



**RTO  
ERO**

A better future,  
together  
Ensemble pour  
un avenir meilleur

District 23  
**North York**



**2020 Annual Reports**

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# FINANCIAL REPORT

by Lorraine Hennessey



District No. 23 - North York  
Financial Statement for the Period January 1-December 31, 2019

	2019	2018
<b>Assets at January 1</b>		
General Ledger Balance	\$ 9,063.50	\$ 4,681.43
Investments	17,814.31	22,636.51
Other assets: GIC	10,509.02	10,509.02
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 37,386.83</b>	<b>\$ 37,826.96</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Grants		
Annual	\$ 42,110.63	\$ 40,588.17
Bilingual Services		
Project - Service to Others	4,000.00	4,000.00
Retirement Planning Workshops		
Interest on Bank Balance and Investments	555.51	418.22
Other - income from trips, events, fundraising	12,698.50	20,528.56
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 59,364.64</b>	<b>\$ 65,534.95</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
District Goodwill	\$ 1,915.60	\$ 1,917.68
Bilingual Services		
Project - Service to Others	4,000.00	4,000.00
Recruitment	-	2,024.52
Meetings		
Executive	268.82	282.87
District	849.30	839.10
Senate	3,263.29	2,184.38
Provincial Workshops	505.72	
Newsletter (mailings, printing, postage)	25,383.26	17,590.69
Office expenses (bank charges, faxes, photocopies, stamps, stationery, telephone etc.)	1,052.29	392.61
Retiree Receptions	2,990.30	2,213.21
Retirement Planning Workshops		
Transportation	88.96	
Website	1,157.04	
Donations	548.25	626.00
Political Advocacy		
Other Expenses trips, luncheons, district activities	22,358.02	33,904.02
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 64,380.85</b>	<b>\$ 65,975.08</b>
<b>A) Assets + Revenue - Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 32,370.62</b>	<b>\$ 37,386.83</b>
<b>Assets at December 31</b>		
General Ledger balance	12,310.49	9,063.50
Investments		17,814.31
Other assets	20,060.13	10,509.02
<b>B) Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 32,370.62</b>	<b>\$ 37,386.83</b>

Note: line A has to equal line B. If not, check your entries

2020-05-05

## RTOERO District 23, North York – 2020 Budget

RTO/ERO District 23 North York  
BUDGET OVERVIEW: 2020 BUDGET - FY20 P&L  
January - December 2020

	TOTAL
Income	
400 Grant - Annual	42,000.00
480 Interest on Bank Bal & Invest's	180.00
490 Miscellaneous Revenue	40.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$42,220.00</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$42,220.00</b>
Expenses	
500 District Executive	800.00
501 Meetings - Executive	700.00
502 Meetings - Annual Mtgs/Forum	9,000.00
503 DE office expenses	1,500.00
504 Transportation	100.00
<b>Total 500 District Executive</b>	<b>12,100.00</b>
550 Communications/Social Media	
551 Newsletter	28,000.00
552 Website/Facebook/email	200.00
<b>Total 550 Communications/Social Media</b>	<b>28,200.00</b>
600 Member Services	
601 Goodwill	1,200.00
602 Member Engagement	3,000.00
603 Recruitment	200.00
604 Meetings/luncheons	2,500.00
605 Social Events	3,425.00
606 Trips	450.00
<b>Total 600 Member Services</b>	<b>10,775.00</b>
750 Workshops	
751 District	1,240.00
752 National	3,500.00
<b>Total 750 Workshops</b>	<b>4,740.00</b>
800 Office expenses	
803 Equipment	1,800.00
<b>Total 800 Office expenses</b>	<b>1,800.00</b>
860 Donations	1,200.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$58,815.00</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -16,595.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -16,595.00</b>

## IN MEMORIAM

by John Giannone

With great sadness, we inform you of the passing of the following members of District 23.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to their families and friends.

The following information was taken from RTOERO Provincial's monthly membership updates from March 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020.

Roy Alderdice	Marion Hall
Bruce Archer	Peter Harris
Ezzat Armanios	Roslyn Harris
Robert Artinger	Bruce Hawkins
Vivienne Bailey	Donald Hazell
Marcello Bernardo	Robert Heney
Theresa Boland	Barbara Hinde
Harvey Bride	Clarice Hitch
Jean Broome	Valerie Hume
Donald Brown	Margaret Hunter
George Brownell	Lois Jamieson
Mario Bucciarelli	Carol Keffer
John Buchanan	Jan Kjollesdal
Ernest Buck	Elisabeth Kupelwieser
Jean Bunn	Maire Lainevoole
Raymond G. Carl	Ava Lall
David Carter	Janice Latcham
Jane Catcher-Wright	Howard Ledger
Roberta Charlesworth	Joan Lester
Dennis Coles	Sandra Levitt
Robert Collict	Harold Lougheed
Ethel Cooper	Florence Lynch
Maria Filomena de Melo	Brian MacDonald
Seymour Durbin	Kenneth E. Mahy
Susan Eguchi	Kelvin Matheson
Shirley Faryna	Geraldine McAllister
Josephine Field	Eleanor McCaslin
Mary Fraumeni	Patricia McCreery
Charles German	Lois McDonald
Pearl Ginsler	James McGovern
Reta Goldstein	Josephine Minnan-Wong
Linda Gorgonio	Mildred Moffitt
Douglas Haddow	Jean Monson
Marguerite Haliburton	Nelson McKay

Margaret Nemes
Sharon Nugent
Kathleen O'Grady
Penelope O'Neill
Dayton Ostrosser
Marjory Patterson
Anne Petite
Eric Pilkey
Audrey Porter
James Rae
Beverley Rosenberg
Susan Rott
Oswin Salins
Roberta Saunders
Paul Steele
Marie-Therese Tadros
Thomas O'Brien
Anthony Tung
Thomas Walters
Ross Waters
Benjamin Wilson
Arthur Winter
Toshie Yokoyama
Melville York
Sandra Zeggil



## PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Sara Di Nallo

As I look back over this last year, I can't believe how fast it has gone by. As always, it has been a busy year for the District 23 North York Executive. All the activities planned this year by our convenors have been a great success. Our welcome to the new retirees at the Champagne Breakfast along with the Holiday Luncheon was well attended and well received by all. At the Fall Forum attended in October 2019, we were introduced to the new branding for RTOERO. There was a lot of excitement when the "Great Reveal" happened.

As I write this, we are currently in the state of Social Distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Who would have thought this would happen? A totally new experience in the way we do things during this uneasy time: shopping, working, meeting with friends and family, and we teach our students. Let's applaud teachers who are continuing with new guidelines from the Ministry of Education to ensure that students are continuing to learn despite not being in the schools. I know that if we follow what we are supposed to do, we will all come through this healthy and ready to return to a degree of normalcy.

It has been a rich and rewarding experience to work with and serve the members of District 23. In the future, I plan to continue to volunteer with the executive in a different capacity. Thank you for all your support for the executive by attending the activities they work hard to prepare.

Stay healthy, positive and safe as we work to get through things together.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Maureen Capotosto

What an incredible year! This is my third time as President of District 23, North York. It has been such a privilege to work with the dedicated members of our executive who continue to lead a wide range of activities with enthusiasm and dedication. Each and every person takes on responsibilities that ensure our members can be engaged in pursuing their interests.

This year we introduced the Using Mobile Devices group which meets twice a month. They have explored many topics over the course of this year and have broadened their knowledge and skills in making use of the technology to improve their photo-taking and the use of their devices.

Part of my role is to meet with the Toronto Districts Council which includes the four districts in the GTA. This group shares ideas and advocates for the needs of our members at the national level. Participation in national events representing our District include the Fall Forum and are always interesting. Events that are held in the Spring have been postponed but have been replaced with conference



calls with the Chair of the Board and the CEO. This ensures that our district is kept informed of steps being taken and can provide feedback.

In the fall we hosted our annual Champagne Breakfast and then our Holiday Season luncheon was a wonderful success. We held one very well attended Speaker's Series talk. We had begun 2020 with plans to review and update our Constitution. We featured the new RTOERO logo and expanded the content of our STONY Bridges in our Spring issue. We successfully supported our Service to Others Project with The Period Purse providing grant money, fundraising money and donations from our members. We hoped to recognize several of our executive members with provincial community awards which have been postponed. Then our most difficult decision this year was to cancel all activities until further notice in the middle of March. The pandemic has limited our physical involvement outside of our homes but has not stopped us from reaching out to friends and family in many ways. Our executive will be carrying on with their monthly meeting using Zoom which will be a new experience for all of us. Once we are able to return to our regular activities, we will send information out through our email blasts and in the next edition of STONY Bridges.

District 23, North York executive work diligently to provide a vibrant array of choices for our members to pursue and to further their connections and learning as well as engage in fun and worthwhile endeavours. I will happily continue to be involved with our district for the friendships, the opportunities and the challenges. It is such a pleasure in so many ways. I sincerely hope once this is being read that we have recovered from the dire effects of the pandemic and returned to a more normal environment and able to resume our lives with joy and peace as well as good health. We hold close our families and friends as we rise from this experience.

## FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*by Gwen Scriven*

It has been a pleasure serving as First Vice President this year. 2019 – 2020 has been a busy year for RTOERO and District 23.

I attended the fall Forum (formerly called Senate) and witnessed the unveiling of the new branding of RTOERO including the colourful logos that we now use on all of our District 23 communications. It was definitely a bright spot in the year. RTOERO also became a national organization with the opening of several new districts outside of Ontario.

District 23 continued to offer its many activities for our members. Our Speaker Series saw a presentation by the Arthritis Society in November. Technology, social media and an enhanced newsletter ensured we are in touch with our members.

RTOERO Central rolled out a new financial system on QuickBooks on a common platform for all districts that is connected to the cloud. As Acting Treasurer, I attended the rollout workshop in September and implemented the change beginning in January 2020 at the district level. It was challenging to get started; however, the advantages to the district and central office are many.

I have continued to serve on the National Political Advocacy Committee. The committee has worked hard to ensure seniors voices were heard in the federal election campaign and on issues at the provincial levels.

Unfortunately, COVID 19 forced the cancellation of all district activities from March onward, including our original AGM date. I look forward to serving as President after the AGM and to the resumption of programs and events for you.

## SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*by Mary Valtellini*

It has certainly been an unprecedented year!! Where to begin, so many plans made and so many put on hold.

As Second VP, one of my responsibilities was to organize the Speaker's Series. Thanks to Gwen Scriven, our Speakers series in October was very well attended. Our guest speaker from Osteoporosis Canada spoke to the importance of living and most importantly, avoiding risk factors that lead to osteoporosis.

Our Second Session was to be held on April 8, 2020 but unfortunately, we had to postpone due to COVID – 19. We have tentatively booked C. Clapperton, Estate Law Specialist and a Bank of Montreal Representative, Estate Planning - they will discuss ***“How can Estate Planning contribute to our wellbeing?”*** When this is confirmed, notification and an invitation to register will be sent out to our members.

My duties as 2nd VP vary from assisting and supporting committees to attending executive meetings, and provincial Forum/AGM. I am also currently proudly serving on the RTOERO provincial Health Benefits Committee for a three-year term.

I look forward to serving our members as 1st VP in 2020-2021.

## ARCHIVIST REPORT

*by Mary Cairo*

Throughout the 2019 – 2020 year, RTOERO District 23 archives have been updated to include the minutes of executive meetings, photographs, copies of STONY Bridges and reports on provincial and local items that pertain to

RTOERO members. The beginning of 2020 has resulted in many questions about travel insurance, and direction given on the support RTOERO has been providing for its members during the COVID-19 pandemic. All available documents have been kept both electronically and in hard copy.

As always, the Champagne Breakfast, which brought together new members to our district, highlighted through a slideshow, the many activities and events in which members of District 23 are involved. Our district magazine, *STONY Bridges* contains many recent photographs of RTOERO District 23 members engaging in various events and activities. The back cover of the magazine also presents archival photographs from years past. Historical photo albums, district communications, minutes and other archival materials are kept in the District 23 storage cupboard at Willowdale United Church.

## BOOK CLUB REPORT

*by Mary Ellen Lawless (past Convener ~ Irene Kitchell)*

The District 23 Book Club continues to meet on the last Wednesday of the months of September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May at Edithvale Community Centre from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

At a recent gathering, Irene Kitchell announced her resignation from the position of Convener which she has held since the 1995 AGM when the Book Club was formally inaugurated as one of District 23's activities. For a number of years prior to that, a small group of us, including Irene, were meeting regularly at Chapters, thus the nucleus for the District 23 Book Club already existed. Kudos and thanks to Irene for her dedication to expanding and organizing this popular activity.

The selection of books to be read is made by attendees and covers a range of topics and genres. The person recommending a book is expected to present it at the meeting and to lead the discussion which is often frank, humorous and at times even contentious. Occasionally the author of a given book attends and this provides a rich background of detail around the process of writing and getting a book published.

As Convener, Irene looks after the permit for Edithvale, welcomes guests, makes announcements and ensures that the business side of the Committee is in order. Additionally, she often adds her special touch with sweet treats, gifts for visiting authors, and cards to members who are ill or have experienced a death in the family.

A new Convener will be elected at the 2020 AGM.

## BRIDGE REPORT

*by Alan Ward*

The Bridge Group continued its meetings on Tuesday afternoons from September 2019 until forced by circumstances to desist in mid-March. Should it be possible to reconvene before summer, we shall meet until mid-June. We have generally numbered between 20 and 28 members and friends in attendance each week.

Our primary function is to provide an opportunity for friends to meet and have fun, rather than to emulate the serious duplicate bridge groups. Beginners are always welcome: the only prerequisite is the desire and willingness to make new friends. As retired teachers, we are always willing to pass on our accumulated wisdom to less experienced players.

Attendees do not have to bring a partner. As a social group, we change partners every 30 minutes or 4 hands. A charge of \$3 is made to partially defray the cost of renting the space in the church. Coffee and cookies are provided.

Although this is an RTO-sponsored activity, we are happy for members to bring a friend or spouse who is not a member. Any questions should be addressed to the convener, Alan Ward.

## COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

*by Karen Quinn*

### Monthly District 23 E-Newsletter (September 2019 – May 2020)

This year our distribution list for the RTO-ERO District 23 North York E-Newsletter has increased to just over 1550 members receiving updates, monthly reminders, "last chance event" offers and important information notices.

Since the beginning of 2020, our monthly E-Newsletter has changed its design as RTO-ERO launched a new branding to highlight the organization that is now nationwide. Our Facebook and Twitter pages reflect the new colours and graphics as does our *STONY Bridges* magazine.

### Database Maintenance:

The RTOERO monthly change lists continue to update our database, providing us with the contact information for each our new members as well as providing key changes to email addresses. Members **must** notify the Provincial RTOERO Office of all changes to their personal contact information. – we cannot make these updates at our local level.

Information to register for our online communications is also available through our District 23 website: "[Register for our E-News from the Button](#)", for mem-

bers if they are not currently receiving the monthly E-Newsletter. Potential new readers can also contact me at: [kquinn56@gmail.com](mailto:kquinn56@gmail.com).

All of our members' email addresses are kept private. When emails are sent out to the District 23 North York members, they only see their own email address. Only the convener has access to the complete list. Email addresses will not be shared with other members without your permission. Our domain provider is from the Provincial office: [rto-ero.org](http://rto-ero.org) and our distribution list and E-Newsletter template is provided through Mail Chimp services. As we have almost 1550+ members in our database, there is no service fee to District 23.

#### **Distribution:**

On average, members receive one to three emails monthly from District 23, via this service. Some people have asked questions regarding RTO-ERO activities that I try to resolve or re-direct members to the appropriate Executive convener. I look forward to continuing to improve our services over the coming year.

#### **Facebook:**

District 23 created a FACEBOOK page for our members that has been running for about two years now. This is designed to be an interactive site to encourage communication with our members. It continues to be a work in progress as we learn how to best utilize the technology. We provide updates from the Provincial Office and promote local events and activities. Our monthly E-Newsletters are also posted on the site. Please check us out at:

<https://www.facebook.com/rtoerodistrict23/>

We hope members choose to **FOLLOW** us, **LIKE** us and engage in dialogue with us.



## CONSTITUTION REPORT

*by George Meek*

The role of the Convener (who works with a committee from time to time) is set out as follows:

- (i) To be responsible for monitoring the currency of the Constitution, Policy and, District Job Descriptions and bring recommendations to the Executive for change and addition.
- (ii) Upon a request by the Executive, develop and co-ordinate proposed changes and additions along with the assistance of other members for Executive consideration.” (Approved 05.13)

There will be no changes proposed to the Constitution this year at the AGM.

The Policy changes were amended by the Executive this year. Some Job Descriptions have had minor amendment by the Executive.

Every 4 years our Constitution has been reviewed by the RTOERO Constitution Committee to ensure that it conforms to the RTOERO Model District Constitution. As a result, our Constitution was amended (mostly minor or housekeeping) at the 2015 AGM.

RTOERO adopted a new ‘Bylaw’ in 2018 and from that a new ‘RTOERO District Governance Model’ was developed. We have been requested by the RTOERO Governance Committee to review our current Constitution (new name - District 23, North York Governance Bylaw) and bring it into line with the new ‘District Governance Model’ for submission for review after our Executive has approved it in principle.

This process is well underway under the guidance of the Constitution Committee. {Article 3.01 (b)} composed of the President, the Past President, the 1st Vice President and the Constitution Convener).

It is anticipated that the new District Bylaw will be presented to the 2021 AGM for approval.

I would like to thank the many Executive members who have assisted me in our work over this past year.

## CYCLING REPORT

*by Eileen Kearns*

I am writing this AGM Report during an unprecedented time in world events. The COVID-19 Disease has left us not quite sure about how to plan for the future. Foremost in my mind at this time is the question as to whether my flight will be available in 3 days when I can get home safely to Toronto.

On a much more upbeat note:) I am very excited about planning for our

RTOERO District 23 2020 cycling year!

The Learning Spokes, also known as the RTOERO Cyclists, commenced cycling last season as soon as the May rains dried up. We typically started at Leslie Street and Sheppard Avenue and cycled to either the Distillery District or to the Evergreen Brick Works. Both of these locations represent restored properties that have resulted in unique architectural gems in Toronto.

The return ride to the Brick Works is about a 10 km shorter ride than the return ride to the Distillery District. We often gravitated towards the shorter of the two rides. Now some may argue that the fresh blueberry scones were the attraction that pulled us to that destination, however, I will leave that up to you, the reader, to determine:)

We will certainly begin our season this Spring with some rides to the Evergreen Brick Works. During some of our summer rides this coming year we hope to start our cycling at Sunnybrook Park and make our way south on the Don Trail to connect with the Martin Goodman Trail. The feeling of the wind from the lake on a hot summer day is truly exhilarating.

We continue to welcome new cyclists each year and look forward to the Spring/Summer/Fall 2020 Cycling season.

## GOODWILL REPORT

*by Gwen Bumbury*

Last September 2019, Kathy Shorney and I attended the Goodwill workshop. The theme was “The Joy of Giving” which reflected acts of caring, compassion and celebration.

Throughout the past year the Goodwill Committee mailed approximately 450 birthday cards to District 23 members who had celebrated a significant birthday namely: 80, 85, 90, 95 and over. In addition to birthday cards, members celebrating a 70th and 90th birthday within the year, for example 2020, are invited as our guests to the Spring Luncheon. Unfortunately, all events had to be cancelled due to the Corona virus Pandemic. District 23 North York Goodwill Committee and Executive would like to express our best wishes to our members who have or will celebrate a significant milestone in 2020.

Other responsibilities of the Committee on behalf of District 23, North York are:

- send cards to members who are ill; the shut-ins at home and in nursing homes
- send cards to the bereaved – families of a deceased members
- make telephone calls to members who are 90 and over, not only to chat, but to encourage them to attend social events and activities

- to communicate in STONY Bridges available information and resources to our members
- to continue to encourage members to inform the District Executive when they become aware that members are ill or shut-in and would welcome a phone call
- to present information/resources
- to learn of sick individuals or those requiring Goodwill attention.

This year, as in the past years, RTOERO District 23, North York makes an “In Memorium” donation of \$600.00 to RTOERO Foundation in memory of our members who have passed away. As well, to recognize District 23 members celebrating 80th, 85th, 90th and 95th birthdays a donation of \$300.00 to each of the following is granted: Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TDSB) and the Angel Foundation for Learning (TCDSB) Breakfast Clubs.

As Convener of the Goodwill Committee, I attend monthly Executive meetings, and report to the Executive concerns and activities of Goodwill. Membership Lists are updated on a monthly basis. I also work closely with members of the Committee who are very committed to the tasks and responsibilities. I would like to extend my appreciation and warm thanks to all who assisted with Goodwill activities/tasks.

**Committee Members:** Gwen Bumbury (Convener), Xenia Cooper, Maria Fernandes, Kathy Shorney

## GIFT BASKETS

*by Olga McKenzie & Sara DiNallo*

During an RTO District 23 day trip, a few of us came up with the idea of making up gift baskets for donation and raffle, with any proceeds going to our charity of the year. We asked our members to donate items and gift baskets. These items were collected at our annual AGM 2019, Champagne Breakfast and Holiday Luncheon. As usual, our members were very inventive and generous.

The Needlework group volunteered to assist with making up the gift baskets and about thirty baskets were produced with one being reserved for the raffle at the Holiday Luncheon.

The remainder of the gift baskets was donated to the Caring and Sharing Fund at Spring Garden Baptist Church, Willowdale. The baskets were appreciated by one and all in our community.

Thanks go out to all those who donated items, baskets and time in making up the baskets. Our members remain generous and responsive to any “call outs”.



## HAVE-A-JAVA REPORT

by Elizabeth Clarke

Have a Java continues to be a popular event with the number of attendees growing. The new meeting time of 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. has been well received. It is wonderful to see colleagues connect as old friendships are revived and new friendships forged.

We continue to meet at Bayview Village in the east foyer in front of the LCBO on the third Wednesday of the month between 9:30 and 11:30a.m. Each participant signs in and receives a \$3.00 subsidy towards a coffee and a treat.

Though April and May meetings had to be cancelled we hope to resume in the fall.

Thanks also to fellow executive members who assist in supporting this activity.

## HEALTH SERVICES AND INSURANCE REPORT

by George Meek

The role of the Convener is one of communication in *STONY Bridges* and dealing directly with members and potential members in regard to the Extended Health Care Plan, the Dental Plan, the Semi-Private Plan, the Long Term Care Plan, and various other insurance plans that are available to members through RTOERO (and Johnson Insurance Inc., our broker, consultant and claims payer).

This was done by speaking briefly at meetings and events of members including the AGM, the Champagne Breakfast and Executive meetings; at Speakers' Series, writing extensively in each edition of *Stony Bridges*; and responding to a number of prospective and member phone calls, e-mails and requests. I also connected a number of members with an appropriate Johnson Inc. person who worked with Allianz Global Assistance a representative(s) to clarify and possibly solve a problem on claims matters and/or advocating on their behalf.

In order to keep current, I and another Executive member (as District Observer) will attend the 2020 RTOERO HSIC DHR Health Seminar which is now expected to occur in June. We are most pleased and most fortunate with the appointment of Mary Valtellini as a member of the RTOERO Benefits for a 3-year term.

As a continuing popular initiative, *Health Matters* is included in each Renaissance (4 times per year) and is very informative. *Health Matters* is also available to members at the RTOERO Members-only Website as part of Renaissance. I highlight previous articles from *Health Matters* in each edition of *STONY Bridges*. This hard copy publication should be kept for future reference.

The RTOERO Benefits Committee approved some positive changes to the plans that were implemented effective January 1, 2020. These are all included in the annual December *Communique* (RTO 2020 - Health Benefits Update) from

RTOERO to members of the plans that is to be kept with the newly published 2020 *Insurance Plan Booklet*. The previously separate *Out-of-Province/Canada Travel Booklet* is now a part of the new booklet beginning on page 45 entitled *RTO Travel Plan*. This booklet is to be retained carefully by the members for 3 years. The 2020 and any future copies of *Communique* over the next 2 years that are issued to plan members annually are to be kept with this booklet. The next publication of this comprehensive booklet will occur in January of 2023.

There is now in place a more formalized process for members to appeal the result of a claim with which they are not satisfied. If one has a plan improvement/change one wishes to be considered by the HSIC, there is a form available from RTOERO electronically on which to submit same.

You should carry your new *RTOERO Benefits' health card* with you at all times (along with your OHIP card). On the reverse of this *new card* are the telephone number(s) which are to be used to contact our *new* Travel Insurance provider, *Global Excel* (not Global Alliance).

On balance our health plans are the best. Of note are the following:

- i. RTOERO now provides up to 93 days in trip duration
- ii. There is more transparent language in regard to benefits available to members under the Semi-Private Convalescent Care benefit (pages 12 & 13)
- iii. Now RTIP members can join our plans anytime
- iv. **Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion** - (page 59: previously *Sudden and Unforeseen Medical Emergency information*) - review carefully this and the **General Exclusions** section if you plan to travel and periodically after travel plans have been made.

This ends my 14th year in this role since Sam Habib retired from it after 15 years of service. As Sam still says: **Take care of your finances! Take care of your health!**



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by John Giannone

In my role as Membership Convenor, and as a member of the RTOERO District 23 Executive, one of my main functions is to keep the membership list as current as possible. At the end of every month I receive a change report from RTOERO's provincial office. This report notifies the District of any changes in the current membership information. This report also includes the names/information of any new or transferred members who have joined District 23 or who may have, unfortunately, passed away during the previous month.

Every effort is made to contact our new members by phone or email in order to provide them with information about our District.

As of April 30, 2020, our current membership is 2,816 members.

## MOBILE ELECTRONIC DEVICES REPORT

by Vern Paige

### Smart Phones, Tablets, Laptops, Cameras, ...

Our special interest group has met the first and third Friday each month since September 2019, led by Vern Paige. The Group Name makes it clear what we're about, but a shorter name might be nice. We share information about making best use of our technology – for practical applications such as measurement and navigation, communication, physical and mental health, education, hobbies and games. We have discussed and demonstrated taking better pictures, enhancing and sharing them in various ways. We have planned travel, both local destinations and international vacations. We have used various information and education resources and assessed them for reliability. We discussed benefits and risks of using the Internet, and precautions we can take against the risks.

We began meeting at Edithvale Community Centre, but for the remainder of the year, we are using the devices for *virtual meetings*, and learning to stay physically, mentally and socially active while “maintaining social distancing”. We can stay connected with family and friends even at distances and continue most of our *old* activities in slightly new ways. Some relationships have become even stronger and more frequent with the aid of our devices. Vern has been reading daily to granddaughters he formerly saw only once weekly, and recently shared an extended-family event in 6 households including a family group in Spain. Unusual circumstances have stimulated better understanding and use of available technology, and the novelty has excited many of us – children and adults – to seek further knowledge and closer, stronger relationships.

If you are interested in participating for the next few weeks, please send Vern an email.

Contact Vern at [PhotoGuy.2019@gmail.com](mailto:PhotoGuy.2019@gmail.com) or [Vernon.Paige@gmail.com](mailto:Vernon.Paige@gmail.com).

## NEEDLEWORK & CRAFTS REPORT

by Margaret Schumann

We continue to welcome new members to our group. Members are glad to show their expertise and talents in helping new members to create items for our projects and individual projects, too.

Twiddlemuffs continue to be a very popular item for nursing homes and some hospitals. Word has certainly gotten out and we have been approached by more institutions.

Members continue to make premie hats, blankets and nighties for Humber River Hospital. These items are very well received by the nursing staff and, of course, by patients of these new arrivals.

Thank you to the many members who have donated yarn, buttons, lace and much more for use in our various projects. All these items are being used in very creative and stimulating ways and we have kept a great deal of “bits and pieces and left overs” from landfill sites. We will continue to welcome these donations.

This year proceeds from our draws have gone to the RTO Foundation and to our Service to Others, Period Purse Project. The group will continue to meet at Edithvale Community Centre.

The door is always open to new members of this fun-loving, creative and welcoming group.

For more information contact:

- Joan Bourne [jbourne@sympatico.ca](mailto:jbourne@sympatico.ca), or
- Margaret Schuman [m.p.schuman@gmail.com](mailto:m.p.schuman@gmail.com).

## NEWSLETTER & DISTRIBUTION

by Merv Mascarenhas, Maureen Capotosto & Gerard MacNeil

Last year we were reeling from news of the premature death of Flick Douglas, Newsletter Editor, in January 2019. This year we have been shell shocked by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Never in our wildest dreams did we imagine that the entire world would grind to a standstill, felled by an invisible enemy.

In keeping with guidelines and directives from medical officers of health and our federal, provincial and municipal headlines, we cancelled, until further notice all activities and face-to-face meetings on March 14, 2020. The Executive continues to meet, but through virtual, online meetings.

**STONY Bridges**, a high quality, glossy, colour newsletter magazine, was published by RTOERO District 23, North York three times this past year: August 2019, November 2019 and March 2020.

**STONY** is an acronym for our ancestral **S**uperannuated **T**eachers of **O**ntario, **N**orth **Y**ork. We have since grown to embrace all Ontario education workers in schools, colleges and universities. And STONY is just a cute name like IBM and SAP. Our icon is the glorious Pont de Pierre, or “*Stone Bridge*” in English, that connects the left bank of the Garonne River to the right bank quartier de la Bastide in Bordeaux, France.

Each issue over the past several years, has featured a cover story of topical interest to readers. The cover design is usually a full-page image associated with the chosen theme. The Spring newsletter featured our new logo and branding with focus on RTOERO evolving, a cover story by President Maureen Capotosto. It was bulked up to 36 pages with the addition of a travel story and more in-depth articles - calendar, In Memoriams, articles, notices, convener reports, member submissions, and photos.

We encourage you to become one of our contributors by submitting your poems, pictures and stories – page 3 of STONY indicates the submission deadline for the following issue.

In addition to the printed magazine, we publish interactive PDF versions of STONY Bridges which permit readers to click on links to navigate around or jump directly to websites that provide further detail. When the interactive PDF version is downloaded onto a smartphone, readers can initiate phone calls to numbers appearing onscreen. Members are encouraged to opt for the interactive version in their email by completing a web form on the website – they can choose between a 1-page or 2-page spread. The single page spread is better suited to smartphones. These electronic versions of STONY Bridges are also available on the website.

**Maureen Capotosto**, our Associate Editor, receives all submissions and works with Karen Quinn and a team of volunteers to proofread articles and other content of STONY Bridges. Our conveners and executive members of District 23 generate most of the material for our newsletters, as we continue to offer and share programs and activities of interest to members.

**Merv Mascarenhas**, Newsletter Editor, designs and lays out the newsletter from these edited submissions. A two-column layout improves readability of STONY, especially on smartphones. To avoid participants having to cut up their precious copies of STONY to complete and mail in activity registration forms, fillable registration forms for each activity are published on the website. These forms can be filled online, printed and mailed with cheques to the respective conveners. Merv also maintains the list of members who have opted for the online version of Stony, and emails them a copy of STONY as soon as it goes to press. Online recipients of STONY receive them 2-3 weeks ahead of printed copy recipients!

**Gerard MacNeil**, our Newsletter Distribution Convener, works with our printer and distribution service to ensure that members wishing paper copies of the

newsletter, receive them promptly at the correct address – correspondence and actively employed members receive the online version instead. He also provides copies of the Spring edition to school staffs in about 250 public/Catholic and private schools in the former City of North York. The remaining copies are used for member recruitment purposes and public relations at District 23 events.

## POLE WALKING REPORT

*by Kathy Shorney*

As convener of this group it is my responsibility to arrange monthly walking events in local parks and on trails. I try to choose a variety of locations in central North York that provide free parking, easy to walk on surfaces and washrooms, if possible. The group remains small and many choose to just come for a walk and enjoy conversation with other members. We meet in the fall and spring when the surface conditions are safe. Nordic poling activity is a fitness activity that can be enjoyed by participants at any fitness level. The poles provide balance and stability for all ages as well as a gentle work out. Medical experts have said walking is one of the best fitness activities over all. I continue to encourage our members to come and bring their partners for about an hour of outdoor activity. The purpose of this group is to provide both a social event and a fitness opportunity.

## POLITICAL ADVOCACY REPORT

*by Kathy Shorney*

The mandate of the Political Advocacy Convener is to monitor all communications from the National PAC Committee and keep updated on the activities of our local and provincial political representatives across District 23. This involves monitoring the local newspapers, fanouts, emails and mail flyers. I also monitor reports in the media related to Senior Citizens and our issues.

Another part of my role is to communicate through STONY Bridges and fanouts, the positions and actions of our National Political Advocacy Committee. I am pleased to be assisted by Marisa Agostini and Gwen Scriven from our District as members of the National Committee as they act as liaisons to our district. This past year I also tried to support teachers by visiting picket lines. This action also supports recruiting for RTOERO as we make current educational staff aware of our advocacy and how we can support them in the future. I have also communicated with members of the local community regarding Age Friendly Community Issues that are of concern. Current information about National initiatives related to 3 key issues: Retirement Income Security, a National Seniors Strategy and National Pharmacare are communicated to our members through Stony Bridges, monthly fanouts, and on the display boards at District 23 events. In these rapidly changing times I will continue to be vigilant to communicate any information I receive to our members.



## PROJECT SERVICE TO OTHERS REPORT

by Maureen Capotosto

District 23, North York has a long history of supporting community endeavours through their Project Service to Others. Each year we select a project and a community organization to support following the guidelines provided by the national RTO ERO program. We successfully applied for the grant of up to \$4000. The grant funds, were coupled with additional funds of over \$1000 raised through the work of our Needlework & Craft group, The Gift Basket initiative, Vendors at the Arts & Craft Sale, and the generosity of our members. Donations were made for a chance to win the handcrafted items, allowing us to further support the project. This year the community group was with The Period Purse (TPP). The project was Supporting the Period Purse Project: Menstruation Nation.

The Period Purse strives to achieve menstrual equity by providing marginalized menstruators with access to free menstrual products, and to reduce the stigma surrounding periods through public education and advocacy. They seek to erase the stigma surrounding menstruation and shed light on the unique challenges faced by people who experience homelessness.

District 23, North York supported the menstruation conversation and supported the work with high school students through the expansion of the education program Menstruation Nation to more high schools across Ontario by purchasing program materials. Volunteers from TPP visited schools supporting student groups and offering presentations. They promote discussion in order to promote healthy periods, reduce stigma around periods and provide access to free products. It is planned to have 436 kits in all the bathrooms in 3 lower-income Toronto District schools.

In addition, 50 reusable kits for the Indigenous community were sent out in early March and given to the young people there. Here is more about that project: In an Indigenous community in Eastern Ontario there is a rite of passage ceremony which is a yearly, 20-week program. It offers age-appropriate, culture-based teachings and activities in a safe, sacred space to nurture the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of Indigenous youth and their supporters. TPP Moontime Kits are given to them as they learn more about their moon time and reach out to aunties, helpers, and other supporters for teachings and mentorship. This is a community with no reusable products available in their general store, the closest big city is hours away. TPP are providing products to them that they don't have the option to buy or use. They have a trained midwife student there who is doing the education with the young people on how to use and care for these products.

Our members generously donated purses and products that could be distributed by The Period Purse in their work in the GTA. The Rotary Club of Willowdale also donated \$1,000 towards The Period Purse Project.

## RECRUITMENT REPORT

by Mary Ellen Lawless

Recruitment - In the Spring 2020 edition of our Provincial RTOERO Renaissance, Martha Foster, as Chair of the Board of Directors, wrote in her report: "We have learned from our many surveys that the number one way people hear about RTO is word of mouth; current members talking to potential members".

This is the theme of every report that, as the Recruitment Convener for District 23, I always emphasize, by noting that every member of RTOERO is a *de facto* member of the Recruitment committee. I conclude every report by asking everyone reading the report to **keep recruiting**. To assist and remind our members, copies of the application form for membership and a summary of the advantages of membership are offered to those present at such gatherings as the monthly Have-a-Java.

While the organization and presentation of the Retirement Planning Workshops are now looked after by the head office, representatives from each of the Districts within the City of Toronto attend all local workshops. Copies of our District 23 Stony Bridges are provided to the attendees to help inform those planning to retire about the wide range of activities and initiatives available within this District 23. At every opportunity national initiatives, such as the perks and products Venngo for shopping advantage and Best Doctors for health care questions, are highlighted.

Our ongoing challenge is getting the message out that anyone employed in any area of education who is paying into a pension plan is eligible to join. In addition to anyone holding a teaching certificate, other classifications of eligibility include: First Nations Educator, ECE/child care worker, college or university faculty, administrative, support, custodial and other staff from a school, school board, university, college; spouse of an RTOERO member, including surviving spouse and separated/divorced spouse, and those who have taught in other countries.

So, welcome to the Recruitment committee and please keep recruiting.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Mildred Frank

The Social Committee is reporting another successful year. We have had much pleasure in providing special events for our members to enjoy. Of course, our year began on May 23, 2019, when we gathered at the Thornhill Golf and Country Club for the AGM/Spring Luncheon.

The first portion of the event was the AGM where the business of District 23 was conducted. As well, during the meeting, Mildred Frank was acknowledged



and congratulated as the recipient of the RTOERO Distinguished District Member Award--and presented with lovely roses. A cocktail hour followed and that was followed by a delicious lunch. To entertain us, back by popular demand, was Tom Leadbetter, a tenor from Cape Breton---very exciting performance. His music and singing kept our toes tapping and our hearts happy some time to come...great day.

In September, we held the Champagne Breakfast at Parkview Manor, to welcome the new retirees to new life experiences. The event began with coffee and conversation. Once everyone was seated, a toast was offered to all our retirees. The meal continued with a delicious brunch featuring all possible items that can be served at such a meal. Before our session concluded, the guests were informed of the benefits of joining RTOERO and of the opportunities to participate in a variety of activities with others. Guests then had more time to chat and/or sign up with us.

Many members look forward to our yearly Holiday Season Luncheon. They say that for them it is the kick-off to their Holiday celebrations. Our 2019 luncheon began with displays of artisan/craft items presented for enjoyment and for sale. A delicious meal of turkey or fish and an interesting ice cream dessert was enjoyed. The Yorkminstrels Show Choir sang and performed for us. Joanne Murphy, Chair of the RTOERO Foundation Board, shared information about the federal Government's study titled *The Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging*.

Another successful year.

## NORTH YORK STROLLERS REPORT

by Joanne Famiglietti

The North York Strollers have completed a very unique but abbreviated year of Walks.

Our group meets the first Thursday of most months at 10 a.m.

The goals of our walks are:

- i. to enjoy the camaraderie of other retirees as we discover some new and/or exciting parts of our great city,
- ii. to get some much-needed exercise, to socialize over a meal, while enjoying the ambiance and cuisine of a local restaurant.

Our monthly format continues to focus on the needs of the group. And, some regular Strollers, plan or assist in finding new walks. This year, Len Nicholson, has been an integral part of discovering and leading walks to new locations.

This year, because of very unusual circumstances, the planned walks for April, May, and June were cancelled due to the pandemic. Next year we plan to explore these proposed walks when permitted.

### Walks for 2019-2020

- Oct. 3, 2019 Wychwood Park led by Joanne Famiglietti
- Nov. 7, 2019 Prospect Cemetery led by Len Nicholson
- Dec. 5, 2019 Allan Gardens Conservatory led by Joanne Famiglietti
- Feb. 6, 2020 TTC Extension to Vaughan led by Joanne Famiglietti
- Mar. 5, 2020 The Don Jail led by Len Nicholson

Our walks are very well attended, with well over 20 included many regulars and often new members. We look forward to exploring and discovering new venues next year.

## TRIPS REPORT

by Mary Valtellini

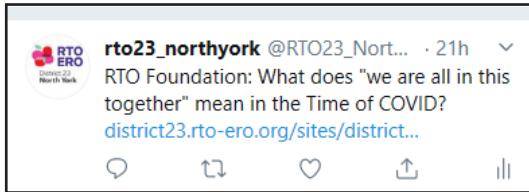
Where to begin? So many plans made and so many put on hold or had to be cancelled due to the COVID -19 Pandemic. When the last two trips are confirmed, notification will be sent out to our members electronically. Thank-you to all members who participated and suggested new places to visit, experience and explore.

Trips organized since our last AGM in 2019:

- Kingston Penitentiary – October 10, 2019
- Anastasia – Mirvish Theatre – Wednesday December 4, 2019
- Rossini's Barber of Seville – The Canadian Opera Company – February 2, 2020
- Toronto Symphony – The Music of John Williams – March 4, 2020
- Magnotta Premium Winery Experience – April 28, 2020 – Cancelled
- Wonders of Prince Edward County – June 11, 2020 – Cancelled
- Leaving on a Jet Plane - Not! – September 22, 2020 – On Hold
- St. Jacob's and Evita – October 15, 2020 – On Hold



by Merv Mascarenhas



Our twitter account now sports our new colourful logo which makes our tweets stand out in a crowded field.

All members are encour-

aged to follow District 23's Twitter account - **@RTO23\_NorthYork** launched on December 13, 2018. We urge you to **like** our tweets and **retweet** them.

If you are not on Twitter, do signup for it. Twitter is FREE and can be accessed from your smartphone, tablet, PC or Mac. You can choose to be a passive digester of information until you are ready to tweet original content.

Our Twitter account will keep you informed by:

- Tweeting Breaking News and new content on our website
- Retweeting curated content related to seniors' matters, education and health issues from around the world
- Providing notifications about Events, News, Articles, STONY Bridges, E-Newsletter, etc.
- Attracting, informing and engaging members
- Inviting feedback on specific issues requiring input from stakeholders and the public
- Providing occasional live coverage of events

In short, improving communications with our members.

Tweet, Tweet!



by Merv Mascarenhas

We strive to make our website the go-to place for information on all things **District 23, North York** by publishing:

- Articles on all major District 23 events, including photographs;
- An online form to allow you to switch from paper to electronic eco-friendly versions of STONY Bridges and Renaissance;
- An updated online Contact Us form that lets you communicate with any Convener – please use it to contact any member of the Executive or provide us feedback on the website, social media, events, etc.;
- FLICKR photo albums of District events (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/rto23/>) - these albums are surfaced in activity reports as well as under the Pictures tab;
- Resources such as the District 23 Constitution (under review);
- Our most recent Tweet at the bottom of our homepage - [@RTO23\\_NorthYork](#). If you are on Twitter, please follow it; else, get yourself a Twitter account to allow you to do so.

**New Website:** We are waiting with bated breath upon Provincial RTOERO for the new web platform that will allow us to transform our website into a more engaging and functional experience. A parallel initiative will see the introduction of e-Commerce which will allow us to register for events from a barstool in our (Wo)Man Cave with no need of a printer, envelope and postage stamp. We would appreciate your feedback in terms of how our new website can better serve your needs and be more user friendly – just send us your suggestions through our **Contact Us** form.

**New Branding:** We are implementing the new vibrant, colourful RTO logo and branding.

**What's New Page:** This page lists all new posts on the website to provide you a quick snapshot of new items.

**Contact Information:** Due to privacy concerns we have removed contact information for Executive members from the website and new editions of STONY Bridges and the e-newsletter. To reach a Convener or Executive member, please go to the Contact Us page and complete the form to send an email message to the person you wish to contact. You will be contacted by the appropriate person in a timely manner.

**Activity Registration Forms:** To avoid you having to cut up STONY to submit registration forms for District activities, we publish fillable activity registration forms for each activity on the website. This allows you to fill forms online, print the completed forms and mail them with cheques to the responsible Convener.

## SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR 2020/2021

by Sara Di Nallo

POSITION	NOMINEES
Past President	Maureen Capotosto
President	Gwen Scriven
1st Vice President	Mary Valtellini
2nd Vice President	VACANT - Karen Quinn
Treasurer	VACANT - Vernon Paige
Associate Treasurer	Kathy Shorney
Secretary	Olga McKenzie
Conveners:	Nominees
Archivist	Mary Cairo
Book Club	VACANT - Silvia Skippen
Bridge	Alan Ward
Communications	Karen Quinn
Constitution	George Meek
Cycling	Eileen Kearns
Goodwill	Gwen Bumbury
Foundation	VACANT - Sara Di Nallo
Have-A-Java	Elizabeth Clarke
Health Services	George Meek
Member at Large	Daniele Ingster
Member at Large	Cheryl Paige
Membership	John Giannone
Needlework and Crafts	Margaret Schuman
Newsletter Editor	Merv Mascarenhas
Newsletter Associate	Maureen Capotosto
Newsletter Distributer	Gerard MacNeil
Photography	Marisa Agostini, Lorraine Hennessey
Pole Walking	Kathy Shorney
Political Advocacy	Kathy Shorney
Recruitment	Mary Ellen Lawless
Service to Others	Maureen Capotosto
Social	Mildred Frank
Strollers	Joanne Famiglietti
Trips	Mary Valtellini
Webmaster	Merv Mascarenhas

**Note:** All positions are open for nominations from the floor. **VACANT** positions have no incumbent.

## FOUNDING MEMBERS OF RTOERO

### DISTRICT 23, NORTH YORK

Bruce Dawson*	Helen Lang*
Joan Featherstone*	Dick Webster*
Viva Heaton*	Dorothy Young*

## PAST PRESIDENTS OF RTOERO

### DISTRICT 23, NORTH YORK

1973 - 1974	Bruce Dawson*	1997 - 1998	Nancy Walsh*
1974 - 1975	Dr. John McIntosh*	1998 - 1999	George Meek
1975 - 1976	Gertrude Paterson*	1999 - 2000	Marion Taylor
1976 - 1977	Dr. David Tough*	2000 - 2001	Rob Fraser
1977 - 1978	George Hosie*	2001 - 2002	Beverley Wood
1978 - 1979	Fraser Bradshaw*	2002 - 2003	Andrée Nottage
1979 - 1980	Margaret Bates*	2003 - 2004	David Fleming
1980 - 1981	Eileen Carter*	2004 - 2005	Frank Saliani
1981 - 1982	Ruth Bick*	2005 - 2006	Helen Wiber
1982 - 1983	Ken McKee*	2006 - 2007	Mary Ellen Lawless
1983 - 1984	Jack Foote	2007 - 2008	Margaret Schuman
1984 - 1985	Ruth Robson*	2008 - 2009	Michael Sheffe
1985 - 1986	John Allen*	2009 - 2010	Luci Soncin
1986 - 1987	Joe Bilson*	2010 - 2011	Jan Siegel / Luci Soncin
1988 - 1989	Mary Scanlon*	2011 - 2012	Maureen Capotosto
1989 - 1990	Don Hazel*	2012 - 2013	Mary Valtellini
1990 - 1991	Geoff Arnold	2013 - 2014	Margaret Lato
1991 - 1992	John Wilson	2014 - 2015	Courtney Doldron
1992 - 1993	Aileen Thomas	2015 - 2016	Maureen Capotosto
1993 - 1994	Betty Nagle*	2016 - 2017	Jan Siegel
1994 - 1995	Gord Claus	2017 - 2018	Marisa Agostini
1995 - 1996	Mildred Frank	2018 - 2019	Sara Di Nallo
1996 - 1997	Claire Piché	2019 - 2020	Maureen Capotosto

\* deceased

