



Visit us on the web at: www.rtolambton.on.ca

President's Message Bert Phillips - President

Greetings from your executive. Your executive has continued to meet regularly and many of your executive have been attending meetings at the provincial level.

Spring will be a busy time for your executive. Our RPW will be held on March 22. If you know of any teacher who is close to retirement, encourage them to attend. Many of your executive will be in attendance to answer their questions. The annual Spring Forum will again be held in May. Your representatives at this meeting will be myself, Holger, Michele and Bill. At this meeting on May 13, **Entente Education Canada** will be presented for approval as the new name of RTOERO. We have heard from many of you and your executive understands that few of you are in favour of this as the new name of our organization. The four of us will represent your views at the Spring Forum and will vote accordingly.

Our Spring and Holiday dinners are on for this year!! Plan to join us. See page 8 for the details.

Until we are together again, take care and stay safe!

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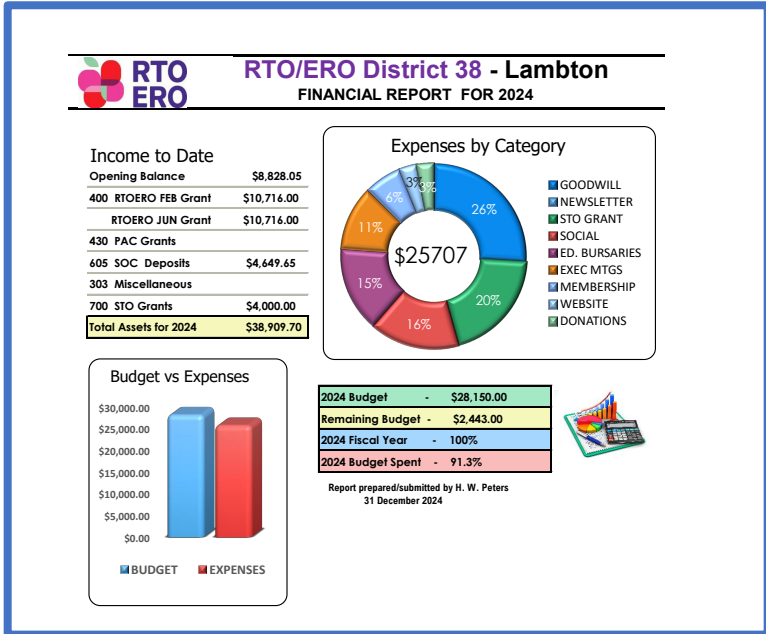
Birthday Wishes to Our Members

Changing privacy laws no longer allow us to publish the names of our members as we have done in the past. We would need the written permission of each member before putting a name in the newsletter. However, it doesn't stop us from wishing you a Happy Birthday.

So, to all those members who had a birthday since the last newsletter ...

Happy Birthday!!

We hope you enjoyed your special day!



Travel Tips for Contacting Global Assist

It's crucial to follow specific steps to get assistance and stay connected. Before travelling, ensure that your cell phone is set up for roaming and international use in case of emergencies. Contact your cellular provider for guidance beforehand. Additionally, consider the reliability of landlines, especially in destinations where outbound collect calls might be restricted, such as Cuba or on international cruises.

When making a call using a mobile phone, replace the international call prefix with "+" sign. For instance, +1-877-346-1467. Another option for you is to download the **Travel Aid** app. This app includes has a **Contact Us** option to automatically dial Global Excel.

If phoning is not an option, you can email Global Excel at assistance@globalexcel.com with a call-back number.

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



Thinking about retirement?
Retirement planning workshop

For anyone who

- Works in schools and school boards, early years, post-secondary
- Wishes to learn about retirement planning
- Wants a workshop tailored to the education community

Learn about

- Financial planning
- Health benefits in retirement
- Retirement and lifestyle planning

Attendees receive

- Retirement planning booklet
- Chance to win exciting prizes
- Free RTOERO membership until retirement

REGISTER
rtoero.ca/rpw

QUESTIONS
1-800-361-9888

PRESENTED BY

WHEN
Saturday, March 22, 2025
Breakfast: 9:00
Workshop: 9:30 - 11:30
(Duration: about 2 hours)


WHERE
Best Western Plus
Guildwood Inn
1400 Venetian Blvd
Point Edward ON N7T 7W6




Lambton District 38 2024 Memorial Award Recipients

The following students were chosen to receive the Lambton District 38 Retired Teachers' Memorial Awards. Each award was worth \$500. Executive members Michele, Alan, Robyn and Linda attended the schools to make the presentations.

- Jocelyn Jamieson North Lambton Secondary School
- Rylee Kerr Lambton Central Collegiate & Voc. Inst.
- Yoobin Kim Great Lakes Secondary School
- Molly (River) Lehrbass Northern Collegiate Inst. & Voc. School
- Alexandria Maness North Lambton Secondary School (SWAC)
- Jenna Mitchell Great Lakes Secondary School



At our Christmas Banquet, Holger and Bert presented a cheque for \$900 to Maria Muscedere from St. Joseph's Hospice



This is Jenna from Great Lakes Secondary School. Michele, from our executive attended the ceremony and presented the award on behalf of our district.



Contact information for the Retired Teachers of Ontario (Provincial Office)
 18 Spadina Road, Suite 300
 Toronto ON M5R 2S7
 1 416 962 9463 or 1800 361 9888
membership@rto.ero.org

Please contact the provincial office with changes of name, address, telephone number or email. All those folks who eliminated their home phones are asked to contact the above address with their cellphone numbers. Many email addresses of members were eliminated by provincial office on January 1st if their emails were undeliverable. Please check that your email address is current.



Goodwill Committee Update

Kathy Bandla continues to interview and honour our most senior members celebrating significant birthdays. Her interviews are featured on our website <https://www.rtolambton.on.ca/goodwill.htm>

Pat Gleason prepares and sends more birthday cards than there are days in the year (around 440 cards this year), acknowledging members who are 80 years or older. Pat, like all committee members, would ask you to keep us updated on changes in your circumstances or those of members you know - patgleason@cogeco.ca

The POINSETTIA Project 2024

This year, Goodwill committee member Linda Smith coordinated the delivery of 95 poinsettias to members in care facilities, senior residents and seniors living independently in their own homes. Thanks go to the following for helping with 74 local deliveries: Will Crich, Audrey Hendrickson, Theresa van Koeverden, Pat Gleason, Robyn Mortimer, Bill Woodcock, Shelley and Warren Litt, Carolyn Callaghan, JoAnne Marshall, Karen Rutledge, Marianne Nichols, Catherine Minielly, Louise Gibson, Joyce Vlcek, Connie Moore, Michele Vilcsak, and Jennifer Marchant.

Linda works on this project year-round, updating the list of recipients. She is hoping for volunteers who will help in November by calling out-of-area members to confirm addresses and phone numbers, as well as arranging deliveries of their plants through florists nearby. Contact Linda by email at jturvey@mnsi.net. Linda also sends sympathy cards and information for bereavements, as well as "Thinking of You" wishes when appropriate.

Did you know that....

The Canada Pension Plan (CPP) offers a survivor's pension. You're eligible if you were legally married to or the common-law partner (for at least one year) of a deceased CPP contributor.

For more information, see

canada.ca/en/services/benefits/publicpensions/cpp/cpp-survivor-pension.html.



Service to Others

In the picture above, Holger and Bert are presenting the \$4000 cheque to the LEO team. Pictured in the photo are Holger Peters, Kaitlyn Miner, Kim Geddy, Leanne Honke, James McHale and Claire Duncan.

This year your executive will be submitting an application on behalf of the local chapter of the Alzheimer Society. The local chapter has Active Living Programs and a wide range of other programs and services. These include and are not limited to: System Navigation, Care Planning, Education, Social Activation Programs, Individual and Group Support, Respite, and Day Programs, and Behaviour support.

Persons with dementia can be easily socially isolated. Social interaction appears to have a protective effect against dementia and may even slow the progression of the disease. The Active Living Programs include:

Forget Me Not Social Club, The Inspirational Memories Program, The Minds in Motion Programs, and the Mindful Music Program.

To learn more about what this organization provides in our community call:

519-332-4444

Benefits Update Changes Effective January 2025

Here are some important highlights you should be aware of:

Expanded membership eligibility — now allows immediate family of RTOERO members to apply to join the Entente plan

Prior authorization from a physician — required annually for some diabetes-management and weight-loss medications

Drug Optimization Program (DOP) — designed to help manage prescription drugs costs.

Each of us received the *Communique 2025* booklet. A detailed description of these improvements can be found there.

The Entente Benefit program is owned by us. We have a **Benefits Committee** made up of our members who oversee the running of the program. The program is focused on our members. This committee listens to our concerns and is dedicated to ensuring that our benefits program remains responsive to our needs, the evolving healthcare landscape and the challenges of an ever-changing world.

In 2025, the Benefits Committee will continue to actively monitor the National Pharmacare Strategy and the new Canadian Dental Care Plan to stay ahead of any developments that may impact our member.

For the year 2025, there will be a 5% premium rate increase which aligns with rising healthcare costs across Canada due to inflation.



EXCLUSIVE INVITATION TO THE COLUMBIA EMPLOYEE STORE FOR: Retired Teachers of Ontario - District 38 Members (Lambton)

ENTIRE STORE 40% OFF FULL RETAIL PRICING

VALID DATES
03/07/2025 - 03/30/2025
VALID FOR YOU + 4 GUESTS

WHAT TO BRING
THIS INVITATION
PHOTO I.D.
PROOF OF AFFILIATION

LOCATION & HOURS
1-1425 Max Brose Dr
London, CA
NGN 0A2
MON-FRI: 10A - 8P
SAT: 9:30A - 6P; SUN: 10A - 5P

YEAR-ROUND ACCESS
MILITARY PERSONNEL & FIRST RESPONDERS: EVERY DAY
SENIORS (65+): FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Questions? Please email: londonemployestore@columbia.com
Columbia encourages customers to bring a reusable shopping bag



While Supplies Last. Valid for one and up to 4 guests for multiple visits during store hours period. Columbia reserves the right to modify or cancel this offer at any time. Please present this original invitation to the cashier for entry and again at checkout. This invitation is non-transferable. You must be present during shopping. The products purchased are non-refundable for the buyer's own personal use, including gifts to others. Resale of products is strictly prohibited. Columbia Sportswear limits the number of items purchased to no more than 20 of same style. For item and company purchases, please speak to a member of our store management team. Offer may not be combined with any other offer or discount. Valid from dates listed above. ©2025 Columbia Brand USA, LLC



In Memoriam



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

- Annie Small
Gene Fleet
Margaret MacDonald
Dianne Rice
June Verbeem
Jackie Morrissey
Jean Haggitt
Al Cole
Doreen Cassin
Eric Shaver
Bartholomew Marcinkow

- Katherine McNeil
Al Lozier
Dorothy Acton
Lois Marley
Corrine Gill
Barbara Connop
Terrance Robinson
John Ramsay
Murray Metcalfe
Gerry Sprenger
Ruth Kernohan



Christmas Banquet 2024

Join the Fun with the District 38 Walking Club!

Bill Yates

Happily, the District 38 Walking Club continued its activities this fall. Once again, our walks have taken us along the picturesque trails of Canatara and Cathcart Parks, the Howard Watson Trail, as well as Centennial and Suncor Parks.

Each Wednesday, our dedicated group of walkers gathers not only to stroll but to share personal recommendations for restaurants to visit and suggestions for Netflix and Prime videos to watch. These outings provide rich opportunities for connection and engaging in meaningful conversations. The cheerful smiles that have always been a part of our gatherings are a testament to the fun and camaraderie we experience during our weekly hour of gentle exercise.

We invite you to consider joining the Walking Club on Wednesday mornings. You are always welcome, whether you can commit weekly or just occasionally. Please contact Bill Yates to be added to our weekly email list. This will ensure you receive timely reminders about where and when to join us.

We are confident you will enjoy the experience, and we look forward to welcoming you to our friendly, healthy, and inspiring group.

**Walk As Far As You Want
At The Speed You Want
Common Sense Will Always Be Our Guide**



Webinar Recordings on RTOERO Learning

If you missed some of last year's webinars, you can now find the recordings at rtoero.ca. The following sessions were recently added to RTOERO Learning:

- Entente Group Insurance Program - What's new for 2025
- Unravelling the newly launched Canadian Dental Care Plan
- Truth and Reconciliation today: How to move forward with intention
- Know your RTOERO travel insurance plan

Access them at rtoero.ca/learning. You'll need your membership number to log in.

Proposed Organizational Name Change Rosanne Orcutt

RTOERO Directors in Toronto have decided that our legally incorporated name, "The Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO) / Les enseignantes et enseignants retraités de l'Ontario (ERO)" must be changed in order to increase our membership. Their first effort at the name change was defeated in 2019. Now they are proposing that we become, "**Entente Education Canada.**" As Bert mentioned earlier in this newsletter, the vote will take place at the Spring Forum in May. Our members will not vote in favour of this motion.

Our Executive has proposed and sent a motion for the May 2025 meeting which says that the name of our corporation remain as it was legally incorporated until at least 2030. If the Directors' motion is passed, our motion will be deemed moot. If the Directors' motion is defeated, then our motion should come to the floor for a vote.

Contact a member of your executive if you have any questions.

Note: It is now possible to pay for our social events using your credit card online. If you receive this newsletter electronically, simply click the link below and follow the instructions. Holger and Carol will be on holidays this spring. So for the spring event only, after you have paid online send an email to Bert at president38@districts.rtoero.ca telling him you have paid online and the names of those included in the payment. If you receive a paper edition, you can still pay online. Go to our webpage at rtolambton.on.ca. Go to the Social page. The link for payment can be found there.

https://web.na.bambora.com/scripts/payment/payment.asp?merchant_id=117689328&ref1=District-38&hashValue=6b7515c81619e128472f7a32b7312d803dbc5a48

Spring Dinner and AGM

Tuesday, June 4, 2025

11 am Social

11:30 Meeting

12:15 Dinner

Cost \$30

Sarnia Legion

Holiday Dinner

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

11:30 Social

12:00 Dinner

Cost \$30

Best Western

Registration Form

Note: Make Cheques Payable to RTO/ERO Lambton District 38

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Guests: _____

Spring AGM - June 4, 2025

_____ tickets @\$30 each

Send cheques by May 30, 2025

Holiday Dinner and AGM - December 10, 2025

_____ tickets at \$30 each

Send cheques by December 5, 2025

Detach and send form to:

Bert Phills, Box 165, Bright's Grove, Ontario N0N 1C0