

Report Thirty-One



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Nancy Baker

I hope I can welcome you to spring in this newsletter. It is snowing profusely while I write this, and I don't know about you, but I am hopeful that spring is on the way. I enjoy getting out in the sunshine and warmth for walking and other outdoor activities. Along with spring comes the wonderful lunch we have planned for May 4, 2023 at the ICC. It will include great entertainment, a delicious meal, coffee or tea with a joke served by J.O.E, and the return of our Bring a Book Campaign. You will find more information on these later in this newsletter. We also have a Retirement Planning Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, 2023, so if you know anyone who may be interested, please encourage them to attend.

Our travel committee has been diligent in searching out opportunities for your entertainment. There will be a Drayton opportunity soon, and a wonderful boat cruise in the fall. Check out the information and sign-up flyer included. I hope to see you there. They both sound like fun.

The RTOERO Foundation is holding an on-line auction with wonderful prizes. Everyone may take part, and I wish you all good luck with this. The information is included in this newsletter.

I was sent some information on protecting yourself from fraudsters, which I have included here. We want everyone to be safe.

Know How a Fraudster May Approach You to Protect Yourself

It's not a fun topic to talk about, but one we shouldn't avoid—financial fraud and identity theft.

The website GetSmarterAboutMoney.ca by the Ontario Securities Commission offers tips and advice to help you recognize fraud and protect yourself. Knowing how a fraudster may approach you is important. Here are some of the ways:

- Emails or text messages – A fraudster may pose as someone trustworthy to try to get private information. They may also encourage you to open a link or attachment. If an email seems suspicious, delete it. Don't reply.
- Social media – Scammers create fake accounts or take over another person's account. They may also try to form an online relationship with you. Delete connection requests from people you don't know. Review the privacy settings on your accounts.
- Phone – Phone scammers may change their caller ID to appear legitimate. They may claim to be from a business or government agency. Avoid doing business over the phone unless you've made the call yourself. If you're not sure, hang up, then call the company back.

For more information about protecting yourself from fraud, visit:

getsmarteraboutmoney.ca/protect-your-money/fraud/

I will end with something I saw in print on a wall that makes me smile and I hope it works for you.

“Let your smile change the world, don't let the world change your smile.”

RTOERO Foundation Announces First Silent Auction

The RTOERO Foundation's first silent auction event will take place on May 15, 2023 during the wine & cheese reception of the annual meeting in Toronto. There will be an online component of the auction which will be open to participation from all 82,000 RTOERO members across the country. The online auction will be live from May 6, 2023 at 8 a.m. ET and will close on May 12, 2023 at 8 p.m. ET. The auction is open to all RTOERO members, staff, board members, partners, family and friends. The silent auction items will include the following:

- 10-day all-inclusive vacation package at a 5-star luxury resort in Cancun, Mexico
- \$2,000 gift card towards an e-bike & accessories
- Stratford getaway packages including theatre tickets, dinner for two and an overnight hotel stay
- Stained glass window from Manchester, England dated between 1890 and 1900
- 2 tickets to the National Arts Centre
- 2 platinum seats to a Maple Leafs hockey game
- 2 seats for the 2023-24 Toronto Raptors season
- Restaurant gift certificates



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Richard Goodbrand

Reminder that, for up to date information about events, our Facebook page is [@rtoerodistrict31wellington](#) and our website is [rto31.org](#). Our national Facebook page is [@rto.ero](#) and our national website is [RTOERO.ca](#).

Also note that when talking to friends who are still working in Education, we have an in person Retirement Planning Workshop coming up on April 18 and you can always refer people to [RTOERO.ca/retirement planning workshops](#) for an up to date listing of RPW webinars as well as in person Workshops in other communities.

It is time for submissions of interest by

Organizations in Wellington County for our annual \$4000 Community Grant. For more information, go to [RTOERO.ca/Menu/Giving Back/Grants](#) or contact Rick Goodbrand at rdgoodb@gmail.com. Deadline for submission to me is the end of April 2023.



POLITICAL ADVOCACY REPORT

Brenda McGinnis

"You and I as retirees no longer need to worry about a raise or a job, so we can speak from our hearts. If we offend people by sharing what we've learned over our lifetime, that's their problem, not ours. And, if we have grandchildren, then we have no choice but to speak out and tell the truth."

David Suzuki spoke to RTOERO members during a member webinar. We felt that his message expressed an urgent call for us to speak and act.

Another report also requires attention and urgency. As reported recently in the on-line newsletter, Inside the Village, new research from Lakehead University reveals that young Canadians are "far more stressed and anxious about climate change than we may have realized".

- Of 1,000 people between the ages of 16 and 25, nearly half think humanity is doomed.
- 76 per cent think people have failed to take care of the planet, while 39 per cent are hesitant to have children.
- Almost four out of five - 78 per cent - say climate change impacts their overall mental health.
- Almost three-quarters – 73 per cent - find the future frightening.

These are our grandchildren and we owe it to them to try to save our environment and improve their future.

Stewardship of the environment is one of RTOERO's main areas of concern for political advocacy. Members are encouraged to learn about environmental issues and to participate in grassroots movements to protect and save our home.

One of the best sites for learning about the environmental issues facing us today is <https://environmentaldefence.ca>. This site explores issues like, Hands off the Greenbelt, Ending Climate Change, Kicking Out Toxic Chemicals, Safeguarding Canada's Freshwater, Ending Plastic Pollution and Protecting Canada's Environment.

Best of all, this site also offers suggestions for becoming involved by taking action. One example, among many, is that it provides dates, times and locations for people who want to participate in the rallies to save the Ontario Greenbelt. Another example is that it provides ways that we can fight against the plastic industry which is suing the Federal government for taking steps to address the plastic pollution crisis in this country.

On March 8, 2023, the court case began. Dow Chemicals, NOVA Chemicals and Imperial Oil - the biggest plastic producers in Canada - versus the Federal government. Environmental Defence along with Animal Justice and Oceana Canada are intervening in the case. A rally was organized and a twitter campaign was launched. The fight will be hard against a strong, powerful, well-funded company but we must fight because science has shown that plastic pollution is a crisis and puts wildlife, the environment and human health at risk.

To paraphrase Environmental Defence, "whether you have 30 seconds, 30 minutes, or 3 hours per month, there is an action you can take to protect Canada's freshwater bodies, our green space and our climate. When you join with

thousands of other Canadians, you can make change happen".



HEARING AIDS

Over the counter (OTC) hearing aids have become a cheaper alternative in the United States as of October. A Canadian study revealed that 80% of Canadians with hearing loss do not wear them because of their high cost. Along with cost other key factors were stigma, difficulty getting them to work properly and unwillingness to admit to the problem.

OTC hearing aids are intended for adults with "mild to moderate hearing loss", according to the FDA's new regulations. Over-the-counter models would not be suitable for adults with severe hearing loss or for children.

Until this change, hearing aids could only be obtained in the U.S. with a prescription. That required a visit to an audiologist or a specialist physician, with a full-fledged hearing test and medical evaluation. The cost of these services was rolled into the sticker price of the hearing aids.

The main concern that audiologists raise is that people may find OTC hearing aids don't work well and give up wearing them. "Hearing loss and auditory system deficits are best managed through the development of a customized, person-centered treatment plan that audiologists are uniquely qualified to provide," says a statement by Speech-Language and Audiology Canada, the organization that represents the profession.

A range of people connected to the field of hearing loss expect that Canada will follow the U.S. lead but that will require both federal and provincial governments to make changes. There is no consensus on when that will happen.

Source: CBC News, October 2022
https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/hearing-aids-over-the-counter-us-canada-1.6622197?cmp=newsletter_CBC%20Health%27s%20Second%20Opinion7606746324

EXPRESS SCRIPTS CANADA PHARMACY Dispensing Fee Changes

The dispensing fee as of January 19, 2023 has increased from \$6.99 to \$8.99 due to inflation and other economic factors

CLAIM SUBMISSIONS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023

Starting January 1, 2023 your claims must be submitted within six months of the date the expense was incurred.

For items like eyeglasses or orthotics, the incurred date is when the item was paid in full.

For services such as massage or physiotherapy, the incurred date is the date the service was rendered.

I will be attending the June Benefits Workshop. If you have questions or concerns that you would like me to take to the committee, please forward them to me. My contact information can be found later in this newsletter.

JOHNSON Inc.
rto-ero.johnson.ca
1-877-406-9007 or 416-920-7278 Claims:
pbclaimsonario@johnson.ca Service:
healthbenefits@johnson.ca



GOODWILL REPORT

Joyce Barnes

“A kind word is like a spring day.”

RTOERO District 31 Goodwill Committee endeavours to share kindness to our members by sending birthday and Christmas cards to our members who are 80 years of age and older.

Flowers are sent to our members who are celebrating 90th, 95th and 100th birthdays. We also send sympathy, get well and special occasion cards.

Please help the Goodwill Committee to continue to care for our members by keeping us informed of their needs. Please contact any Goodwill Committee member listed below:

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

Brenda McGinnis 519-824-5263
dmcginc602@rogers.com

Marina Howlett 519-836-8585
howlettmarina@gmail.com

Nancy Baker 519-822-6653
nancyida@sympatico.ca

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

Irene Simmons 519-836-8646
irene@isimmons.ca

Sherry Fleming 519-831-6639
sherryf3@gmail.com

May you be blessed with a beautiful spring filled with sunshine and kindness,

Joyce Barnes



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Scott Montgomery

These first few months of the year bring new hopes, new plans, and new adventures to pursue.

Our most recent membership numbers include:

- 1389 retired educators
- 47 actively working RTOERO members.
- 63 members are over the age of 90
- 12 of our members are under the age of 54

If you have friends who are still working in schools, please remind them that they can join RTOERO before they retire without an annual fee. When they retire, the annual membership fee and benefit fees are less than other educational insurance plans.

We welcome our newest members into RTOERO who have joined our District:

Linda Benallick, Nancy Fischer, Dawn Grat, Teri Goetz, Sheila Morgan, Aneta Rota, Annette Weber

In Memoriam

“We remember those who filled us with warmth, ideas, and many stories. While we remain, they are not forgotten.”

RTO District 31 extends sympathy to all the families and friends of our departed loved ones:

Dorothy Brown	Mount Forest
Elinor Lindst	Orangeville
Robert Logan	Palmerston
Donna Scott	Guelph
R.J. Sloan	Guelph

SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT



Brenda McGinnis

District 31 is blessed with many talented and creative members who are engaged in many interesting and exciting activities. We continue to feature some of these achievements in our newsletters. Please let our executive know about any of our members who are involved in interesting adventures or who have received awards or special recognition for their work. We would like to acknowledge and celebrate and support the accomplishments and endeavours of our members.

Nancy Baker, on March 27, for World Theatre Day, will be appearing as Queen Elizabeth I in a play by George Bernard Shaw called The Dark

Lady of the Sonnets at the Fergus Grand. She is also in the cast of The Importance of Being Ernest presented by Elora Community Theatre at the Fergus Grand Theatre for two weekends May 5th to May 14th.

Christine Bretherick has written a very interesting and inspiring article titled "Life Lesson : Where there's no path, build one", in the recent edition of Renaissance, our RTOERO magazine.

Pauline Brown is a long-time member of Mount Forest Motivators Toastmasters Club. This is her 17th year participating in various roles and performing a variety of duties in and around the club. Roles on the agenda can range from being the jokester (providing a few well-laundered jokes and giving toasts) to being chairperson to delivering perfectly timed speeches of 5 to 7 minutes.

While working with the Toastmaster's Youth Program, Pauline has found it fascinating to watch shy, introverted youngsters blossom into great speakers who are able to demonstrate vocal variety along with hand gestures. While acting as a mentor to new members, Pauline has found it thrilling to see them develop their speaking abilities both in conversation and in formal speaking.

Since COVID-19, many clubs have been using the Zoom computer program for meetings. This has brought about many changes. Recently for their area's speech contest, the Chief Judge was reaching them from Jaipur, India. Imagine!

Belonging to an international club during this span of years, has given Pauline the chance to take part in some of the electronic developments that are so fascinating.

But even though Pauline enjoys it when long-distance members join her club, she says that she misses the feeling of closeness one gets when receiving a good old handshake.

Richard Goodbrand is quoted in the recent edition of Renaissance. In response to the

question : What is the most surprising thing you've discovered about life as you get older?, Rick responded : " What we know is important, and what we understand is significantly more important."

In response to the same question, Pauline Brown, also responded in Renaissance : " I don't need to worry about every detail and everyone's problems. Things will eventually work out - maybe not for the best, but it will be completed."

Pam Niesiobedzki-Curtis is honoured to be directing Dan Needle's world renowned play *The Perils of Persephone*. This marvelous comedy about cows, toxic waste and government coverups opens at Guelph Little Theatre on April 20 and runs weekends to April 30. Senior Tickets are \$15 and Opening Night 2 for \$20.

TRAVEL REPORT

Pam Niesiobedzki & Lenore Ralph

RTO District 31 Fall Trip

GRAND RIVER CRUISE AND BLAZING FIDDLES SHOW

Join us on September 20, 2023 for a fabulous day out. To keep costs down, we have only two pick-up locations – Fergus and Guelph. A Great Canadian Coach will pick us up and transport us to beautiful Caledonia. There we will start our trip off at 11:30 a.m. with the fabulous Blazing Fiddles Show in their auditorium. Upon arrival we will be treated to a complimentary snack and refreshments.

We will then embark on a 2 ½ hour cruise beginning at 12:30 p.m. with a delicious home-style meal served to our private window tables. Lunch consists of home-baked bread, garden salad with choice of dressing, choice of slow-cooked roast beef and gravy, oven-baked chicken breast, or vegetarian chilli, served with potatoes and vegetables, followed by home-baked dessert

– choice of Apple Crisp Pie or Strawberry Shortcake. Tea, coffee or soft drinks are included. A cash bar is available and substitutes for food allergies/intolerance (Gluten, Nut, Lactose, etc.) can be accommodated if we have advance notice prior to arrival.

This wonderful trip is being subsidized (\$900) by RTOERO Wellington. For this reason, we have two prices - one for RTOERO and associate members at \$115 and one for non-members at \$120. Cheques are to be made out to RTOERO Wellington 31- Travel and sent, with the information form on the flyer, to RTOERO WELLINGTON 31-Travel, ATTENTION: Lenore Ralph – Cruise Tickets. Cheques/Cash may be paid at the District 31 luncheon on May 4, 2023. We need to have all paid applications in by August 20, 2023.

The numbers are limited so please book early so as not to be disappointed.
Don't miss out on this great day.

DRAYTON THEATRE MUSICAL – THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY

Sunday, May 28, 2023 at 2:00pm, we have seats reserved for the musical, *The Buddy Holly Story* at the Drayton Theatre, 33 Wellington St. S., Drayton. The cost is \$50.85 (taxes included). This is a 'drive yourself' event. Tickets will be first come, first served.

Please contact Lenore Ralph
lrsidebyside@hotmail.com to reserve seats and send cheques to:

Theatre Tickets,
c/o L. Ralph
3Cheltonwood Ave.,
Guelph ON N1E 4E2

Hope to see you there?
Your Activities Committee

Grand River Cruise

With lunch and entertainers, the Blazing Fiddles

September 20, 2023



SCHEDULE:

Pick up will be from two locations:

- 8:30 a.m. Fergus – 900 Tower Street S
- 9:15 a.m. Guelph - 176 Morris Street

Cost: *This trip is subsidized by RTOERO Wellington 31.*

- RTO Member/Associate Member: \$115
- Non Member : \$120

Arrival at the Dockside:

- 10:45 a.m. complimentary refreshment and shopping
- 11:30 a.m. performance by the Blazing Fiddles
- 12:30 p.m. set sail on a 2 ½ hour lunch cruise

Lunch:

Served with Home-baked bread, garden salad with choice of dressing, potatoes and vegetables, tea coffee or soft drink (Bar Service is available)

<u>Choice of Entree:</u>	<u>Choice of Homemade dessert:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow-cooked roast beef and • Oven baked chicken breast • Vegetarian chilli 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apple Crisp pie or • Strawberry Shortcake

Please submit the following information with your cheque out to RTO District 31 to be sent to L. Ralph 3 Cheltonwood Ave. Guelph ON N1E 4E2. Cheques/cash may also be paid at the May 4th Dinner.

Name: _____ RTO member: yes__ (\$115); no __ (\$120)

Phone Number: _____ Pickup: Fergus _____; Guelph _____

Email: _____

Entrée Choice: Dessert Choice: FOOD ALLERGIES: _____

Oven baked chicken breast _____ Apple Pie _____

Vegetarian Chilli _____ Strawberry Shortcake _____

Roast Beef _____

THIS TRIP IS SUBSIDIZED BY RTOERO WELLINGTON 31. Boat Numbers are limited.

Drayton Theatre

The Buddy Holly Story

Sunday, May 28, 2023

2:00 p.m.

Why don't you meet us at Drayton for a great show -- the musical, The Buddy Holly Story. This is something new for us. There will not be a bus - it will be a drive-yourself trip - and we'll meet you there.

Here's what the Drayton Theatre has to say about their show:

'Discover why "It's So Easy" to fall in love with Buddy Holly.

The life and career of an artistic pioneer are celebrated in this spirited musical biography which chronicles his triumphs and tragedies, from humble beginnings singing country music in small-town Texas to his rise up the record charts and into the hearts of music fans around the world.

This thrilling tribute explodes into full-throttled joy through renditions of Buddy Holly's greatest hits - classics like "Peggy Sue," "That'll Be The Day," "Not Fade Away," "Rave On," and many more. The music lives on, as this musical celebration will have you bopping in the aisles and singing your way out of the theatre.'

Tickets are first come, first served. Detach the form below and send before April 15, 2023 to:

Theatre Tickets
c/o L. Ralph
3 Cheltonwood Avenue
Guelph ON N1E 4E1

Please detach and send the following information with your cheque payable to 'RTOERO District 31 Wellington - Travel' to Lenore Ralph, at:

Theatre Tickets,
c/o L. Ralph,
3 Cheltonwood Avenue,
Guelph ON N1E4E1.

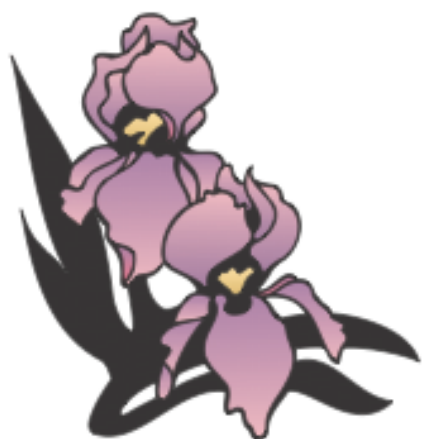
Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Number of tickets needed for The Buddy Holly Story: _____

Amount enclosed (# of tickets X \$50.85): _____



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

Spring Annual Luncheon Meeting

OF RTOERO DISTRICT 31

Italian Canadian Club, Guelph

Thursday, May 4, 2023

11:00 - 11:30 Social; J.O.E. will serve coffee and jokes; /collection of new books (suitable for children, teens, or adults) for Action Read

11:30 - 12:00 Business Meeting

12:00 - 1:00 Luncheon Buffet; Door Prizes during dessert

1:00 - 1:45 Entertainment: Double Impact - favourite and new music

Buffet Menu:
 Garden salad
 Penne with tomato sauce
 Chicken Parmigiana
 Pan-roasted potatoes
 Hot vegetables
 Dessert buffet of fruit, assorted cakes, pies, squares

Accommodation for members with special dietary needs



Detach and send before April 15, 2023 to:
 Mike Curtis, Treasurer
 9450 Copeland Path, RR#2 Erin, ON N0B 1T0 905-877-4134

Cost: \$20.00 per person
Subsidized by District 31

Spring Annual Luncheon Meeting of RTO/ERO DISTRICT 31

Thursday, May 4, 2023

PLEASE RSVP before April 15, 2023.

Please make reservations for: _____ and _____
Name

Special Dietary Requirements: Name of Guest
 Vegetarian Gluten Free Lactose Intolerant
 Other: _____

Enclosed is a cheque payable to RTOERO District 31 in the amount of \$_____ (\$20 per person).
This meal is subsidized by RTOERO District 31.

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



Change of Address or Status

It is imperative that, if you have changed:
your postal address
your email address
your phone number or
your status,

you contact:

OTPPB (5650 Yonge St., Toronto M2M 4H5
or 1-800-361-0105)
RTOERO (rtoero.ca or 1-800-361-9888) -
Ask for Membership, or email
membership@rtoero.ca.

REPORT THIRTY-ONE

National Office sends out monthly membership lists which we use to create a database for sending out newsletters. Every attempt is made to ensure that this information is correct and up-to-date. If you are receiving this newsletter by post, we encourage you to consider changing to the emailed version to save paper and Canada Post charges.

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