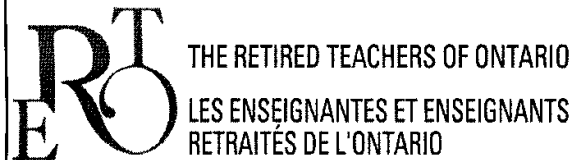


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Vision 20/20

RTO/ERO District 20

Frontenac, Lennox and Addington,

Leeds and Grenville

On the web: www.rtoero20.com

Vol. 37 Number 1 December 2010

President's Message – Nina Jenkins

RTO District 20 will be undergoing changes to its structure as of January 1, 2011. During the summer, members in the Leeds- Grenville unit of our district voted to form their own district and this was approved at fall senate in Toronto in late October. Beginning in January 2011, District 20 will be comprised of members from Lennox and Addington and Frontenac counties. Leeds and Grenville will become District 48. Any member within the old District 20 can choose to belong to either the new District 20 or District 48.

This change in structure means that we are losing four valuable members of our executive – Mary Lou Smitheram who has served as Communications Chair and most recently as President; Gord Hough who has been President and Communications Chair; Norma Thompson, a long-time councillor from Leeds & Grenville, who has organized and assisted with a number of social events over the years; and Bill Leroux who has been a councillor, Chair of Health Services and Insurance and has been active on the Travel Committee. On behalf of our executive board and our RTO members, I want to thank them for their time and commitment to RTO District 20 and wish them well as they begin the work in the new District 48.

Another change to District 20 is that Meikle Turner, who has been Travel Chair, planning and leading many wonderful trips close to home and abroad, is retiring from this position (I'm sure he will stay involved in some way). We will miss his hard work, dedication and skills as a tour guide. Thank you, Meikle. Jack Kippen who has been a councillor for Frontenac will also be leaving the board and we thank him for all he's done for District 20. We welcome new executive members John Kitney and Nadene Strange as Travel co-chairs and Guy Leger and Doug Boulter as Frontenac councillors.

We are now looking to fill gaps that exist on our executive board. We require a **secretary** and a **Communications chair**, a position that requires someone with the skills to publish our newsletter three times a year. We are also looking for one more **councillor** from Lennox and Addington. Perhaps you or a retired teacher you know might be interested. During the next few months we will be planning activities for the year ahead and examining our current practices.

(Continued on page 2)



RTO Scholarships 2010

Congratulations to James Kinghorn and Matthew Sheffield, who were District 20's successful applicants for the 2010 RTO Scholarships.

These scholarships (\$1000) are awarded to candidates who are related to RTO/ERO members and are planning a career in education in Canada. The scholarships are part of the provincial Project Service to Others (STO) initiative.

For more information, please visit the RTO/ERO website - www.rto-ero.org.

The successful applicants for the District 20 STO Awards for 2010 are listed on pgs. 5&6.

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(President's message continued.)

We welcome any suggestions for new activities that we might undertake or ideas of how we might do present events differently. Please send an e-mail or call with your input. We will consider all suggestions that are offered. We plan to continue with the luncheons and breakfasts that have been running successfully and remind you that all retired teachers are welcome to attend any of our functions. Of course the spring dinner meeting and the fall annual general dinner meeting will continue but perhaps with some changes.

I extend to you best wishes for a happy holiday season with family and friends and for a safe and relaxing winter whether you are remaining home to enjoy the winter or you choose to travel to warmer climates.

In Memoriam - We express our sympathy to the families and friends of these deceased members.

David Johnston – Prescott /Sybil Smith – Portland /Margaret Taylor – Napanee /Marion Mossop – Ottawa
Clarence Angst – Perth Kingston – Eunice Millan, Mary McCue, Edward Shaw, Brian Bender

MEMBER SERVICES – Liz Carson

Goodwill Convenors – We will be setting up new areas for Goodwill in the New Year. If you are a GW convenor and still have your old list please dispose of them. Thank you once again for all your help while working in this position.

Addresses and Email – Please make sure that your address, phone number and email is up to date. If you are not sure that they are current, please get in touch with Dianne Vezeau at RTO/ERO 1-800-9888-x223, dvezeau@rto-ero.org

Do you know of a teacher who is retired and not a member of RTO-ERO? Some retired teachers believe that you need to subscribe to Johnson's medical plan to be a member of RTO-ERO. That is not true; you can belong to our organization and not take the medical. If they wish to join it will cost approximately \$ 1.25/\$ 1 000 of gross annual pension. Please have them get in touch with me and I will send them a package with all the information. Liz Carson - 613 389-5419 - carsonl@hotmail.com

Health and Insurance Report - Bill Leroux

The new Benefits booklet will be out in January. Watch for your copy and check out the changes. New this year, any increases in premiums will now be taken if January. This used to happen in February.

“The Health Services and Insurance Committee has moved that any change in premium will coincide with plan changes at the beginning of the calendar year.”

Now that the travel season is upon us, there are a few important things to remember. In a medical emergency:

- In a life-threatening situation, seek immediate medical attention.
- When you get to the hospital (or as soon as is reasonably possible and within 48 hours), contact Mondial. In other situations, where treatment is being contemplated, contact Mondial to verify coverage. If ever in doubt contact Mondial before or during your travels.

A few things you will be asked by a Mondial representative:

- Details of the emergency and the type of assistance you require
- Member's full name, group/plan number, certificate number
- Patient's name
- Patient's provincial health insurance number

Remember that you must contact Mondial Assistance within 48 hours of the emergency, or payment will be limited to \$2000 per insured person. If you are unable to contact Mondial on your own behalf, have a travelling companion or your medical assistant do it for you.

(Health and Insurance Report continued.)

You should keep the following information in your passport: fill in the information as found on your Blue Card and clip out for passport.

Name:

Ontario Health Insurance Number:

Telephone Number for Mondial Assistance

1.800.249.6556 in Canada or the Us

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 Toll Free (see back of Booklet)

519.742.6683 collect from anywhere

RTO I:D #

Extended Health Care #

2010 RTO District 20 Golf Tournament Report

On Mon, Sept. 20th, at Smuggler's Glen Golf Course, the 7th Annual RTO District 20 Tournament was held. It was a gorgeous day, sunny and warm for the approximately 125 golfers from all over Eastern Ontario. Everyone had an enjoyable time as the participants played a variety of games in the non-competitive, fun event.

Prizes were strictly by draw. Everyone went home with a gift. Specific closest to the hole contests were held on the par 3's with the following winners: #2 – Joanne Dunlop, #8 – Peter Read, #10 - Lou Murray, #16 - Don Boudreau.

Many thanks to our numerous sponsors listed below. Also kudos to our hosts, Dave and Jane Seal, owners of Smuggler's Glen, who each year provide us with the opportunity to play the number one rated public course in Eastern Ontario.

The tournament is always held on the third Monday of September, so **mark your calendar for Sept. 19, 2011.**

Our Sponsors: Smuggler's Glen, RTO District 20, RTO District 32, Tait's Bakery, Proctor & Gamble, Brockville Home Hardware & Building Center, Canadian Snowbird Ass., YUPI Foods, Fairinex, Buell Street Bistro, Tim Hortons, Upper Canada District School Board, ETFO-Upper Canada Local, Sue Frith
 Convenor – Randy Frith

RTO DISTRICT 20 TRAVEL NEWS

With the birth of District 48, you might be wondering what will happen to our Travel Programme. The answer is that we will continue to operate as one unit under the umbrella of the Kingston Regional Retired Teachers Travel Council. This Council will effectively bring together the travel chairs and travel committee members of the newly configured District 20 (Frontenac, Lennox & Addington) and the new District 48 (Leeds & Grenville). We expect to continue to develop a liaison with District 19 (Hastings & Prince Edward County) and with District 29 (Lanark).

There are some other changes taking place. Meikle Turner will retire as Travel Chair for District 20, but will remain on the Travel Committee next year. Incoming on the District 20 executive will be Nadene Strange and John Kitney as co-chairs for travel. Odyssey Travel, our professional partner for many years is now officially known as Merit-Odyssey. Anna Kovachis continues as the Manager of the Kingston Group Tours Division.

On The Travel Trail our Australia & New Zealand (with John & Karen Kitney) departed from Canada on Oct. 21st and the group will have returned from their six-week adventure by the time you read this newsletter. If you are interested in any of our three 2011 Winter Escape Destinations you need to register as soon as possible.

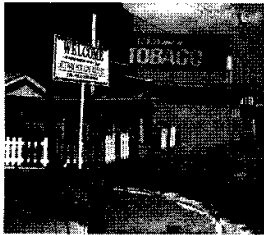
Our May/June Scandinavia 2011 folio is available. Registrations for this tour, led by Nadene Strange, are currently being received at the Merit-Odyssey office in Kingston.

The folio for our Indochina Explorer Programme, scheduled for Oct. 23rd to Nov. 10th (led by Bill & Lisa Leroux), is now available.

Looking Ahead – We are looking at a number of shorter tours in the spring and in the fall within Canada or the Northeastern U.S. (Churchill and our polar bears, the whales of Tadoussac and the magnificent gardens of Pennsylvania).

More exotic or adventurous destinations on our radar include East Africa, India and Patagonia.

There is still time to register for any of our three Winter Escapes



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
Our New Winter Destination
Jan. 15th – 28th 2011



St. Vincent & The Grenadines
Feb. 5th – 20th 2011



PORTUGAL LONG STAY
Stay three, four or six weeks
From Feb. 22nd 2011

Contact Meikle Turner 613-542-7744 or Nadene Strange 613-542-5796 for any tour folio. Please **do not delay if you are interested.** Air space and accommodation become increasingly difficult to secure as time goes by.

All tours operated in conjunction with Merit Odyssey Group Tours (TICO # 50017676)
182 Princess Street, Kingston, Ontario K7L 1B1 - Anna Kovachis, Groups Manager 613-549-3342 Ext 3371

ENTERTAINMENT - LUNCHES - CARING - SHARING

Do any of the above interest you? Why not consider joining **the Brockville Branch of Retired Women Teachers of Ontario.**
For info call 613 342-5779 or 613-924-2052.

Scandinavia & St. Petersburg *May 25- June 15, 2011*

**We will travel by ferry, by coach, by train, by boat, by Troll cars and by plane
for a comprehensive and extensive tour of these five incredible countries**



Denmark - We begin with a visit to Copenhagen, the vibrant Danish capital. Visit the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, the colourful canal district, the Christiansborg Palace, the Tivoli Gardens and the famous Little Mermaid.

Norway - In Oslo visit the Viking Ship Museum and Vigeland Sculpture Park before heading north to ride the world famous Flam train and cross fjords such as Hardanger, Sognefjord and the UNESCO World Heritage Geiranger Fjord. We will see stunning views and travel to the very snout of glaciers to experience the breathtaking blue ice.

Sweden - Stockholm will include the Royal Palace and the 24,000 islands of the archipelago. We will also visit the WASA museum, home of the "Wasa" that sank in 1628 and was brought to the surface in 1961. The "Wasa" is the only preserved 17th century ship in the world. We will stop for a beverage at an Ice Bar (warm clothes are provided !).

Finland - Helsinki has 13 distinctive gilded cupolas and the Tempelaaikio Church-carved into solid rock. We will visit the 1952 Olympics site, the Uspensky Cathedral and Suomenlinna Fortress & enjoy a traditional Lapland dinner.

Russia - We will end our tour by spending 4 magnificent days in St Petersburg. St Petersburg was founded in 1703 by Tsar Peter the Great and is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. It will dazzle you with splendid palaces, stylish monuments, straight avenues bridges and other attractions. St Petersburg is filled with history and mystery with the focus on art and design. We will visit the Winter Palace, the Amber Room at Catherine's Palace, the babbling fountains and gardens of Peterhof, the palace of the Sea God as well as having time to spend at the Hermitage Museum. Our time in St Petersburg will not be rushed so that you can truly absorb its magnificence.

Our tour includes all transportation (air, sea and land), all transfers, accommodation- including overnight ferries - porter services, breakfast daily, 8 lunches and 14 dinners, as well as a local guide in each area. All taxes and gratuities are included. No hidden extras.

\$7795.00 per person based on double occupancy, single supplement \$ 1,950.00

For our detailed itinerary please contact Nadene Strange 613-542-5796 - nadenest@yahoo.ca
or Anna at Merit Odyssey Group Tours (Tico # 50017676) 613-549-3342 x 3371 or 800-263-0050

Service to Others – Kevin Long

One of the joys in District 20 each year is to provide funds to organizations doing community work, for local service projects. We particularly like to provide funding for projects in which RTO members are visibly and actively involved in assisting their communities. This year a total of \$6000 is being distributed, with \$2000 given in each of our three counties. The executive has approved the following projects to receive Service to Others funding this year:

Lennox & Addington

- Tales & Tunes for Tots (early literacy kits): \$1000
- "It's Music to Our Ears" at The Prince Charles School in Napanee (musical instruments): \$1000.

(Continued on page 6)

Indochina Explorer - October 23 – November 16, 2011

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

Thailand offers a wonderful diversity of ancient cities, Buddhist temples, warm hospitality and astonishing natural beauty. From the bright lights of vibrant Bangkok to the lively colour of the hill villages, Thailand is sure to captivate. The busy night market in the northern capital of Chiang Mai offers a great chance to sharpen your bargaining skills. You'll spend a night in a traditional Thai teak house, a unique opportunity to understand the local way of life.

Laos, the hidden gem of Asia, offers a stunning portrait of traditional South East Asian life. Experience tranquil life by the Mekong River while passing gorgeous and lush countryside. Against a setting of Buddhist monuments and crumbling French colonial architecture in Luang Prabang, encounter welcoming locals who have often had little contact with foreigners. Vientiane is one of the world's most relaxed capital cities with the pace and mood of a large country town.

Vietnam offers a kaleidoscope of colour and beauty throughout its picturesque countryside, fascinating cities and spectacular coast. Hanoi has a charm not found in most capital cities. The old area is built around Hoan Kiem Lake where, at dawn, many of the locals gather to play badminton or practice Tai chi. Halong Bay is famous for the 3000 craggy islands that rise dramatically out of its crystal clear waters. Enjoy a stroll through the maze of narrow streets in the ancient port of Hoi An. Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) is considered the "Pearl of the Orient". Much of the city life takes place on the streets which are lined with stores, shops, stalls and vendors with their wares spread out selling everything from soup to sophisticated electronics.

Cambodia's scenic beauty and the diverse legacies of its history make this country truly fascinating. Explore the incredible temples and palaces of the vast complex of Angkor, where some temples are still claimed by the jungle. Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, offers a riverside city of cafes, shady streets and thriving markets full of vibrant textiles and curios.



Cost: \$8,895.00 per person dbl occ. Singles add \$1,750.00. If you would like to receive further information once the details have been confirmed, please contact your tour leaders **Bill & Lisa Leroux** at 613-342-2512 william.leroux@sympatico.ca or Anna at Merit Odyssey Group Tours (Tico # 50017676) Tel: 613-549-3342 x 3371 or 800-263-0050

Service to Others - continued

Frontenac

- Bags Plus (bags of items such as toiletries, books or clothes for the disadvantaged): \$500.
- HUGS (Help Us Grow Strong) – dolls & blankets for hospitalized children: \$750.
- The "Blue Zone" Way: Health Lessons for Life/New Leaf Link (NeLL), Sydenham (teaching materials & food for those with developmental disabilities): \$750.

Leeds & Grenville

- Fun with Books – Book Publishing Adventure (to help print & distribute books to pre-school children): \$500.
- Restoration of the Elgin Red Brick School (towards furnace): \$250.
- Library After School Program-"Lending a Hand" in North Grenville (early readers for homework help): \$500.
- St. Michael's Amateur Wrestling Club in Kemptville (wrestling throw dummies): \$250.
- St. Joseph's Catholic School Breakfast Club in Gananoque (food): \$500.

District 20/District 48: Now what? I'm confused! - FAQ about the new structure

What is District 48?

When you join RTO/ERO, you are assigned to a specific district, based on where you taught and where you live. The 600+ members of District 20 who live in Leeds and Grenville Counties chose to become a separate RTO/ERO district by ballot over the summer. This decision was affirmed at the Fall Senate of the Provincial RTO/ERO, and the new District, **District 48, will come into existence on January 1, 2011.** Those people who do not live in Leeds and Grenville remain, as always, in District 20, now comprising retirees in Frontenac, Lennox and Addington.

What will be the Same and Different Now?

Other than separate newsletters for the two Districts, it is unlikely that most members will notice a difference right away. Because Johnson Inc. administers the Health and Travel Insurance plans from Toronto, the only potential change is the local contact person. The very successful local travel program will be available to all District 20/District 48 members. Monthly breakfasts and luncheons will not change for now, and everyone is invited.

However, the smaller and more "focused" size of the two districts will improve opportunities for member recruitment, member services like Goodwill, social activities, volunteering opportunities and political advocacy in a smaller geographic area. The general meetings and other activities will be held closer to your home. Likely, you'll know some of the people who are serving on the executive. Hopefully, it will encourage you to become more involved, to make the two new Districts yours!

Am I in District 48?

Those who received a ballot in July are in District 48 whether you voted for it or not. If you have recently joined RTO/ERO and live in Leeds and Grenville, you have been or soon will be contacted about your status. If you are an Associate member with a Leeds and Grenville connection, you are also a member of District 48. Unless the post office made an error, with the above exceptions, **if you did not get a letter you are still a member of District 20.**

So, do I have to stay in the District I am assigned to?

No. And there are some people who would no doubt like to belong in the other place. If you want to transfer your membership to the other district, you must do so by contacting Diane Vezeau, Membership Database Administrator at the RTO/ERO office. Diane can be reached by email at dvezeau@rto-ero.org, or by telephone at 1-800-361-9888, extension 223. Diane will be able to confirm the district to which you have been assigned and make any changes you request. She will need your membership number.

I still need help! Who do I ask?

In Leeds and Grenville, contact Mary Lou Smitheram, email mary.lou.smitheram@gmail.com, 613-342-3135. In Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, contact Liz Carson, email carsonl@hotmail.com, 613-389-5419.

Regular Breakfasts & Lunches (GreetnEats) for 2010/2011

Westport: The 2nd Wednesday at The Station House (9 am).

Brockville: CJ's, at 8:30 am on the 3rd Thursday.

Gananoque: on the 1st Thursday at 9:30 am back at Good Time Charley's.

Merrickville: on the 1st Friday, 10:00 am, at the Goose and Gridiron. On Fri. Dec. 3rd, Grant Birtch will be playing and leading us in singing some Christmas carols. All welcome.

Kingston: - 9:30 am on the 2nd Wednesday at the Lasalle Travelodge.

The next luncheon in **North Addington** will be held on Thursday, December 2 at 11:30 a.m. at Addison's Restaurant in **Northbrook**. If you'd like to attend, please email kclong@frontenac.net or phone 613-479-2837 by noon on Nov. 30.

The next luncheon in **North/Central Frontenac** will take place on Thursday, December 9 at 11:30 a.m. at Fall River Pub & Grill in **Maberly**. If you'd like to attend, please email kclong@frontenac.net or phone 613-279-2098 by Dec. 7.

2010-2011 District 20 Executive			
President	Nina Jenkins	613-279-2945	lornin@kingston.net
Past Pres.	Bud Acton	613-354-5642	wbudacton@sympatico.ca
1 st VP – Pension & Retirement Concerns	Harry Murphy	613-384-3413	m2514@kingston.net
Secretary	vacant		
Member Services	Liz Carson	613-389-5419	carsonl@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Madeleine Wotherspoon	613-386-9809	madlyn1912@gmail.com
Councillors			
Land A	Dave Fisher	613-354-9394	fisherdb@sympatico.ca
	vacant		
Frontenac	Kevin Long	613-279-2098	kclong@frontenac.net
	Guy Leger	613-384-3206	gleger@sympatico.ca
	Doug Boulter	613-374-3206	boulter@kingston.net
Committee Chairs			
Health Services and Ins.	Dave Fisher	613-354-9394	fisherdb@sympatico.ca
Communications	vacant		
Political Action	Bud Acton	613-354-5642	wbudacton@sympatico.ca
Travel	John Kitney	613-546-6378	kitneyj@kingston.net
	Nadene Strange	613-542-5796	namenest@yahoo.ca

2011 District 48 Executive – Under Construction

In the recently minted District 48 – Leeds & Grenville, we currently have a group working on the framework for our new district. Current members are: Norma Thompson, Helen Earle, Peter Sampson, Maureen Sampson, Brian Woods, Mary Lou Smitheram and Gord Hough. All are welcome to join and/or submit ideas.

If interested contact: Gord Hough-613-342-0062-email below, Mary Lou Smitheram-contact info on page 7

The Fine Print- As this is my last effort as Editor of Vision 20/20, I would like to take this space to recruit and offer support to the future Editor. This is a challenging and rewarding job that should appeal to anyone interested in life-long learning. It does not require that you have the ability to write since so much material is submitted. It does require some knowledge of Word (the program currently used) and a few organizing skills (both of which I am getting better at as a result of this job). If you are interested, please call or email. Thanks. Gord

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Editor - Gord Hough - gordhough@sympatico.ca

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