



News for Members of Entente Education Canada Lambton District 38

President's Update – Bert Phillips

Our name officially changed on Jan. 1, 2026. The new name reflects our evolution beyond Ontario. We are the largest national provider of non-profit group health benefits for education workers and retirees. The name, Entente Education Canada, reflects the organization's evolution into a truly national organization, removing barriers that had long challenged outreach in provinces such as British Columbia and Québec, where prospective members respond more positively to a name that represents a national scope and inclusiveness. This year also marked the successful expansion of our membership eligibility to include the immediate family of current members.

Denis Leclerc, Cheryl Leclerc and Marianne Nichols will begin their first full year as members to our executive. Everyone in this group is commended for their ongoing commitment and work on behalf of our members. Pat Gleason retired from our executive last year. We thank her for her years of service to our executive.

As this new year begins, your executive will continue to meet regularly with the committees. Plans are being made for the Christmas Dinner, Retirement Planning Workshop and the Spring AGM. The Goodwill Committee will continue their outstanding work connecting with our membership.

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Goodwill Committee – Michele

"If you want something done, ask a busy person . . ." That saying certainly holds true for your hardworking Goodwill Committee members. Kathy, Linda, and Marianne. How can it apply to you?

If you have a **few minutes**, let us know if a member colleague is ill, has moved or suffered a bereavement. Since our district has about 1150 members, we rely on your timely help to enable us to keep in touch and up-to-date.

If you have a **half hour or an hour** in early December, you can volunteer to visit and deliver a poinsettia to a senior member in a care home or living independently. The plants are appreciated, but the visits more so!

If you have a **few hours throughout the year**, please join our committee. We are looking for fresh initiatives to serve our members. Extra hands to help with our current activities are also most welcome.

For further information, please contact secretaryd.38lambton@gmail.com

*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!!

If you are not receiving RTO Lambton e-bulletins, please send your e-mail address to

petelayc@gmail.com



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.

Gloria Hawkins	Frances Lewis
William Welch	Heather Crawford
Maria Wolf	Owen Lockhart
Jane Stevenson	Doreen Steele
Jim Hardy	Pat Coke
Fred Moss	James Martell
Derek Brazier	Shirley Hawrelak
Jim Muir	Reta Griffin

Executive 2026-27

At our annual meeting in June, elections for the executive were not held. The offices affected are President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. If you wish to stand for any of these positions, please forward your name to Bert Phills. His contact information can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.



Five ways to reinvent yourself in retirement

Retirement isn't the end of your story — it's the start of a new chapter. In a recent Entente webinar, journalist and author Cathrin Bradbury shared how she approached reinvention after decades in Canadian journalism.

Her advice includes leaning into the skills and passions you already have, and reconnecting with a "shadow career" — a talent you set aside years ago. She also encourages retirees to describe themselves by what they do now, not what they used to do, and to let their appearance reflect who they're becoming. Finally, she warns against self-imposed ageism, urging retirees to stay open to new possibilities at any stage of life.

Curious how these ideas could apply to your own next chapter? Rewatch the webinar on Entente Academy at academy.entente.ca or [read the full article](#) for all five tips in her own words: entente.ca/five-ways-to-reinvent-yourself-in-retirement/



Archives Update- Alan Campbell

Having gone through downsizing and moving twice in the space of 10 months, life has been interesting. I have done some "internal" catching up by updating the spreadsheet of District 38 Executive members who have served us over the years. I compiled an electronic version of the scrapbook, *Good Times and Celebrations RTO/ERO 1998-2008*, over the past year. I am working to get it and the Meet the Presidents scrapbook mounted on the Lambton County Branch OGS website landing page. Once that has been done, I will ask Peter to add a reminder of how to access these items to one of his E-Blasts to members.

As your archivist, I would like to pass on some advice if you are about to downsize in preparation for a move. If you have what you consider are heritage items that might be of interest to an archive or museum, please do the following. Check first to see if one of your siblings, children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews would like to receive a particular heritage item especially if it has a family story behind it. If no family member is interested, check with local museums or archives to see if there is an interest in acquiring the item or items. In Lambton County, our museums and archives tend to accept items with a Lambton story behind them. They may already have a sample of the item that you wish to donate so will turn you down. Do not assume that a local repository will accept the heritage items that you have. Please do not leave this task to someone else to do after your death because chances are it will not happen. Garbage bags and dumpsters are common at house cleanouts after someone dies.

Now to get to work scanning newspaper articles from 1989-2001 that include Lambton County teachers.

EEC is revamping the role of Benefit Coordinator at the local level.

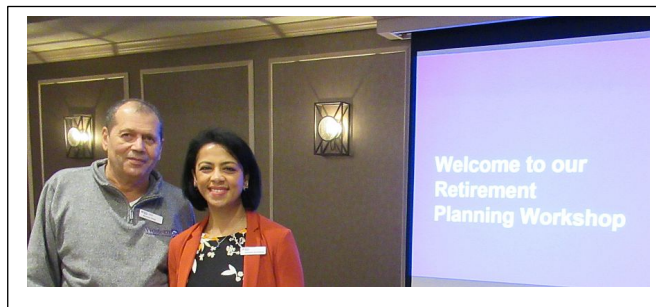
The new mandate, as presented at the spring conference, is focused on members wellness and well-being.

The Benefit Coordinator will continue to help members receive the appropriate information and help them understand their coverage when necessary. You first should contact Entente Plus Assistance with questions about your benefits, eligibility or claims, or for support. You can do this using the Entente Plus portal or app. Phone: 1-800-361-9888 (available Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. ET) Email: assistance@ententeplus.ca. If you have difficulty connecting with Entente Plus, contact Denis for assistance, he will be happy to help. His contact email is on page 8.

Memories from Spring Dinner 2026



Our Retirement Planning Workshop was held in February and was well received.



<i>Lambton District 38 Executive</i>			
President	Bert Phills	bphills@entente.ca	
Vice President	Holger Peters	hpeters@entente.ca	
Secretary	Michele Vilcsak	secretaryd.38lambton@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Holger Peters	hpeters@entente.ca	
<i>Standing Committees</i>			
Membership	Robyn Mortimer	robynmortimer@icloud.com	
Public Relations	Bill Woodcock	woodcockbill@gmail.com	
Goodwill	Michele Vilcsak	secretaryd.38lambton@gmail.com	
Retirement/Concerns	Rosanne Orcutt	rosanneorcutt@hotmail.com	
Personal Development	***Two volunteers needed***		
Webmaster	Peter Laychak	petelayc@gmail.com	
Community Grants	Bert Phills	bphills@entente.ca	
Social	Ann Hines	ahines5@cogeco.ca	
Political Advocacy	Rosanne Orcutt	rosanneorcutt@hotmail.com	
Archivist	Al Campbell	Alan.acresearch.campbell@gmail.com	
Newsletter	Bert Phills	bphills@entente.ca	
Benefits	Denis Leclerc	denisleclerc@ymail.com	
<i>Other Executive Supporters</i>			
Scott Brennan	Marianne Nichols	Kathy Bandla	Linda Smith
Carol Peters	Cynthia Rawana	Shelly Waller	Cheryl Leclerc

As you look at our executive above, you will notice that the list of vacancies is growing. Also, several of our members are doing multiple jobs. Some like Peter, have been doing this job for over a decade. This is not sustainable. The need for your help has never been greater. Please consider joining us. Please contact anyone above to offer your help.

Contact information for the Entente Education Canada (Provincial Office)

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 1 416 962 9463 or 1 800 361 9888

membership@entente.ca

Please contact the provincial office with changes of name, address, telephone number or email.

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