



Chit Chat

Lambton District 38

www.rtolambton.on.ca

President's Report

Ian Cryer

Much has happened since the last Newsletter was printed and shared. On the Provincial level, the Fall Senate was quite interesting. The Board of Directors is considering a change to the member fee structure. Currently the fee is a percentage of pension. The change would see a flat rate fee implemented. The District Executive had a presentation at the January Executive Meeting from RTO Director Jackie Aird who is our liaison. After a spirited discussion, the Executive Meeting passed a motion to maintain a percent based fee. This motion will be passed along to the Board of Directors. A second area of consideration by the Provincial Board of Directors is to review the "RTO Brand". As our membership continues to grow and expand beyond our core group of retired teachers, suggestions have come forward about rebranding even to the possibility of implementing a name change for the organization. Stay Tuned! Our District Executive will likely have a motion to present at May Senate.

Locally, we had a very successful Christmas General Meeting and Luncheon at the Best Western Guildwood Inn on December 5th. More than a hundred members attended. Our business was successfully concluded, a presentation was given about therapy dogs with five guest dogs, as well as entertainment by the Sisters of Soul, complemented an excellent dinner! Thanks to our Social Committee for looking after all the arrangements.

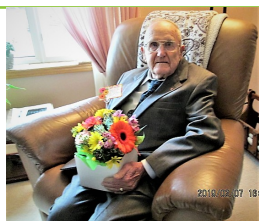
To conclude my report, I would like to share with you that my wife Judy and I will be moving to Goderich. We have purchased a new home and anticipate moving in before the end of March. It has been an honour to serve Lambton District.

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Save these Dates

Executive meeting	April 09
(all are welcome)	
RPW	April 10
Spring AGM	June 17
Executive meeting	May 14
(all are welcome)	
First Friday	Sept. 06
Christmas Dinner	Dec. 10



Wilfred Spivey was born and raised on a farm near Brussels, Ontario where he attended high school. He walked or skied into town on Monday mornings and then back home on Fridays after school. During the week he stayed with his great aunt.

In 1949 after grade thirteen Wilfred attended Stratford Normal School. His class continues to meet in a Stratford restaurant for an anniversary dinner every May.

Wilfred began his teaching career in a rural one-room school in Morris Township with twenty-two pupils in grades one to eight. His starting salary was \$1400 per year. By 1954 Wilfred and his wife, Georgina, moved south to Point Edward. He taught at Edward Street School, located near the current Point Edward fire hall, then at the new Bridgeview for twenty years when five hundred children attended.

Local people may remember Georgina from her long career in the restaurants at Gateway Steakhouse and the Chipican. She worked mostly nights so she and Wilfred passed each other at the front door as she left for work when he returned from school. During the school year Wilfred commuted to Windsor for night school classes then took two courses every summer while staying in Windsor. Thus, he earned his degree. His thirty-four years of teaching included four years at Lansdowne and four at Murray Street in Corunna, from which he retired as vice principal. He retired on a Friday and on Sunday his former principal Don Williams encouraged him to sign on as a starter at Huron Oaks Golf Club. That led to about sixteen summers on the course.

The Spiveys continue to enjoy their home and recently celebrated with thirty-four family members. They are fortunate that three of their four children live in Point Edward and Sarnia as do many of their grandchildren and great grandchildren. One daughter is like her father, a retired teacher. He also has a grandson who is a supply teacher with the Lambton Kent Board.

Wilfred often walks from Point Edward to the main gates of Canatara Park. He recommends staying active even if it means walking inside the house in poor weather and gardening in fine weather. He has easy access to the trails which are former railway tracks in Point Edward. Best wishes, Wilfred! KEEP ON WALKING! The Spiveys say keep active. That is surely working for them!



**Frances
Lewis**

Fran is a life-long Sarnian. She was born and raised here with three older sisters and a younger brother. Her sister June Bannister is also an RTO member. Fran attended a number of elementary schools including Confederation Street and Wellington Street. She then attended SCITS for high school where she later taught for her entire career.

After finishing high school Fran worked at Polymer in the gas lab for a year in order to save money to attend university at Western. Then she was back at SCITS to teach English and French.

Fran embraces her family of a son who lives in British Columbia, a daughter and a son-in-law who live north of Toronto as well as their two lovely daughters.

Welcome to RTO/ERO District 38 Retirement Planning Workshop



Presentation will begin at 5:00pm

While others arrive please:

- Enjoy the snacks and refreshments
- Meet and mingle with friends & peers
- Activate your FREE RTO/ERO membership

Workshop Agenda

5:00 pm
Welcome
Get to know RTO/ERO

Your Roadmap to Retirement

- Your Health
- Your Wealth
- Your Happiness

7:30 pm
Adjournment

- ✓ The presentation slides are in your workshop manual so that you can follow along
- ✓ Question periods are scheduled throughout the workshop
We're here to help, ask us anything you need!
- ✓ There will be a break halfway through the workshop. Please take breaks as you need them
- ✓ Membership is FREE while you're employed! Ask us about signing up today and automatically enter for your chance to win the Deluxe Travel Package
- ✓ We value your feedback! Following this workshop, you'll be emailed a survey to tell us about what you've learned today



RTO Sarnia-Lambton

Please join us for a FREE brunch to celebrate the first September of your retirement. If you wish to attend please **RSVP** to Sandra Marshall at sandramembership1@gmail.com, no later than Friday, Aug. 30, 2019.

FIRST FRIDAY BRUNCH

Friday Sept 6, 2019
Beginning at 10:30 AM
At the Sarnia Golf and Curling Club

All RTO members and guests of the new retirees are invited to attend, for a preregistered cost of \$20.00.

Sponsored by RTO/ERO
District 38,
Sarnia-Lambton



Please let spouses, friends and former colleagues know about this important upcoming event. It is never too early to start preparing for your retirement.

For more information on the above event contact :

Sandra Marshall -

sandramembership1@gmail.com

Linda Quinn-Kennefick

kennefick@sympatico.ca

Thank You Ian

The executive, on behalf the entire Lambton 38 District, thanks you for your leadership over the last number of years. We wish you well with your move to Goderich.

Stay in Touch!

If you are not receiving RTO Lambton e-bulletins, please send your e-mail address to petelayc@cogeco.ca

Staying Connected

Have you moved? Do you have a new mailing address? Have you changed your name, your phone number or your email address? Please update your information with the provincial office of RTO. The contact information is below:

The Retired Teachers of Ontario

Membership Database Administrator

18 Spadina Road, Suite 300

Toronto, Ontario M5R2S7

Phone: 1-416-962-9463 or 1-800-361-9888

or email: membership@rto-ero.org

September

Jean Caven
 Louise McQueen
 Marilyn Madery
 John Lewis
 Lawrence Scully
 Thomas Hamilton
 Melba Alexander
 Ronald Morpew
 Jacqueline Krech
 Shirley Thompson
 James Miller
 Marilyn Swan
 Nathley Leitch
 Marjorie Harris
 William Dobbin
 Carolyn Arnold
 George Holbrook
 Maria Wolff
 Catherine
 Hefferman
 Ruth Haughey
 Irene Hill

October

William Palmer
 Jenny McGinley
 Betty Searson-
 Anderson
 Elizabeth Humphrey
 R Dale Robinson
 Terrance Taylor
 Barbara Moore
 June Verbeem
 Shirley McFarlane
 Gail Dalman
 Harvey Doell
 Alice Francis
 Eugene McCaffrey
 Jules Levesque
 Betty Greening
 Edward Davies
 Ada Thomas-Shaw
 Clara Hodgson
 William Danylchuk
 Joyce Skuce
 Margaret McDonald

November

Bill Blake
 Betty Bradley
 Constance Bradley
 Carol Mullins
 Samir Kheir
 Lynda Lewis
 Mary Miller
 Gwenneth Frankland
 Richard Marcella
 Erleine Stephens
 Arthur Lloyd
 Allan Ward
 Jacqueline
 Morrissey
 Gladys Howarth
 Georgina Jones
 Marion Douey
 Marion Mummery

December

Mary Helen Garvie
 John Hunter
 Stella Marie Lannon
 Doreen Blake
 Joachim Knackstedt
 Frederick Meyers
 John Choy
 David Gilham
 Muriel Shepherd
 M Caroline Fera
 William Green
 Roger Emery
 June Maginn
 Corrine Gill
 Bertha -Rose Park
 Eleanor Ritchie
 Sara Townsend
 Evelyn Lecky
 Eleanor Doolittle
 Dorothy Plumley
 Francis Lewis
 Helen Cassidy
 Priscilla Harkins
 Joyce Kelly
 Mary Wade
 Mary Moran

January

Noreen Kells
 B Carol Oostenbrink
 Anne Hummel
 Alma Vansteenkiste
 Joseph Seward
 Dorothy Vogt
 Catherine Brinston
 Beth Vanderhoeden
 Joan Hinch
 Ella Norton

Marilyn Robertson
 Gerald Bernardo
 Elaine Lathem
 Eugene Graham
 Jean Haggitt
 Monica McCall
 James Martell
 Shirley Mousseau
 Elsie Robbins
 Elie Bergeron

Robert Farrar
 Robert Marsh
 Gavin Hall
 Joan Downie
 Gene Fleet
 Mildred Packer
 Frances McLean
 Emily Gaborko
 Doris Withenshaw



**Goodwill Report
(Audrey Hendrickson)**



Seventy-eight RTO members over the age of ninety and members who are residents of care facilities that serve meals were contacted in December with visits and poinsettias or with gift cards. In June 2019 this group will receive visits and gifts. This will be a joint project with RTO and the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario (RWTO) Sarnia Lambton.

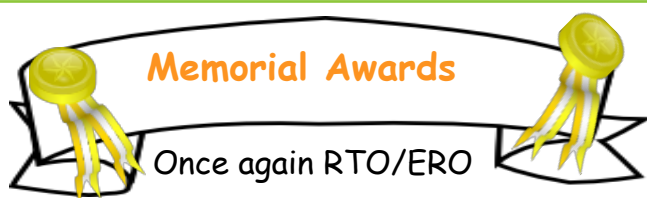
The Goodwill committee thanks all the volunteers who assisted with poinsettias delivery. Volunteers are always needed to assist with June and December visits and deliveries. If you wish to volunteer please contact Gail Gilroy (519-869 8694 or cgilroy@sympatico.ca), Audrey Hendrickson (519-541-1747 or staddonlea@mnsi.net).

Contact any Goodwill Committee member whenever you hear of something happening to one of our members such as change of address to a nursing home or someone confined to home, milestone anniversaries, marriages, people in the news, illnesses, births, deaths or a shut-in needing a pick-me-up visit. Our thanks to Gail Gilroy who sends sympathy cards and thinking of you cards to

members who are ill or hospitalized. We welcomed Joan McPhedran to the committee in 2018. She helps Gail, will organize recognition for long serving executive members and, helps with our visits and gift delivery. Contact Joan at 519-336-4913 or by e-mail at joanmcphedran@gmail.com.

Other committee members are Pat Poland (519-869-4909 ppoland1@gmail.com) who purchases and mails birthday cards to those members eighty and older and Kathy Bandla (kbandla@cogeco.ca 519-337-8682) who has sent out about seventy- six valentines this year. Last year Kathy prepared about seventeen certificates for members who have had 90th, 95th and 100th birthdays. For the first six weeks of 2019 she prepared certificates for three newly minted ninety year olds.

Business cards with our contact information are available at all General Meetings. Thanks to Carl Gilroy for printing business cards and doing other computer work for the Goodwill Committee.



District 38 awarded 5 bursaries to Lambton students furthering their education after secondary school. These bursaries are awarded in memory of our local RTO members who have passed away. Students may contact their schools' student services departments to apply for RTO bursaries. Application forms for provincial RTO scholarships for post-secondary students are available online. The recipients were:

Elizabeth Newman, Great Lakes S.S

Sylvia Persichetti, St. Patrick's High School

Ken Cawley, Great Lakes S.S.

Beth Schoenmakers, St. Patrick's High School

Tess Crozier, Northern Collegiate Inst. & Voc. School

RTO Foundation Report (Ian Cryer)

The primary focus of the Foundation has been on Social Isolation. A successful campaign was launched in October. There was a presentation at the Fall Senate. The Pensions and Retirement Concerns Committee also had a focus on this at their provincial workshop. A significant number of members responded to an invitation and signed up to support the effort to reduce Social Isolation. You can find more information about this on the RTO website (www.rto-ero.org/support-the-foundation). Signing up will also give you access to the "End Isolation Challenges"; a list of simple actions that we all can take to ensure older people in our families, social networks and communities feel included and supported.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of several of our members and we offer our sincerest sympathy to family and friends. We know that treasured memories will help to ease the pain in time.

Dick Graham	Margaret Sharp
Beulah Brennan	Shirley Slatterie
Virginia McArthur	Ruth Haughey
Marjorie Hands	Dorothy Shea
Verna Johnson	Linda Reid
Phillip West	Karen Smith
Brenda Evans	Robert Griffin
Kathleen Mitchell	Marlene Hemstreet

Pension Retirement and Concerns (Rosanne Orcutt)

Your Pension and Retirement Concerns Committee continues to stress Social Isolation amongst seniors. If you would like to alleviate some of the problem, please check this website for ideas:

www.helpagecanada.ca

RTO/ERO will send an e-blast to you recommending that you add your name to the petition developed by ACER-CART, that the government promote and protect pensions for all Canadians in the future and that Bill C-27 be withdrawn. You can access the petition at the following link:

<http://petitions.ourcommons/en/Petitions/Details?Petition=e-2039>

****VOLUNTEERS NEEDED****

WE can use your help. There are a number of unfilled positions on our executive. They include Health Benefit Chair, Foundation Rep and Personal Development Chair. Contact anyone on the executive to learn more. Or join us at our next meeting to learn more. The executive meetings are held at the OSSTF office.

Health Insurance (Ian Cryer)

In late November, members who are part of our RTO Insurance Plan received information about changes to our insurance and premium increases. There are fewer changes for 2019 as there continues to be pressure on our plan due to inflation, increased utilization of various components of our plan and the increases on our travel coverage due to the exchange rates, primarily against the American dollar.



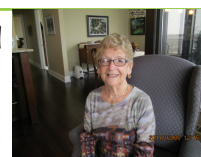
Members who have the Extended Health Care coverage, may be aware that there is a new Wellness Portal with excellent health information resources. You can find this portal on the RTO Homepage or enter this link on your internet browser:

www.rto-ero.org/mywellness.

A feature of the Wellness Portal is a "Total Health Challenge" which allows any member (with Extended Health Care coverage) to track their daily activities and enter them. In the process of doing this, you are taken on a virtual tour across Canada with stops at about a dozen National Parks along the way. The challenge began on January 7th and ran until February 1st. I participated in the challenge and found it very interesting. I reached my "destination" in late January and was the sixth person to do so. Watch for a future challenge later in the year.



Helen Cassidy was born and raised in the Copper Cliff, now part of Sudbury. Helen was one of 11



children in a French Canadian family. She spoke French until she went to elementary school. After high school, in 1947 she left home to attend the University of Toronto. She took a general arts degree, at the time called Pass Arts. She then attended teachers' college at OCE intending to teach French and Physical Education in Sudbury. While she was teaching there Clem Cassidy came on staff. They married in 1954 and came to Sarnia when Northern Collegiate was opening.

Helen taught at Petrolia High School before giving birth to three daughters. In those days mothers resigned from the labour force and stayed at home with their babies. When their youngest daughter was in grade seven or eight Helen went back to work as a supply teacher. Returning to teaching was eye opening. Discussions were open, no subject was private and language was colourful. In addition to supply work she continued to utilize her teaching skills by teaching night school at SCITS twice a week. She taught gym classes (Slim and Trim) and volleyball for many years. The facilities at SCITS allowed the adults to use the swimming pool, too. Helen was also involved with Girl Guides at Sacred Heart Church.

Today, Helen enjoys duplicate bridge at the Sardo Club, formerly St. Peter's Church. She feels blessed to be able to attend numerous community activities including the programs at the Art Gallery, films with CineSarnia and Live at the Met opera at the local theatre. Recently she celebrated her birthday in Toronto with her three daughters, nine grandchildren, partners and one little great grandson who now has a new baby sister. Two of Helen's daughters are engineers and one followed her parents into teaching.....**Best Wishes, Helen!**

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Pelee Island Ferry Winery
Long Point UNESCO World Biodome
Niagara Winery

We're excited to provide special interest day trips with a focus on The Arts, Nature, Food & Wine and we toss in a little shopping too. Departure from Sarnia on a deluxe washroom equipped motor-coach. Please watch your inbox, because once these are fine-tuned we will blast it to you along with a booking form. We need your support to ensure this program's success!

merit travel

Merit Travel London | 114-101 Cherryhill Blvd.
519.472.2700 | 1.800.265.1141 | MeritTravel.com

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Spring AGM

Tuesday June 17, 2019

11 am Social

11:30 am Meeting

12:15 pm Dinner

Cost \$25

Sarnia Legion

Holiday Dinner and AGM

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

11 am Social

11:30 am Meeting

12:15 pm Dinner

Cost \$25

Best Western

Social Registration Form

Note: Make cheques payable to RTO/ERO District 38.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Guests: _____

Spring AGM - June 17, 2019

_____ tickets @ \$25 each

Send cheques by June 7, 2019

Holiday Dinner and AGM - December 10, 2019

_____ tickets @ \$25 each

Send cheques by November 22, 2019

Detach and send form to:

Ann Pearce, 879 Bond Street, Sarnia, Ontario, N7S 2E7