



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

<https://district9.rtoero.ca>

2023 Summer Edition

Coming Events

For your calendar:

An Excursion to Exeter
Wednesday, August 23, 2023
Details on page 17.

T'ell with the Bell September Brunch
Tuesday, September 5, 2023 in Mitchell.
See form on page 18.

Fall Annual General Meeting and Banquet
Wednesday, October 4, 2023 in Clinton.
See form on page 19.

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President's Message



When we were under the burden of usurious interest rates in the 1980's, I saved my sanity by embracing inspirational quotes and reading the stories of famous people who persevered in the face of adversity. People like Rev. Harold Kushner, "Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?" or author Barbara Johnson, "Splashes of Joy in the Cesspool of Life", or this quote from Helen Keller, "Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadows".

Closer to home, our VP at Mitchell DHS had a couple of quotes on his bulletin board, which impacted my low moments. "This too shall pass" and "Nothing matters very much, very long." I have always remained thankful for perseverance and powerful words. They say that "time is a great healer", but I'm not so sure. I still have the scars of high interest rates, not unlike the scars of the Great Depression which shaped the life of my parents until they, too, finally found prosperity in later years.

Time means that we do move on. Our thoughts change with time because of what we read, what we experience and who we meet. Time can be given a reality, when we see time in the following perspective. People can only survive for 3 weeks without food, 3 days without water, 3 minutes without air but you can't survive for 3 seconds without hope.

There is hope for the future when we think of the kids who have passed through our classrooms. Sometimes in class you would have liked to wring their little necks but, surprise, surprise, they have turned out to be bright, responsible parents, innovative entrepreneurs and committed employees. We must have done our job well, when molding those impressionable young minds.

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Continuation from page 1

It was my hope that our drought of leadership would pass. It has to some extent. We will present a slate of officers in October, sans a VP. It is still my hope that someone from our ranks will see the opportunity to grow, to have a commitment and make a difference to District 9 RTOERO by stepping forward as a VP or maybe as an exec member-at-large to have "eyes on" this organization. After all, we are on the front lines of safe-guarding our benefits and our pensions, of lobbying for our aging population and for creating a local program to inform, maybe even entertain our retired colleagues.

We certainly got it right when we witnessed some 60 Ukrainian immigrants sort through your fabulous clothing donations to find quality apparel for their families. It was heart-warming to see how humble and thankful they were and all because of your generosity. We can only hope that our "random act of kindness" will help to mitigate the scars that these displaced persons have experienced. I think Henry Ford captured the concept perfectly. "If you think you can, or you think you can't, you are right!"

Have a great summer.
Sincerely,
Bruce Whitmore
President of RTOERO District 9

Highlights from the Spring Annual General Meeting in May 2023, in Mitchell



Pat Evers receives District 9's 2023 donation for Change Her World.

The 2022 Award for Exemplary Contribution was presented in 2023 to Marcel St-Arneault for his fabulous work on the Clean Slate over the years.



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Mark Nonkes, guest speaker, from the Huron Immigration Partnership, and Bruce Whitmore now wonder how to store Ukraine donations.



Dianne Morrissey and Bud Walker



Sandra Newton, Carol LeBeau, Marilyn Taylor, Suzanne Strang, Marlene Starkey, and Marilyn Elgie



Marlene Steinacker, Pat Hall, and Joanne Carr



Highlight from the RTOERO Annual meeting held in Toronto in May



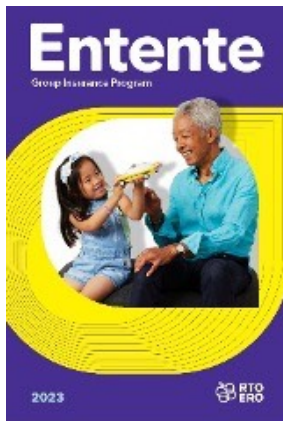
Bruce and Marg Whitmore along with Gary Jewitt and Dianne Morrissey. Bruce & Gary were the corporate representatives from District 9 Huron Perth.



District and Unit Health Representative Workshop, June 2023

On the 4th and 5th of June, I was fortunate in being able to attend the RTOERO District/Unit Health Representative Workshop in Toronto – entitled: **Aging with Dignity**.

We learned of the change in name for our Group Insurance Program to **Entente**, and by now we should all have received a copy of the booklet of the same name, along with our copy of **Renaissance**, outlining details of every aspect of this exceptional program. Electronic copies of **Entente** and **Communiqué 2023 –Health Benefits Update** can be accessed on the RTOERO website through **Resources / Insurance Updates**.



<https://rtoero.ca>

At the workshop, **Dr. Samir Sinha**, MD, gerontologist and Director of Geriatrics at Mount Sinai Health System, a passionate and respected advocate for the needs of older adults, presented on *Enabling Aging in the Right Place in Canada and Around the World*. He explained how most elderly Canadians wish to age in their homes, and that internationally the term “long term care” means adequate support to enable this to happen.

Dr. Sinha has researched models of care for aging internationally. He told us that Denmark spends twice as much as Canada on long term care services – only 1/3 of that spent on nursing homes and 2/3 on actual home care. He claimed that Ontario is going the wrong way, fiscally by institutionalizing our seniors often into unhealthy and depressing environments. Dignity and autonomy were terms associated with care of the elderly in Denmark.

Dr. Gary Bloch, associate professor in the department of Family and Community medicine at the University of Toronto, and family physician at St. Michael’s Hospital, is another caring and committed physician who shared this quote of *Rudolph Virchow* from 1862:

**“If medicine is to fulfil her great task, then she must enter the political and social life.
Do we not always find the disease of the populace traceable to defects in society.”**

In his presentation entitled, *When the Social is Medical: Social Interventions in Primary Care*, Dr. Bloch spoke of traceable defects in society, and notably how income inequality and poverty negatively impacts health. His first question to a patient is, “Do you file income tax?”. His success in treating patients is by enquiring of their social situation, and working alongside a team of professionals and volunteers to address issues of poverty and isolation.

Patricia Wendy, a social worker, and program coordinator at *Circle of Care*, in the presentation, *Caregiver Burnout: Don’t Confuse Courage with Burnout*, brought to our attention how the isolation of COVID had exacerbated the burden of caregiving. She noted that there are 3.3 million family caregivers in Ontario, the majority of whom are at the same time holding down a job.

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Wendy suggested as coping strategies for caregivers to have reasonable expectations, plan, use the help of others, exercise, self care, and engage a positive self appraisal.

Wendy shared a provocative quote from Rosalyn Carter:

“There are only four kinds of people in the world:

Those who have been caregivers

Those who are currently caregivers

Those who will be caregivers

Those who will need caregivers.”

Learning of the confidence afforded us through the Group Insurance Program of RTOERO, and the passion, commitment and research of these enthusiastic young care givers at the workshop, we can count ourselves among the fortunate who are able to **Age with Dignity**.

Pauline Shore
Health Benefits Chair



Community Grant and Scholarship Report

Greetings Members.

District 9 Huron-Perth has sent in a 2023 request for the RTOERO Community Grant. The Goderich Lions Club is our partner group. The application is titled "**Welcoming Ukrainian Immigrants to RTOERO District 9 Huron-Perth**". This project is an extension of our very successful "**clothing drive**". However, there is a need for food and shelter. A shortage of host families results from lack of assistance with expenses. We are partnering with the Goderich Lions Club as it has a "*newcomer fund*" already in place. District 9 would make the grant money available to the Lions Club to buy grocery gift cards to assist host families or the immigrants themselves.

The 2024 Student Scholarship Grant application is not yet available on the RTOERO website. I will provide details in the Fall Clean Slate. Enjoy the summer everyone!

Jean Weigand
Community Grant and Scholarship Chair



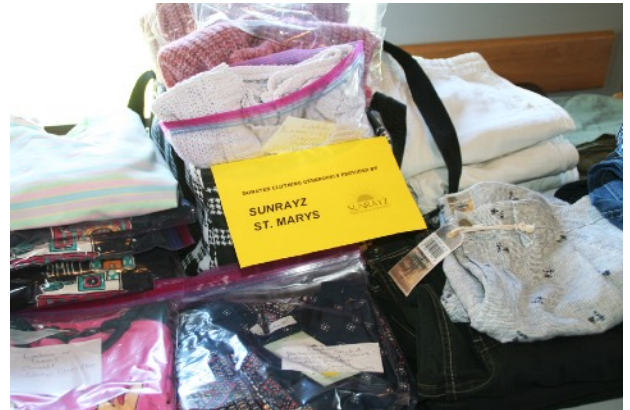
Summer Shopping

Over 60 new Ukrainian residents in Huron County, along with their children, went “shopping” Saturday, May 27 at an event held in partnership with the Huron Immigration Partnership, the Salvation Army and District 9 Retired Teachers of Ontario. The retired educators partnered with the Salvation Army to collect, package and store many hundreds of items of summer clothing. On the morning of the event they organized a display of all these items at the Huron County Museum and invited Ukrainians to pick up needed clothing for themselves, their families and friends. A shout out goes to Sunrayz St. Marys Boutique for donating many items of still-ticketed new pieces of clothing, and to the retired education workers from Huron and Perth counties who donated hundreds of clothing items.

The Ukrainian families were most appreciative of this assistance as we entered the warm season. According to Mark Nonkes, of the Huron Immigration Partnership, the event is a monthly mixer for the refugee families which also allowed for new connections to be forged and information about vital services to be shared with the newcomers. After the event, the Ukrainian families were given the opportunity to explore the museum. A huge thank you to President Bruce Whitmore for spearheading this initiative, to Bill Black for storing the items, to all of the volunteers who helped set up and staff the clothing drive, and to the retired teachers and education workers from across Huron and Perth counties who donated such a wealth of clothing.



RTO volunteers took time out of a clothing drive for Ukrainian refugees May 27th. They include: Bill Black, Marty Bond, Bruce Whitmore, Willi Laurie, and Gary Jewitt.



Sunrayz St. Marys Boutique was quite appreciated for donating many items of still-ticketed new pieces of clothing.



Bruce Whitmore, RTO President and Mark Nonkes, of the Huron Immigration Partnership, take a minute to survey all of the clothing items on display.



Ukrainian residents shop for much needed items of clothing in a recent clothing drive held by the Retired Teachers of District 9 Huron-Perth, in partnership with the Huron Immigration Partnership and the Salvation Army.

Willi Laurie
Secretary for District 9



Self-care: What is it and how to do it?

According to the World Health Organization, self-care is the ability of individuals, families and communities to promote health, prevent disease, maintain health, and cope with illness and disability with or without the support of a health worker. It means different things to different people, and there's no single way to do self-care.

Your self-care activities have a cumulative impact. As you develop and sustain a self-care practice, you will start to notice changes in how you feel. You will be more resilient and better able to cope with life's inevitable ups and downs.

Signs you may need more self-care:

- Loss of pleasure and enjoyment
- Depression and anxiety
- Concentration problems
- Increased errors
- Loss of objectivity
- Isolation
- Emotional reactivity
- Relationship issues
- Insomnia
- Fatigue



How to do self-care:

- **Accept that self-care is an investment and indulge in it daily.** Look for micro-moments to give yourself care. Considering the small things that give you a feeling of joy, comfort, soothing or support may help you make a list.
- **Try something new or return to an old interest.** Trying new activities is a great way to form new connections and find activities to get lost in. Schedule time for activities you enjoy.
- **Explore and practice.** As you try new activities, recognize that you need to do them more than once to start to see benefits.
- **Remind yourself why you're doing self-care.** It supports your overall longevity and helps you enjoy life. It also enables you to show up better for others.

Read the full article: rtoero.ca/self-care-for-retiring-education-workers

From the RTOERO Toronto Office



Highlights From The Wingham Excursion

June 7, 2023

Wingham Day Out---something for everyone!

If you are a chocolate lover, then a delightful, friendly little enterprise, **Sweets 'N Treats** at the north end of Wingham, is worth the drive to check out their treats. However, retired teachers saw behind the scenes, that every turtle is hand-made in a mold containing six of their creations. First, the decorative icing for eyes and nose, then some chocolate, walnuts and finally more chocolate. Then it's into the freezer for a few minutes, while we asked questions, before enjoying the finished products. After seeing with our own eyes, the love that goes into chocolate making, we will never complain about the cost of such goodies produced at Sweets 'n Treats in Wingham.



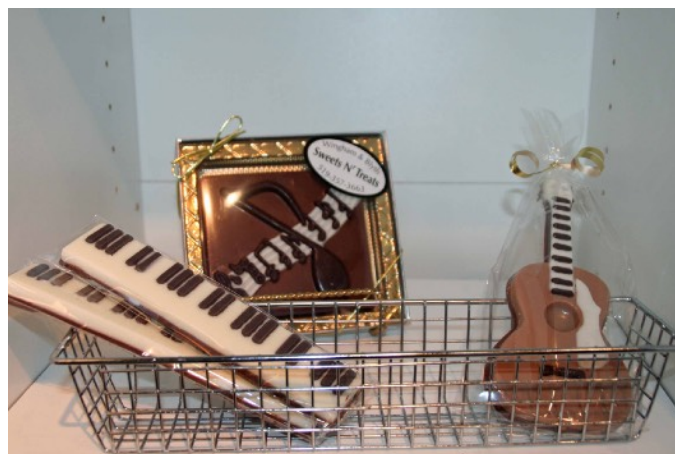
The making of the classic Turtles.



Donna Hardie and Barb Desjardins happily shopping.



Here are some samples of what they offer.



Anything can be made in chocolate.

It was great to get into two manufacturing plants, just to learn about local, thriving industry. **Britespan and Royal Homes** were our hosts. Both places said that retired teachers would be welcome back anytime, because our many questions made the tour far more interesting for the knowledgeable guides, who had ready answers for us, even though we ran overtime at both places. Nothing was taken for granted. We wore safety glasses, booties and regulation vests for our own protection even though there was no risk to our safety. If you are in the market for a Million Plus Dollar House, you can tour a **Royal Home** on site, then watch yours being built on the factory floor, where precision is the key to quality.

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Wingham Royal Homes



Wingham Royal Homes



Wingham Royal Homes



Wingham Royal Homes

At **Britespan** we learned that "welding" really means the fusing of gigantic fabric pieces to create a roof that will last for years and can be installed in a few hours by a crew of 5 or 6 even if the building is 100 ft wide and several hundred feet long. Yes, there was the usual type of welding in the building where the trusses are made to support the fabric roof. The enthusiastic guides certainly conveyed a pride in their work and their product. It is good for those of us who earned a living in a classroom, to get outside of our comfort zone to see what goes on right in our own neighbourhood. Who would have guessed that a structure made of fabric could house several thousand head of livestock, transport trucks, huge combines or even an arena? We had our eyes opened for sure.



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Wingham Britespan



Joe Laurie and Brent Bowyer



Shelley Warr checks out the sewing machine.



Wingham Britespan



Wingham Britespan



Wingham Britespan

If you just like to eat and relax, then the **Wingham Golf Course** is a worthwhile destination. They were great hosts with an array of sandwiches, wraps and of course a choice of desserts. It even tasted better because lunch was subsidized by District 9! All in all, it was worth the drive to Wingham!

Thanks for making Wingham part of your day on June 7th.

Sincerely,
Bruce and Margaret Whitmore



Time to retire from driving? Tips to prepare

Driving is tied to independence. Plus, Canada is one of the most car-dependent countries in the world, so it's no surprise that driving is the top transit choice for many of us. Despite our attachments to automobiles, there may come a time when it's wiser to give up driving.

Thinking about giving up driving in advance could save you from added stress should the time come for you. Here are some reasons to consider giving up driving:

- Retiring from driving could save you money
- Less driving is better for the environment
- Health conditions can impact your ability to drive safely



Ideally, you'll have the opportunity to prepare to stop driving on your terms. You can scale back your driving and build your comfort with alternatives to driving. Here are some tips to help:

- **Talk to family or friends about your plan to stop driving.** They may be willing to support your transition by offering to drive you to appointments or a regular activity.
- **Make a list of alternatives to driving.** Investigate what exists in your community and ask others what they do. Options can include public transit (look for discounts or free programs based on age), taxis, ride-share companies, private driving services and community shuttles to popular locations.
- **Consider if living closer to transit may be helpful.** If you're already considering your housing as part of your healthy aging goals, then it's worth evaluating transit and walkability.
- **Gradually change your driving habits.** Start trying out alternatives to driving. You'll become more comfortable the more you do it, and you may even find you like it better!
- **Set up a bank account for your transit costs.** Once you no longer have a car, you could divert some of the car costs to this bank account. You can use it to pay for taxis or ride-shares or to cover your transit pass.

Read the full article: rtoero.ca/time-to-retire-from-driving-considerations-and-steps

From the RTOERO Toronto Office



District 9 Membership Report

We appreciate your contact information updates which are vital to District planning and to keeping our members well informed. Please send your information to provincial office at membership@rtoero.ca or 1-800-361-9888; you'll need your member number. Our local president and I receive monthly updates of members' information so no need to send it to us as well.

If you know someone who'd like to join RTOERO or to enroll in the health plan, potential members can find the membership form and peruse the health plan comparison chart on the provincial website, www.rtoero.ca under the tabs "Join Us" and "insurance". It's a straightforward process and any questions are quickly answered either by provincial office or Johnson Insurance at: 1-855-616-6708 or insurance@rtoero.ca.

RTOERO continues to offer Retirement Planning Workshops to those not yet retired in virtual webinar format; information is available on the RTOERO website (www.rtoero.ca). Simply click on the RPW tab at the top of the home page to see the list of dates; anyone interested in participating can sign up there.

On the July Age Banding graph you'll see that our members' ages range from early 50s to 100+ years.

Congratulations to this year's 25-year members.

New Quarter Century Club Members



Donald Aitken	Christine Deluca	Peter Aunger	Barbara Beckett	Constance Birmingham
Barry Bogie	Frederick Burgin	Lawrence Butt	Nancy Carriere	Karen Schlotzhauser
Ross Carter	Brian Coleman	Helen Crocker	Nancy Daer	Carolyn Atkin-Phillips
Mary Demers	Catherine Edgar	Marilyn Elgie	Laurene Erb	Marg Flannery
Doreen Flynn	Norma Gemmell	George Gibson	Patricia Graham	Faye Grant
Katherine Gregory	Gary Hammond	Roger Hilderley	Robert Howitt	Heather Jesson
Gary Jewitt	Patricia Jones	John Kerr	Mary Lou Kingham	Joe Laurie
William Leney	Kenneth Malvern	John McCauley	Ronald McLeod	Margaret McPherson
Karen Menheere	Pamela Mulholland	Patricia Nelles	Sandra Norris	Gwen Patterson
Joan Perrie	Mae Reed	Catherine Renshaw	Barbara Richmond	Patricia Rowe
Mary Carroll	Bruce Symons	Giustino Tomasulo	Gary Turner	Arlene Van Den Akker
Eric Walden	Sinclair Wardrop	Jeanette Warus	Linda Willis	Terry Wilson
Anthony Winter	Beverley Zoethout	Paul Zybura		

Dixie Lee Arbuckle
Membership Chair

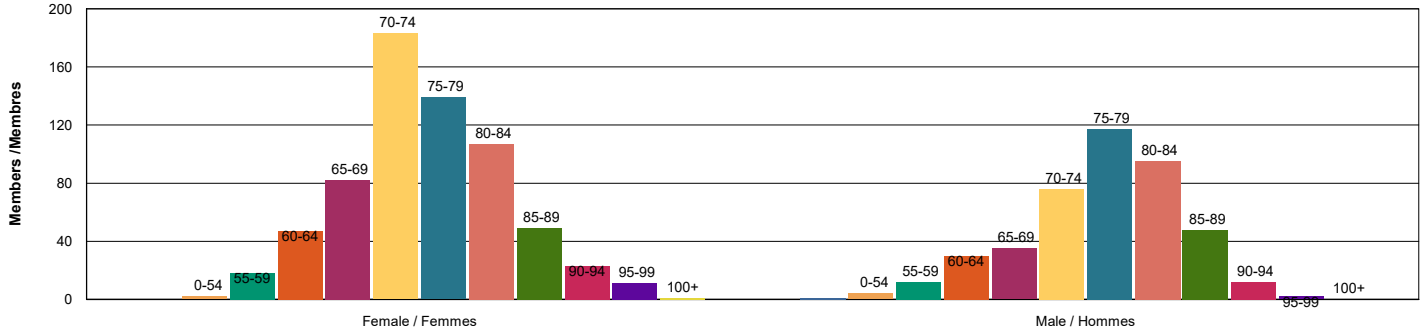


7/1/2023

Age Banding Report for Huron-Perth

Membership by Age/Gender

Membres par catégories d'âge/de sexe pour



@Gender & @Categories

	Female / Femmes	Male / Hommes	Total
	0	1	1
0-54	2	4	6
55-59	18	12	30
60-64	47	30	77
65-69	82	35	117
70-74	183	76	259
75-79	139	117	256
80-84	107	95	202
85-89	49	48	97
90-94	23	12	35
95-99	11	2	13
100+	1	0	1
Total	662	432	1,094

Dixie Lee Arbuckle
Membership Chair



Highlights from the Brocksden School Museum Excursion

What a glorious day of learning filled with fond memories of days gone by and "school days and good old golden rule days". About 15 of us gathered at this beautiful one room school museum north and east of Stratford, Miss Priestap, our teacher, (Gloria Hutchison), was in the typical style of earlier lady teachers, (lovely hat, white blouse and a dark skirt extending to her ankles). Before starting our typical school day Gloria gave us a history of the community and the school. That area of North Easthope was settled in 1832 by Mr. Crerar, a Scotsman. His family came the next year and seeing his rough and humble previous winter dwelling said it was like a brock's den. Thereafter he named the school BROCKSDEN so people would remember how he spent his first winter in a hole in the ground just like a brock's (or badger's) den. The first school was a log structure built in 1845 on the southeast corner of the Crerar farm. The first teacher was Peter McLellan from Aberfeldy, Scotland.

The present school was built across the road in 1853. James Anderson, deceased archivist, for Perth County, and a former student of the school encouraged the development of this school museum. Thereby the EASTHOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY opened the school museum on July 6, 1969. Nancy Kraemer and two other teachers held many school day experiences for adults and children over the years. Since 2004 Gloria has guided her pupils through many school days at BROCKSDEN.

Once we managed to squeeze our adult bodies into Grade 2 desks Gloria guided us through a typical school day in a one room rural schoolhouse. We began our day by singing GOD SAVE THE KING, recited the LORD'S PRAYER and heard a Bible reading. During the day we performed many tasks in spelling, arithmetic, multiplication, mental arithmetic, printing, writing, memorization and cursive writing. It was great fun using a slate pencil for writing on wood frame WELSH slates. Here we practised our many tasks especially cursive writing. After giving thanks for our blessings, we enjoyed lunch together. We didn't go running and jumping at recess and lunch in the school yard. And, how lovely to close our memorable school day when our teacher, Gloria, recited the evening prayer.

This is a great educational history experience. If you wish to organize an event, especially for children, you can call Gloria at 519-273-2458 or by email: kandghomerhutchison@gmail.com.



Brocksden School Museum



Brocksden School Museum

Continuation from page 14



Your students at work.



Class photo of 2023.



A look at a classroom of the past.

School houses had a water pail and a tin cup for drinking which all shared. So they naturally shared a few colds too.

THE OLD TIN CUP

How I'd like to go back to the old country school
 Where we studied our lessons so hard,
 And have one good drink from that tarnished old cup
 That was chained to the pump in the yard.
 The old cup was dented and battered and bent,
 It was blackened and weatherworn too.
 How we'd all make a rush each to get the first drink
 When our noontime and recess came due.
 We'd push and we'd pull, we'd shoulder and shove
 For good manners with us had no place.
 If one jerked the chain when another would drink
 He would get what was left in the face.
 We knew not hygiene, neither germs were we taught,
 We must have been sturdy and game,
 For a hundred school kids used to drink from that cup
 But no sickness to them ever came.
 Yes, I'd like to go back to that old country school
 Where we youngsters with joy would all jump,
 And get one good drink from that old battered cup
 That was chained to that old wooden pump.

By Mrs. W. J. Dunlop



Enjoying a recess.

Dave McClure
Leisure and Recreation Chair



5 Benefits of Having Friends of Different Ages

A perk of our RTOERO community is the chance to meet new people—including people of different ages. There's value in maintaining intergenerational relationships. Here are some benefits:

- **Perspective and mentorship.** Your life experiences can remind younger people that they can survive and thrive after challenging situations. Interacting with younger people can help you keep perspective on the challenges of various life phases.
- **Your support system expands.** Having friends of diverse ages is a great way to broaden your support system and to be there for others.
- **Your health may improve.** Evidence has linked intergenerational friendships with improved overall health.
- **You may discover new activities and purpose.** New friends can introduce you to different activities and hobbies.
- **You can help reduce ageism.** Having friends of various ages has been shown to impact ageist beliefs and attitudes about older adults.

How do you broaden your friend group? Volunteering, joining classes or activities not specifically targeted to your age group, joining interest-based clubs and getting to know your neighbours can help.

Read the full article: rtoero.ca/the-value-of-intergenerational-friendships



Common Recycling Standards Coming to Ontario

A province-wide recycling system is set to roll out in Ontario starting this year. Previously, municipalities and First Nation Communities have designed their waste management programs, creating confusion for residents who move between municipalities for work or recreation. Now, all areas will follow the same recycling standards, and more materials are expected to be accepted, including everyday single-use products.

The new system results from the Blue Box regulation under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016. The program will follow an extended producer responsibility, which means the costs of the program shift from municipal taxpayers to the producers of products and packaging. The previous program's costs were split between producers and municipalities. The program will be implemented over two years, from 2023 to 2025.



To learn more and access the transition schedule for communities, visit: rpra.ca/programs/blue-box/regulation

From the RTOERO Toronto Office

Come and Celebrate Exeter's Sesquicentennial

On Wednesday, August 23, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

- 10: 00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** Meet at Northlander Homes plant on Thames Road just east of Highway # 4.
- 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Enjoy a meal at the Chinese, Thai or any other restaurant or enjoy a picnic and short walk in our park by the Morrison Trail.
- 1: 30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.** Meet at the small park on east side of Main Street between the Montreal Bank and our Exeter railway station mural.

Joanne Bullen of the Exeter Heritage Foundation will conduct us on a walking tour of the historic heart of Exeter.

Today, we have 20 people going on the tour. Please let us know if you want to be added the list or need to cancel your attendance.

Call Jim Chapman: 519-235-2764 or Dave McClure: 519-872-6171



Canada's Leader in Cottage/RV Lifestyle

OWNER'S MANUAL Park Model



Dave McClure
Leisure and Recreation Chair



Do you qualify for a Free Brunch?

**RTOERO District 9's
T' 'ell with the Bell September Brunch
10:00 Tuesday, September 5, 2023**
Firm Registration Deadline: Monday, August 14, 2023
Mitchell Golf and Country Club
81 Francis Street West, Mitchell

If you are: A current RTO District 9 member?
 retired from an education-related job in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 or 2023?
then ... come to our free brunch on September 5th!

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

Please register by including your information in an email or with this form by Canada Post by August 15 so we can inform the Mitchell Golf & CC staff how many meals we need!
Sorry NO LATE registrations.

- 09:45 Coffee & mingle with old and new friends
- 10:15 Speaker: Jean Rowcliffe, who will speak on her career as a nanny in Buckingham Palace, London, U.K.
- 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 5, 2023

To register, please email treasurer9@districts.rtoero.ca *if no payment is involved.*

Otherwise,
detach and return this form with cheque as necessary for paying guests, payable to:
"District 9 RTOERO"

to Marty Bond, 33833 Fullerview Circle, R.R.2, Goderich, ON N7A 3X8
***** by Monday, August 14, 2023. ***** (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 = \$ _____





RTOERO District 9's Fall Annual General Meeting & Banquet



Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, September 13

Central Huron Community Centre (upper level)

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

Agenda

- 09:45** Registration and Coffee/Tea/Juice
- 10:15** Business Meeting & Committee Reports, election if needed for Vice-President
- 11:10** Speaker: Julie Sawchuk, well-known advocate for accessibility in Ontario and former secondary school teacher.
- 12:15** Banquet Menu - Our meal will be catered by Bon Vivant Catering with the menu:
 Roast breast of Hayter's turkey with gravy & cranberry sauce with lemon & sage stuffing, red pepper stuffed with lentils, rice, seeds & herbs, roast mini potatoes, spiced carrots, peas, Caesar salad, broccoli & cauliflower salad, dinner rolls.
 Dessert: cheese cake, pies, vegan GF pie (if needed) & whipped cream.
 (Vegan options will be available if requested.)

We hope you can attend!



Fall General Meeting, October 4, 2023

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 13, 2023.**

Name(s): _____

Guest: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of dinners: _____ @ \$18 each = \$ _____

Please make sure you've seen the article on page 20 about how you can pay with a credit card instead of by cheque and Canada Post. It might appeal to you! The deadline date will be the same.



Pay for RTOERO Events with a Credit Card instead of a Cheque

RTOERO provincial has set up a “merchant account” for us that will allow you to use your credit card instead of a cheque (and a stamp!) *if you wish*, to pay for our local dinners and brunch.



While current-dated cheques are still gladly accepted by your treasurer, you now have the option to pay with your credit card. This is a secure transaction done with the TD Bank and RTOERO’s provincial office which then forwards your payment on to our District.

All you need is the link below and your computer, tablet or phone, to input your information and VISA or MasterCard number. RTOERO does not store your payment info so you’ll need to do this each time you make a payment for an event. There’s no additional cost to you or to District 9 to do this, so neither members nor our District lose anything on the transaction.

You can see what the payment page looks like without committing yourself or you can go ahead and make your payment for the Annual General Meeting today — but first see page 19 for the cost and date. If you need to type the address (because you’re reading this on paper), make sure you have it exactly, including the “https” where the “s” stands for “secure”. Spelling counts! If you’re reading this on your screen, you can click on the link itself.

The link is <https://www.rto-ero.org/payment-d9>

This link is also found on the left bottom of District 9’s web page, just above the copyright information as “**Pay online for District 9 event or activity**”.

If you have any questions or doubts and are still interested, please email me at treasurer9@districts.rtoero.ca But, if you’re not interested in this, just ignore it and pay by cheque as usual. 😊

Marty Bond, Treasurer



It's All About the Books!

Both in Northern Malawi, Africa and back home here in Huron Perth, books are the focus this spring. In Malawi books are making their way onto the shelves of the new library and education centre. There is a bustle of activity at the site as furnishings and finishing touches are completed.



This Friday, July 14th, the shipment of 50+ bins will leave for Malawi so they can arrive prior to the opening in August. Contents include supplies for the nursery school, visual aids for the children's section of the library and maps for the walls of the library – Canada, the world, and Africa. Linda hopes to be able to obtain a large wall map of the country when she is in Malawi.



Continuation from page 21

The co-founders of Change Her World, Linda Willis and Carol Hamilton are preparing for their upcoming trip. They leave Canada August 16th and land in the capital, Lilongwe, before traveling north to Chilumba. While there they will hold the ceremony to open the Library, meet with the local volunteers who carry out the work of CHW, and tour the area and facilities in which CHW has an active role. They will finalize plans for another pig project. Funds for this have come from World Day of Prayer offerings from the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. They have a busy schedule before heading home to Canada August 30th!



On Canada Day, Atwood was the scene of a large used book sale as part of the Books 2 Books fundraiser. Many RTO members have been extremely generous in their donations of books. Between donations in Stratford and Wingham, Lorraine Stevenson and I have been astounded at the quality and variety of paperback and hardcover books coming to our doors. To date this venture has given us about \$800 for books for the library in Chilumba. Please remember that this endeavour is ongoing. Just call or text to contact Lorraine in Stratford (519-852-6784) or me in Wingham (519-450-8479). We will arrange a convenient drop off or pick up of your books. Keep in mind that we cannot repurpose school text books, dictionaries or encyclopedia sets through either our bookseller contact or local book sales. We are hoping to hold another community book sale in the Stratford area this fall. Thank you RTO members for your interest and participation in this fundraiser!

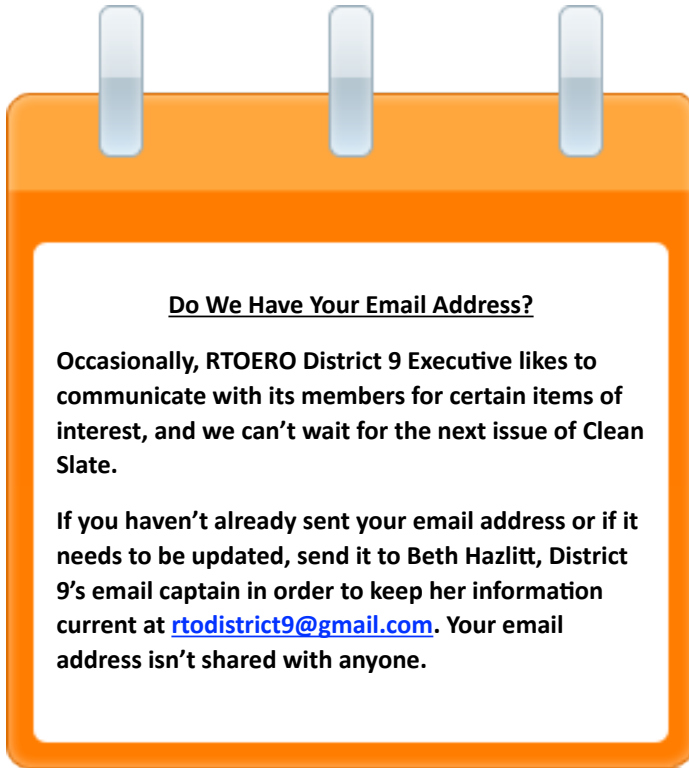


I look forward to seeing everyone at T'ell With the Bell on the first day of the new school year. Please remember to bring along any books you wish to donate to our Change Her World fundraiser. Fiction and non-fiction, adult and children's, paperbacks, soft cover and hardcover books all welcome. Just no reference books (dictionaries, encyclopedias, travel guides) or school texts or teaching guides. If September is too soon to have your book shelves surveyed for books to pass on, there is always the October Fall meeting. Thanks in advance for your donations.

Enjoy the remaining summer days. They fly by so quickly.

Pat Evers
Change Her World Director and RTOERO Liaison

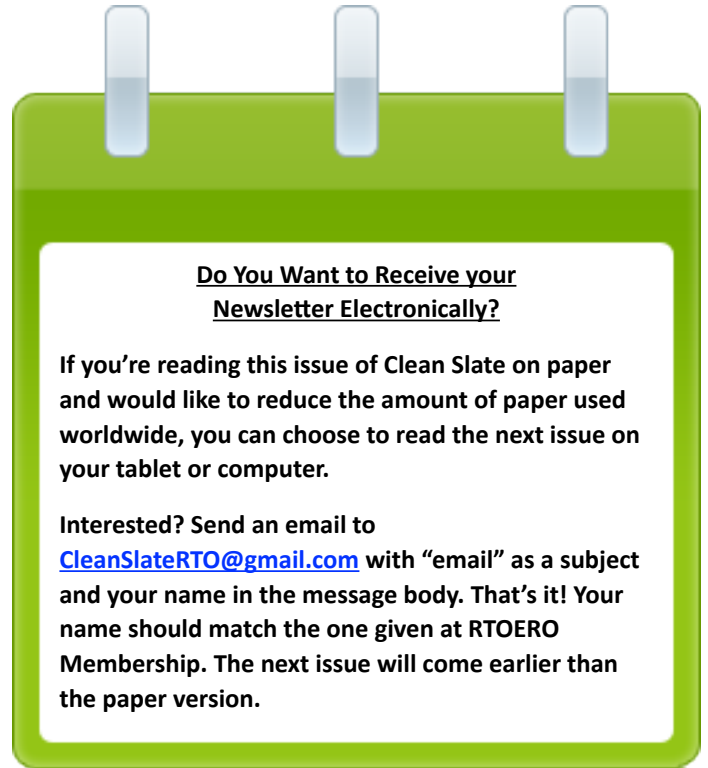




Do We Have Your Email Address?

Occasionally, RTOERO District 9 Executive likes to communicate with its members for certain items of interest, and we can't wait for the next issue of Clean Slate.

If you haven't already sent your email address or if it needs to be updated, send it to Beth Hazlitt, District 9's email captain in order to keep her information current at rtodistrict9@gmail.com. Your email address isn't shared with anyone.



Do You Want to Receive your Newsletter Electronically?

If you're reading this issue of Clean Slate on paper and would like to reduce the amount of paper used worldwide, you can choose to read the next issue on your tablet or computer.

Interested? Send an email to CleanSlateRTO@gmail.com with "email" as a subject and your name in the message body. That's it! Your name should match the one given at RTOERO Membership. The next issue will come earlier than the paper version.

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