

# THIRTEENTH WORLD



## Supporting Hamilton Food Share

Story on page 3

## District 13 Celebrates Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Join us for our Special  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon  
on Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup>!

Enjoy 50% off your ticket  
price to celebrate 50 years  
of District 13!

Details on pages 9 & 10



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT:

<https://district13.rtoero.ca>

How to stay in touch with RTOERO District 13  
with current news and upcoming events.

# District 13 ... A Journey Through Time

## Mystery #1 ... ongoing ...



The Olde School Bell, like the one on the left, was inscribed 'District 13 Superannuated Teachers of Ontario' and used to call District 13 meetings to order. It was purchased by Colin Crozier. A new bell was purchased in 1989 by Chuck Forbeck because no

one knew what happened to the original bell. We are continuing to search for both bells. Although there is no reward offered, there will be no questions asked if a bell appears at a luncheon.

## Mystery #2 ... partly solved ...

In 1993, two million dollars in pension funds was owed to teachers who could not be located. Jackie Carson worked hard to contact retired teachers who contributed money to the pension fund and left teaching without collecting that money. She successfully located many of those teachers in our area and fifty former teachers had a windfall!

The information shared here about our history is from a book compiled by **Helen Szydlowski** entitled "The First Forty Years 1972-2012 Retired Teachers of Ontario District 13 Hamilton, Wentworth, Haldimand" Thank you, Helen!

# RTOERO & District 13 – We Begin ...

**1917** – Pensions for Ontario teachers officially began with 2% deducted from each pay cheque

**1944** – The Ontario Teachers' Federation formed

**1945** – Act name changed to the Teachers' Superannuation Act (full pension after 40 years of service)

**1954** – Pensions were based on the ten years' salary previous to retirement and varied from \$600 to \$5000 for the same length of service

**1956** – The Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers (now the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario) was inaugurated and plans began for the improvement of the lower pensions given to women teachers

**1966** – All retired teachers were officially represented by The Superannuated Teachers of Ontario (STO) and this new organization (later RTOERO) was officially recognized by the Ontario Government

**1968** – STO membership was \$2.00 annually for those with pensions up to \$3,999 and \$3.00 for those with pensions above

**March 14, 1968** – First meeting of STO Executive in Toronto

**1968-1969** – STO met with Minister of Education Bill Davis to discuss increasing teacher pensions

**1969** – Health service began with an agreement between STO, the Superannuation Commission and Co-Operative Health Services

**1971** – Pension Plan improvements

- Pensions increased for 7,400 teachers who retired before 1970
- Retirees from 1950 or earlier had pensions increased 50%
- Increases ranged from 49% for 1951 retirees to 2% for 1969 retirees
- Widowers of pensioners were eligible for pensions (previously, only widows)
- 90 factor was introduced

**November 8, 1972** – At a meeting at the Hamilton Board of Education Centre, the Provincial STO formally endorsed Hamilton, Wentworth, Haldimand as a District

**1973** - When there were only 12 districts, we were number 6. By April there were 21 districts and we became District 13

District 13 has a new  
Facebook page!

RTOERO District 13  
Hamilton-Wentworth, Haldimand

## Oh, The Places We've Been... Executive Meetings

Hamilton Board of Education Centre  
 Sanford Avenue School  
 Briarwood School  
 OSSTF  
 Chalmers Presbyterian Church  
 HWETL  
 Blessed Sacrament  
 St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

That only includes meetings. Adding luncheon locations, special events and tours, there would be a lot more listings!!

From Page 1:

## Supporting Hamilton Food Share



**Catherine MacIsaac – President (left), Linda Sargeant - Secretary, and Sharon Derkach - Goodwill, presented a cheque for \$5000 to Celeste Taylor, Resource Development Manager for Hamilton Food Share.**

The organization is able to purchase \$25,000 worth of food with District 13's donation, which will support 23 Hamilton area food banks and feeding programs. For example, the Dairy Board will provide free dairy products, if Food Share covers the cost of transportation.



SPRING



**Our current meeting location at the St. Demetrios Hellenic Community Hall.**

## Us Staying Active! ...

- 1974** –Tours started and an STO13 newsletter created
- 1975** –STO had 25 districts and workshops for retirees began
- 1976** –Visitation Committee formed – changed to Goodwill in 1979 – then Personal Concerns in 1980 and back to Goodwill in 2000
- 1980** –Membership Committee and first Golf Tournament
- 1982** –Archives Committee formed
- 1982** –Project Overseas (assistance for teachers in developing countries) – in 1998 became Project Service to Others with a focus on supporting local communities – in 2021 renamed Community Grants and Scholarships
- 1968-1988** – 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Provincial Newsletter. With the exception of the first seven years, it was edited by a succession of three District 13 members, Alan Meiklejohn, Tom McGuffin and Bill Moore
- 1992** –STO changed to Retired Teachers of Ontario (officially on July 1, 1998) with 42 Districts; D13 Citizenship Court
- 1993** –Pension Concerns (discontinued in 2015); Social Issues (Political Action in 1996 and then Political Advocacy in 2010); Finance Committee
- 1993** –First Curling Bonspiel
- 1997** –District membership fees were discontinued
- 2003** –District Website created
- 2008** –District waiver form initiated, 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RTOERO
- 2011** –RTOERO Foundation was established to support geriatric care
- 2017** –RTOERO partnered with other groups to create the political advocacy website vibrantvoices.ca
- 2018** –RTOERO celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 2019** –RTOERO became Canada wide with 51 Districts, including BC, the Prairies, Quebec & the Atlantic
- 2021** –District Facebook page initiated
- 2022** –District 13 celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with 3917 members, and a new website page; RTOERO has a membership of 81,945

# President's Message

As of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, I became your new President of District 13, Hamilton-Wentworth, Haldimand and I am looking forward to this year.



With great excitement, we will be celebrating our Anniversary of 50 years as District 13. We are organizing a special event for all our members to attend in June of 2022.

I would like to encourage all members to attend our Java Time. This is a monthly social event where members can enjoy the company of each other safely.

If you are interested in volunteering and sharing your skills throughout the year, please consider joining any of our RTOERO committees such as Goodwill, Political Advocacy, or Marketing & Communications. We are always looking for new input and creative thinking. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email me directly at [president13@districts.rtoero.ca](mailto:president13@districts.rtoero.ca)

I would like to thank Lee Hondronicols for all her support and leadership as Past President, especially during these unprecedented times with COVID restrictions. ZOOM meetings became the new norm and she did an incredible job utilizing technology to keep everyone informed.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and at other upcoming events.

## Catherine MacIsaac

President,  
RTOERO District 13  
Hamilton-Wentworth, Haldimand

# RTOERO Resources

How can Canadians age the best? That's a critical question for a country where almost 18% of the population is over 65, Canadians are living longer, and as they do, they also need to live better. To explore how, RTOERO released four white papers to look at different dimensions of healthy aging.

Find the following white paper documents in the resource section on the RTOERO website at

<https://rtoero.ca/category/rtoero-news/page/3/#blog-post>

The RTOERO Resources website has practical time saving tips, relevant news, members' stories, and more to help you plan your retirement, stay healthy, and enjoy your future. There are videos, webinars, white papers and blogs.



**Healthy at any age:  
Understanding wellness  
across the lifespan**



**5 ways to think about  
retirement planning... and  
money isn't one of them**



**The health coverage gap:  
How Canadian retirees can  
protect themselves  
against the inevitable**



**The nuances of ageism:  
How intersectionality can  
impact the experience of  
aging**



# My Way

Tune by Frank Sinatra, 1969  
Revised words by **Frank Farley**, 1986

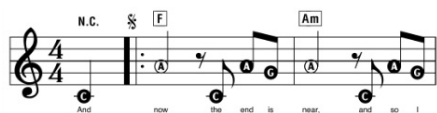
And now the time has come  
When I must face the last dismissal  
I've pitched out lots of junk  
And left my desk clean as a whistle.  
I've really stirred my staff  
So that their worry is I might say;  
They're sick of listening to  
Just do it My Way!

Regrets I've had a few,  
But never with the kids I've handled.  
Their problems lie with adults  
Who should all be slowly strangled.  
The experts who flock in  
Have only caused me total dismay;  
But still I'd nod and smile  
Then do it My Way!

Yes, there were times  
I must confess  
When I felt tremors of distress  
And threw with trembling hands, the ball  
To those up top who took the call  
And made the play  
While I skipped out  
And did it My Way!

I'll miss the friends I've made  
In many schools throughout the city.  
I know I'll think of you occasionally,  
But just with pity.  
When backsides atrophy  
At IPR meetings that last all day,  
I'll know, and I'll be glad  
I did it My Way!

For now is the hour  
Swiftly, drawing nigh  
When some of us must say "Goodbye!"  
And keep our tears well out of sight  
Behind a mask of pure delight.  
For I'm not sad  
I'm truly glad  
**I did it MY WAY!**



# A Retirement Achievement!

At midnight last June 30<sup>th</sup>, five RTOERO members in the Hamilton area completed their 35<sup>th</sup> year of retirement. These notable achievers are **Frank Farley** (90), **Jim Hewitt** (92), **John Nagy** (104), **Bill Russell** (91), and **Don Ward** (92). Equally notable is the fact that all five attended the Hamilton Normal School (Teachers' College) together in 1950, began their teaching careers simultaneously with the Hamilton Board of Education in 1951, retired 35 years later June 1986 at the Hamilton Convention Centre, and are now in their 36<sup>th</sup> year of retirement relatively mobile, verbal, and vertical!

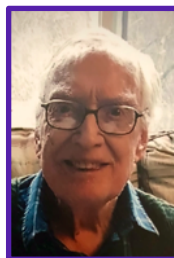


That retirement reception was a memorable event because of the way in which it ended. Usually the evening consisted of dignitaries and retirees piped to the stage by a bagpiper, followed by greetings, speeches of well-wishing and salutes, souvenir gifts distributed to the retiring staff, and concluding with a formal response from one of the retirees. On this occasion, however, after formalities concluded, Frank Farley

sang a song: his version of Frank Sinatra's "My Way!" The applause when he finished was deafening. Reading our Frank's words, one can see why!



**Executive members Lee Hondronicols and Linda Sargeant joined Don, Jim, Bill and John for brunch in September and enjoyed hearing about their teaching adventures. Frank sent his regrets.**



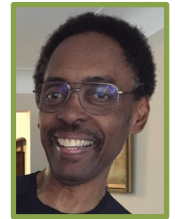
**Sadly, after the writing of this story, Frank Farley passed away on March 21, 2022 in his 91<sup>st</sup> year. His life was well lived, and he is greatly missed by family and friends. Frank's song reflects his life - lived HIS way!**



# Volunteers for Communications Needed

## Thirteenth World Editor

Our tremendous thanks to newsletter editor, Graham Boyce, who is giving up his editorial position to move through the Presidential Chairs after 6 years of service to Thirteenth World!



### Are YOU our new 13<sup>th</sup> World Editor?

There are three editions of the newsletter each year. The Editor needs a working knowledge of the Microsoft WORD program for PC or Mac. Articles are submitted by the Executive and members of District 13 for the Editor to collate, and there is an editorial team to assist with final editing.



### Social Media ...

**Volunteers to help with District 13 posts for Facebook, Instagram or Twitter ... a team effort!**

Your help is needed as soon as possible ... but it's just once a week for about a half hour!

District 13 is looking for members to post on our District Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages on a weekly basis. These postings can be from RTOERO, the RTOERO Foundation, be locally created posts, or from other local organizations like the McMaster Optimal Aging Portal, Haldimand Norfolk Women's Services and the Hamilton Council on Aging.



We are also looking for a member to share information via The Thirteenth World about the RTOERO Foundation. This member would receive newsletters/information from the RTOERO Foundation and then submit selected information for inclusion in the newsletter three times per year.

**Please Note: One Social Media Rep and the RTOERO Foundation Rep are entitled to participate on the Executive.**

Please be in touch with District 13 President, Catherine Maclsaac [president13@districts.rtoero.ca](mailto:president13@districts.rtoero.ca)

If you have any questions about any of these positions please contact Joanne Weeks at [weeksj13jrjw33@gmail.com](mailto:weeksj13jrjw33@gmail.com)

## Thank you to our Goodwill Volunteers!

### You are Amazing!

The District 13 Goodwill Committee currently supports close to 1000 members who are 80 years of age or older. Our 29 dedicated and caring Goodwill Committee members have continued to reach out and stay in contact with our older members through cards, phone calls and small gifts (porch pick ups) for milestone birthdays during COVID-19.

Our next meeting is Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., at the St. Demetrios Hall, 27 Head St.

**Would you like to be one of our helpers?** We could use the help of 3 to 5 more volunteers! Please contact me if you are interested in attending a meeting or if you would like to discuss the District 13 Goodwill Committee and perhaps joining the team!

**Sharon Derkach, Chair**  
[sejdkach@yahoo.com](mailto:sejdkach@yahoo.com) 905 679 6655

## IN MEMORIAM 2021

RTOERO District 13 Hamilton-Wentworth, Haldimand wishes to honour and celebrate the lives of those members whom we lost beginning December 2020 and ending December 2021.

Our thoughts and sincere sympathy go out to family, friends and colleagues.

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p>James Anderson<br/>Victor Andreychuk<br/>Craig Ashbaugh<br/>Wayne Atanas<br/>Suzanne Awrey<br/>Ruth Baker<br/>Margaret Barnes<br/>Mason Barnes<br/>Iris Berryman<br/>Grant Betzmer<br/>Lorna Bieman<br/>Marion Black (2020)<br/>Audrey Blankstein<br/>James Blinkhorn<br/>Marlene Bohn<br/>Ruth Borthwick<br/>Ann Brennan<br/>Antonio "Tony" Briatico<br/>Grierson Brown<br/>Joan Browning<br/>Bruce Buffet (2020)<br/>Eileen Anne Carey<br/>Mary Chantrell<br/>Donald Collins<br/>Paula Collins<br/>Dr. Frank Cooke<br/>Joseph Costie<br/>Ethel Cowley<br/>Patricia Crockett<br/>Michael Cummings<br/>Malcolm Curtis<br/>Douglas Dell<br/>Irene deLieveseley<br/>Paul deSousa<br/>Terri Densmore<br/>John George "Jack" Doherty<br/>Kenneth Douglass<br/>James Dowall<br/>William "Bill" Dowdell<br/>Phyllis Doyle<br/>Catherine Duffy<br/>Elizabeth "Bettie" Eldridge<br/>Gladys Elian<br/>Brad Elliott<br/>Cheryl Ende</p> | <p>Hazel Faris (2020)<br/>Elaine Fawcett<br/>Thomas "Tom" Featherstone<br/>George Fischer<br/>Pamela Fisher<br/>William Thomas Fitzpatrick<br/>John Forsyth<br/>Gordon Fuller<br/>Rose Gatecliffe<br/>Marlene Gillan<br/>Wayne Gowland<br/>Garnet Graham<br/>Joseph Hammill<br/>Joan Harkness<br/>Mary Haylock<br/>Ralph Bennett Hewins<br/>Leonard Hewitt<br/>Carl Heyerichs<br/>Nancy Hinich<br/>Brenda Holt<br/>Wanda Honda<br/>Sandra Hunter<br/>Stella Hunting<br/>Marian James<br/>Margit Kaffka<br/>Kenneth "Ken" Kemp<br/>Dorothy Kerr<br/>Lucy Kisway<br/>Ronald "Ron" Kocel<br/>Jo-Ann Lamore<br/>Audrey Lavell<br/>Paul LeBlanc<br/>Ruth Lemp<br/>William Leslie<br/>Wayne Lockley<br/>Shirley MacFarlane<br/>Maria MacKay<br/>Georgia Mair<br/>William "Bill" Manson<br/>Marjorie Masterson<br/>Christine Mardon<br/>Kathryn McCarroll<br/>Beverly McComb<br/>Cullen McDonald<br/>Marion McIsaac</p> | <p>Gordon McLennan<br/>Maureen McLeod<br/>Anne McVittie<br/>Adele Menegon<br/>Michael Miller<br/>Clarence Mountain<br/>Jean Murray<br/>Sylvia Oberfrank<br/>Diana O'Donnell<br/>Cornelis Paul<br/>Betty Phillips<br/>David Renfrew<br/>Nancy Reynolds<br/>Jane Richardson<br/>Kenneth Riis<br/>Carol Roth<br/>June Salter<br/>Sarah Scott<br/>Barbara Shaboluk<br/>Louise Shewfelt<br/>Albert "Al" Shupe (2020)<br/>Lawrence Smith<br/>Pearl Sojnocki<br/>Charles "Charlie" "Chas" Stahn<br/>Michael Steel<br/>Susan "Soosie" Stuart<br/>Norma Jean Strecker<br/>Sheila Summers<br/>Bernadette "Bonnie" Taylor<br/>Leanne Thompson<br/>Harry Traini<br/>Lois Tymoshuk<br/>Cornelius "Casey" Van Broekhoven<br/>John Vanderspek<br/>Sheila Verlaan<br/>Susan White<br/>June Wilcox<br/>Barbara Wilkins<br/>Myra Woods<br/>William Woods<br/>Joan Young</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> |
|--|--|--|

We also mourn the loss of other members of the educational community who may not have been members of RTOERO. Our thoughts and sincere sympathy go out to family, friends and colleagues.

## RTOERO Community Grants Program

Thirty-one community projects are getting a boost thanks to funding from RTOERO's annual Community Grants.

In each RTOERO District, members take on many volunteer and advocacy roles. Members may apply through their Districts for Community Grants that support crucial local programs and services.

This year's Community Grants total \$79,885, for projects ranging from social isolation to environmental protection.

A committee of RTOERO members assesses the merits of each Community Grant submission. Since the inception of the Community Grants 21 years ago, RTOERO has donated \$1.85 million to more than 525 programs and projects.

## More than 2000 attend Vibrant Voices 2021 Webinar Series

As part of our Vibrant Voices program in 2021, we hosted a series of six webinars for members and interested stakeholders about our advocacy issues. More than 2,000 people attended the sessions, with an opportunity to hear from Canadian experts on the topics of geriatric health care, seniors strategy and environmental stewardship.

If you missed the webinars or would like to view them again, visit the video resources section of our website or the Vibrant Voices playlist on our YouTube channel.

<https://rtoero.ca/vibrant-voices/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC47hMHrITrEyXgr2PGoqwSw>

## District 13 – 2021's Community Grant Recipient

District 13 received a \$2500 grant from RTOERO to support the **Art Therapy Program** overseen by the Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation. The program is designed to support patients in the Medically Complex and Restorative Care units at St. Peter's Hospital. Our District 13 Executive has also donated an additional \$2500 to ensure patients are able to participate in programs focused on whole person care to positively impact their mental and emotional health.

COVID-19 has presented challenges for us all and has impacted patients significantly. We look forward to sharing more information about this project in the future.

**Tom Pettigrew** has been the Chair of this committee since 2000 and has now decided to spend more time with his family (hopefully at the cottage) and at home in Dunnville.

We are interested in hearing from members who are involved with community organizations and are interested in receiving a grant from RTOERO in the future.

**Lee Hondronicols** – Chair 905 379 2614 [100nickels@gmail.com](mailto:100nickels@gmail.com)



Julian Foreman, from Hamilton Health Sciences, accepts the 2021 RTOERO Community Grant donation from Lee Hondronicols and Catherine Maclsaac.





50th ANNIVERSARY  
LUNCHEON CELEBRATION  
THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022



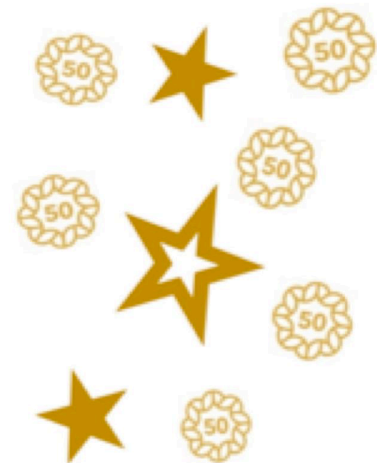
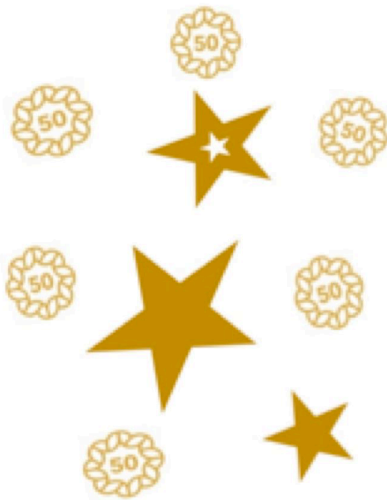
*You are cordially invited to attend ...*

**Location: The Waterfront Banquet & Conference Centre**

555 Bay Street North, Hamilton, ON L8L 1H1  
905 581 8823

**Time:** 10:45 am Social (Cash Bar will be available)  
11:15 am Welcome / Introductions / Awards / Lunch  
1:00 - 2:00 pm Entertainment & Door Prizes

**Price:** \$25 per person  
Enjoy 50% off your ticket price to celebrate 50 years of District 13



**Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, June 10, 2022**  
***(Please complete the Registration Form)***

The RTOERO District 13 Executive is following all the health and safety guidelines.  
To be aware of any changes or new protocols, check on the website:  
<https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/covid-19-restrictions>

Please complete the form below, cut on the dotted line and send it with your cheque (\$25.00 p.p.) payable to RTOERO DISTRICT 13 and

Mail to: RTOERO District 13  
82 Charterhouse Cr.,  
Ancaster, ON, L9G 4E5



## MENU

*Rolls & Butter*

**Soup:** Award Winning Carrot Ginger Soup

**Salad:** Local grown greens, spring mix, chopped kale, iceberg lettuce, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, julienne carrots, grape tomatoes served with raspberry dressing

**Choice of:**

1. **Grilled Beef Sirloin Tips** served with wild rice & roasted carrots

**Or**

2. **Mediterranean Chicken Kebobs** yogurt dill sauce served with Greek fries

**Dessert:** Banana Foster  
Tea/Coffee

## REGISTRATION FORM

Cut on the dotted line below and send to above address



Print Name as it should appear on your name tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle one choice:**

1. GRILLED BEEF SIRLOIN TIPS

2. MEDITERRANEAN CHICKEN KEBOBS

**(Please specify your choice of 1 or 2 on the form enclosed otherwise we will choose for you)**

Specify special dietary/allergy request: \_\_\_\_\_



**WEDNESDAY JUNE 8, 2022**

**Shotgun start: 8:30 a.m.**

**LOCATION:** Oak Gables Golf Course  
1505 Wilson St.  
ANCASTER, ON L0R 1R0

**TEAMS:** 4 Golfers – male, female or mixed  
At least one golfer per team must be an RTOERO member  
Best Ball Format  
Prizes!!

**COST:** \$65.00 per golfer, includes shared cart & lunch

**To enter, send your cheque written to Oak Gables Golf Club  
and a list of your team mates to:**

Erv Hildebrandt  
249 Amberley Blvd.  
Ancaster, ON  
L9G 3Y4

**Contact:** [ehildebrandt2@cogeco.ca](mailto:ehildebrandt2@cogeco.ca) 905 869 0127

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRY: JUNE 1, 2022**

Also... Save the date for the Fall Tournament - Wed. Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022



## Your Information

Has your mailing address, phone number or email address changed since you joined RTOERO?

Please notify the RTOERO Office at 1 800 361 9888 Ext. 223 or by email at [membership@rtoero.ca](mailto:membership@rtoero.ca)

## Newsletter Articles

Articles for submission to the newsletter are most welcome. Materials submitted for inclusion must be approved by the editor and the editorial committee.

The Committee reserves the right to edit material when necessary.

**An in-person event!**  
Depending on Health Canada regulations.

**June 1st**  
instead of  
May 25th

**Oct. 26th**

**Java Time**

If you enjoy meeting people and sharing experiences over a cup of coffee, this social is for you! Join us when you can!

**Williams Cafe**  
Pier 8 Park - 47 Discovery Dr.  
10:00 - 11:30  
Usually the Last Wed.  
of the month - not July & Aug.  
except for June 1st!

**Sept. 28th**

**Nov. 30th**

**Something for Everyone!**

To be added to our event update list:  
[district13.rtoero@gmail.com](mailto:district13.rtoero@gmail.com)  
905 648 6979

Convenor  
Gemma Monaco

## RTOERO District 13 Newsletter Preferences

The District 13 Newsletter, 13th World, is emailed to those who own an email address. Please ensure that RTOERO has your most up-to-date information. Sometimes those with an email address prefer the Canada Post edition as well, and may contact District 13 to be added to that list.

Those who do not have an email address on file receive their newsletter by **Canada Post**. If you are already receiving your newsletter by Canada Post, you do not need to contact us about it, unless you wish to switch to an emailed edition. You must contact the RTOERO Office to make that change at 1 800 361 9888 Ext. 223 or by email at [membership@rtoero.ca](mailto:membership@rtoero.ca)

For more information, contact: Linda Sargeant [district13.rtoero@gmail.com](mailto:district13.rtoero@gmail.com) 905 575 3831

## Thirteenth World Publications: Next submission date: August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Thirteenth World** is (*usually*) published **three** times a year by RTOERO District 13.

### This edition's Editorial Committee:

Graham Boyce, Lee Hondronicols, Catherine MacIsaac, Linda Sargeant, Joanne Weeks

### This edition's editor, design and layout:

Linda Sargeant [district13.rtoero@gmail.com](mailto:district13.rtoero@gmail.com) 905 575 3831



## Political Advocacy Committee (PAC) Report

The District 13 PAC has been actively working to promote and spread the message of RTOERO advocacy issues to politicians at all levels, as well as the wider community.

Our District 13 focus has been on health care for seniors;

- promote Pharmacare
- increase the # of geriatricians
- extend health services
- improve Long Term Health Care
- increase Home care
- act against elder abuse

In the fall, we spoke to several Members of Parliament about senior issues, to present many of the concerns of the District Political Advocacy Committee team members. They listened and asked pertinent questions. They did not know there are 81,000-plus RTOERO members. Now they do, and they were reminded that we are all voters!

**Pharmacare** - RTOERO is the largest national provider of non-profit group health benefits for education community retirees. Pharmacare is of prime importance to our 81,000-plus members, and to Canadians of all ages and stages.

Government Pharmacare policies need to be created and put in action. Politicians have been talking about the program but we need to know how they will implement it to ensure seniors can access the medicines that are essential for their well-being and to reduce hospitalizations. Ontario does offer some drug coverage like the Ontario Drug Benefit but all medications are not covered. No one should have to choose between

purchasing the necessities of everyday life or medical prescriptions. Canada is the only country in the world that has universal health care but does not provide universal drug coverage.

### **Environment** - Not just an election issue – it's our survival!

Vast wildfires, extensive flooding, extreme weather, unsafe water, biodiversity loss, and pollution can be intimidating concepts. While the harm is daunting, progress is possible.

That's why the environment is one of the core advocacy issues for RTOERO. We will be focusing on environmentally-sustainable transportation, recycling and plastics diversion from landfills, and having a safe water supply for all Canadians.

A sustainable future depends on responsible use of resources, conservation and protecting our air, land and water. Individuals, companies and industry groups all have a part to play in environmental stewardship, and so does government. It needs to be accountable to us, our children and our grandchildren.

**Financial Security** - Statistics Canada estimates that 600,000 Canadian seniors are living in poverty. The number of people in the Ontario aged 65 and over is projected to rise from 2.6 million in 2020 to 4.5 million by 2046. Government policies need to do more to build and protect pensions.

### **We want our voices heard!!!**

Respectfully submitted by the District 13 PAC Committee  
Dave Curto, Jan Lukas, Jim Wilson, Inta Aldridge

Submitted by **Inta Aldridge**, Chair  
[inara@cogeco.ca](mailto:inara@cogeco.ca) 905 648 6509

**DISTRICT 13  
POLITICAL ADVOCACY  
COMMITTEE  
WANTS YOU!**

**Join us as we head into  
Provincial & Municipal Elections**

We are an advocacy group that shares  
RTOERO positions on issues affecting seniors  
with Politicians and the Community

Information: <https://rtoero.ca/vibrant-voices/>  
Contact: Inta Aldridge [inara@cogeco.ca](mailto:inara@cogeco.ca) (905) 648-6509

# BLOSSOMS IN THE NIGHT

By: Hope Leon

Blossoms ... beauty,  
Sparkling glows ablaze  
I look up into the starry sky  
A sight which does amaze  
A majesty, ... a magical sight  
Is what I see  
On this starlit night.

The blossoms below  
Are all aglow  
From the sparkles up above  
Cherry Blossom Tree  
A beauty to see  
An amazing sight to behold.

Mother Nature ... at her finest  
She creates this work of art  
The colours and the unique shapes  
Sets her handiwork apart  
From all the rest  
'Cause it's really the best  
Extraordinary ... it's breathtaking  
Yellows, purples, pinks, and more  
Such a lovely colourful palette  
Nothing's better ... that's for sure!

Cherry Tree's pretty blossoms,  
Under the starry lit sky  
One more gift from Mother Nature  
To behold with our very own eyes  
To see the world she's created  
Brings me joy and so much bliss  
'Cause her beautiful Cherry  
Blossom Tree  
Fills my heart with happiness.



## RTOERO Foundation ... Keeping You Informed

“Are there any updates from the Foundation?” is a question we are asked frequently. Here is a rundown of all the various places you'll find content from the RTOERO Foundation:

- **Embrace Aging:** Our very own quarterly Foundation newsletter, *Embrace Aging*, is a great source of Foundation information. website: [rtoero.ca/rtoero-foundation/get-involved/newsletter/](https://rtoero.ca/rtoero-foundation/get-involved/newsletter/)
- **The Loop:** Coming in 2022. The Foundation's new e-newsletter which will offer insights into the unique value and impact of the Foundation's programs, research, and training to support healthy active aging for all RTOERO members.
- **Renaissance:** RTOERO's award-winning magazine *Renaissance* regularly highlights the work of the Foundation.
- **Liaison:** We contribute one article to every issue of *Liaison*, RTOERO's bimonthly e-newsletter.
- **District newsletters:** We contribute an article each month to the districts to include in their newsletters.
- **Webinar series:** This year the Foundation offered six webinars and we are excited to continue our webinar program into 2022. [rtoero.ca/rtoero-foundation/get-involved/webinar-series/](https://rtoero.ca/rtoero-foundation/get-involved/webinar-series/)
- **Blogs:** Catch up on all our blogs: [rtoero.ca/rtoero-foundation/about/foundation-news/](https://rtoero.ca/rtoero-foundation/about/foundation-news/)
- **Social media:** You can also find us on Facebook (our group is called “End Isolation”) and on Twitter (@RTO\_Foundation). We regularly post information about Foundation activities and impact, highlight the work of our partners, and share general interest articles.

# Your RTOERO District 13 Hamilton-Wentworth, Haldimand Executive for 2021-2022

## TABLE OFFICERS:

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|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Haldimand               | Linda Chittick |
| Haldimand               | Sandra Salerno |
| Haldimand               | Karen Walton   |
| Hamilton-Wentworth      | Jackie Bajus   |
| Hamilton-Wentworth      | Dave Curto     |
| Hamilton-Wentworth      | Barb Jarrett   |
| Hamilton-Wentworth      | Ralph LeFevre  |
| Hamilton-Wentworth      | Leo Normandeau |
| RWTO Haldimand          | Joanne Weeks   |
| RWTO Hamilton-Wentworth | Linda Sargeant |

*Life is an exciting business,  
and most exciting when  
it is lived for others.*

*Helen Keller*

# One voice could make a difference

Write to your local candidates to ask how they plan to act on policies that support every Ontarian, at any age.



## Speak up for 3 issues

### Seniors Strategy

- Transform long-term care with national standards
- Fight ageism through increased awareness
- Help older adults living in poverty

### Geriatric Health Care

- Implement universal public drug coverage
- Develop a concrete aging in place plan
- Support geriatric training for all new healthcare professionals

### Environmental Stewardship

- Actively reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Protect our freshwater and drinking water
- Cut waste and improve recycling initiatives

Let your candidates know what you expect from your vote in the Ontario 2022 election.

Speak up today at [vibrantvoices.ca/provincial](https://vibrantvoices.ca/provincial)

Vibrant Voices is a community-based advocacy campaign by RTOERO, a member organization of Canada's education retirees.



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