

LAST MONTH'S COVER: *The three ladies featured on last month's cover have been identified as Willene Bryan on the left, Lucille Parish, in the middle and Noreen Stefanidis on the right.*

Beyond the Blackboard welcomes submissions from members of RTO/ERO District 24. We accept letters to the editor, article proposals, photos, and artwork. Do you have a story to tell, an experience to share, or a poem that you have written? Consider contributing your work for publication. Articles should be between 400 and 1200 words, and photographs and scanned images should be at least 300 dpi at 5”x7” size (please send photos/images as email attachments and do not reduce size when attaching). Send submissions to: d24.newsletter@rto-ero.org

We cannot guarantee that submissions will be published or published as received. The editors reserve the right to edit, condense, or reject letters or submissions.

Deadline for submissions for the next edition of *Beyond the Blackboard* is October 1, 2015.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DISTRICT 24 HIGHLIGHTS

DONNA HUBEL - DISTRICT 24 PRESIDENT

Your District 24 executive members have been busy during the year, putting together programs that we hope our members will enjoy. These volunteers work very diligently and often help on more than one committee.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Change is ever present in our lives. So, too, is it in RTO-ERO. At the Provincial Level, RTO-ERO has appointed a new Executive Director, Jim Grieve. He succeeds Harold Braithwaite who is retiring after 11 years leading our organization of over 72,000 members.

The Media Release of May 12, 2015 stated that Jim Grieve was a teacher, school administrator and superintendent in the North York Board of Education, Director of Education in Ottawa-Carleton for 4 years and then Director of Education with the Peel Board of Education for 7 years.

In 2009, Jim was appointed as Assistant Deputy Minister of the Early Learning Division for the Ontario Ministry of Education. He is responsible for the provincial implementation of full-day kindergarten.

In 2013, Jim was selected as Communicator of the Year by the International Association of Business Communicators. Last year, he was honoured to receive the Ministry of Education Lifetime Achievement Award.

We wish Jim every success, and look forward to working with him in the future.

DISTRICT 24 CHANGES

Other changes have taken place in our own District. In the future, our executive meetings will be held at Cedarbrook Lodge Retirement Residence, 520 Markham Road, Scarborough, rather than at the McCowan Retirement Residence. We thank the staff and residents at McCowan

Road Retirement Residence for their kindness and hospitality over the years.

All District 24 members are welcome at our executive meetings. Coffee is on tap at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting starts at 9:30 a.m. Please come and join us.

Congratulations to Jacqueline Tregwin, niece of Marilyn Tregwin, a District 24 member, on receiving the Service to Others Scholarship Award of \$1,000.00 for 2015.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the AGM, there were seven RTO members celebrating their 90th birthday year with us. Congratulations to the following people. They were Olive May with her daughter Vivian May; Janie McEachen with her daughter-in-law, Marilyn McEachen; Marion Cruikshank; Gloria Sumiya with her husband, Mitz Sumiya; Viola Bush with her daughter, Joan Bush; Maria Pearce with her daughters, Janet Wise and Mary-Anne Pearce; and Ab Tapper and his wife, Gertrude, and his daughter, Marianne Rose. Congratulations also to 100+ and 90 year-olds who were unable to join us for this wonderful occasion. Each of these members will receive a certificate from RTO District 24 on the celebration of their birthday.

Congratulations to Patricia Rule and Barry Rule for receiving District 24's Community Volunteer Awards at the AGM. They have volunteered tirelessly over many years in their community.

Thanks to our newly elected and appointed executive who have volunteered to help steer the course of another successful year.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

District 24 still needs someone to volunteer as our Recruitment Chairperson. This person would attend the Retired Teachers' Workshop and Planning Committee Meetings, help coordinate the New Members' Brunch with Elaine Aprile, and coordinate information and letters to be sent to schools once a year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 15 – Golf Tournament (page 18)
September 16 – New Retirees' Brunch (page 2)
September 29 – Nordic Pole Walking (page 19)
October 22 – RTO District 24 Fall Luncheon and Craft Sale (page 12)

“

Thanks to the membership of District 24 for endorsing me as your President for another year. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of working with hard-working and dedicated executive members who have provided stimulating and exciting programs and events for our membership.

”

VOLUNTEERS POSITIONS WITH RTO/ERO DISTRICT 24 SCARBOROUGH AND EAST YORK

District 24 has the immediate need for the following volunteer position:

Recruitment:

- To Communicate with the Provincial Member Services Committee through the Committee liaison person
- To Attend planning meetings of Toronto Districts RPW Committee
- To Attend and help in the presentation of Toronto Districts Retirement Planning Workshops
- To co-ordinate the annual “Brunch” for new retirees
- To Report to our District Executive the details of the Toronto Districts RPW Meetings and workshops
- To supply up to date RTO/ERO Enrolment Kits for perspective new members and order kits from Provincial Office when required
- To be on the lookout for opportunities to share with potential new members the advantages of being a member of RTO/ERO

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR THIS POSITION, PLEASE CONTACT ANY MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE



The *2016 RTO-ERO Pocket Planner* was included in the summer *Renaissance* envelope package sent to members in late June/early July. If you did not receive your envelope package, please contact the Provincial Office.

Members may purchase additional *2016 RTO-ERO Pocket Planners* for \$3 each (including shipping) through *Souvenir Canada*.

To purchase, contact:

Lisa Kendall, Souvenir Canada

1 (800) 259-9641 or e-mail: scanada@on.aibn.com

DISTRICT 24 EXECUTIVE 2015 – 2016

TABLE OFFICERS:

PAST PRESIDENT: George Denny
havendayle@rogers.com (905) 420-1435

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: Bill Sparks
wgasparks88@gmail.com (416) 293-7477

SECRETARY: Chris Elliot
chris.elliott99@hotmail.com (416) 497-6192

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wilson-forbes@rogers.com (416) 293-5836

BOOK CLUB: Lee MacLeod
macleodfamily@sympatico.ca (416) 284-6626

GOODWILL CARDS: Marilyn Hodge
mjhodge@sympatico.ca (416) 284-9984

HEALTH: Marilyn Tregwin
m.tregwin@rogers.com (416) 493-3757

NEWSLETTER: Scott Baker
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havendayle@rogers.com (905) 420-1435

SERVICE TO OTHERS: Bill Sparks
wgasparks88@gmail.com (416) 293-7477

RETIREMENT/PENSION CONCERNS: Terry Smith
chooch120@hotmail.com (416) 438-0430

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Elaine Aprile | elaineapril6@gmail.com | (416) 267-2670 |
| Sharon Galiffi | sharon.galiffi@gmail.com | (416) 493-5928 |
| Phyllis Hill | hillphyllis@hotmail.com | (416) 269-3226 |
| Wendy Hooker | wendyhooker@rogers.com | (416) 266-4682 |
| Pat Westcott | alicweat@rogers.com | (416) 269-1145 |

MEMBER-AT-LARGE EMERITUS:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Margaret Nicolson | marg.nicolson@rogers.com | (416) 759-5560 |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------|

PRESIDENT Donna Hubel
dhub@sympatico.ca (416) 490-1861

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: Bonnie Clarke
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TREASURER: Bonnie Clarke
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GOLF CONVENER: Les Coombs
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PROGRAM: Paula Chambers
paula.chambers@rogers.com (416) 208-0202

RWTO REP: Linda Jarvis
linjar@rogers.com (416) 293-8689

SOCIAL CONVENOR: Susan Watson
siwatson@bell.net (416) 698-3030

WEBMASTER: Annemarie McKee
amckee.rto@gmail.com (416) 282-4096

FOUNDATION LIASON: Vacant

RECRUITMENT: Vacant

NEW MEMBERS

The executive welcomes all new members to RTO/ERO District 24 and invites them to become active participants in all of our activities.

Joanna Barr
John Belcher
Victor Chiasson
Claire Cobourn
David Duxbury
Donna Fanjoy
Pat Flude
Alyson Gillan
Dave Gray
Beverly J. Grist
Richard Humphrey
Jenny H. Kuenzle

Marlene Leslie
Charles Little

Margaret McLuckie
Frances Mendel

Michael Samler
Sandra Sealy
Sajeda Shirazi
Linda Smith
Donna Spahn
Margaret Tribe
Anthony Tumminieri
J. Paul Wesley
Karen R. Zarudny

“
Whether you are a new retiree or
have moved from another district,
we hope that you enjoy District 24.
”

Teresa Lui
Timothy Main

Mary Elizabeth Quinn
Nadine Rayner

E-NEWS

During the first week of each month RTO/ERO District 24 sends out a monthly E-News. It is another way of communicating with our members.

These e-mails are in addition to our Spring, Summer and Fall District 24 Newsletters. The e-mails give reminders about district events and programs, and provide news from district and provincial meetings. The communication e-mails are sent out by our webmaster, Annemarie McKee. To register for E-News contact Annemarie at: amckee.rto@gmail.com.

If you have stopped receiving our monthly E-News it may be due to not informing Annemarie or RTO-ERO Provincial Member Services of a change of your e-mail address. Alternatively, the E-News notification may be in your junk mail waiting for permission to be placed in your inbox. Please feel free to contact Annemarie for assistance.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of the following members of District 24. We extend our heartfelt sympathy.

Sajid Ali
Flora H. Boasie
Eva Bonellos
Jeanette Campbell
Rose-Marie Chadwick
Gail Daniels

Barbara J. Fava
Kenneth Grist
Werner Kuenzle
Jackie Larendowicz
Theresa B. Laxton
Diane Leahy

Lillian M. Mahaffy
Robert F. Martin
Jack Mendel
Irene M. Nutter
Lorna J. Purdie
Marion R. Reeve

W. S. Roliff
S. D. Seal

“The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated”

It is with regret that we erroneously reported the passing of two RTO members in the last edition of *Beyond the Blackboard*. We are happy to report that *Mary H. Billinghurst* and *Gertrude Spatafora* are both alive and doing well. Our sincere apologies for the error in our last edition.

Mary (cover photo) has been kind enough to submit an article about her latest adventures. Read all about her “Living the Dream,” teaching in Europe on page 22.

HEALTH REPORT

HEALTH MATTERS

MARILYN TREGWIN – DISTRICT 24 HEALTH REPRESENTATIVE

Sign up to receive District 24's monthly E-News for timely health related information and resources not available in our printed newsletters.

HEALTH SERVICES AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE

The following are some points of interest from the February HSIC meeting:

- Concerning our Extended Health Plan, prescription drugs and paramedical practitioners are the largest paid claim categories.
- The decreased value of the Canadian dollar has had an effect on expenses and travel.
- Terminations and enrolments in the plan have been steady with a slight increase in enrollments in 2012 due to changes in the retirement gratuity and the subsequent increase in number of retirements that year in Ontario.
- RTO/ERO Group Benefits hold the market share for education retirees. Of those who have an OTPP pension deduction made for their benefits premium payment, 8 in 10 continue to choose RTO/ERO.
- After the first quarter of 2015, the usage of Eldercare Select continues to increase as more members learn about the service provided. Types of assistance provided to callers include: health guidance, senior safety, transition advocacy, resource identification, senior health information, and home care procurement. (See your Plan Booklet p.23)

The key messages from an Allianz Global Assistance presentation were:

1. Using the pre-trip assistance provided by Allianz can help in pre-planning: telephone numbers to access Allianz in respective countries, required inoculations, travel advisories, visa requirements.
2. A physician's consent to travel does not establish your medical stability nor override the definition of "sudden and unforeseen."
3. This insurance is intended to cover you for a sudden and unforeseen medical emergency. The intent of the travel plan is to stabilize members and return them to their home province for on-going care. It is important to emphasize that members cannot remain on their trip for continued care if they are stable and can be safely transported to their home province.

MARK THE DATE! HEALTH SEMINAR: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

We are very pleased to bring you Lori MacDonald-Blundon as our guest speaker. She joined RTO in 2012 as the Pension and Benefits Officer, bringing over 20 years of benefits and compensation experience to this role. Lori is the Senior Staff lead working with our provincial Health Services and Insurance Committee as well as the Pension and Retirement Concerns Committee. She also works with our insurance partners (Johnson Inc. and Manulife), and sits as the RTO rep on the OTF Pension Committee.

You are encouraged to take advantage of this special opportunity to learn all about RTO Benefits from our expert. She will explain how a plan change is made, and why some of the changes were made in 2015 (specifically generic substitution and travel coverage). In addition, there will be plenty of time to ask your questions – you can't stump Lori! Look for registration information on page 13.

ONE STEP AT A TIME

The Canadian Cancer Society has a print series available about smoking called 'One Step at a Time'. Booklet 1 is entitled: For Smokers Who Want to Quit; Booklet 2: For Smokers Who Don't Want to Quit"; Booklet 3: Help a Smoker Quit. They are informative and interesting, written by medical professionals in a 'down-to-earth,' non-lecturing style. These booklets can be downloaded from the Society's website at: www.cancer.ca/OneStepAtATime or ordered by phone at 1.888.939.3333. You are also invited to call the smoker's hotline at 1 (877) 513-5333.

THREE STEPS TO SAVE MONEY ON YOUR BRAND NAME MEDICINE

Do you want to remain on your brand name medication, but have heard it's going to cost you more money? Many Canadians have benefited from a program allowing them to choose to remain on their brand name medicines at generic prices. The cards are free of charge; there are no hidden fees, no monthly charges and patient privacy is protected. They are a new tool that allows you to choose to remain on your brand name medicines while paying lower generic prices, thus providing you more 'room' in your \$3100 annual Extended Health Plan allowance

1. Get a valid prescription from your doctor.
2. Pick up a RxHelp card:
 - directly from your doctor
 - visit www.RxHelp.ca to download and print a RxHelp Patient Choice card
 - call 1-866-RxHelp4 [1 (866) 794-3574] to have one sent to you via mail.
3. Present the prescription and RxHelp Patient Choice card at any Canadian pharmacy and request your brand name medicine.

RxHelp.ca's mission is to provide Canadian health care consumers access to brand-name pharmaceutical manufacturers' "Patient Assistance Programs".

Patient payment assistance programs are run by many brand-name pharmaceutical manufacturers to provide significant savings on brand-name prescription medicines. RxHelp.ca connects Canadian patients to these pharmaceutical

manufacturer's payment assistance programs FREE of charge.

There are 3 main types of programs:

- *Patient Choice Programs* - Allow the patient to remain on their brand name medicine with little or no additional cost over the generic equivalent.
- *Patient Assistance Programs* - Help offset or reduce the out-of-pocket patient costs that are not covered by the patient's public or private drug plan. Some or all of the out-of-pocket patient costs will be paid by the manufacturer of the product up to a defined maximum.
- *eSample Programs* - Allows the patient to receive the prescribed medication for a certain number of days at no cost to the patient, based on reasonable up-charge, mark-up and usual customary pharmacy fee. Physician Access Only.

See the *Payment Assistance Programs* on the RxHelp.ca website for the brand-name prescription medicines included in the program.

To use your card you must fill a valid prescription at a participating pharmacy in Canada.

After receiving your RxHelp.ca card simply present your RxHelp.ca card when purchasing your included brand-name prescription at a participating pharmacy and you will receive your payment assistance immediately.

The RxHelp.ca card is accepted at most pharmacies in Canada.

SOME THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

- According to the World Health Organization, a sedentary life poses the same risk as smoking a pack of cigarettes a day.
- Exercise is a prescription for helping to prevent or ameliorate almost any condition associated with aging including arthritis, Parkinson's, hypertension, cancer etc.
- The best strategy for keeping your brain healthy is exercise: challenging your brain with any complex thinking may help, but exercise is the only activity that has been shown to make a difference.

RTO/ERO DISTRICT 24 BRIDGE CLUB

Our district's Bridge Club will resume play on Tuesday, September 8. The group will meet every Tuesday, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m., at Ellesmere Community Centre, 20 Canadian Rd., just opposite Costco near Warden and Ellesmere. For more information, phone Terry or Dale Smith, (416) 438-0430 or Brian Dorward, (416) 291-1514.

By the time this is printed, we will have commenced the summer break for our District 24 Bridge Club. We will have feasted soooooo... well at our pot luck luncheon on the last day of play, played bridge, and announced the winners of those players who enter their scores into the cumulative round.

We usually have had 8 tables of players these past weeks, with lots of friendly conversation, snacks, and something to learn about bridge each week. We have been missing Carol Fyfle these past weeks and hope that she is getting some games in at her new residence.

Winners for the past few weeks up to the date of this submission were:

- May 29 – 1) Edna Mathews, 2) Cathy Slama, 3) Terry Smith, 4) Virginia Rainer
- May 26 – 1) Bob Smith, 2) Cathy Slama, 3) Marie Singh, 4) Suzanne Cecchini
- June 2 – 1) Elizabeth Scarlett, 2) Bob Ireland, 3) Cathy Slama, 4) Virginia Rainer
- June 9 – 1) Bob Ireland, 2) Terry Smith, 3) Frank Slama, 4) Patricia Cacace

Did you know that the real test of a bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but in escaping once he's in it? I think we're all a little masochistic. Otherwise, why would we continue to play bridge?

We will resume play on Tuesday, September 8, at 12:30, the Ellesmere Community Centre. No partner necessary...just fun play and friendship. Bring a bell that first day in September to welcome in the first day of school (while we are actually not there!) Drop in or come every week.



RTO District 24 Bridge Club

Volunteers for Grade 1 Reading Program

Secord School in the Main/Danforth area is in need of retired teachers to volunteer one morning a week to read with struggling grade one students. If you are interested please contact Denise Conway deniseconway@rogers.com or denise.conway@tdsb.on.ca

Support Group for the Visually Impaired

Held at the Birkdale Community Centre, 1299 Ellesmere Rd, Toronto M1P 2Y2 (near Brimley Road).
For further information, contact Elaine Aprile at (416) 267-2670.

PROGRAM

RTO 2015 TRIPS AND EVENTS

PAULA CHAMBERS – PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR

All cheques must be postdated to the Cut-Off date and made out according to the “Make Cheques Payable to” instructions for each event.

WHEN FILLING OUT EVENT COUPONS PLEASE FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES BELOW:

1. A separate cheque postdated to the Cut-Off date is required for each event. Be sure to carefully follow the “*Make Cheques Payable to*” portion of the event coupon.
2. The name of each person participating in the event must be included on the coupon.
3. When applicable, an RTO/ERO member may bring guests.
4. All participants must sign the event coupon to indicate that they have read and understood the *RTO/ERO Acknowledgement, Waiver and Release*.
5. Ensure that an e-mail address or stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided with your cheque and event coupon, and that “*Release of Contact Information*” box is checked in order to receive a receipt.
6. Ensure that your postdated cheque and event coupon are sent to the contact/facilitator indicated in the event description.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, WAIVER AND RELEASE

Provincial Executive, January 2010

The participant in (the “Event”) acknowledges and agrees that RTO/ERO, including District 24, will not be responsible for any loss, injury or damage of any nature, including death, howsoever arising in connection with this trip/excursion/event. Participants in the Event are therefore hereby advised to carry their own insurance in connection therewith.

By signing the activity coupon and in consideration of the participant’s attendance at the Event, the participant hereby releases and forever discharges RTO/ERO, District 24, and their respective directors, officers, members, agents, employees and volunteers (collectively, the “Releasees”) from any and all actions, causes of action, claims, and demands (collectively, the “Claims”) from any loss, injury or damage of any nature, including death which has arisen or may arise from the participant’s attendance at the Event, unless such loss, injury or damage has arisen as a result of the sole negligence of one or more of the Releasees.

Any claims arising out of the participant’s attendance at the event will be governed by the laws of Ontario, Canada, and the participant consents to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts in Ontario, Canada in any such action.



Fall Luncheon and Craft Sale



Thursday, October 22, 2015 at Q-SSIS, 3474 Kingston Road, Scarborough
(north-west corner of Kingston and Markham Roads)

COST: \$20.00

PROGRAM: Our RTO Luncheon and Craft Sale will be upon us before we know it!

Remember to book your calendar for Thursday, October 22, 2015.

Enjoy more laughter, camaraderie and genuine pleasure as we take the time to reconnect with past acquaintances, good friends and just meeting new people.

Along with a lovely, healthy fall luncheon, you will have the opportunity to view and purchase beautiful wares from our many gifted crafters. Think... birthdays, christenings, bar mitzvahs, Thanksgiving, Halloween, anniversaries, Christmas, or other special days of celebration for you and your loved ones throughout the coming months. With the assistance of our talented crafters, you may find that unique gift which will help to make your celebration extra special.

Our craft show will be open at 10:30 a.m. and the cash bar will be available at 11:15 a.m. Lunch will begin about noon.

NOTE: The craft show will also continue after the luncheon for an additional half hour or so.

CONTACT: Susan Watson – 18 Springbank Ave., Scarborough, ON M1N 1G3

Phone: (416) 698-3030 E-Mail: siwatson5@bell.net

MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO: RTO — District 24. **Send cheque and coupon to Susan Watson.**

DEADLINE: Monday, October 5, 2015 *Please postdate your cheque(s) to this date.*

It is not necessary to sign the waiver acknowledgement for this event.



Attention Crafters

If you are a crafter, perhaps now is the time to finish up some of those projects that you may wish to sell at the craft sale in October. We will be limiting the number of tables this year, to ensure that everyone has an equal amount of space to display their goods. We would love to see your new, unique and or traditional crafts on offer, to our RTO members in October.

Please be sure to sign up early! ... and indicate the type of product that you will have for sale on the day.

DATE: Thursday, October 22, 2015

COST: \$20.00 for a table

CONTACT: Carmela Gaudet – 43 Saddleback Crt., Scarborough, ON M1B 2M3

Phone: (416) 283-8151 E-Mail: carmelagaudet@rogers.com

MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO: RTO — District 24. **Send cheque and coupon to Carmela Gaudet.**

DEADLINE: Monday, October 5, 2015 *Please postdate your cheque(s) to this date.*





RTO - DISTRICT 24

Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

LOCATION: Scarborough Golf and Country Club, 321 Scarborough Golf Club Road, Toronto, ON M1J3H2

START: 11:30 a.m.

COST: \$50.00

NOTE: RTO members are encouraged to send in their coupon and cheque for this event as soon as possible as spaces are limited and fill up very quickly. After the deadline, members still interested in attending may phone Noreen to check the availability of spaces for this activity and/or to be placed on a wait list.

CONTACT: Noreen & Les Coombs – 7 Riviera Drive, Scarborough, ON M1N1J9

Phone 416-261-0568

E-Mail: lesonriviera@gmail.com

MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO: RTO — District 24. **Send cheque and coupon to Noreen & Les Coombs.**

DEADLINE: Friday, October 16, 2015 *Please postdate your cheque(s) to this date.*

It is not necessary to sign the waiver acknowledgement for this event.



11TH DISTRICT 24 HEALTH SEMINAR

UNDERSTAND YOUR HEALTH PLAN



PRESENTED BY: Lori MacDonald-Blundon, RTO Pension and Benefits Officer

Lori will give us insight into the making of our Health Plan as well as an engaging Q&A session. Light refreshments will be provided at 9:45 a.m. ***This seminar is provided to you at no cost and is limited to 80 participants.***

WHEN: Tuesday, October 13.

TIME: 10:15- 11:45am.

WHERE: Agincourt Recreation Center, 31 Glen Watford Dr., Scarborough

REGISTER: To reserve a seat you must pre-register, preferably by e-mail, to: m.tregwin@rogers.com or by leaving a phone message for Marilyn at 416.493.3757 clearly stating your name and phone number. For e-mails please use the subject: RTO - Health Seminar. ***Note: Messages without this subject will not be opened.***

Boat Cruise and Lunch on the Grand River

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

DEPARTURE: 8:00 a.m. Kennedy Commons, in front of LA FITNESS

COST: \$107.00

LUNCH: Three course roast beef dinner served on board the boat

PROGRAM: At 10 a.m. we start the day with a guided tour of the Six Nations Reserve. Learn of past and present native culture. Make sure to visit the Native Gift Shop for tax free shopping for native crafts and jewellery. At 11:15 a.m. we arrive at the Grand River Cruise Dock for refreshments and entertainment. We sail at 12:30 p.m. for a luncheon cruise on the historic Grand River. Relax and enjoy the tranquil scenery. Your three hour cruise features lunch served at your window table. The captain will provide commentary throughout the tour. After lunch, you can enjoy a photo opportunity from the promenade deck.



FACILITATOR: Marilyn Tregwin – 41 Ravenscliff Cres., Toronto, ON M1T 1R7

Phone: (416) 493-3757 E-Mail: m.tregwin@rogers.com

MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO: MARY MORTON TOURS. Send cheque and coupon to Marilyn Tregwin.

DEADLINE: Friday, August 14, 2015 Please postdate your cheque to this date.

Hamlet

Wednesday, October 7, 2015 – Festival Theatre, Stratford

DEPART: 9:30 a.m. Kennedy Commons, in front of LA FITNESS (*NOTE updated departure time*)

COST: \$168.00

LUNCH: Lunch will be at *The Waterlot Restaurant*

PROGRAM: Hamlet centres on the brooding Prince of Denmark, who is both mourning for his father and deeply disturbed by the speedy remarriage of his mother, Gertrude, to Claudius, her deceased husband's brother, whom Hamlet believes murdered his father. Now picture all of this transported to Great Britain in the current era. This performance received rave reviews in the Toronto Star.



FACILITATOR: Paula Chambers – 6 Colinroy Street, Scarborough, ON M1C 5G6

Phone: (416) 208-0202 E-Mail: paula.chambers@rogers.com

MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO: MARY MORTON TOURS. Send cheque and coupon to Paula Chambers.

DEADLINE: September 7, 2015 Please postdate your cheque to this date.

The Pirates of Penzance

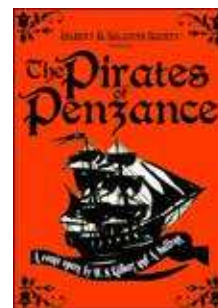
Wednesday, October 14, 2015 – St. Jacobs Country Playhouse, St. Jacobs (Waterloo)

DEPARTURE: 8:30 a.m. Kennedy Commons, in front of LA FITNESS

COST: \$122.00

LUNCH: Lunch will be at D.H. Food (Formerly Benjamin's); choose from the menu upon arrival

PROGRAM: In honour of the 40th Anniversary of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Waterloo Region, join us for a laugh-filled songfest full of zany puns and good-natured fun. This rollicking musical treasure tells the topsy-turvy tale of a young man named Frederick apprenticed to some soft-hearted pirates by mistake. When the dashing hero falls in love with the beautiful Mabel, he renounces his pirate heritage and swears to rid England of the scourge of bad guys. What follows is a spirited musical comedy filled with outrageous twists and turns. You'll be rolling in the aisles with laughter as the bumbling band of policemen, rapturous maidens, and "pirates of pizzas" weave their magical spell in this enduring, fun-filled musical romp! A morning visit to St. Jacobs Outlet Mall is included in the trip.



FACILITATOR: Paula Chambers – 6 Colinroy Street, Scarborough, ON M1C 5G6

Phone: (416) 208-0202 E-Mail: paula.chambers@rogers.com

MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO: MARY MORTON TOURS. Send cheque and coupon to Paula Chambers.

DEADLINE: September 14, 2015 Please postdate your cheque to this date.

Coupon: *Fall Luncheon and Craft Sale*
 Thursday, October 22, 2015

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque made payable to:
RTO – District 24

Name (Print): _____
 Phone #: _____
 E-Mail: _____
 Spouse/Guest Name (Print): _____
 No. of tickets: _____ @ \$20.00 = _____

Would you like an e-mail confirmation: YES NO
 If **NO**, a stamped, self-addressed envelope is required for confirmation.

DEADLINE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2015. PLEASE USE THIS DATE ON YOUR CHEQUE

Coupon: *Crafters Table for Fall Luncheon and Craft Sale*
 Thursday, October 22, 2015

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with a cheque for \$20.00 made payable to:
RTO – District 24

Name (Print): _____
 Phone #: _____
 E-Mail: _____

Would you like an e-mail confirmation: YES NO
 If **NO**, a stamped, self-addressed envelope is required for confirmation.

DEADLINE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2015. PLEASE USE THIS DATE ON YOUR CHEQUE

Coupon: *RTO - DISTRICT 24 Christmas Luncheon*
 Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque made payable to:
RTO – District 24

Name (Print): _____
 Phone #: _____
 E-Mail: _____
 Spouse/Guest Name (Print): _____
 No. of tickets: _____ @ \$50.00 = _____

Would you like an e-mail confirmation: YES NO
 If **NO**, a stamped, self-addressed envelope is required for confirmation.

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2015. PLEASE USE THIS DATE ON YOUR CHEQUE

Coupon: *Boat Cruise and Lunch on the Grand River*
 Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque made payable to:
Mary Morton Tours

Name (Print): _____
 Phone #: _____
 E-Mail: _____
 Spouse/Guest Name (Print): _____
 No. of tickets: _____ @ 107.00 = _____

Would you like an e-mail confirmation: YES NO
 If **NO**, a stamped, self-addressed envelope is required for confirmation.

Please check the space following to give permission to share your contact information.
 I give permission to share contact information with the travel agency organizing this trip.
 I acknowledge that I have read and understood the RTO waiver on page 11.

Signature(s): _____
 Member Spouse/Guest

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2015. PLEASE USE THIS DATE ON YOUR CHEQUE

Coupon: *Hamlet*
 Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque made payable to:
Mary Morton Tours

Name (Print): _____
 Phone #: _____
 E-Mail: _____
 Spouse/Guest Name (Print): _____
 No. of tickets: _____ @ \$168.00 = _____

Would you like an e-mail confirmation: YES NO
 If **NO**, a stamped, self-addressed envelope is required for confirmation.

Please check the space following to give permission to share your contact information.
 I give permission to share contact information with the travel agency organizing this trip.
 I acknowledge that I have read and understood the RTO waiver on page 11.

Signature(s): _____
 Member Spouse/Guest

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 7, 2015. PLEASE USE THIS DATE ON YOUR CHEQUE

Coupon: *Pirates of Penzance*
 Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Clip (or photocopy) this coupon and send it with your cheque made payable to:
Mary Morton Tours

Name (Print): _____
 Phone #: _____
 E-Mail: _____
 Spouse/Guest Name (Print): _____
 No. of tickets: _____ @ \$122.00 = _____

Would you like an e-mail confirmation: YES NO
 If **NO**, a stamped, self-addressed envelope is required for confirmation.

Please check the space following to give permission to share your contact information.
 I give permission to share contact information with the travel agency organizing this trip.
 I acknowledge that I have read and understood the RTO waiver on page 11.

Signature(s): _____
 Member Spouse/Guest

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2015. PLEASE USE THIS DATE ON YOUR CHEQUE

GOODWILL

GOODWILL CARDS

MARILYN HODGE – GOODWILL CARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

If you know of anyone who should receive a get well or thinking of you card, or the family of a District 24 member who should receive a sympathy card, please contact Marilyn at (416) 284-9984 or e-mail mjhodge@sympatico.ca

Since January 2015, 14 members have celebrated a 90th birthday. Two more will celebrate their 90th in July, and two more in August. One member has already celebrated her 102nd birthday in April and another one will celebrate her 102nd birthday in July. Two of our members are celebrating their 103rd birthday; one celebrated hers in February and the other in June. Another member will celebrate her 104th birthday in August. Each celebrant receives a birthday card from RTO – District 24.

Twenty-three sympathy/get well/thinking of you cards have been sent out since January.

GOODWILL TELEPHONE

LYNNE HORVATH – GOODWILL TELEPHONE COMMITTEE CHAIR

We are attempting to call over 800 retired members of District 24 this year. So far we have 36 phone lists and we desperately need 10 more volunteers to help us with these calls. If you can spare some time once a year please contact Lynne Horvath at (705) 738-4557 or lynneh@i-zoom.net.

District 24 likes to stay in touch with our members so Lynne Horvath, chairperson of the Phoning Committee, has many phoners contacting members who have retired prior to 1999 each year. I, personally, have two lists of 20 people each and I have been phoning the same people for several years and it is great catching up with old friends. If you receive a call, the person should identify him/herself, ask how you are doing, mention our District's upcoming events and ask if you have any concerns about policies or Johnsons insurance issues. We never ask about your banking procedures, finances, or personal information such as your social insurance number. If you are asked any of these questions, you can be sure that it is a scam. If you do receive such a call, please try and get the phone number from your phone and report the call to me, (416) 409-1861, or to Simon Leibovitz at the RTO Provincial Office, (416) 962-1061.

Donna Hubel, President, RTO-ERO District 24

BOOK CLUB

NEW READS FOR 2015

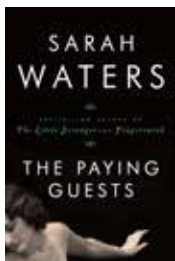
LEE MACLEOD - BOOK CLUB CONVENOR

The RTO Book Club typically meets in the Craft Room at the Agincourt Recreation Centre, 30 Glen Watford Road, on the last Wednesday of the month from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Our next meeting will be September 30; we take the summer off - we are too busy! There is plenty of parking at no charge to you, and to further entice you, we offer a free coffee or tea and an entertaining afternoon of thoughtful and often funny commentary on the book and life in general. Look for more information on E-News.

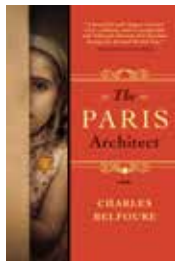
The book club draws around 16-18 people per meeting with many members keeping in touch by email when they are travelling.

If you are already a member of our book club, I will be emailing you the list of books we have voted for. New members can contact Lee Macleod at (416) 284-6626 or email at macleodfam@sympatico.ca for more information.

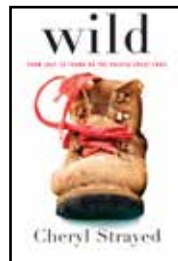
Below are the titles and corresponding meeting dates that have been selected for the first half of the coming year:



The Paying Guests:
Sarah Waters (2014)
September 30, 2015



The Paris Architect:
Charles Belfoure (2013)
October 28, 2015



Wild:
Cheryl Strayed (2012)
November 25, 2015



The Painted Girls: Cathy
M. Buchanan (2013)
January 27, 2016



Somewhere in France:
Jennifer Robson (2010)
February 24, 2016

No meetings in July and August – We are too busy!

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

All District 24 members are welcome to attend Executive Meetings. We will be meeting on Thursdays; September 10, 2015 and November 5, 2015 at the Cedarbrook Lodge Retirement Residence, 520 Markham Road, Scarborough. Refreshments are at 9:00 a.m., with the meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending around 12 noon.

The Cedarbrook Lodge Retirement Residence is located on west side of Markham Road, south of Lawrence Ave. E. Please use only the designated visitor parking spaces.

Ask for directions to our meeting room at the main desk.

Don't Retire Your Love of Learning!

We invite you to join one of our small daytime workshops. There are no exams and no professors, just lots of good discussion and self-directed learning.

The only pre-requisites for membership are the desire to learn and a willingness to participate.

Visit our website for more information: <http://www.allto.ca/>
or download our calendar at: <http://www.allto.ca/CALENDARS/2015-16.pdf>



Academy for Lifelong Learning

59 St. George Street Toronto ON M5S 2E6 • 416 946 5185 • info@allto.ca

Habitat for Humanity

Volunteers are needed in the Scarborough area for Habitat for Humanity's projects/store/phones.
Contact Natasha Varway, Director , Volunteer Services at (416) 802-2456 or visit <http://habitatgta.ca>



RTO/ERO District 24 Golf Tournament

COST: \$85.00

TO REGISTER: Please contact Les Coombs at (416) 261-0568 or lesonriviera@gmail.com

Once you have registered by phone or e-mail, send your cheque to:

Les Coombs
7 Riviera Drive
Scarborough, ON M1N 1J9

MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO: RTO — District 24

Les Coombs - Breakfast for Kids' Golf Tournament Committee Member

NORDIC POLE WALKING

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

WHERE: Craft Room, Agincourt Recreation Centre
31 Glen Watford Drive, Scarborough

TIME: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Join Paula Chambers and Wendy Hooker for a presentation by a certified instructor with equipment available for participants to try out this exciting new exercise technique.

Nordic walking uses 90% of your muscles and helps to improve balance and endurance. If you can walk, you can enjoy the health benefits of Nordic Walking.

RTO 24 Will Be Starting A Pole Walking Group This Fall



RWTO - Scarborough Branch
Caring and Sharing

**Retired Women Teachers of Ontario (RWTO / OERO) Scarborough Branch
Welcomes New Retirees and New Members to a Complimentary Mix & Mingle**

Thursday, September 10, 2015, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

At the Stone Cottage Pub
3474 Kingston Rd., Scarborough
(west of Scarborough Golf Club Rd)

There will be appetizers and a cash bar.

Come and meet with other retired women teachers and learn about RWTO

Please RSVP by August 15th to: Lilli Chu at (416) 602-9868, e-mail: lilli_chu@yahoo.ca



Calling All Woodworking Enthusiasts

Are you interested in woodworking or carpentry? Spring and summer are perfect times of the year to get out in the garage and indulge in these hobbies, but what happens when the cold, dreary winter sets in? A small group of avid woodworkers has managed to procure a surplus carpentry room in Victoria Park C.I., complete with some basic tools (planer, jointer, band saw, shaper, etc.). This year we have even managed to outfit an old lathe and get it up and running! We have use of the room on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30 a.m.– 12:00 noon, for about 40 weeks a year. Can't come in 3 days a week? Then come as frequently as you can; that's not a problem.

There is a modest \$25.00 fee, payable in September, which basically covers insurance. A basic set of hand tools is available, and we tend to bring in any specific tool that is necessary for a particular project. We are very restricted in our numbers, so contact Terry Smith as soon as possible. First come, first served!

For more information, call Terry Smith at (416) 438-0430 or by e-mail at chooch120@hotmail.com Terry would be happy to take you on a tour of the facility in early September.

RTO/ERO DISTRICT 24 EXCURSIONS

SWEET CHARITY SHAW FESTIVAL

PAULA CHAMBERS – DISTRICT 24 PROGRAM CHAIR

We lucked out on a lovely day for our trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake on May 6, 2014.

Flowers were in full bloom in the lovely gardens on the main street and in the park. Lots of shopping took place in the interesting boutiques before lunch. I know that I came home with wine from the region and hand-crafted jewellery. We enjoyed gourmet dining at the Prince of Wales in our own private dining room. After lunch, the theatre was just a short walk from the restaurant which provided more sightseeing opportunities. As usual, we had wonderful orchestra seats. The actors are justifiably praised for their performances in this production. The full ensemble chorus scenes gave outstanding renditions of well-remembered tunes like “Hey, Big Spender” and “If They Could See Me Now”. The character, Charity, has always made me feel sad. Despite her enduring optimism, she just can’t seem to get a break. The end of the play finds her in the same situation where we came in; but she’s just as positive in her outlook. You can’t help but root for her indomitable spirit.



SWEET TREATS

LILAC FESTIVAL

PAULA CHAMBERS - DISTRICT 24 PROGRAM CHAIR

With surprisingly warm weather, we set out for Cobourg on May 26 to enjoy a day in the countryside.

Our first stop was to pick up Peter Brotherhood, our guide, and then it was on to the impressive new Cobourg Community Centre. Peter described the area as “rolling countryside” and he was right. The ancient glaciers had carved out the landscape leaving us The Oak Ridges Moraine. We learned about eskers, the snake like gravel deposits, as we travelled along a road built on one.

The rainwater that falls on the moraine is naturally filtered, and is so pure and oxygenated that Oprah Winfrey keeps a supply on re-order.

The clear and cold water in the creeks and swiftly running river is home to several varieties of trout and salmon, and is an internationally known area for sports-fishermen.



We arrived in Little Warkworth, an artisan community nestled in the hills. Mark Pollard’s shortbread cookies are made here and are touted as the “Best in Canada”. I agree. I bought three sweet and three savory varieties.



Lunch was served by the ladies at St. Paul’s Church. After juice and a salad, we enjoyed chicken and beef with mashed potatoes, vegetables, gravy and rolls, followed by home-made pies and coffee or tea.

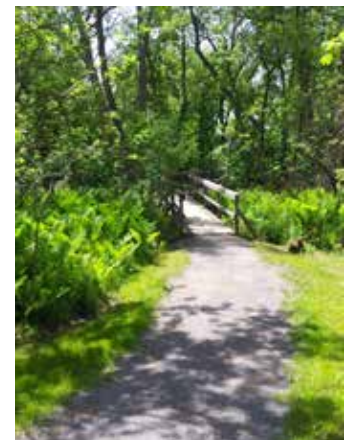


Peter explained that lilacs originated in China and Korea, and were brought to France via the Silk Road traders. From France, lilacs made their way to Canada with the settlers in Acadia and Quebec. There are over 360 plantings of 65 varieties along the park in Cold Creek.

The “Lilac Ladies” provided parasols to protect us from the sun as we strolled along the shady banks admiring the blooms.

Chocolate was our next item on the list and we enjoyed lots of it at “World’s Finest Chocolates”. Our final stop was at the remaining cheese factory in Northumberland county. Many delicious samples were provided to assist in selection.

On our to return to Toronto, we snoozed and dreamed of our wonderful adventure.



MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

LIVING THE DREAM!

MARY BILLINGHURST - MEMBER CONTRIBUTOR



From the time I was a young teacher, I have secretly harboured a desire to live and work abroad for a year. For many reasons (marriage, children, seniority), I have never acted on this desire. I happily spent my career in Scarborough and retired in 2008.

Then last year, the opportunity of a lifetime presented itself, and I jumped at the chance of returning to the classroom at Neuchâtel Junior College in Switzerland. I saw this as a perfect fit for my skills, and my preferences. Located in the French part of Switzerland, NJC is a school for Canadians in their graduating year (or gap year). Students from across the country are billeted with local families, while staff members live in apartments within walking distance of the school. I am teaching three subjects, all at the Grade 12 level: English, Writer's Craft and Drama.

The school follows the Ontario Curriculum, while enriching the educational experience with excursions all over Europe. I have been very fortunate to have gone on school trips to Locarno in south-eastern Switzerland; to Munich and Dachau in Germany; to Bruges and the nearby WWI sites on Remembrance Day; to the ski resort, Zermatt, in mid-winter; to London for a theatre trip; to Dusseldorf, Barcelona and Vienna as the coach of an acting and debating club; on an Easter trip to Italy and Greece; and most recently to Normandy and Paris, our final trip as a school.

On top of this, I have seen other parts of Europe with friends, colleagues and family members.

What a year it has been!! In fact, it has been such a great year that I have signed on for another one!



Neuchâtel Junior College – Old School Building



Neuchâtel Junior College – Pavilion School Building



Mary's Advisory Group in Locarno, Switzerland



Mary at the Colosseum



Half-timbered buildings in Colmar



Market in La Flotte, France



Mary and her husband Bob

To read more about Mary's adventures and view her amazing pictures of Europe, log onto her blog site:
<http://livingmydreaminbeautifulswitzerland.blogspot.ca/>



***Change of Address?
Are you moving?***

Is there a change in your contact information? Contact Dianne Vezeau at the RTO/ERO Provincial office:

**In writing: 18 Spadina Road,
Toronto ON M5R 2S7**

By phone: 1 (800) 361-9888, ext. 223

By e-mail: dvezeau@rto-ero.org

The Provincial office does not accept notices regarding address or contact information from third parties, such as District Executive members. Changes must come directly from the member or from the member's Power of Attorney (accompanied by a Power of Attorney form if RTO does not have one currently on file).

***Upcoming Events
- Dates to Remember***

- September 9 Grand River Boat Cruise and Lunch
- September 10 District 24 Executive Meeting – All are invited
– Cedarbrook Lodge Retirement Residence
- September 15 Breakfast for Kids Golf Tournament
– Mill Run Golf Course
- September 16 New Members'/Retirees' Brunch
– Bluffers' Restaurant
- September 29 Nordic Pole Walking
– Agincourt Recreation Centre
- October 7 Hamlet – Festival Theatre, Stratford
- October 13 Health Seminar: Understanding Your Health Plan
– Agincourt Recreation Centre
- October 14 The Pirates of Penzance
– St. Jacobs Country Playhouse, Waterloo
- October 19-21 RTO Fall Senate
- October 22 District 24 Fall Luncheon and Craft Sale
– Qssis Banquet Hall
- December 2 Christmas Luncheon
– Scarborough Golf and Country Club
- January 7 District 24 Executive Meeting – All are invited
– Cedarbrook Lodge Retirement Residence