

Vision 20/20 Volume 1, Issue 1 Spring 2011

On the Web: www.rtoero20.com

President's Message



Nina Jenkins

As of January 1, 2011 the Leeds and Grenville part of District 20 is no longer part of our district but has formed their own district (District 48). District 20 is now comprised of the counties of Lennox and Addington and Frontenac with approximately 1200 members.

The business of our district will be conducted in the same manner as usual. Our executive board meets seven or eight times a year with the main duties being :

1) Liaising with RTO/ERO provincial organization to keep abreast of new happenings and concerns to retired

teachers.

2) Keeping our local members up-to-date on current issues (i.e. Pension concerns, health care issues and insurance, etc.) by means of newsletters sent out 3 times annually and by two general meetings (May and October) to which all RTO members are invited.

3) Holding social events – breakfasts, luncheons, golf tournament, two general dinner meetings.

4) Attendance of committee chairs and executive members at provincially held meetings and workshops to share concerns and ideas with other districts, the provincial executive and committees.

Our executive board consists of the following positions : President, Past President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair along with two councillors from Lennox and Addington, three from Frontenac and Chairs of the following committees – Communications,

Pension and Retirement Concerns, Member Services, Health Services and Insurance, Political Advocacy and Travel.

The Communications Chair is responsible for publishing our newsletter Vision 20/20 in January, April and September.

The Member Services Committee attempts to keep in touch with our members especially when a member is suffering a bereavement, is ill or is celebrating a significant birthday or anniversary. To help this committee be more effective we ask you to inform Liz Carson at 613-389-5419 or carsonl@hotmail.com

if you know of an RTO member who should receive a card for any of these reasons.

Councillors attend meetings of the executive board, plan and assist with social events throughout the district and sit on committees. Information about other committees will be included in the next newsletter.

(cont. page 2)

Vision 20/20

RTO/ERO District 20

Frontenac, Lennox and Addington

Calendar of Events

- MAY 11 SPRING LUNCHEON
- JUNE 15 BILLY ELLIOT DAY TRIP
- JUNE 23 GOLF TOURNAMENT
- MAY 25 SCANDINAVIA TOUR

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President's Message (cont. from page 1)

At this time we still have some vacancies on our executive. We need a Second Vice President and at least one councillor from each of our counties. If you are interested or know someone who may be interested please let me or any other executive member know.

We also are interested in hearing from you, our members, about any new activities you'd like to see initiated or any changes in current practices or activities. We look forward to hearing your suggestion and concerns.

Our next general meeting will be held in May. If you haven't attended one of these meetings perhaps you could come out and see what happens at these get-togethers. Enjoy the remainder of the winter.

Nina Jenkins
613-279-2945 lornin@frontenac.net

Health Matters - Dave Fisher

For Health and Insurance matters please feel free to contact Dave Fisher email fisherdb@sympatico.ca or call (613) 354-9394.

The new Benefits booklet came out the end of January 2011, check for changes and premiums, note premium increases will be deducted in January beginning in 2011.

Our Plans continue to be the most successful retired educator insurance program in Canada. We are over 70,000 RTO/ERO strong. This high level of participation indicates the importance of the Health Plans to our members.

RTO/ERO District 20 Executive Board 2010—2011

President - Nina Jenkins 613-279-2945 lornin@frontenac.net
1st Vice President - Harry Murphy 613-384-3413 m2514@kingston.net
Pension & Retirement Concerns - Harry Murphy
Past President - Bud Acton 613-354-5642 wacton@explornet.ca
Secretary - Chris Jones 613-546-0917 jones.cm2@gmail.com
Treasurer - Madeleine Wotherspoon 613-386-9809 madlyn1912@gmail.com
Membership Services - Liz Carson 613-389-5419 carsonl@hotmail.com
Frontenac Councillors - Kevin Long 613-279-2098 kclong@frontenac.net
- **John Kitney** 613-546-6378 kitneyj@kingston.net
Vacant -You could volunteer for this one.

Lennox And Addington Councillors

Vacant -You could volunteer for this one.
Vacant -You could volunteer for this one.

Chairs of Standing Committees

Communications - Guy Leger 613-384-7327 gileger@sympatico.ca
Health Services & Insurance - Dave Fisher 613-354-9394 fisherdb@sympatico.ca
Political Action - Bud Acton 613-354-5642 wacton@explornet.ca
Travel co-chairs
John Kitney 613-546-6378 kitneyj@kingston.net
Nadene Strange 613-542-5796 nadenest@yahoo.ca

Did You Know?

1. Our Health Plans are owned and managed by our members, a not for profit organization, Surpluses above reserves are "refunded" to the Health Plans and become part of a Premium Stabilization Fund.
2. Our Plan is not age banded, rates are the same for everyone.
3. Members give their input for improvements.
4. Each year we produce "**Fact Sheets**" on Health Issues and a quarterly publication "**health matters**" a newsletter about our Health Plans.
5. Your RTO/ERO ID card is also your drug card. Using this card your pharmacist will be able to bill Johnson Inc. directly.
6. Due to a vacation, you may need more than a 100 day supply of a prescription. By completing a "Vacation Supply" form you can get a 200 day supply.

7. There is a members only Website - using your user name and password you can access your information anytime.
8. RTO/ERO has established and supports an Endowed Chair in Geriatric Medicine at the University of Toronto. We can all support this through the "RTO/ERO Charitable Foundation" (foundation@rto-ero.org).
9. Assistive Devices Program: Don't forget that over 8,000 items are covered for Ontario Residents. Visit the website at www.health.gov.on.ca/en/. If approved our Plan may also cover part of the cost.
10. Should you incur drug costs over your maximum of \$2500/year,, go to the **Trillium Drug Plan** - Ministry of Health - Long Term Care. This is another avenue for financial support in catastrophic medical expense cases.

Member Services - Liz Carson

We are very excited about the changes that District 20 is now going through and we would like to get our members' thoughts and ideas for some activities you would like to see us provide. Would you be interested in taking part in:

- ◆ a gardening group
- ◆ walking tours, wine tour
- ◆ needle/craft group
- ◆ investment group
- ◆ going to a Kingston Frontenac game
- ◆ going for breakfast/lunch
- ◆ travelogues for retirees

- ◆ playing cards, hiking etc.

There are so many things to do now that we have the time. Please take a few minutes and let me and the Executive know

if you would be interested in participating in these or any other activities.

This is your RTO/ERO district and we need to know what you would like us to provide for you.

Please contact me at:

carsonl@hotmail.com OR
Liz Carson
14 Davey Crescent
Amherstview ON K7N 1X9

In Memoriam

Bath

Reginald B. Kennedy
John L. Roblin

Napanee

Lorna Burns

Toronto

Joan Haslewood

Kingston

Ronald E. Ede
Earl Rivers
Grace Street
W. David Robinson
Charles L. Tiff
Robert (Bob) Williams
Jack Kippen

Mississauga

V. R. Plummer-Matheson

MAY
THEY
REST IN
PEACE

New Members

Full Members:

Elizabeth Salsbury
Carol McCarthy
Patricia Parks
Mary Surman
Margaret E Smith

Associate Members:

Jean I Robinson
Marcella M Tiffin
Donna M Ede
June S Kennedy



Liz Carson
Membership Services



While you're having a coffee think about volunteering. You can make a difference

District 20 TRAVEL COMMITTEE NEWS from Nadene Strange and John Kitney

As the co-chairs of the District 20 Travel Committee, we are both very involved in the planning of upcoming travel opportunities and working with District 48 as part of the Kingston (and Area) Retired Teachers Travel Council. This collaborative venture will allow continued access to a combined audience of almost 1800 members.

Things are changing rapidly. Anna, our trusted advisor from Merit Odyssey Travel, is responsible for the **RTO PROVINCIAL TRAVEL PROGRAMME – the tours you see in RENAISSANCE MAGAZINE.** Some of the tours sponsored by Districts 20/48 will now be given province-wide exposure. This initiative should result in our tours being well supported and probably sold out much

sooner than in the past. Truth be told, we have been struggling to get our numbers for several tours up to the level that allows us to comfortably confirm them. Portugal 2011 experienced a 60 % decline in registrations this year. Scandinavia is at 25 and is confirmed. From now on some of our tours may be featured in **Renaissance** and open to province-wide registration. Some tours such as St Vincent & the Grenadines in February, 2012 and Ireland in May/June, 2012 (escorted by Meikle & Margaret Turner) will be province-wide initiatives. **Members of District 20 and District 48 who are interested in any of our tours should register without delay to guarantee available space.** As things move forward with Merit Odyssey Travel we should be able to provide a wider range of tours and travel experiences.

TO REGISTER or inquire about tours please contact: Anna at 613-549-3342 x3371 or Sue x3377.

OUR FUTURE TRAVEL PLANS include:

- 1) **Trinidad & Tobago** – January 2012
- 2) **Portugal Long Stay # 13** – February / March 2012
- 3) **African Safari: Tanzania & Zanzibar** – Apr 22 to May 9, 2012
- 4) **Spring Gardens in Pennsylvania** – 2012
- 5) **India, Past and Present** – Fall 2012
- 6) **Fall Colours tour to Tadousac & Saguenay** – Oct 2012
- 7) **Patagonia** – Spring 2013.

Social Happenings

Northern Area

In North Addington, luncheons are held every third month, and are scheduled for the following dates at 11:30 a.m.:

Thursday, June 2

Thursday, September 1

Thursday, December 1

Locations will be announced. If you are interested in attending, please email kclong@frontenac.net (or phone 613-479-2837) no later than 48 hours before

the luncheon. In North and Central Frontenac, luncheons occur every other month, and are scheduled for the following dates and locations at 11:30 a.m.:

Thursday, April 7: The Maples Restaurant (Sharbot Lake)

Wednesday, June 8: Fall River Pub &

Grill (Maberly) Wednesday, August 3: Canadian Shield Restaurant (Clarendon)

Wednesday, October 5: North of Seven Restaurant (Plevna)

Friday, December 9: Fall River Pub & Grill (Maberly)

If you are interested in joining us, please email kclong@frontenac.net (or phone 613-279-2098) no later than 48 hours before the event.

Consideration has also been given to the possibility of having luncheons in South Frontenac, beginning perhaps with an inaugural luncheon on Thursday, April 28, probably in the Verona area. It would help in our planning to have some indication of interest, so if attending a luncheon in this area would appeal to you, please email kclong@frontenac.net (or phone 613-279-2098) as soon as possible. If we proceed, details will be posted on our RTO District 20 website, and in the

“Northern Happenings” section of *The Frontenac News*.

Kingston Area

Breakfasts continue monthly at 9:30 AM on the second Wednesday at LaSalle Travelodge. For more information contact:

John Kitney 613 546-6378

kitneyj@kingston.net

Indochina Explorer

October 23 – November 16, 2011

AN RTO DISTRICT 20/48 FULLY ESCORTED TOUR

Discover the heart, soul and diverse delights of Indochina while exploring the natural beauty, fascinating history and the friendly people of Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.
Bangkok - River Kwai - Chiang Mai - Luang Prabang – Vientiane – Hanoi - Halong Bay
Hoi An – Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) - Siem Reap - Phnom Penh

Thailand - a wonderful diversity of ancient cities, Buddhist temples, warm hospitality and astonishing natural beauty.
Laos - the hidden gem of Asia, a stunning portrait of traditional South East Asian life.
Vietnam - a kaleidoscope of colour and beauty - picturesque countryside, fascinating cities and spectacular coastlines.
Cambodia – the scenic beauty and diverse legacies of its history make this country truly fascinating.

Cost: \$8,895.00 per person dbl occ. Singles add \$1,750.00.

Contact **Bill & Lisa Leroux** at 613-342-2512 or william.leroux@sympatico.ca
or **Anna at Merit Odyssey Group Tours** Tel: 613-549-3342 x 3371 or 800-263-0050



POLAR BEAR ADVENTURE –

CHURCHILL MANITOBA

November 7 – 13, 2011

Contact **Anna Kovachis at Merit**

Odyssey Tours 613-549-334 x3371



Package Includes : six Nights Accommodation (2 nights Winnipeg + 4 nights Churchill) and all Meals (best quality, including delicious picnics). Fully Escorted from Kingston by Merit Odyssey Tours **plus**

- All Transfers and Baggage Handling
- Return air from Toronto to Winnipeg.
- Air service by turboprop aircraft (Winnipeg/Churchill return)
- Two full days on Tundra Vehicle Excursions
- Helicopter Flight . . . exciting 1 hour aerial tour
- Dog-sledding adventure and evening Northern Lights search
- Naturalist Tour Leaders
- All Tax, Entry Fees, and Gratuities
- Tour Handbook

\$ 5,875.00 per person based on double occupancy Note: Registration is limited to 20 participants, a second departure may be arranged if numbers warrant.

BILLY ELLIOT - The Musical - A ONE DAY THEATRE TRIP TO TORONTO - JUNE 15th

Join us for a coach tour to the smash hit **Billy Elliot**, Mirvish Productions. Since theatre tickets are non-refundable we need to subscribe the trip before we purchase tickets. The cost of the trip is \$200.00 and includes coach transportation, matinee theatre ticket and dinner on the return trip home. The bus will leave Brockville at 8 am with pick-ups in Kingston and Belleville. Return time to Brockville will be approx. 9:00 pm (earlier, along the way). Full payment (\$200) is required by April 15, and is only refundable if the trip does not go.

To reserve your seat, call or email **Bill Leroux at 613-342-2512**
or william.leroux@sympatico.ca - **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE !**

Spring Golf Tournament

RTO/ERO District 20 is holding a Spring Golf Tournament

When: on Thursday June 23, 2011

Time: 10:00 AM Shot Gun Start

What: Golf, Cart, Meal, Prizes

Where: at Rivendell Golf Course, just north of Verona. (7359 Hwy. 38)

Cost: RTO/ERO Member or Guest \$65.00; Rivendell member \$45.00

Rivendell is a Par 71, 18 Hole Golf Course. It is licensed and has very good facilities for tournaments.

The Meal is fire roasted beef on a bun with two cold salads and dessert.

Space is limited, sign up early. (Registration form on page 8)

Volunteer Opportunities

City of Kingston

You welcome to become a Public Relations Ambassador with the Kingston City Hall tour guide program. City Hall is designated as a national historic site and is filled with historical treasures and that delight citizens of all ages. If you enjoy history, architecture, local and international history, then you will enjoy being a volunteer tour guide. For more information please contact Elizabeth Cashman ecashman@cityofkingston.ca; 613-546-4291, ext. 1355.

Canadian Cancer Society— Join The Fight

The Canadian Cancer Society is thrilled to invite you to be part of our Volunteer Program. We are looking for reliable, friendly and compassionate people to become part of a growing team dedicated to eradicating cancer, and improving the lives of people living with cancer. **Participate in *Special Events***, take part in our *Transportation Program*, help with *Fundraising*, join our *Prevention* team, or call to discuss the right opportunity for you. We have opportunities to fit most interests **and level of involvement!**

We are currently enrolling volunteers for the Kingston, Lennox & Addington, Loyalist, and North Frontenac areas. For more information or to become part of the team, contact:

Canadian Cancer Society — 613-384-2361

Volunteer Tutors Needed With Pathways to Education

Pathways to Education is a national, community based program designed to reduce drop-out rates among high school students in disadvantaged communities. It also helps increase enrolment in post-secondary programs through incentives such as scholarships. Kingston, Ontario is designated as the 11th site. For more information on Pathways to Education please visit www.pathwaystoeducation.ca. This group is currently seeking volunteer tutors and/or group mentors to support its evening programming for grade 9 youth residing in the Rideau Heights and Inner Harbour neighbourhoods. If you are Interested contact Ekta Singh at 613-507-7107 or cell # 613-888-0928.

Travel Insurance - Dave Fisher

As a group we educators do a lot of travelling. It is important when you travel to have insurance coverage. When you carry the Extended Health Care you also have Travel Insurance for up to 62 days per trip. You must contact Mondial with-

in 48 hours of the emergency or payments will be limited to \$2,000 per insured person per trip.

IT IS RECOMMENDED YOU CARRY YOUR OUT OF PROVINCE /CANADA TRAVEL BOOKLET WITH YOU WHEN YOU TRAVEL

You should have received a new copy in your recent health package mailed in January 2011.

Mondial Assistance (formerly World Access Canada)

1.800.249.6556 toll free in Canada or the U.S.

00.1.800.514.3702 toll free from Mexico
1.888.751.4403 toll free from Dominican Republic

800.9221.9221 toll free from other countries that participate in Universal Inter-

DISTRICT 20
RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO
SPRING DINNER AND MEETING

Wednesday May 11, 2011
Smiling Wilderness Restaurant
824 Palace Rd., Napanee (613-354-4024)

Take exit # 582 from the 401 on to Palace Road. Restaurant is immediately south of the 401. From Hwy. 2, turn right at Palace Road. Lunch is in the upper meeting room. Park in the upper parking lot and walk over to avoid the stairs.

Spouses/friends are welcome.

HOT BUFFET LUNCH \$25.00 (includes taxes and gratuity)

(Beef stir fry, chicken cacciatore, penne marinara with Caesar salad desserts and tea or coffee)

11:00 Registration and Social

11:30 Welcome and Entertainment by The Prince Charles School

12:00 Dinner

Speaker: Historical novelist David More

A short business meeting

A Cash bar will be available.

To obtain tickets complete the tear off form below and send it by May 1, 2011 to:

SPRING DINNER AND MEETING

Madeleine Wotherspoon

1331 Old Wilton Road

Odessa, On K0H 2H0

You must reserve for this dinner. There will be no tickets at the door. Your nametag, available at the sign-in desk, will serve as your lunch ticket.

Name(s) for nametag

1..... 2.....

Number of tickets.....@ \$25.00. Total amount enclosed \$.....

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SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT

Guy Léger

547 Monterey Court

Kingston ON K7M 9A2

There will be no registration at the course. PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Phone Number (_____) _____ - _____

(I want to play with)

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

of Registrations _____@ \$65.00 # of Registrations _____@ \$45.00 (Rivendell Member Rate)

Total amount enclosed : \$ _____

Make cheques payable to RTO/ERO District 20

Pension and Retirement Concerns - Harry Murphy

Our District is in contact with the Provincial Committee and has received the updates for our Handbook. Please take note of these changes:

1) Our Ontario Teachers' Pension has increased by 1.4% in 2011.

2) Changes to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) are coming over the next few years:

* If you take your CPP before age 65 your pension amount will decrease.

* If you take your CPP after the age 65 your pension amount will increase.

* Starting in 2012 you will be able to receive your CPP without any work interruption. The need to have "stopped work" or "to reduce your earnings significantly for at least two months" will no longer apply.

For more specific information go to service.canada.gc.ca or call 1-800-277-9914

REMINDER: Have you changed your email address or phone number since you first joined RTO/ERO? Please check with Toronto to make sure your information is up to date and current. This is very easy to do and there are four ways to do it. Phone member services and talk to Dianne Vezeau 1 800 361 9888 ext 223 or email to dvezeau@rto-ero.org, check the web site at www.rto-ero.org or in writing to RTO/ERO 18 Spadina Rd Suite 300 Toronto ON M5R 2S7

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