



**A NEWSLETTER
FROM RTOERO DISTRICT 9
HURON-PERTH**

<http://district9.rto-ero.org>

2022 Summer Edition

Coming Events

For your calendar:

"T' 'ell with the Bell" Brunch
Tuesday, September 6, 2022
Mitchell Golf and Country Club
See form on page 6.

Fall General Meeting & Banquet
Wednesday, October 5, 2022
Central Huron Community Centre
in Clinton
See form on page 11.

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President's Message



"What's in it for me?" Compare this refrain to the adage that there is no "I" in the word team. District 9 RTOERO has functioned as a team for 25 years. Why should you volunteer for this team? It is a known fact that volunteering is good for your health, promotes longevity and reinforces self-esteem, particularly in retirees who used to derive self-worth from their paid employment. Besides, your volunteer efforts are beneficial to the community that is served. This is not new news.

The great missionary, Dr Albert Schweitzer, philosopher, physician and theologian who served in Africa for many years, expressed it this way. "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know, the only person among you who will be really happy, are those who sought and found how to serve." District 9 RTOERO needs you. Folks have served faithfully and moved on as it should be.

Now, District 9 needs a VP and a Leisure and Recreation chair. I have been advised that if there is the lack of an executive, Toronto simply allows us to go dark and rolls us into a nearby District. Instead of rebated funds coming back to Huron-Perth to be used at our discretion, those funds would go into the coffers of the District to which we are assigned.

District 9 has accepted an offer from Dr. Ken Hook of Stratford to provide his expertise regarding "Advance Care Planning" as outlined in Clean Slate, Spring 2022 on page 6. He is a true volunteer. He has no fee because he believes in his work and wants to share it with people like us, who are in the "back nine" of this life. Usually, he has a ninety minute presentation, but to fit our "T' 'ell with the Bell" format, he will offer a 30 minute taste of his work, stay with us after brunch to answer questions

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**RTO
ERO** A better future,
together
Ensemble pour
un avenir meilleur

District 9
Huron-Perth

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and take sign-ups from folks who want to learn more by participating in a Zoom webinar at a future time. As a result, on Sept 6th, we will start coffee 15 minutes earlier than usual and delay brunch by 15 minutes. That 30 minutes should satisfy my goal to offer something at each meeting to inform, educate or entertain us, as life-long learners.

You are hereby invited to ask how you can serve District 9. Everyone has something to offer. On page 7 of the Spring Clean Slate there were multiple reasons for joining RTOERO. There are also many good reasons to get involved to protect our pensions, our insurance and our interest in the aging population. In the meantime, "Keep smiling. It makes people wonder what you are up to!"

P.S. You can be a volunteer right now! Since we no longer have access to the Boards' retirement list, we need your help. If you know of friends or colleagues who have retired in recent years or who are retiring at this moment, please make them aware of the benefits of RTOERO membership. Our pensions, insurance benefits and advocacy must not be taken for granted. Invite your contacts to call any exec officer to learn of the benefits of RTOERO membership.

Thanks.
Sincerely,
Bruce Whitmore
President of RTOERO District 9

Highlights From The Spring Annual General Meeting in May 2022, in Mitchell



Bruce Whitmore
Our new president elected by acclamation!

Our new Core Executive

From left to right, Bruce Whitmore, president, Martin Bond, treasurer, Willi Laurie, secretary, and Gary Jewitt, past-president. The position of vice-president is still vacant.



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Guest speaker, Dr. Ken Shonk; his topic, The Power of Laughter.



Pat Evers, project co-ordinator, receiving a cheque from Gary Jewitt, for the organization 'Change Her World'.



Martin Higgs, one of the directors from the RTOERO Provincial Board of Directors in Toronto, speaking to the body.



From left to right, Lorne Rideout, Mary Ann Walper, Dianne Waun and Maryann Topp.



On the forefront, we see Gloria Hutchison, and Wayne and Wendy Wharran.



From left to right, daughter and mother duo, Krista Evely, daughter and Shirley Snell, mother and member.



Health Benefits Committee Report

Let us express appreciation for those of the Board of Directors, and the Benefit Committee, who work tirelessly to ensure our RTOERO health insurance plan works to meet the needs of its members.

In the Communique, Health Benefits Update RTOERO for 2022, we learned of recent improvements to our health benefit plan, and based on plan usage from 2021, there was no increase in our premiums.



The most recent health insurance announcement was related to COVID 19 when travelling. We were delighted to learn from Rich Prophet, Chair of the Board of Directors, that starting May 1st, 2022, should we, or our travelling companion, test positive, become ill with, or die as a result of COVID 19, we as members of RTOERO health plan are covered for cancellation, interruption, or delay of our trip.

Additional expenses that may be incurred as a result of quarantine or refusal of boarding at our destination, with a positive COVID 19 test, may be covered for the members of RTOERO health benefit plan.

Other improvements to our health plan as of January 1st, 2022 are:

- Extended Health Care** — Paramedical Coverage now includes services of a licensed occupational therapist.

We can now choose to access Express Scripts Canada Pharmacy TM – which offers enhanced benefits for prescription drugs; 24/7 medication counselling with a pharmacist; free home delivery of medications Monday to Saturday.

In addition, with Express Scripts Canada Pharmacy TM, there are financial savings such as a low dispensing fee on prescriptions not covered by the Ontario Drug Benefit, and fewer dispensing fees by securing a 100 - day supply of medication when possible.

An Express Scripts Canada Pharmacy TM mobile app, and refill/ renewal reminders makes this a most convenient service.

To join, go to RTOERO website and enter Express Scripts Canada Pharmacy TM in the in the **Search** box in the upper right section of the screen.



- Travel** — In event of death, RTOERO travel plan will pay up to \$2,000 for one economy round trip fare, meals and accommodation, for someone to accompany the insured home.
- Dental** — Scaling has been moved from Minor Restorative at 80%, to coverage under Basic and Preventative care, with reimbursement of 85%, and up to eight units per person per year.

There is now some reimbursement for Dental implants.

RTOERO members not currently participating in the Dental Plan can add this coverage with guaranteed acceptance providing they remain enrolled for at least 24 months.

- Eligibility changes for RTOERO health plans** — A spouse or dependant child can join a plan without the policy holder also being insured, if the RTOERO member is a policy holder with at least one other plan.
- Best Doctors Expert Medical Services** is now known as **Teladoc Medical Experts**.

For more information regarding Health Benefits and Updates, visit <https://rtoero.ca>; contact RTOERO at insurance@rtoero.ca or 1-800-361-9888.

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McMaster OPTIMAL AGING PORTAL is indeed a wealth of information on the topic its name suggests. We have frequently heard of the importance of social contact for our wellbeing. On June 21, 2022, from McMaster University, we learn more specifically, *how your peers can play an essential role in healthy aging*.

Research has shown that peer led or shared activities are more likely to be sustained. Peer support and shared wisdom, in such programs as exercise, support in cessation of smoking or heavy intake of alcohol, stabilizing blood sugar, have more impact than assuming the overwhelming responsibility alone.

Peers, the folks who are of the same age, and capability, and are in a similar situation, “share advice and encouragement based on lived experience”.

It would benefit us to turn to those friends of the past and newly found - to share - in order to improve our health and social wellbeing.

Pauline Shore,
Health Benefits Representative



Do you qualify for a Free Brunch?

**T' 'ell with the Bell September Brunch
10:00 Tuesday, September 6, 2022**

Firm Registration Deadline: Monday, August 15
Mitchell Golf and Country Club, 81 Francis Street West, Mitchell

We are encouraging attendees to wear masks if they wish, but it is not required. We also hope that everyone will be triple vaccinated.

*We are asking you to advance register, as always, however should provincial/local COVID regulations change prior to September 6, preventing this event, your cheque will be destroyed. Further, if **you** become uncomfortable with attending the brunch, please contact me at 519.524.2267, by Monday, August 15 to cancel your payment. RTO will have to pay for your meal otherwise.*

*Finally, due to the increased spacing, we will be able to accommodate a **maximum of 100** at the event. So ... first come, first served! You will be notified if there isn't room for you.*

- If you are: A current RTO District 9 member or
 retired from an education-related job in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 or 2022,

then ... come to our free brunch on September 6th!

Your guest is also welcome, the cost is \$10.

Please register with this form or by email by August 15 so we can inform the Mitchell Golf &CC staff how many meals we need! **This is offered to the first 100 to register.**

****Sorry NO LATE registrations.****

- **09:45** Coffee & mingle with old and new friends
10:15 Speaker: Dr. Ken Hook of Tavistock on "Advanced Care Planning"
10:45 Brunch: traditional breakfast plus lasagne, fresh fruit, muffins

If you wish a round of golf, please make your own arrangements with the Mitchell Golf and Country Club at 519-348-8991



T' 'ell with the Bell, September 6, 2022
Please email mgbond@hurontel.on.ca if no payment is involved or complete, detach, and return this form with cheque as necessary, payable to "District 9 RTO/ERO"
to Marty Bond, 33833 Fullerview Circle, R.R.2, Goderich, ON N7A 3X8
******* by Monday, August 15, 2019. ***** (N.B. Sorry, no extensions)**

Name(s) for the free brunch: _____

Guest Name(s) at \$10: _____

Contact Phone: _____ Email: _____

no-charge brunches: _____; # paid brunches: _____@ \$10 = \$ _____

ICYMI: 4 memorable quotes from David Suzuki's presentation to RTOERO members

In January, RTOERO members had the chance to hear from Dr. David Suzuki as part of the Vibrant Voices webinar series. Dr. Suzuki shared incredible insights. Here are four quotes from his presentation worth reflecting on again.

On the role of older adults and retired people in Canada

"You and I, as retirees, no longer need to worry about a raise or a job, so we can speak from our hearts. If we offend people by sharing what we've learned over our lifetime, that's their problem, not ours. And if we have grandchildren, then we have no choice but to speak out and tell the truth."

On whether it's too late

"We don't know that it's too late. It's in the doing and trying that we define that we're a worthy species. We've got to act because that is our hope."

On our way of life

"When we think that growth is the very measure of progress, we never ask the important questions. What is an economy for? Are there no limits? How much is enough? Are we happier with all this stuff? Why is anyone allowed to be a billionaire?"

"We settlers have to rediscover Indigenous values to shape policies, strategies and actions because clearly, the dominant paradigm doesn't work."

Read the full article on the RTOERO website – rtoero.ca/20-david-suzuki-quotes-to-ponder-and-process.

Watch for future webinar invites to arrive by email. And you can always check the events calendar on the RTOERO website: rtoero.ca/events

From RTOERO Toronto Office



Political Advocacy

Centrally, RTOERO is at its busiest in the political advocacy realm these days. This arm of the organization is called “Vibrant Voices” on the RTOERO webpage.

Annually, RTOERO lobbies members of the federal and provincial governments from all parties and shares with them their concerns related to our three main issues – Seniors Care, Geriatric Health and the Environment. As a provincial organization, RTOERO traditionally had access to only the Ontario and federal government, but now that they are a national organization, they can have even more influence. There is also no doubt that the research done by the Charitable Foundation also gives RTOERO more status and credibility with the various governments particularly with respect to issues on Seniors and Geriatric Care.



During the Ontario Election the Political Advocacy Committee from RTOERO central held three town halls inviting representatives of each of the political parties to talk about our three key advocacy issues. These town halls were recorded and shared online on the District 9 Facebook page.

Each district can access a grant of up to \$2000 for their local political advocacy each year. This grant was used to pay for a non-partisan ad provided by RTOERO, which was placed in local papers such as the Focus/Weekender, Stratford Beacon Herald and Listowel Independent Plus for maximum coverage. The ad urged members and the general public to consider each party’s stance on our key issues. These ads were also shared on our Facebook page.

RTOERO had also developed three non-partisan letters to the editor which highlighted RTOEROs major concerns around senior’s issues, geriatric care and the environment. Pauline Shore graciously volunteered to send a letter on through the Beacon Herald and Perth papers and Doug Bundy volunteered to share through Post Media and Goderich.

During the election the times and dates of some relevant all candidates’ meetings were furnished to the membership on Facebook. Hopefully some of our members were able to attend these events.

Centrally, RTOERO is aligning itself with many other organizations which work on issues related to aging. These include the International Centre on Ageism, the International Longevity Centre of Canada, the Canadian Association on Ageism, HelpAge, and of course ACER-CART - the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers.

This fall these groups will come together as The Canadian Coalition Against Ageism and meet in Toronto to strategize how to best organize and move their common agendas forward. They are also hoping to send two reps to the UN open-ended working committee on Ageism.

Two advocacy webinars were presented online by RTOERO. Information on registering for these was emailed to every member and posted on our Facebook page. For those who missed them, the recordings were posted there as well.

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These were as follows -

Human rights don't get old! Canadians against ageism - June 9th

Presenters uncovered the human rights violations that older Canadians experienced during the pandemic. Research-based solutions to help combat ageism and raise awareness of the rights of older adults were also proposed.

The voice of older adults in public policy: Moving from consultation to partnership - July 7th

Government officials and policy makers must include the voices of older adults regarding decisions that directly affect them. During this webinar, the presenter underlined the power and importance of the seniors' voice, how to ensure optimal input from consulted parties and why consultation throughout the policy-making process is key.

RTOERO members are strongly encouraged to participate and listen in on these very interesting webinars as they are offered in the future. There is a lot to learn and to talk about with your family and friends. That way you can be an advocate for RTOERO, too!

On the environmental front, in Huron, the environmental questions asked of Lobo Sand and Gravel regarding impacts on expanding close to the Ball's Bridge site have been released, six months later. There is a concern that, given the current government and its past practices to release environmental areas to development, that this issue will bypass local government and be approved by provincial order. Several retired teachers are with the Friends of Balls Bridge group that is watch-dogging this situation.

The Political Advocacy file would benefit from a Perth Co-Chair and a volunteer committee. If you are interested in helping out, please let me know. wlaurie@tcc.on.ca.

Some Interesting Facts on Rights for Older Adults

The World Health Agency recently released its Global Report on Ageism.

- Of the 1.5 billion older persons in the world, most are healthy, secure, engaged in society and NOT a burden to it.
- There is a strong causal association between ageism and older persons' mental health.
- Ageism is a major barrier to enjoyment of the human rights of older persons and prevents older persons from taking their rightful place in society. It takes away their voice on issues pertaining to them.
- Ageism can take many forms – interpersonal ageism, institutional ageism and self-directed ageism.

In May 2022 the UN Secretary General supported a stronger framework to protect older persons.

When the UN Convention on Human Rights was drafted after World War II, when it came to discrimination on the base of gender, race, etc., *age* was not mentioned.

Since that time, UN Conventions have been written on the Rights of Children and Indigenous Persons, for example, but *not* on the Rights of Older Persons. Canada has yet to sign onto the idea of a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. A convention like this would cause the governments of our country to examine and rework laws with ageism in mind.

Human Rights do not have a best before date!



Community Grants Report

District 9 has submitted a Community Grant application for 2022 and hopefully will be successful. The application and information for 2023 will be online in January 2023. Student Scholarship information will be available in September 2022. RTOERO members can recommend students from their family or community for a post-secondary scholarship.

Jean Weigand
Community Grants Chair



Terms to know: Microaggression

Microaggression is a term to describe indirect or subtle forms of prejudice. The term was coined in 1970 by psychiatrist Chester M. Pierce. “Micro” isn’t about the impact but the action itself—it can be as small as a comment or a subtle behaviour. And while overt microaggressions happen—for example, when a person of colour is watched closely while in a shop, many microaggressions are driven by unconscious bias and may even be disguised as compliments—for example, saying, “Wow, you’re so well-spoken” to Black woman (as if you didn’t expect they would be).



The impact of microaggressions is significant as there’s a cumulative effect for people who experience microaggressions regularly. They can affect mental and physical health, employment and more. It might be tempting to think someone is overreacting when they point out a subtle prejudice, but keep the cumulative impact in mind and make a conscious effort to notice yourself committing microaggressions and correct it. Your work to learn about various forms of oppression and understand your privilege is an essential part of the process—no one wants to be a microaggressor!

From RTOERO Toronto Office





Fall General Meeting & Banquet

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, September 14

Central Huron Community Centre (upper level)

239 Bill Fleming Dr., Clinton (just north of race track & casino)

******* It is so difficult to anticipate the COVID conditions almost three months in advance, but we expect to be encouraging mask-wearing and requiring that we will all be at least triple-vaccinated. Your cheque won't be cashed until the event in case of the need to change or cancel plans. If you need to cancel your meal by Sept. 14, your cheque will be shredded. *******

Agenda

09:45 Registration and Coffee/Tea/Juice

10:15 Business Meeting & Committee Reports, election if needed for Vice-President

11:10 Speaker: Officer Jamie Stanley on "Scams & Fraud Awareness"

12:15 Turkey Dinner

Banquet Menu - again our terrific meal will be served by Scott Saunders, **The Rollin' Roaster**. The menu: roast turkey, cranberries, vegetables, salads, pies!

It is regrettable that after 14 years without increase, due to caterer cost, our fall meal price must rise to \$25.00, even with a large subsidy by District 9.

We hope you can attend!



Fall General Meeting, October 5, 2022

Please complete, detach, and return with cheque payable to
"District 9 RTOERO"

to Marty Bond, 33833 Fullerview Circle, R.R. 2 Goderich ON N7A 3X8
by **Wednesday, September 14, 2022.**

Name(s): _____

Guest: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of dinners: _____ @ \$25 each = \$ _____



Summer Member Services Report

District 9's membership totals 1121, with 1105 retired and 16 actively employed members. Remember, *if your name, address, phone number or email has changed*, please send the up-dated information directly **to the RTOERO Provincial Office** at: www.rtoero.ca/membership or call **1-800-361-9888**. RTOERO cannot accept changes of members' information from third parties. In addition, if you know of an RTO member who has recently moved to a nursing home, would you check with him or her, or with the family, to see if the address change has been sent to RTO? Retired educators who aren't yet members can enroll online by clicking on *Join Us*, and also find the Johnson group health plan details at the provincial website www.rtoero.ca.

We offer congratulations to the following members who are celebrating 25 years of RTOERO membership in 2022, many of whom joined when they retired, while some joined a few years after retiring.

New Quarter Century Club members



Isobel Bauman	James Bishop	Donald Black	Lawrence Cook	Larry Dunham
Sherwood Eddy	Gerald Edwards	Anne Eekhoff	Cameron Fraser	Nancy Garner
G. Garner-Dearing	Margaret Gedcke	Judy Gibson	Jacqueline Gray	Nancy Holmes
William Jordan	David Kemp	Barbara Krauskopf	Ronald Lane	Madelon Maloney
Gretchen McKerlie	Carole Nakeff	Gerald Pelton	Marilyn Potts	James Prior
Glenn Rittinger	Margaret Rogerson	Richard Roorda	Margaret Rowland	Carol Savage
Mary Smith	Elizabeth Smith	Helen Stewart	Isabell Thomson	Kenneth Willmore
	Rhea East	Eleanor Richman		

Dixie Lee Arbuckle
Chair, Member Services



Insurance plans for retirement – consider these 5 things

Insurance for retirement tops the list of topics of interest for future retirees, according to our research with employees from Canada's education sector. And it's no surprise—it's an important topic. Here are five things to think about to help you decide about insurance for retirement:

Whether your spouse's plan can cover you

One of the first things to investigate as your retirement approaches is whether you can maintain coverage under your spouse's plan if they're not retiring.



Your comfort level with risk

Taking no insurance for retirement is an option that some folks explore. Consider your risk tolerance to determine if this is an option for you. If you or your spouse become ill or is injured, consider if you could handle the financial stress if you weren't insured?

Whether a group plan and having access to a community matter to you

As you look into insurance plans for retirement, you'll see that they're not equal. Unlike RTOERO, which is a group plan, most plans are individual insurance between you and the insurance company—you pay a fee, you get coverage and that's it. Consider if being part of something more matters to you—one decision could help you accomplish multiple priorities for your retirement.

Whether you might want to move to another part of Canada

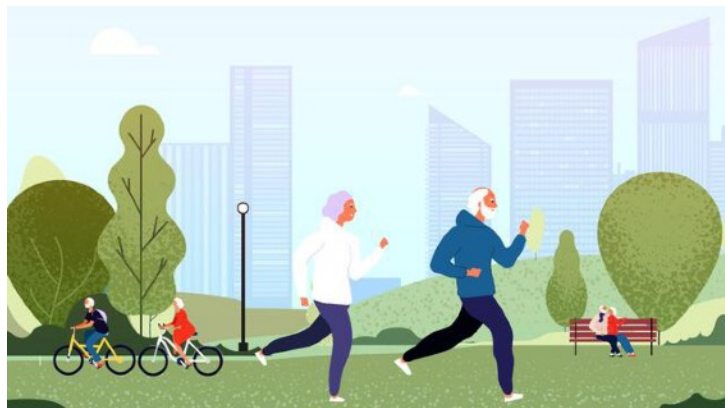
Some plans, like RTOERO's, are national coverage, meaning you can relocate to another province or territory and still be covered.

How much do you plan to travel?

If you're considering not getting retirement insurance, it's worth looking at how much you plan to travel. Travel insurance is included in many plans, like ours, and so the plan value may increase for you depending on your retirement activities.

If you have a friend retiring soon, share this article with them. Find the full text at: rtoero.ca/insurance-plans-for-retirement-consider-these-5-things/

From RTOERO Toronto Office



Tom Hennessey, an Inspiration



Tom Hennessey, at 100 years young, is an inspiration to young and old alike! A former RAF Spitfire pilot during World War II, Tom survived many dangerous missions and arrived home in England relatively unscathed.

As a result, Tom Hennessey has had an attitude of gratitude for most of his adult life. When many of his flying pals in World War II didn't make it, Tom made a decision to live his life gratefully, acknowledging what a gift he had been granted. He may not have expected that his life would not only be good, but that it would be so long - and healthy, too!

Born a Dubliner, Tom moved to Canada after the war and tried banking and then teaching. He taught Physical Education in Toronto, Sarnia and London, retiring in 1986. He and his wife Joy share their time between London and the cottage in Bayfield. Tom is a long-time member of the Blyth Festival Singers and an active RTO member, though with the London district.

Tom believes that you should always have a goal, and you can always make a difference. So, when this lively Irishman reached the goal of his 100th birthday still able to exercise and walk every day, he started to look for a new goal. A Legion Magazine article about homeless veterans sparked him to take action through a Walk of Gratitude.

Working with the Royal Canadian Legion, Vimy Branch 145, Hennessey initially set himself a goal of one kilometre for every year he's been alive. Not certain how long it would take, he began walking at the cottage in Bayfield, a few weeks before the campaign's official kick-off, averaging between four and six kilometres daily: At this pace, he soon completed the 100 kilometres (62 miles) even before the campaign officially started! Undaunted, Tom revised his goal upward to 100 miles instead, with high hopes of raising \$100,000 for homeless vets. As of mid-July, Tom has earned \$52,474.

Tom parsed out the final miles of the walk with circuits around Victoria Park over several days each week in June. The first of these was the campaign kick-off on June 14th where Tom was greeted by Mayor Ed Holder and Deputy Mayor Josh Morgan as well as MPP Terence Kernighan. Led by a piper, his wife Joy beside him, the sprightly senior



Tom and his wife Joy leading the walk on June 14th in Victoria Park, London

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joined family and friends in his laps that day. Also inspired by his cause, members of “Wounded Warriors” and “24 Hour Hero” came from as far away as Strathroy and Hamilton to join him. Both of these groups are made up of current and past service men and women, police, fire and rescue and paramedics who engage in walks, runs and physical challenges to earn money for wounded veterans. Tom was thrilled to have them there.

Tom walked the final circuit of his 100-mile Walk of Gratitude in Victoria Park on Canada Day, dressed in his original war-time RAF uniform - which still fit him!

That won't be the end of Tom's walking, however, since it is an integral part of how he stays young and active. We should all take a page from this young centenarian to live long and healthy lives ourselves.



Fellow retired teachers (and Blyth Festival Singers) Gary Coursey and Willi Laurie joined Tom at his Walk for Gratitude kick off on June 14 in Victoria Park.

Donations for homeless veterans can still be made to the Legion Branch via gofundme.com/tom-hennessy.

Willi Laurie
Secretary



What's Happening in Malawi?

Well, the answer to that is - LOTS!

Remember I was telling you about the 5 communities that petitioned Change Her World to establish nursery schools for them? Change Her World proposed that each of them get firm plans in place and begin setting up the facilities. When each situation met with the requirements Change Her World pledged to send 5 women for the necessary training. That began this spring. Meet the 5 women who have begun their Early Childhood Development training. Each one will return to her community and manage the nursery school in its Community Based Childcare Centre.



Anastazia Malongo
Yamakwenda CBCC
Furlirwa, Malawi



Elifa Chihana
Lwerza CBCC
Lwerza Zone, Malawi



Mable Ngwira
Mufeli CBCC
Fulirwa, Malawi



Tabu Muhondya
Lushununu CBCC
Tilora Zone, Malawi



Mary Kamandani
Lushombe CBCC

At the new library, work is progressing as quickly as the volunteers have needed materials and the necessary inspections are completed. It seems the entire world is plagued with supply chain issues. One important detail has been taken care of though. This young woman is preparing to become a very important part of the new venture.



Meet Alpha Gondwe. This young woman has begun training in Mzuzu to become the librarian for the new library.

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Of course, another important part of the library will be books. Attendees at the CHW annual fundraising dinner in June started off the 2022 Collection Campaign by donating soft covered storybooks or non-fiction books for Kindergarten to Grade 5 age children. I would be pleased to accept any books fitting these descriptions at our fall gatherings for "T'ell With the Bell" and the Fall General Meeting. I'll also have more of the "Girl with a Book" bags for anyone interested. They make a great birthday, graduation, or Christmas gift with a suitable book tucked inside for the recipient. I was even contacted by someone who was doing just that for a baby gift. Proceeds from this fundraiser go directly to the account for books to fill the library shelves.



The publishers in Malawi are beginning to provide more books that reflect their culture. Familiar names like Pearson, Longman, Heinemann and University Press have established divisions in Malawi to publish materials which correspond to the National Curriculum for education. Companies like Likuni Press, Dzuka Publishing, Kalema Printers and Dinkum Guild have established and grown to meet the need to improve literacy levels. The Book Publishers Association of Malawi, established in 1996, focuses on promoting a culture of reading amongst the youth of the country. Hopefully the library can obtain many books and magazines that reflect Malawian culture while supporting the country's economy by making purchases "at home".



And while I'm speaking about the CHW annual dinner, I'll add that it was so wonderful to be able to gather in a group (larger than a family bubble) to visit and catch up with folks I hadn't been able to socialize with in over 2 years! I was happy to represent our district of RTO and deliver the generous donation from the membership here into Linda's and Carol's hands. I know I've outlined the many ventures and diverse programs they, with the help of their

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volunteers in Malawi, initiate and maintain - supplying a washer and dryer so there are laundry facilities at the hospital, training women in livestock care and supporting the pig project and the goat project so they have a source of income, digging wells in villages without available water supply, providing birthing kits for the hospital, obtaining a motorbike and bicycles for transportation, and numerous others initiatives. However, when we, in RTO, donate funds as a group or as individuals, that money goes directly to supporting education for students at four levels - nursery school, elementary school, secondary school, college and university. Those other initiatives I mentioned are funded by partnerships with organizations like Hope For Haiti (wells) and donations from service clubs, church groups, corporate sponsors, individual benefactors, etc. We can rest assured that our interest in education is evident to the students and teachers in Malawi through Change Her World's support for education.



Finally, I want to wish each of you a summer full of your favourite activities, events and people. Speaking of activities my flower beds are calling. I seem to have a bumper crop of unwanted guests moving in there. It's too bad the fall fair doesn't have a class for creeping Charlie or sow thistles. I'm sure I have a prize-winner!

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Evers
Project co-ordinator

