

# THIRTEENTH WORLD

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## REMEMBER WHEN: Our first years on the job!

Whether you've been retired for decades, are newly retired or still actively working, we all have something in common—memories of our first days and years on the job!

Teaching was not my first career. Coming from a corporate job, I was surprised at my first November staff meeting when teachers were passionately exclaiming, "It's almost Christmas and we're almost out of red crayons!" I remember rolling my eyes and thinking that they had lost all perspective. But as the fates would have it, only a few years later, I too was now one of those teachers. Lol. Hard to believe that was thirty+ years ago! Such a rewarding career with so many great memories!



A very young "Mr. Stringer" at Mary Hopkins Public School in Waterdown (circa 1992)

Thank-you to all our amazing members who took the time to look out old photos and write down and share their stories with us in this issue (see pages 3-6).

**NEXT ISSUE: "Health & Wellness"** What tips, strategies, programs or resources do you use or recommend to others to maintain or improve mental or physical health? Submit your suggestions, stories and photos for possible inclusion in our Spring (March) issue. Submission details on the back cover.

### Need to change your subscription?

Check out the back page on how to update your address or change your preferred newsletter format.

# President's message

By Inta Aldridge

Fall is such a colourful and active season and your District 13 has been busy with events, tours, meetings, a luncheon with more to come your way.

On October 26 we had our Fall Luncheon where Appreciation Awards and Outstanding Service Awards were presented. Our congratulations go out to the following members:

For the Appreciation Awards for Participation on a Committee we want to recognize: Barb Bentham, Linda Chittick, Doug French, Jo Ivey, Barb Jarrett, Catherine MacIsaac and Christa Stoeckler.

For the Appreciation Award for Participation on the District Executive we want to recognize: Linda Chittick, Danielle Chouinard, Barb Jarrett, Catherine MacIsaac and Linda Sargeant.

The Outstanding Service Award went to these deserving members: Nancy Chiarot, Danielle Chouinard and Robert D'Alessandro

Community Grants presented a cheque for 2023 and we heard a final report from Julian Foreman about the Art Therapy at St. Peter's Hospital.

Joanne Weeks presented the Membership Milestones and then we all enjoyed lunch and the entertainment provided by The Nashville Niagara Band.

(Photos from the luncheon and of award winners can be found on pages 8-10.)

Coming your way are many new and exciting changes, events and offers from RTOERO. Expect an eBlast about membership fees. At the Fall Forum we were asked to have you wait for that eBlast before giving the details but I can share that there will be a welcome change for those of you who subscribe to the benefits package. Those of you who travel will soon be able to purchase extra travel insurance on top of what is already a great travel insurance. We have a partnership with Telus.com/RTOERO that is offering phone plans to members at a special rate. Hearing Life and Iris also have plans and you can find out more about these on the RTOERO website.

RTOERO is a progressive organization that continues to provide enhanced services to all of us as we move forward in this Fall season and into the joys of wintertime!



District 13 President, Inta Aldridge

## Dates to remember:

- Nov. 29:** Java Time (Lime Ridge Mall)
- Dec. 7:** *Salsa Dance Event*
- Dec. 10:** *Pollyanna: The Musical Tour*
- Jan. 31:** Java Time (Lime Ridge Mall)
- Feb. 25:** *Matilda Trip*
- Feb. 28:** Java Time (Lime Ridge Mall)
- Mar. 20:** Can. Warplane Museum Trip
- Apr. 18:** Goodwill Meeting
- Apr. 24:** Java Time (Lime Ridge Mall)
- May 29:** Java Time (Lime Ridge Mall)
- June 6:** Annual General Meeting

Details about most events can be found on the pages of this newsletter.



# Remember when:

## Looking back at our first years on the job

### Memories of those first years teaching

Submitted by Jim Love

I went to Stratford Ontario Teacher's College in 1954/55—a lovely old red brick three story building near the Avon river. (The Stratford Shakespearean Theatre was performing *in a tent* at that time!)

The first school I taught at was a solid red brick building with a large furnace in the basement and a bright one room above with large windows on two sides letting in lots of sunlight where forty pupils from grade one to grade eight sat waiting for me to teach. This was quite a change from the one room rural public school I attended as a boy—with its rectangular cast iron wood stove where we used to place our frozen ink wells to thaw out in the winter before we could write in our scribblers. All the years I went to public school there were no more than eighteen pupils in the whole school.



I was nineteen when I started teaching in 1955 and was able to buy my first car a 1948 Studebaker. It cost me \$500. Even though my salary for the year was \$1600, it meant I could live at home on the family farm and drive to school.

I worked hard preparing lessons every night often working until midnight. I finally learned how to get the older children to read with the younger boys and girls and help with the lessons. We did a lot of work with chalk on the black slate blackboards. Remember them?

Once a week we had a music teacher come to the school to teach us. He was a talented artist. We had an electric 78 record player. I remember one special music appreciation lesson. He put some classical music on the player then proceeded to draw and cover all the blackboards at the front and side of the room with pictures of his interpretation of the music. We all were amazed.

Do you remember those hectographs? That's how you would prepare many lessons.



Every year we would have a Christmas Concert for the parents. A lot of fun and learning took place.

As always, the children and I looked forward to the baseball games and sports activities we had with our neighbouring schools. My close friend taught in the closest rural school. This was a farming community. I remember one incident I had with a farmer that first year teaching. He came to see me at four o'clock. I was keeping his son for extra help. He pointed at the clock on the wall and said to me. You teach him till four then I want him.

I drove by the old school in May 2017. Like many country schools it has become a family home. Changes have been made. The large playground has gone but the memories will last forever.

# Remember when continued ...

## Inquiring minds want to know

Submitted by Pat Baago

I was teaching grade one at Mount Hope school back in the 80's. In those days we would have an evening Christmas concert for the students' families and parents. It all went well until I went out to my car to head for home but it wouldn't start. Someone gave me a ride home and back to school the next day, don't remember who.

Midday, my husband came and got my car running again. The principal brought him to my classroom. It was a busy little class. I was sitting at a table working with a group of children. Suddenly it was dead silent in the room and all the little eyes were looking at us.

I said, "Boys and girls, this is Mr. Baago. Say hello to Mr. Baago."  
"Hello Mr. Baago."

My husband and I finished our conversation and he left. I continued working with the one group of children. A few minutes later a little boy from another table came over to me and asked, "Mrs. Baago, was that your husband?" I replied that he was and Cody went back to his table and I continued working with my little group.

A few minutes later another boy, Kyle, came over to my table and asked, "Mrs. Baago, did Cody ask you if you slept with him?" To say I was a little shocked by the question is putting it mildly but I just said, "No! Cody did not ask me that." This time I was all ears and overhead Tyler go back to his table and say to Cody, "You did not ask her if she slept with him."

With that, the first little boy, Cody, came back to my table and asked, "So, Mrs Baago, do you sleep with him?" To say that I was taken back by this whole conversation and not sure how to respond was putting I mildly so I said the first thing that came into my head. "Well, Cody, doesn't your mom sleep with your dad?" Cody jumped back, "Oh no! They have separate beds. My dad farts too much!" And with that he ran back to his seat looking back at me over his shoulder.

I have enjoyed telling this story many times and often wished that I could have been invited to that boy's wedding so that I could warn the bride about a potential flatulence problem.

## Memories of those first years teaching

Submitted by Pat McNeice

It was apparent in the 1950's there would be a need for extra teachers required for the children of the Baby Boomers. The Hamilton Catholic School Board, in particular, was in a great need as many children were coming from Italy and Portugal and going into the Catholic System.

Recruitment of teachers for the Hamilton Catholic Board was conducted in the Spring, mainly in England and Ireland and as a result about twenty-four teachers were hired in 1958.



(Continued from page 4)

We arrived in late August and were received very well by a committee of Hamilton teachers. We were given an orientation of where we were to teach, helped find accommodation, and how to use the buses to get around Hamilton, and many other points of wisdom to make the change from one country to another as easy as possible.

The first Tuesday in September was an eye-opener. We found that the Canadian teachers had been decorating their classrooms the week before and they looked so welcoming. The “new” teachers were amazed, as we generally never went into school until the first day required and the children made all the decorations gradually over September.

The next big shock was the assignment of classes. Most schools were Grade 1-8 but many of the incoming teachers had taught High School never having taught lower grades. Luckily, high school in England started at age 11 but there were no such thing as split grades, and with 40-45 children, it was overwhelming at first.

It was a truly great time for us, nevertheless, as there was so much to explore and to learn! We spent weekends going, literally, all over the place and became very good friends—with at least six of us still in Ontario. The Hamilton Spectator wrote an article about all of us in 2008, “Hamilton came calling 50 years ago”, and showed the celebration we had after being in Canada after 50 years. Yes, it was a great adventure.



## The start of a vocation

Submitted by Jackie Bajus

I was one of those teenagers who graduated from high school in 1965 and went straight to Hamilton Teachers College. As a young 18-year-old female there were 3 career options: teaching, nursing or secretarial work. Having always loved school, this was a no-brainer. One year of teacher education and no university degree was my ticket in May 1966 to walk into the Hamilton Roman Catholic Separate School Board (long before the name changed to the HWCDSB) and fill in the paperwork to apply for a job. No interview! It was the time of huge growth in schools and the doors were open to qualified teachers. I was quickly assigned to a Grade 6 class in my alma mater elementary where I had also done by practice teaching, and took over for a well-loved teacher who left on maternity. The school was two short blocks from home and I often walked with my youngest sister and friends!



## Technology

Submitted by Kate Head

In 1981, I attended an FWTAO Conference entitled, "Help! The microcomputers are coming!". Haldimand sent three delegates: Marianne Allemang, Sharon Craven, and me.

# Remember when continued ...

## Memory lane

Submitted by **Mary McCracken**

It was an exciting year speaking only French to a small group of children—I had 15 in my first year of French Immersion Kindergarten at Peace Memorial. Kindergarten was still only half-days and I taught in the afternoons. We had a playhouse corner and hands-on activities.

The first week had this little girl, who came from daycare crying every day. I finally phoned the mother on the Friday who said that her daughter had told her about the crying, but also said, "you can't talk to the teacher Mom, she doesn't speak our language." The child eventually adjusted and had a good year.

During playtime one day, a little boy proposed to a tall blond classmate in the play corner. After he asked her to marry him he said, "What was your name again?"

Kindergarten French Immersion sure was fun!



## First day of teaching (1969)

Submitted by **Joan Trotman**

Imagine having photos of your first day of teaching posted in The Hamilton Spectator! I did, on September 3rd or 4th 1969. It was my first day of teaching. Everyone kidded me about having my picture, in front of the classroom, in the newspaper, on the first day of teaching in a newly built school. Most teachers spend a lifetime teaching and never get this recognition. Teaching, in any conditions, is manageable but having the bathroom facilities in another school was impossible for me. Luckily, I had a wonderful class and teaching partners in an Open Concept environment. Consequently, fellow teachers would watch your class for you. The whole experience was a wonderful start to my teaching career. A challenge to be sure!

## Show & tell

Submitted by **Diana Dalla Costa Rich**

In the early seventies I taught Grade 2 in Clarkson, Ontario. Show and Tell was big in those years. A student brought a genuine Civil War musket on the bus. No one batted an eye or gave it a thought. For show and tell he told us how his parents got it while on vacation in the US. Everyone got to look at it.

The same student came to school after Spring Break with a human skull he and his parents found on a beach while on vacation in Jamaica (I think). He asked if I could keep it on my desk till Show and Tell time. While they were out for recess I sat at my desk and the skull was staring right at me. It freaked me out so much that I left the room quickly. It dawned on me later that perhaps the parents should have taken it to the authorities on the island.





## Would you like to co-host a coffee social in your area?

In addition to our regular *Java Time* at Lime Ridge Mall, several travelling coffee socials were hosted around the District last Spring and Summer: Cayuga, Stoney Creek, Ancaster, Burlington and Dunnville. Members have been asking when they're coming back, but we could use some help.



If you'd like to learn more about hosting or co-hosting a coffee social (or any other event) in your part of the District, simply send an email to: [events.district13@gmail.com](mailto:events.district13@gmail.com)



## District 13 Online Resources:

### District 13 Website:

<https://district13.rtoero.ca/>

Check out upcoming events, access the newsletter, subscribe to receive email updates, find email addresses for the Executive and more.

### District 13 Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/RTOERODistrict13>

Another way to access current event information, photos, articles, and share your thoughts.

### District 13 Classifieds:

<https://district13.rtoero.ca/classified/>

See opportunities, services, and items for sale, or post your own (free).

**COME AND JOIN US TO  
SOCIALIZE WITH MEMBERS!**

**~ JAVA TIME ~**



**Last Wednesday of the month:**

November 29, January 31,

February 28

(Hosted by Gemma Monaco)

# Milestone membership presentation

## 13 members recognized

By Joanne Weeks

Congratulations to those District 13 members who achieved Membership Milestones in 2023.

At the Fall Luncheon special certificates were presented to Lucille Di Censors, Marilyn Hills, Byron Humphrey, Judy Kleven, Sylvia Meyer and Anne Wilde—all for 25 years.

If you were an RTOERO member exactly 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years in the early Spring of this year and were not able to attend either the Spring or Fall Luncheon your certificate, pen and pin will be mailed to you.

Also presented, on separate occasions:  
Tony DeWeerd for 30 years and  
Theresa Funamoto for 25 years.



BESIDE:

Left to right: Lucille Di Censo, Marilyn Hills, Judy Kleven, Sylvia Meyer, Anne Wilde

BELOW:

Left to right: Theresa Funamoto; Joanne Weeks and Tony DeWeerd; Byron Humphrey and Joanne Weeks





# Award winners recognized at Fall Luncheon

## Appreciation and Outstanding Service awards presented

By Janet Kilgannon



LEFT PHOTO: Linda Sargeant, Danielle Chouinard, Catherine Maclsaac



MIDDLE PHOTO: Robert D'Alessandro, Danielle Chouinard



RIGHT PHOTO: Barb Bentham, Catherine Maclsaac (All other award recipients were absent.)

As mentioned in the President's Report, on October 26 we had our Fall Luncheon where Appreciation Awards and Outstanding Service Awards were presented.

### Appreciation Awards for Participation on a Committee

Committee work is the lifeblood of any organization. We recognized seven individuals who have selflessly given countless hours to the work of the Goodwill Committee, and have now completed their term: Barb Bentham, Linda Chittick, Doug French, Jo Ivey, Barb Jarrett, Catherine Maclsaac and Christa Stoeckler

### Appreciation Award for Participation on the District Executive

These volunteers undertook a variety of roles to plan and oversee the activities of District 13, and to live out the strategic goals set by RTOERO to provide a full and dignified life for Canadian seniors. The five recipients of an Appreciation award in recognition of their terms of service on the District 13 Executive are: Linda Chittick, Danielle Chouinard, Barb Jarrett, Catherine Maclsaac and Linda Sargeant

### Outstanding Service Award

Each year, District 13 honours members who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to our district and its work on behalf of its members. These recipients made an exceptional impact of our organization, and/or the community. They demonstrated leadership and skill, keeping our members engaged and connected. We are proud of them, and grateful for their service: Nancy Chiarot, Danielle Chouinard and Robert D'Alessandro



# Local events: October 2023 Fall Luncheon



**Photos of attendees at the Fall Luncheon**

The event was held at The Waterfront Banquet & Conference Centre on Bay Street North in Hamilton.

The entertainment was *The Nashville Niagara Band*

Special thanks to Jan Lukas for taking the photos.



# October Know Your Health Plan Workshop



## Photos of attendees at the October Benefits Workshop

The event was held at St. Naum Church on Stone Church Road East in Hamilton.

The presenter was Stephen Wong

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend. Special thanks to Jan Lukas for taking the photos.



# On the road to Stratford

By Janet Kilgannon

More than forty members of District 13 boarded the bus on a beautiful late September morning to head to Stratford. The first visit was to the Historic Parlour Inn, where a delicious lunch was served. Of special note was the most beautiful and tasty pavlova that was served for dessert. Those who are connoisseurs, or who create this treat themselves, were all suitably impressed.

Then it was on to the Festival Theatre, where the legendary trumpeters stood on the balcony to summon us in. The afternoon performance was *Les Belles Soeurs*, a well-known Canadian play written about a group of Quebecois women in the 1950's, displaying their inner group dynamics in a world far different from the one that women experience now. The dialogue ranged from witty to poignant, leaving us with much to ponder and chat about on the way back to Hamilton. We saw live theatre at its best, with brilliant acting, staging, timing and choreography.

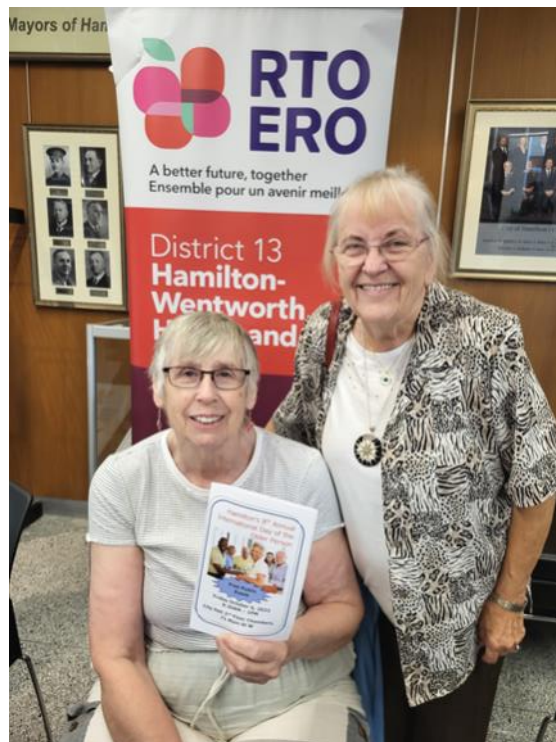


# UN International Day of Older Persons

By Janet Kilgannon

On Friday, October 6, 2023, President Inta Aldridge, along with District 13 Executive members Janet Kilgannon and Sue Crawford, attended the 8th Annual Hamilton Celebration of this United Nations Day which recognizes the important role played by seniors in society. The Mayor's Declaration took place at noon, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. There were also several guest presenters who spoke on the topics of Support for Caregivers, Health Awareness and Protocols regarding medical issues facing Seniors, and a session on Fraud and Scam Prevention in social media platforms and the Internet.

District 13 then participated with a table at the Senior's Fair just outside Council Chamber doors, and did excellent networking on behalf of our organization. This is part of our political action program, and placed us securely in the mix with other local and provincial groups advocating for seniors rights and protections.



ABOVE RIGHT:  
Sue Crawford and Inta Aldridge at the District 13 table

RIGHT:  
Mayor Andrea Horwath addressing assembled attendees



## Opportunities to get involved in the District ...

- Join a committee (see page 23 for a complete listing of existing committees)
- Offer to run or co-host a local workshop, event or get-together (funding is available)
- Share your thoughts, ideas and suggestions with the District Executive (see page 23)
- Offer to volunteer at a local event

# Tours 2024

By Lee Hondronicols & Catherine MacIsaac

Many thanks to all our District 13 members who participated in one or more of the six tours offered in 2023! Some were new to Tours and some were familiar faces. Everyone who joined in on the fun appreciated the planning and organizing that made every tour a success.



The Tours Committee has decided to include two tours in each newsletter for 2024. Planning will be based on the results of the survey circulated in the Fall of 2023. This edition has one on February 25, 2024 and one on March 20, 2024. Looking forward to an exciting year with eight tours!

**Mail order forms & cheques to:**

Lee Hondronicols  
181 Sterling Street  
Hamilton, ON L8S 4J7

**Phone:** 905-379-2614

**Email:** 100nickels@gmail.com

## Tour Order Forms:

### Tour 1: *Matilda* | Sun. Feb. 25, 2024

Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre, 357 Wilson St. E., Ancaster

- Inspired by the twisted genius of Roald Dahl, the Tony Award-winning Roald Dahl's *Matilda*.
- The Musical is a captivating masterpiece that revels in the anarchy of childhood, the power of imagination and the inspiring story of a girl who dreams of a better life.
- *Matilda* is a little girl with astonishing wit, intelligence and powers. She's unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her teacher
- Packed with high-energy dance numbers and catchy songs. Children and adults alike will be thrilled and delighted by the story of the special little girl with an extraordinary imagination.
- Performed by resident teen company.
- Plenty of parking available.



**Reservation Deadline for Tour 1: February 12, 2024**

Tour 1: *Matilda*, February 25, Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# Seats @ \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (cheque payable to RTOERO District 13)  
(RTOERO District 13 is subsidizing the price of each ticket.)

# More evidence that preparing for retirement emotionally is as important as finances

Submitted by RTOERO

Think of financial preparedness for retirement as a downpayment for happiness. That was the guidance from Rob Carrick, personal finance columnist with the Globe and Mail, in an October 2023 column sharing results from a survey in his newsletter.

Among respondents, there was a split between financial factors and non-financial factors when asked about their biggest success in retirement. But when asked about regrets, money faded into the background. What surfaced were factors like not working enough on connections with friends, family and community, focusing on work over personal health, and not doing enough for themselves.

It's never too late to work on the non-financial aspects of retirement. Focusing on your health, social connections and emotional well-being can have an impact now. And remember, you're not alone.



## Tour 2: Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum | Wed. Mar. 20, 2024

9280 Airport Road, Mount Hope

- Continental Crew Breakfast @ 10:00 a.m.
- Guided Tour @ 10:30 a.m.
- Museum featuring dozens of Canadian military planes, plus aviation exhibits & flight simulators
- Plenty of parking available

**Reservation Deadline for Tour 2: March 8, 2024**



**Tour 2: Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, March 20, Mount Hope**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# Tickets @ \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (cheque payable to RTOERO District 13)  
(RTOERO District 13 is subsidizing the price of each ticket.)

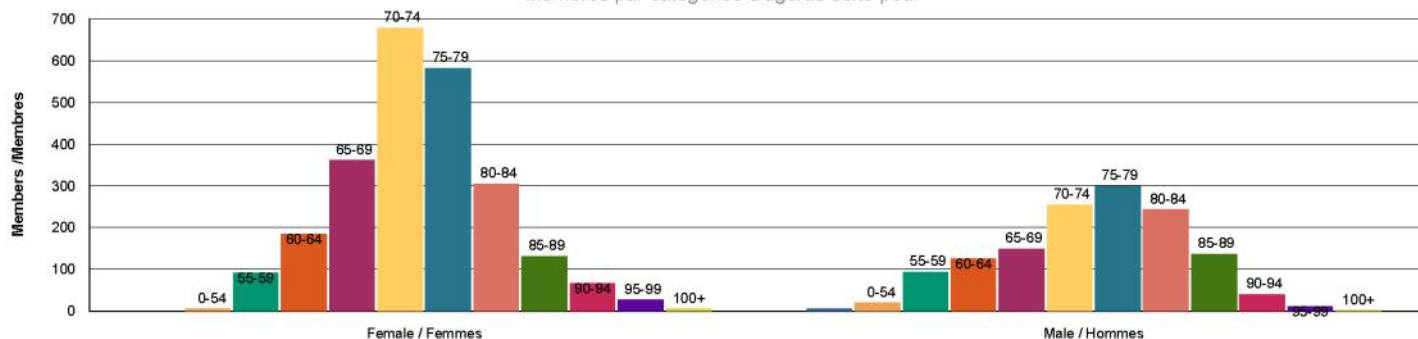
# Membership spotlight

## Membership by age and gender (as of Nov. 1)

### Age Banding Report for Hamilton-Wentworth & Haldimand

#### Membership by Age/Gender

Membres par catégories d'âge/de sexe pour



	Female / Femmes	Male / Hommes	Total
	0	6	6
0-54	5	19	24
55-59	92	94	186
60-64	184	126	310
65-69	361	148	509
70-74	678	254	932
75-79	582	299	881
80-84	304	243	547
85-89	131	137	268
90-94	67	40	107
95-99	26	11	37
100+	5	1	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,435</b>	<b>1,378</b>	<b>3,813</b>

## Guidance for life from trees

Submitted by RTOERO

There's wisdom to gain from the natural world, and trees are a great source. Here is some life guidance to consider inspired by trees:

1. **Everything is connected.** Researchers have identified that trees are linked to neighbouring trees by "an underground network of fungi, which resembles the neural networks in the brain."
2. **You can weather storms.** Watch how trees sway and bend in the wind, strong yet adaptable.
3. **Move towards what gives you energy.** Phototropism causes trees to grow towards light.
4. **Give back in different ways.** Trees capture carbon from the air, produce oxygen, enrich the soil, and support other life after they fall.
5. **Your life experiences shape you.** A tree's rings record the journey it's been through over the years.



# Hitting the links!

## District 13 Fall Golf Scramble

By **Erv Hildebrandt & Joan Millard**

The golf season has come to a close but not before RTOERO golfers, friends and family gathered with acquaintances and retired colleagues at Oak Gables Golf Club in Ancaster in mid-September. Under some clouds, sunshine, and light windy conditions, they enjoyed a game of golf and luncheon along with prizes. Aside from some very good team scores, a highlight of the day came from Joan Millard stroking her last shot on the 18th hole and grazing the lip of the hole only to miss a potential “Hole in One” by four inches. A special “thank you” to RTOERO District 13 for providing financial support for prizes and a wonderful luncheon for our members after the round of golf. Congratulations to the following:



### Men's Division

Mike Sampson, Pete Cipriani, Kevin MacLean and Paul Wilson with a score of -9 and overall champions

### Mixed Division

Jim McCrory, Karen Tsugi, Doug Cihocki and Len Noens TIED with Erv Hildebrandt, Wilf Reed, Seiji Horati and Joan Millard at -4

### Women's Division

Bev Hamilton, Judy Lees and Judy Popov, Champions of the Women's Division with a score of +1

### Specialty skill prizes were awarded to ...

Joan Millard was Closest to the Pin (Ladies)

Ron Lacroix wins Closest to the Pin (Men)

Kevin McLean wins the Longest Drive (Men)

Bev Hamilton wins the Longest Drive (Ladies)

**Please join us in 2024 when our SPRING SCRAMBLE takes place on Wed. June 12, 2024.**

Send your team entry to Erv Hildebrandt, 249 Amberly Blvd. Ancaster, L9G 3Y4.

To have an eligible foursome *at least one player must be a member of RTOERO District 13.*



# Community Grants and Scholarships

By Lee Hondronicols

District 13 supported an application for a \$4000 community grant submitted by PACE (McMaster Physical Activity Centre of Excellence) in June 2023. It has recently been approved by the RTOERO Board of Directors and will provide the necessary funds to purchase a blood pressure monitor for PACE. Kate Ottewell attended the Fall Luncheon on October 26, 2023 to accept a presentation cheque and talk to our members.



PACE offers research-based exercise programs supervised by staff and undergraduate students. Staff plan programs for older adults with MS, spinal cord injury, heart disease, for cancer survivors or anyone over 55 interested in improving their fitness level. Contact the PACE Reception Desk at 905-525-9140 extension 27223 for more information.

The District 13 Community Grant from 2021 finished in July 2023. The art therapy program for patients in the Medically Complex and Restorative Care units at St. Peter's Hospital was delayed due to visitor restrictions related to COVID-19. We appreciate the efforts of Julian Foreman in guiding this program to a successful conclusion around some unexpected hurdles. He spoke to our members at the Fall Luncheon.

## Scholarships 2024

Information about scholarship applications is now available on the website: [rtoero.ca](http://rtoero.ca). Applicants must be studying in a college or university program that leads to a career in either seniors health and well being; education; or environmental stewardship; or that reflects a strong commitment to diversity, equity and/or inclusion. All applicants must be recommended by an RTOERO member. Applications are due by January 12, 2024.

## Community Grants 2024

If you are aware of a community organization that has a worthwhile project requiring some support, let us know. Our members have served our communities through our work in education and can continue that service in our retirement. Contact Lee Hondronicols ([100nickels@gmail.com](mailto:100nickels@gmail.com)).

# Goodwill committee

By Sharon Derkach

The Fall Goodwill Committee meeting was held on October 12, 2023. Twenty-one members attended; Inta Aldridge and Janet Kilgannon also attended as guests.

Please consider joining—your time and talents are welcomed and the experience is enjoyable, rewarding, and makes a positive difference in the lives of members we support.



# What is the 2S in 2SLGBTQIA?

Written for RTOERO by Shaneeka Forrester, Cree artist, mother and advocate from Brunswick House First Nation, planting roots in Simcoe County, Ontario.

Many of us are now familiar with the acronym 2SLGBTQIA but may still have some questions as to what the 2S portion stands for. 2S refers to a group of Indigenous individuals who identify as “two-spirited,” which is seen as a third gender in many communities.



Two-spirit describes individuals who are able to identify with many gender roles, even those that are not typically practiced by their birth-assigned gender. Two-spirited individuals have the ability to exist beyond Eurocentric understandings of gender and can exist in many roles that are traditionally assigned to one gender. Traditionally, two-spirited individuals were held in high regard by their community for their unique ability to see the world through more than one lens. Many Indigenous communities revered two-spirited individuals as people of high value for their gift.

Prior to 1990, there was not a unified term used to describe these unique individuals across Turtle Island. The term two-spirit was the result of a conference that took place in Winnipeg in 1990. Attendees at the Third Annual Inter-Tribal Native American, First Nations, Gay and Lesbian American Conference discussed the term over a span of five days. Since the development of the term, it has undergone scrutiny but has gained more and more popularity among Indigenous individuals who identify with its meaning.

Many Indigenous communities have a term in their language to describe gender-variant members of their community and may not welcome the use of the term two-spirit. Like all knowledge shared about Indigenous communities, it is best to respectfully ask questions to ensure you are using the appropriate terminology.

## RTOERO Foundation: End-of-year giving

Submitted by RTOERO

Did you know? One-third of annual charitable giving occurs in December, and 12% of all charitable donations are made in the last three days of the year. It’s hard to believe we are already thinking about the end of 2023, but if you have considered donating this year, and haven’t yet done so, now is the time to think about your year-end giving plans.

A reminder that all donations to the Foundation must be post-marked by Dec. 31, 2023 to qualify for a 2023 tax receipt. Donations are also accepted online at [rtoero.ca/rtoero-foundation/donate](https://rtoero.ca/rtoero-foundation/donate) or can be made by phone by calling 1-800-361-9888 ext. 271.

The RTOERO Foundation is a registered Canadian charity. The charitable registration number is 848662110RR0001, and the Foundation issues a tax receipt for all gifts of \$20 or more.



# RTOERO vs. RTIP

## Key reasons RTOERO benefits may make better sense for you

By Rob Stringer

When researching benefit providers, I narrowed my choice down to RTOERO and RTIP. On the surface many benefit plans seem fairly equal, however, I now realize there are key differences everyone should know about (and why I chose RTOERO):

- RTOERO is a not-for-profit organization—setting premiums to cover costs *not generate profits*
- The RTOERO Benefits Committee meets 5x per year and is responsive to suggestions from members
- ALL prescription drugs are covered (unlike other plans)
- Physician's referral is NOT required for massage therapy, etc.
- Covers post-surgical glasses after cataract surgery covered (*in addition* to regular glasses allowance)
- NOT exempted from travel insurance if prescriptions are discontinued, reduced (and more)
- Significantly higher travel coverage

If you're thinking about retirement or are currently with another plan, I highly suggest giving RTOERO a call at 1-800-361-9888 or emailing [insurance@rtoero.ca](mailto:insurance@rtoero.ca) to find out more.

## Want to help get the word out?

### Join the Marketing & Outreach Committee!

Interested in helping to connect with prospective members from across the wider education community in the District—anyone working in early years, public and private schools, school boards, or post-secondary and more?

Then consider joining the newly formed District 13 Marketing & Outreach Committee!

#### What you can do

- Identify groups and locations of new members
- Plan or run activities / events to attract new members or engage actively employed members
- Help craft outreach materials or messages that can be shared on social media, our website, etc.

#### Time commitment

- An average of 1-3 hours a month
- Monthly meetings will be mainly online (especially during the winter), but may be in-person some months

#### Benefits of joining this group

- Helping to grow our membership
- Sharing your skills and making a difference
- Having fun socializing and meeting new people

#### Have questions or are interested in joining?

Contact District 13 Marketing & Outreach Coordinator, Rob Stringer, at [rob.stringer.editor@gmail.com](mailto:rob.stringer.editor@gmail.com) or call 905-515-9822 (leave a message with your name and phone number and he'll call you back).



# Supplemental trip insurance now available

## Get coverage up to \$12,000 per insured for trips

Submitted by RTOERO

The RTOERO travel plan provided with the Entente extended health care plan includes coverage for up to \$6,000 per insured, per trip for eligible expenses when you cancel, interrupt, or delay your trip due to one of the covered reasons.

You can now supplement your existing coverage when your trip value exceeds \$6,000 per insured as follows: Purchase the supplemental trip cancellation and trip interruption plan for a specific trip to get coverage of up to \$12,000 per insured for that specific trip. Choose single, couple or family coverage.



Read the Entente Insurance Program booklet for full details, as coverage is subject to the same terms and conditions as the Trip Cancellation and Trip Interruption Insurance Plan Certificate of Insurance of the RTOERO travel plan of your booklet – [rtoero.ca/resources/communique-insurance-plan-updates](http://rtoero.ca/resources/communique-insurance-plan-updates).

### Supplemental travel plan for extra days

The extended health care plan provides coverage for up to 93 days per insured person, per trip. If you're travelling for longer than 93 days outside your province or territory of residence, you can easily add coverage for extra days.

- Customizable based on your needs – add five more days of coverage to extend trips up to 98 days, or extend your coverage in 15-day blocks.
- Staying longer? Extend coverage while you're already on vacation.
- Coming home early? Downgrade if needed, and you'll receive a partial refund.
- Premiums are added to your regular monthly payment and deducted in equal monthly installments.

### Learn more

For full details, including the premiums and application form, go to [rtoero.ca/insurance/supplemental-travel](http://rtoero.ca/insurance/supplemental-travel). Purchase the coverage or get your questions answered by a licensed Johnson Insurance representative by calling 1-877-406-9007.

**Trip cancellation and trip interruption coverage for RTOERO members who are not in the extended health care plan is also available.** To learn more, go to [rtoero.ca/insurance/trip-cancellation-interruption](http://rtoero.ca/insurance/trip-cancellation-interruption).

*These insurance products are underwritten by Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Company of Canada ("RSA") and is administered by Johnson Inc. ("JI"). JI and RSA share common ownership. Global Excel Management Inc. is the company appointed by RSA to provide medical assistance and claims services for this insurance product. The eligibility requirements, terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions which apply to the described coverage are as set out in the policy. Policy wordings prevail. Johnson Insurance is a trademark of Johnson Inc. ("JI"), a licensed insurance intermediary, and operates as Johnson Insurance Services in British Columbia and Johnson Inc. in Manitoba.*



# In memoriam

## August – October 2023

By Joanne Weeks

RTOERO District 13 wishes to honour and celebrate the lives of those members that we lost during the time period of August 1, 2023 and the end of October 2023.

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

Beverley Bailey  
Imola Dugelby  
Eric Kovacs  
John Morris  
Louis Quidon  
Bernice Theaker

Steven Belovari  
Thomas Griffith  
Enrico Mazzocato  
Ward Morrison  
Diane Renfrew

Mary Elizabeth Bond  
James Harrison  
Orville McCreight  
Marilyn Murphy  
Beatrice Rowley Deadman

Mary Doering  
Margaret Jones  
Helen McNamara  
Victor Oikawa  
Lorraine Smith



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

# Remembrance Day services

By Joanne Weeks

Thank you to our District 13 members who participated in Remembrance Day services by placing our RTOERO D13 wreaths.

Ancaster: Chriss Filip  
Caledonia: Karen Walton and Sandra Salerno  
Cayuga: Joanne Weeks and Linda Hart  
Dundas: Inta Aldridge  
Dunnville: Tom Pettigrew and Anne Mageran  
Glanbrook: Shirley Froman and Joanne Weeks (November 5)  
Stoney Creek: Diane Page and Errin Dawson  
Selkirk: Ruth Schott  
Legion Branch 163: Lee Hondronicols  
Warplane Heritage Museum: Jan Lukas

There may be other District 13 members who attended services; we thank them, as well. Thank you for honouring our veterans as well as current members of our Canadian Armed Forces. Please plan on attending a service next year.

If you are interested in laying a wreath in Waterdown, please contact me (weeksj13jrw33@gmail.com) and wreaths will be created. As well, please let me know if you attended a service. Thank you.

We welcome all District 13 members to attend a Remembrance Day service next year.



Inta Aldridge and Andrew St. Clair Aldridge at the Dundas Armories





# Your District Executive 2023-2024

## TABLE OFFICERS:

Past President	Lee Hondronicols
President	Inta Aldridge
First Vice President	Graham Boyce (on leave)
Second Vice President	Janet Kilgannon
Secretary	Anna DiFazio
Treasurer	Liviana Sluga

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives	Nancy Chiarot
Benefits	Jackie Aird
Citizenship Celebration	Robert D'Alessandro
Community Grants & Scholarships	Lee Hondronicols
District Meetings & Social Events	Liviana Sluga
Goodwill	Sharon Derkach
Goodwill	Toni Nanne-Little
Java Time	Gemma Monaco
Membership	Joanne Weeks
Political Advocacy	Inta Aldridge
RTOERO Foundation	Janet Kilgannon
Tours	Lee Hondronicols

## MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter	Rob Stringer
Marketing & Outreach	Rob Stringer
Social Media / Facebook	Sue Crawford
Website	Toni Nanne-Little

## DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Jackie Bajus	Anne Mageran
Dave Curto	Leo Normandeau
Ralph LeFevre	Karen Walton

## Be sure to complete our District Workshop & Activities survey

As a member of RTOERO District 13 (Hamilton-Wentworth, Haldimand), we want to get your ideas and opinions about the activities you would like to see offered around our District over the coming year. To help us, we created a short eight question survey.

Whether you've attended many events over the years, or never attended one before, we would love to hear from you!

This survey should only take a couple minutes to complete.

A link to the survey was emailed (Nov. 17) to members opting to receive District emails. It can also be found on our District website: <https://district13.rtoero.ca/>

Thank you in advance for helping us determine the activities that would be a good fit for you. If you have questions, feel free to contact me using the information in my signature below.

Yours in support & success,

**Rob Stringer**  
RTOERO District 13  
Marketing & Outreach Coordinator  
Managing Editor, District Newsletter  
[rob.stringer.editor@gmail.com](mailto:rob.stringer.editor@gmail.com)  
(905) 515-9822

For contact information, please visit the District 13 website at <https://district13.rtoero.ca/> or email questions, requests, etc. to [president13@districts.rtoero.ca](mailto:president13@districts.rtoero.ca)

# Thirteenth World Newsletter

VOL. 40 Issue 1

Published by RTOERO District 13 (four times a year)

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**Not receiving the newsletter?** To add, change, or confirm your contact information or subscription type (print / electronic) you must call the RTOERO Office at 1-800-361-9888 Ext. 223 or send an email to [membership@rtoero.ca](mailto:membership@rtoero.ca).

**Next Issue:** Spring (March) 2024

**Issue Theme:** *Health & Wellness*

What tips, strategies, programs or resources do you use or recommend to maintain or improve mental or physical health? Share your suggestions, stories and photos.

**Submissions:**

Please send all written and photographic submissions to:  
[submissions.district13@gmail.com](mailto:submissions.district13@gmail.com) by February 2 for possible inclusion.  
(High-resolution photos are best to ensure good quality in the print edition.)

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