

ERT 34th STORY

District 34 - York Region Vol. 29 No. 3 - September 2017



*Meet District 34 Member
Rhonda Starr*



Images by Rhonda Starr

Join us on the internet at www.34thstory.com

For Your Calendar

Play Bridge

Mondays
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
McConaghy Senior
Centre - Rm. 103

Open House

Mon. Sept. 18, 2017

Hava Java

Tues. Sept. 26, 2017

Join Us for a Walk

Thurs. Sept. 28, 2017

Octoberfest

Tues. Oct. 17, 2017

Join Us for a Walk

Thurs. Oct. 19, 2017

Varley Art Gallery Tour

Mon. Oct. 23, 2017

Hava Java

Tues. Oct. 24, 2017

Scenic Rail Tour

Wed. Oct. 25, 2017

Fall Luncheon

Thurs. Oct. 26, 2017

Horse Racing at Woodbine

Thurs. Nov. 9, 2017

Join Us for a Walk

Tues. Nov. 14, 2017

Jitters

Wed. Nov. 15, 2017

All Shook Up

Sun. Nov. 19, 2017

Hava Java

Tues. Nov. 21, 2017

Footloose

Sat. Nov. 25, 2017

Game's Afoot

Sun. Dec. 3, 2017

Beauty and the Beast

Thurs. Dec. 7, 2017

Join Us for a Walk

Wed. Dec. 13, 2017

Hava Java

Thurs. Dec. 14, 2017

Join Us for a Walk

Wed. Jan 24, 2018

AGM & Spring Luncheon

Thurs. May 24, 2018



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Susan Phillips, President
President's Message

It's hard to believe that another school year is about to begin. To me, September rather than January feels like the start of a new year. I used to love getting my classroom ready for a new crop of students. In this vein, I would like to extend a special welcome to those of you who are new to retirement and District 34.

In September each year, we hold an Open House to welcome new retirees along with our present members. You might wonder what you will do with all the free time you think you will have. I suggest you have a look through this issue of *The 34th Story* to view the variety of activities offered. Most of these are organized by members of the executive; however some have been organized by individual

members. We welcome new ideas and encourage members who want to organize an activity to contact us. As a reminder, all events must be approved by the executive before they can be published in *The 34th Story* or sent out as e-mail reminders. Your idea will be discussed at our next meeting and we will let you know our decision. The guidelines for submission dates for *The 34th Story* listed on the last page must be followed to make sure your event gets into the newsletter on time.

RTO/ERO has been providing services to teachers and educational support staff since 1968. In celebration of this milestone, District 34 is planning celebrations that will be outlined in the next issue of *The 34th Story*. If anyone would like to help out please let Paul Devlin know. Provincial RTO/ERO festivities will also be planned. Please have a look at the Provincial website for a list. (<https://www.rto-ero.org/>)

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or any other member of the executive.



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and Committee
Chairpersons
2017- 2018**

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Bridge Club News

By Joan Burrows

The RTO/ERO bridge club for District 34 will meet once again beginning on Monday, September 11th at the McConachy Centre (Dining Room # 103) 10100 Yonge St. in Richmond Hill. There is free parking at the rear of the building.

Members are invited to play on a drop-in basis from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at a cost of \$2 for the afternoon. We are always looking for new retired members who will enjoy an afternoon of friendly bridge playing and willing to share and learn new bidding techniques.

Congratulations to the following for the splendid bidding which occurred during our spring session:

Wilma Inkpen/Barney Matisko (6NT)
 Marg Lawlor/Darlene McCowan (6H)
 Kathy Bunker/Peggy Paterson (6S)
 Lorraine Oyama/Wilma Inkpen (6D)
 Wilma Inkpen/Lorraine Oyama (6H)
 Kathy Bunker/Joan Burrows (7NT!)

Kay Valentine/Dian Hancock (6C)
 Marg Lawlor/Lorraine Oyama (6S)
 Kathy Bunker/Darlene McCowan (6NT)
 Bob Bell/Tim Paterson (bid 6NT made 7!)
 Joan Burrows/Kathy Bunker (6D)
 Mary Conte/Shari Selves (7H!)
 Betty Tobin/Peggy Paterson (bid 6D made 7!)
 Kay Valentine/Peggy Paterson (6NT)
 Kay Valentine/Darlene McCowan (6NT)
 We hope to see new members out for our next season of bridge playing!



Open House

By Paul Devlin

We are pleased to extend a hearty invitation to all current, new and potential members of District 34 to our Annual Open House Retirement Celebration. RTO/ERO membership is extended to all retired educational workers (academic and non-academic staff), including Colleges and Universities.

This is a great opportunity to enjoy some complimentary wine and refreshments as you mingle with old friends, welcome new members and hear about the numerous and varied activities that have been planned for the upcoming year.

Current members are encouraged to bring former colleagues who have not yet joined RTO/ERO but may be interested in doing so. Spouses, partners and friends are welcome.

Date:

Monday, Sept. 18, 2017

Time:

2:00 p.m.



Location:

Our Lady of the Annunciation Church Hall

97 King Road

Oak Ridges, ON

(Just West of Yonge Street on the south side)

To properly plan for this event, please contact Paul Devlin by Sept. 11, 2017

416-949-6810 or at

pdevlin1957@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you!



Hava Java On Us

By Regine Baker

Again this year we are pleased to be running our Hava Java sessions each month at three locations: in Maple, Markham and Aurora. Members are welcome to come and enjoy a coffee or tea plus an edible treat with District 34 paying the tab.

Come alone or bring a friend and spend a while shooting the breeze with former colleagues or new friends.

Since this is the costliest of our activities we ask that members limit themselves to regular coffee or tea and one edible treat such as a bagel, muffin, donut, etc. Those who wish to have specialty coffees, more treats or breakfast are asked to pay for that themselves.

Those members who usually go to our northern-most location will notice two changes. First, in response to members' preference, the time has been restored to the morning and second, the location is now in Aurora. We thank Executive Member, Ann Evans who spent days hunting out a suitable, available location.

We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Dates:

Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017

Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2017

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017

Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017

Time:

10:00 a.m. to noon at all locations

Locations:

The Old Curiosity Tea Shop

91 Main Street, Markham
(parking on Main Street, behind the tea shop or in the lot on the corner of Robinson and Main.)

Coffee Culture Café & Eatery

10037 Keele Street, Maple
(east side, north of Major Mackenzie Drive; parking in front and back)

Longos, upstairs in The Loft

650 Wellington Street East,
Aurara (west of Bayview Ave.; parking in front; elevator available)



Join Us for a Walk

By Ann Evans

Let's hope for a typical Canadian fall season with lots of colour and fun conversations for us to enjoy. In the fall and winter months walks will revert to a 10:00 a.m. start.

Thursday, Sept. 28, 2017

Hollidge Tract, 16389 Highway 48, a half kilometer south of Vivian Road (Mulock Drive).

The entrance is the east side of the road, opposite Cherry Street with parking up the driveway behind the building. Come and saunter along the very interesting and beautiful trails of the Hollidge Tract. The pathway is mainly flat and sandy. Closed shoes and long sleeves are recommended.

Thursday, Oct. 19, 2017

Roger's Reservoir

We should check on the construction progress on this trail. It looked very interesting when we last visited. The paths are wider, flatter and run beside the Holland River. Park in the Green Lane parking lot, east of Main Street North. It is opposite the East Gwillimbury Go Terminal.

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017
Willow Farm Valley

There is a new addition to this walk that we should try. Parking is on the side of Willow Farm Road which is south off Saint John's side road between Aurora and Newmarket.

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017
Pine Orchard Farms

We have enjoyed this winter walk several times. Be prepared for some inclines, possible rooted paths, snowy trails and maybe a carol or two! In past years we have enjoyed both the walk and the interesting little store. Parking is at The Farm, located on the 16th side road, off Keele Street, north of King City.

Set aside **Wednesday, Jan. 24 2018** for our January walk. As in previous years during winter months we will likely follow the trails of Fairy Lake, Newmarket as they are maintained by the town. In case of extreme inclement weather you may contact me at 905-830-0407.

After our walk, we will, of course, visit a nearby coffee shop. Come alone or bring a friend.



Annual Ontario Drug Benefit Deductible

By Susan Leppington

RTO/ERO Extended Health Coverage of the \$100.00 Annual Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Deductible

The \$100 deductible is collected by ODB annually and begins every August 1st. It is collected by the pharmacist on behalf of ODB. Those turning 65 after the deductible period begins would pay a pro-rated deductible amount for the year in which they turned 65, beginning on the 1st of the month following their 65th birthday. The pro-rated amount, determined by ODB, is also collected by the pharmacist.

Under the RTO/ERO Extended Health Care plan's prescription drug benefit, the \$100.00 ODB deductible is eligible for reimbursement at 85% of the eligible drug ingredient cost. Reimbursement is subject to the annual \$3,300.00 limit per insured person.

The dispensing fees involved in the payment toward the \$100.00

deductible are not eligible for reimbursement since dispensing fees are not covered under the RTO/ERO policy. To satisfy the deductible sooner, and to potentially incur less out-of-pocket costs, you can ask your pharmacist to submit to ODB the drugs with the larger dollar amounts first.

Your pharmacist will submit your claim towards the \$100 ODB deductible to Johnson Inc. If your pharmacist is unable to submit your claim electronically, you need to submit a paper/online claim for the deductible to Johnson.

For further details, please contact Johnson Insurance claims at 905-764-4888 or 1-800-638-4753.



Octoberfest at Market Brewing

By Ann Evans

We invite you to join us on an October afternoon to visit Newmarket's newest craft brewery where you will have the

opportunity to learn about the brewing process.

Our experience will include a private tour of the brewhouse to enjoy some specially chosen samples of beer and to have some fun participating in some beer based trivia.

Market Brewing Co. offers a clean and comfortable 3,000 square foot Taproom with hardwood finishing that mirrors all things Canadian. The styles and names of the beers are as interesting as the owner - Shane McCarthy, a local resident who insisted that the naming of his beers must connect historically to the community. For example, their *Beswick Lager* is in tribute to Newmarket's first doctor, Christopher Beswick. Their premium witbier, *Flee to Pennsylvania*, pays homage to a certain settler from the Keystone State.

A wide range of unique beers await your arrival this Octoberfest at Market Brewing Company.

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017

Time:

1:00 p.m. – approx. 2:30 p.m.

Location:**Market Brewing Co.**

7775 Leslie St.

Newmarket, ON L3Y3E3

*The building is directly north of the Hyundai dealership – the brewery is around the back.

Cost:

\$12.00 includes four, 4 oz. beer samples and an accompanying snack and coffee.

Please send completed registration form (pp. 13 & 41) and cheque made payable to **RTO/ERO District 34** to:

Ann Evans

285 Eagle Street,

Newmarket, ON L3Y 1J9

By Oct. 3, 2017



Varley Art Gallery Tour

By Jean Stewart

I invite you to join me for a tour of the Varley Art Gallery's Fall Exhibition which will run from Sept. 23, 2017 until Jan. 7, 2018.

One of the displays will focus on Xiaojing Yan's work *Out From The Tranquil Woods*.

Markham-based Xiaojing Yan is known for her intricate sculptural installations that explore the intersections of the natural and cultural worlds.

Her work is at once simple and complex, concrete and abstract; personal and universal. She transforms lingzhi mushrooms, star anise, freshwater pearl and cicadae, among others to explore traditional Chinese mythology and folklore. Yan revisits her own identity as a first generation Canadian, while offering contemporary perspectives on issues of mortality, belonging and contemplation.

Another exhibit, entitled *Present | Perfect | Continuous*, will feature works by Zev Faber.

To celebrate their twentieth anniversary, Varley Art Gallery will present a year-long rotation of the most cherished Varleys in their collection. These artworks highlight various aspects of the artist's career, including his skill as a portrait painter, his travels across the Canadian landscape,

and his connection to Unionville.

This exhibition will also highlight 20 years of acquisitions, acknowledge the important role of the Varley-McKay Art Foundation of Markham in the development of the collection, and the many donors who have contributed to its growth.

Grammatically, the present perfect continuous tense is used with actions that began in the past but are still continuing in the present. Symbolically, this tense implies the passing of time, something that is not fixed but always evolving. As we look forward to the next twenty years, we will explore our historical collection through contemporary frameworks; bringing fresh eyes and new understanding to its study and presentation.

Included in the Collections Gallery this fall is a site-specific installation by Richmond Hill artist Zev Farber titled *Machine Fantasies/Human Events*. This sound based intervention which will include works on paper and sculptural elements, will examine the intersection between contemporary technological era, tenuous memories and evocative

objects. The emphasis of the project will be on the nature of emissions/transmissions/reception as a framework for collapsing varied moments and narratives from the last half century.

Date: Monday, Oct. 23, 2017

Time: 10:45-12 noon

Location:

Varley Art Gallery of Markham
216 Main Street Unionville

Directions: Intersection of Unionville St. and Carlton Rd. Parking behind the Gallery or across Carlton Rd. at the Curling and Skating Rinks

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Complete the registration form (pp. 13 & 41) along with a cheque made out to **RTO/ERO District 34** and send to:

Jean Stewart
74 Knightsbridge Way
Markham, ON L3P 3W5

Register by Oct. 6th, 2017



Registration for RTO District 34 York Region Events

Please print.

Name of Event: _____

Date of Event: _____ Cost per person: _____

Registration Deadline Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Bus Pick-up: (if included in the price of the event); (check only one):

Newmarket Location Richmond Hill Location

Meal choice (if applicable): _____

Enclosed is a cheque made out to **RTO/ERO District 34** for
\$ _____ for _____ person/people at \$ _____ each.

Send your completed registration form with your payment to the
address given in the event description.

**NOTE: If bus transportation is included in the price of the event,
the signed waiver found on page 40 must be included with your
registration.**



50th Anniversary Committee - Call For Members

By Paul Devlin

The 50th Anniversary Committee was established by the Provincial Executive in the Fall of 2015 to plan for RTO/ERO's 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2018.

It has been an honour for me to have been involved in planning our provincial celebrations for the past two years. Believe me when I say that there will be several ways the provincial executive will be offering members chances to commemorate and celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

Although the actual date of the formation of our predecessor organization – The Superannuated Teachers of Ontario (STO) was on March 14, 1968, the Provincial Executive has determined that

the Spring 2018 Senate meeting will be held in May as normal to accommodate our many members who travel during the winter months

Our Provincial Executive has approved the following theme for the anniversary year:

**Celebrating our past
– Creating our future
Fiers de notre passe
-Tournés vers l'avenir**

RTO/ERO will be celebrating this significant milestone at both the provincial and district level. Locally, your District 34 Executive Council has also been planning for the celebration. This issue of *The 34th Story* and the next three issues will all focus on embracing the provincial theme by including reflections from past local presidents, tributes to certain members who have made outstanding contributions locally and promoting our strategic plan for the future.

We are targeting Thursday March 22, 2018 for our local anniversary celebration. However, we need more members to help us plan, and run a great no cost afternoon get together for our members.

If you are interested, and like to party, please contact me a.s.a.p.

Paul Devlin

pdevlin1957@gmail.com

905-727-6810



Memories of Past Presidents

By Evelyn Lawrence

As part of our celebrations for the 50th anniversary of RTO/ERO, we have asked our District 34 past presidents if they would like to submit a short article for *The 34th Story* to speak about their impressions and memories of their time serving on the executive. We are pleased that a number of these folks have taken this opportunity to share their thoughts with our members.

We have dedicated this and the next three issues of *The 34th Story* to the 50th anniversary. We will publish a few of the past president articles in each of the four issues. We hope our members enjoy the personal observations of these folks who served our organization over the years.

In this issue we will hear from Gladys Spiller, Janice Pisani and

Reg Pembleton.

Gladys Spiller 1998-1999

I have very fond memories of my years serving RTO District 34. We started out as STO/ERO but on July 1, 1998, we acquired a new name: The Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO/ERO). While I enjoyed working on the executive for many years, it was a particular honour to serve as president from 1998 to 1999. At that time, we had 1100 members; many with whom I had very positive interactions.

I remember working with Irvine Dean to begin the RTO Bridge Club (which is still flourishing). Together, we also planned many theatre trips for our members with our most enjoyable experiences to Stratford and the Shaw Festival.

Back in the day, John Kippen was our Past President, helping me as a capable and willing mentor. Dick Duffin was our newsletter editor. He accepted change as a responsibility. *The 34th Story* took on a new look and became noteworthy provincially.

Another highlight for me was attending the May 1998 Senate

meeting, where it was announced that an agreement was reached by the government and RTO/ERO regarding the Teachers' Pension Plan whereby RTO/ERO gained an effective voice in the management of our funds.

Best wishes to all our Members in Retirement as we celebrate our 50th anniversary.

Janice Pisani 2009-2010

Hello Everyone,
When I was given the honor of addressing my year as RTO/ERO District 34 President, my first thought was "where do I begin?". I have so many beautiful memories. Perhaps a trip down memory lane would be a wonderful way to share my year as president and re-connect with District 34 members.

When I began my journey on the District 34 Executive in 2006, it never entered my thoughts that in 2009 I would step in to the position of President. One of my most immediate observances was how dedicated and committed the executive was to our members... always so much to do, and always getting the job done with a

smile, and demonstrating tireless commitment.

As I reflect back, I think the most rewarding moments for me as President were the fun times which I shared with the District 34 members at the many social events offered by our Executive.

Oh, the memories... meeting up with past colleagues who were now retired, reminiscing, laughing, sharing and re-living our teaching experiences. Of course, meeting members for the first time and welcoming them to our district was always a pleasure for me.

The years have passed ever so silently and quickly, and the 'wine and cheese' honoring our new retirees has held the most special place in my heart. I will always remember my excitement when former colleagues and our executive were there to congratulate me the year I retired, and as President, I was honored to be able to welcome District 34's newest members. I have many memories of the personal interest stories that were shared with me in conversation at the various events; stories of teaching experiences, vacations,

and of course, children and grandchildren. The sharing of these stories kept alive the wonderful memories of my years in education, and I treasure so many warm memories shared by the many members I had the pleasure of meeting during my time as president.

I am honored to have served on the District 34 Executive and as your president. Thank you for joining me in my mini trip down memory lane.

R.E. (Reg) Pembleton 2003-2004

It is indeed an honour to be asked as a former president (2003), to say a few words about our local RTO/ERO 34th District on its 50th Anniversary.

The best thing about RTO/ERO was it represented all former teachers, vice-principals, principals, superintendents, directors, occasional teachers, certain other organizations, and designated private schools; BUT all were members from the Affiliates of OTF.

I can remember thinking: finally there is one voice province wide. No matter your rank or

affiliation, we were altogether.

The RTO/ERO Health plan for major medical and out of country travel insurance remains a leader in its mandate for providing services. It has more than doubled from the 40,000 members when I served .

The Provincial Senate remains a beacon in establishing future directions for our organization. The provincial committees continue do a stellar job in examining issues.

The local RTO/ERO leadership teams have provided great service and social activities for its membership. The 34th Story accurately captures the essence and services it provides. It is an outstanding publication.

So I say thank you to all of you at the local executive table who give so freely of your time. And to the membership - we should be proud to be members of such a vital and vibrant RTO/ERO District.

Happy 50th Anniversary District 34!



Full Inflation Protection

OTF/FEO Communique

The Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) and the Ontario Government, joint sponsors of the \$175.6 billion Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan will use a portion of the \$11.5 billion surplus in the Plan (as of January 1, 2017) to complete the restoration of inflation protection for teachers who retired after 2009. As well, the contribution rate for the Plan's active members will be reduced by 1.1%. Both changes are effective January 1, 2018.

"Conditional inflation protection has proven to be an effective tool for managing Plan deficits and now, for the fourth year in a row, the sponsors will use some of the surplus to finish the restoration of indexing that pensioners lost in recent years," said OTF President Mike Foulds. "In addition, the Plan's active members will enjoy a 1.1% reduction in the contribution rate. The remainder of the surplus will be kept in reserve to provide benefit and contribution rate stability against future funding challenges such as low interest rates and increasing longevity,

both of which increase the Plan's liabilities."

Pensioners who retired after 2009 will receive a one-time increase in January 2018 to restore their pensions to the levels they would have been at, had full inflation protection been provided each year since they retired. They will also receive a slightly higher inflation increase next year for the portion of their pensions earned after 2009. Cost-of-living increases for this portion of pension credit will equal 100% of the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), up from the current level of 90%. Pension credits earned before 2010 remain fully inflation-protected.

Active Plan members will enjoy a 1.1% reduction in the contribution rate they pay to the Plan.

Last March, Teachers' reported its fourth surplus in a decade. A preliminary funding valuation showed that the Plan was 105% funded at the beginning of 2017, based on current benefits and contribution rates.

For more information on these changes, please go to www.otpp.com.



Credit Valley Explorer - Scenic Rail Tour

By Craig Lee

There's no better way to see the countryside than from a seat aboard the Credit Valley Explorer. This touring train operates between Orangeville and Snelgrove. It's a great way to see the beauty of the Hills of Headwater region along the bordering Niagara Escarpment especially with the changing colours in autumn. You'll have fantastic views of the landscape with the large picture windows. A tour highlight includes travelling along the 1,146 foot trestle bridge. The tour includes a brief break in Inglewood where passengers can stretch their legs and take some photos of the town.

Each trip aboard the Credit Valley Explorer includes a seated meal service with complimentary refreshments, and a light lunch (soup/deli sandwich/dessert) brought to you by the cordial onboard attendants. Vegetarian and gluten free options are available upon request. You'll also receive a souvenir tour guide with interesting highlights about

the journey. The 74 kilometre, 3 hour journey is a popular tourist attraction.

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017

Time:

Board the train at 11:00 a.m.
Train returns to the station at 2:30 p.m.

Location: Orangeville GO

Transit Station 49 Townline, Orangeville. Take Hwy 9 west (Davis Dr.,Newmarket) to Hwy 10. Go north on Hwy 10 (about 500m) to the Orangeville turnoff (Broadway) turn left on Townline to Credit Valley Explorer parking lot on the left. Parking at the station is free.

Cost: \$50.00 per person

Meal selection: please choose one of the following and indicate your choice on the registration form: 1) regular, 2) vegetarian, 3) Gluten-free, 4) diabetic.

Please register and place your order by Sept. 21, 2017

Send your registration form (pp. 13 & 41) with a cheque made out to: **RTO/ERO District 34** to:

Craig Lee
21 Lippincott Court
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 7M5

Tickets will be distributed on the day of the train tour. Acknowledgements will be emailed upon receiving the registration form. You can find a more detailed itinerary on line. (www.creditvalleyexplorer.com)



Fall Luncheon

By Paul Devlin

We are pleased to be returning to the tranquil setting of the Cardinal Golf Club for our District 34 Annual Fall Luncheon. Join us as we re-connect with old friends and meet new members in a beautiful autumn setting. The food is always great and local troubadour Ron Fleming will provide the musical entertainment.

Date: Thursday, Oct. 26, 2017

Time: 11:30 a.m. Registration
(Bar is open)

12:00 p.m. Seating for Luncheon

Location:
Cardinal Golf Club
2740 Davis Drive,
King City, ON L7B 0G7

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Menu:
Rolls and Butter
Soup
Flank Steak with Potatoes /
Vegetables
Desert
Coffee and Tea

Entertainment: Ron Fleming:
guitarist and singer

Bring your guests and join us for a lively afternoon.

****Please indicate any dietary requirements.**

Complete the registration form (pp. 13 & 41) and send it along with your cheque payable to:
RTO/ERO District 34 to:
Susan Phillips
26 Sheardown Dr.
Nobleton, ON L0G 1N0

Register by Thursday, Oct. 19,
2017



RTO/ERO Charitable Foundation News

By Elaine Adam

Please access *The 34th Story* website to read important information on the RTO/ERO Charitable Foundation.

There are seven short articles that will be of interest.

“**Bits and Bites**” is an overview of the Social Isolation Issue, our grants, information about the foundation and staff, and how to join the Foundation; because it is a charitable foundation, tax receipts are issued.

“**A Message from the Chair and the Executive Director**” is a letter from Joanne Murphy, Chair, and Jo-Anne Sobie, Executive Director, which covers information about eleven projects that are currently being supported.

“**In Conversation with Dr. Paula Rochon RTO/ERO Chair of Geriatric Medicine at U of T**” is a summary of a telephone seminar held with Foundation representatives as she explained her role and her goals.

“**A Grantee Story: Social Isolation Impact Plan**” is an article by the Hamilton Seniors Isolation Plan, one of the beneficiaries.

“**A Grantee Story: Beyond Bones: Building Educational Bridges Between Orthopedic Surgery and Geriatrics**” is a new two week “Orthogeriatrics” program for U of T medical students.

“**Your Donation**” is a chart which explains where your donation goes.

“**An Update From Dr. Rochon**” urges caution when using drugs for dementia.

In addition to these articles on our website, please go to www.embrace-aging.ca for further information.



The Meet District 34 Member section of *The 34th Story* will contain a series of articles designed to introduce local members of RTO who have made significant contributions of artistic merit, service to others or any achievement which may be of interest to our group. If you know of someone who you think might be included, please email Chris Prefontaine at 7chris.prefontaine@gmail.com. The first in this series will feature Retired Teacher and Photographer Rhonda Starr.

Meet District 34 Member: Rhonda Starr

By Chris Prefontaine

District 34 member, Rhonda Starr began teaching in 1980. For all of her career, she taught either grades two or three plus French. Like most of us, when we started to consider retirement, Rhonda wondered how she would fill her time. What would life look like after teaching? The answer came easily – travel and the arts. “I wanted to improve my photographic skills and explore the world through travel”.

Rhonda always had a love of the arts. As a child, she played piano and loved to draw. Later, she and her husband studied a variety of dance forms including ballroom dancing.

At the age of 12, Rhonda received her first camera, however she didn't really understand the fundamentals of picture taking. But...that changed when in her last year before retirement, Rhonda was assigned to teach a grade seven gifted class for one period in the computer lab. That was Rhonda's turning point. She created her own curriculum and, at the same time, learned how to use photo editing software and started to grasp the basic elements of good photography.

By the time Rhonda was ready to retire, she had joined the Richmond Hill Camera Club (RHCC) where she started at the intermediate level and has now reached the masters level. Two years ago, she was accepted into the Toronto Focal Forum, a prestigious print photo club composed of “a diverse group of photographic print makers who demonstrate a firm commitment to photography as an art form”.

It is here where she has found the biggest improvement in her photography, learning to “look at art” which is different than simply producing images for competition.

Rhonda has won many awards for her photography among which are Photographer of the Year - Assigned Topics (2016-17); Print Maker of the Year, (third place), Masters Division (2015 and 2016); Bronze certificate award from CAPA (Canadian Association of Photographic Art) and numerous awards from the GTCCC (The Greater Toronto Council of Camera Clubs) Interclub Competitions.

She participated in the Multi-Faceted YRDSB Staff Art Show in 2016 and has earned many awards in various categories from the RHCC. She also participated in the 2016 Scotiabank Contact show with The Focal Forum. In celebration of Canada’s 150th, the Town of Richmond Hill has displayed local artists’ work on banners along Yonge St. The one done by Rhonda can be seen in front of the McConaghy Seniors’ Centre 10100 Yonge St. and, if you have the 2017 Barrie Huronia

Rotary Cash Calendar, check out May and November - these were done by Rhonda.

Rhonda seeks to “take the ordinary” and move it up a notch. Her work has moved from the realm of great photography into that of artistic expression. Rhonda’s favourite pieces are on the cover of this issue of *The 34th Story*. The picture of the horses was actually put together as a series of photos. She loves Egg-Exact Symmetry because of its simplicity



and Musical Spoons because of the complicated detail which really challenged her taking many tries to get the lighting and angle correct.



To those of us who think they might like to try something like this or just improve their digital memories, Rhonda gives some words of advice. First of all, “don’t be afraid to play. It’s important to experiment when taking pictures; move the camera around; and, explore with the software.” Rhonda believes that you don’t have to go far to take good images – both Egg-Xact Symmetry and Musical Spoons were done right in her kitchen.



Rhonda took this photo of the boats while vacationing in France. She used software techniques to make it look like a watercolour. Another of her favourites is Fork Shadowing.



Would you have guessed that this was a series of photos taken of forks and their shadows? Rhonda had to walk around her dining room table positioning a flashlight while she clicked her camera to get the shadow of the forks just right. She then used Photoshop to finish editing it.

Rhonda recommends that we buy or borrow good instructional books on photography. She especially likes **The Digital Photography Books** by Scott Kelby in which he talks to the reader like a friend. The chapters are very specific and there is an organization that will appeal to teachers.

More advice: don’t feel that you need to buy expensive equipment; join a camera club or go to a community centre to learn the basics. “Practise, practise, practise – you can do it. You can train your eye to look at the world differently.”

One of Rhonda’s goals when she started out after retirement was to become an artist on the Richmond Hill Studio Tour. She achieved that goal this year, by submitting matted, framed examples of her

work that were accepted and will be available for viewing at the **Curtain Club Theatre**, 400 Newkirk Road, Richmond Hill, on Saturday and Sunday Oct. 14 and 15 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Rhonda will be displaying and selling a variety of her pieces – 4x6 pictures on 8x10 mats; greeting cards and matted 12x18s; and also framed pictures; all of which will be sold at discounted prices.

If you would like to see more of Rhonda's work, you can visit her website at rhondastarr.com or go to www.blurb.ca (search Rhonda Starr) where she has published about 40 books of her pictures. Rhonda's basement is becoming a fine art gallery so that people can come to see her work by appointment: 905-884-6586 (with special pricing available to RTO members).



Dining and Horse Racing at Woodbine

By Ernie Polsoni

Join us on Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017 for an evening of dining and horse racing at Woodbine Racetrack and Slots.

Some of you may be thinking that we are going into this 'horse world' to make money. Wrong! We are a wise group of people ... we simply do it for an evening of entertainment! So, come and experience live standardbred horse racing at its best with the best.

The traditional racing buffet, in brief, included in our price is as follows:

Salad Selection

Selection of Cold Platters

Chef's Featured Carved Item

Horsemen's Hot Selection

Dessert Buffet

Tea, coffee

Complimentary Welcoming Cocktail

All applicable taxes and gratuities included (excluding consumable charges).

Each guest will receive a race programme and a complimentary \$10.00 OLG slot voucher.

Date: Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017

Time: The Post Parade Dining Room opens at 6:25 p.m. for seating. The buffet is available from 6:25 p.m. till 9:00 p.m. with post-time for the races being at 7:25 p.m.

Location:**Woodbine Racetrack**

555 Rexdale Blvd. Toronto, ON
416-675-7223 or
1-888-675-7223

It is a 5 minute drive from Pearson International Airport. (Intersection of Hwy. #427 and Derry Road/Rexdale Blvd.) Parking in lot A and entering through the West Entrance is your best bet. It is possible to get to Woodbine with Public Transit.

Seating for people in wheelchairs and for those who can't climb stairs is available. Place your request on the "meal choice" line of the form. Woodbine has made some changes in seat reservations. They will do their best to accommodate your requests.

Cost: \$52.00 per person.

All seats must be paid in advance, and are non-refundable. In order for us to properly process everything and meet the required pay date, we ask that you make sure your return is in by **October 28**. (If somehow you miss the deadline return date, call me 905-773 -5814). I may have

tickets from those who may have cancelled – I'll try to accomodate all!

Because of the system Woodbine uses for reservations, and because we don't want to lose any money, I ask you to please reserve as soon as you can - much appreciated and thank you.

Please complete all parts of the registration form (pp. 13 & 41) and mail it in with your cheque made out to **RTO/ERO District 34** no later than Thursday, Oct. 28, 2017 to:
Ernie Polsoni
75 Bond Crescent
Richmond Hill, ON L4E 3K6



Discounted Tickets for Jitters

By Angela Stewart

Markham Little Theatre is entering its 52nd year of producing outstanding theatre and would like to offer RTO members, friends and family a special price for their November play.

For only \$14.00 per person you will be treated to a world-class theatre experience. Not only that – we offer free parking!

Jitters

A comedy by David French

Everything that could go wrong, does go wrong in this hilarious examination of what takes place behind the curtain of an ambitious new play. It's opening night, and things are not going well. Egos are clashing, the crew is frustrated, and the playwright is desperate. Throw in a male lead who can't remember his lines and the promise of a New York producer in the audience, and watch the action unfurl in this popular Canadian comedy.

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Location:

Flato Markham Theatre
171 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, ON (corner of Hwy.
#7 and Warden Ave.)

Cost: \$14.00 per person

Visit the RTO table to pick up your tickets the night of the play. Complete the registration form (pp. 13 & 41) and send with a cheque made out to

RTO/ERO District 34 to:

Angela Stewart
42 Schouten Crescent
Markham, ON L3P 7W7

Registration must be received by:
Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017



The Milk Bag Project Continues

By Chris Prefontaine

When I think of the words “Now I lay me down to sleep”, I think of a comfortable, warm bed with crisp clean sheets on it. That is my reality, but unfortunately, this does not apply to our local homeless and many people in developing countries. For them, a “good night’s sleep” is often right on the cold hard ground – and maybe, isn’t so good!

RTO member Sharon Gusz is working hard to change this. If you read the Sept. 2016 issue of *The 34th Story*, you learned

that Sharon organizes a group volunteers who meet on a regular basis at Our Lady Queen of the World Church in Richmond Hill to “weave” mats from Canadian milk bags. These mats are bug, mildew and bacteria resistant and serve as a great insulator. Since 2014, 14,000 mats and handbags (woven of the same material), have been sent to the homeless in the GTA, and shipped



to Greece for Syrian refugees, South America, Central America, Africa, the Philippines and this year to Rankin Inlet. Plans are presently in the works to bring this project to Nicaragua.

Sharon has been involved in supporting Milk Bags Unlimited since 2010. As a teacher-librarian, her library became a donation depot for milk bags that were then being collected for the first huge outreach and training project in Haiti. Since her retirement in 2013, she has been to over 40 schools training staff and students and more recently has been visiting retirement residences.

According to Angela Kesthely founder of Milk Bags Unlimited, “Sharon is an amazing worker and a wonderful person to have on the team. She works diligently and never seems to tire out. She cares for the impoverished and wants to help in anyway she can.”



Sharon Gusz knows that the mats sent to Africa are in high demand. It brings tears to her eyes when she considers that frequently a full family of 5 or 6 people will sleep on one mat protecting their head to waist and leaving their legs and feet to be directly on the ground.



Sharon believes that “when you get ‘like minded’ giving people together great things happen.” If you are interested in volunteering in any way email Sharon at

sharongusz@gmail.com. She has a multitude of boxes of milk bags but more weavers are needed! If you wish to learn more about this program, you can also visit Milk Bags Unlimited at milkbagsunlimited.ca.

Sharon believes that “in a world where there is so much sad news, our little project shines bright!”

Dates for 2017- 2018

Tuesday, Oct. 3	9:30 - 11:30
Tuesday, Nov. 7	9:30 - 11:30
Tuesday, Dec. 5,	9:30 - 11:30
Tuesday, Jan. 9	1:00 - 3:00
Tuesday, Feb. 6	1:00 - 3:00
Tuesday, Mar. 6	1:00 - 3:00
Tuesday, April 3	9:30 - 11:30
Tuesday, May 1	9:30 - 11:30



All Shook Up

By Craig Lee

Put on your “Blue Suede Shoes” and get ready to dance. The year is 1955 and deep in the Midwest is a town where music and dancing are strictly forbidden. Enter a motorcycle-riding rebel ready to break all the rules and you have a town that is “All Shook Up”. Inspired by and featuring the songs of Elvis Presley, this is one

musical with which you “Can’t Help Falling in Love”.

This hip-swiveling, lip-curling musical fantasy will have you jumping out of your blue suede shoes and dancing in the aisles with 24 classic Elvis tunes, including “Heartbreak Hotel,” “Jailhouse Rock,” and “Don’t Be Cruel.” Join us for a fun-filled, feel-good ‘50s musical comedy inspired by the music of Elvis Presley!

Date: Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location:

Newmarket Theatre

505 Pickering Crescent
Newmarket, ON (The theatre is attached to Newmarket High School on the north side of Mulock Drive between Bayview and Leslie.)

Cost: \$25.00

Please place your order by Friday Oct. 27, 2017. Send your registration form (pp. 13 & 41) with a cheque made out to: **RTO/ERO District 34** to: Craig Lee
21 Lippincott Court
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 7M5

Tickets may be picked up at the box office on the day of the performance. Acknowledgements will be emailed upon receiving the registration form.



Project Service To Others

By Regine Baker

What it is Project Service to Others is a Provincial RTO/ERO grant programme that provides \$100,000 annually to the 48 Districts who support the concept of “service to others”.

Through Project STO Districts may apply for up to \$4,000 to support individual projects that support local, national or international programmes that often involve children or disadvantaged groups.

Many types of projects may be considered such as:

- local heritage and culture projects;
- support for initiatives from First Nations’ communities;
- school day care for the children of single adolescent parents;
- special arts and education programmes for children;

- support for the disadvantaged, shut-ins or for crisis centres;
- support for initiatives in developing countries;
- support for medical and social programmes for the needy;
- ESL, literacy and numeracy programmes; and
- school dropout programmes.

These are examples only and do not preclude other types of projects.

How it operates

Every year each district executive may select one project from those submitted to be forwarded to a provincial RTO/ERO committee. That committee assesses each submission according to established criteria including the level of member and district involvement in the project.

How to apply

The application forms that need to be completed are available for downloading at www.rto.org or by phoning 1-800-3619888 until the end of February. An RTO/ERO District 34 member who is a participant in the group must sign the forms. (continued on right)

Completed applications must be received by the District 34 Executive by March 25, 2018. They may be emailed to Regine Baker, Project Service to Others Convenor:
 reginebaker@rogers.com
 or sent by Canada Post to
 15 Groomspoint Cres.,
 Scarborough, ON M1T 2K8

They may also be emailed to Susan Phillips, President of RTO/ERO District 34 at susancphillips@gmail.com.

At a meeting of the District 34 Executive one submission will be selected to go forward for consideration at the provincial level. All applicants will be notified.



50th Anniversary Member Tributes

By Paul Devlin

DICK DUFFIN



In 2014, the Executive of District 34 was proud to nominate Dick Duffin to receive an RTO/ERO Distinguished Member Award for his service to District 34 as newsletter editor, website designer and webmaster.

The District 34 nomination form stated the following, “When Dick retired, about 20 years ago, he joined District 34. He joined the Newsletter Committee and began to improve the methods of communication. It seemed to be a simple progression of events, but each move was meticulously researched, planned, costed and shared with the executive before any implementation. We have been grateful for his skills, patience and enthusiasm during the sixteen years he edited the newsletter and developed our website.”

Dick Duffin also joined the Provincial Communications Committee in 2008. He maintained email communication with 80 district newsletter editors and webmasters providing them with information and individual support.

He made five presentations at annual conferences. His evaluations from workshop participants were always outstanding.

In Dick's nomination, local executive member Grant Dale submitted the following statement. "I have had the pleasure of experiencing Dick's tutelage when I was selected to follow him as editor and webmaster. His patience and gentle pacing is what I attribute for whatever skills I have developed in my use of InDesign and Dreamweaver. It is an honour for me to try to follow in his footsteps..."

Dick Duffin received his Award at the Fall Senate, October 2014. At that time, he also received \$350 to be awarded to the charity of his choice.

In 2012, Dick was made an Honorary Member of District 34 for his commitment to communication in York Region.

Congratulations, Dick.

IRVINE DEAN



Irvine Dean was a valued member of the RTO Executive from 1990 to 2012. During that period, she was a vital member of the social committee. Irvine was the catalyst for District 34's annual trips to Stratford Shakespearean Festival, as well as the Shaw festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Irvine was also always involved in organizing our Fall Luncheons and Spring AGM and banquet. She was also a keen card player and initiated our Bridge Club at the M.L. McConaghy Seniors' Centre in Richmond Hill. This is still one of the most popular events in our district.

In her endeavours, her attention to detail was evident both to the

participants and the organizations with which she dealt. Irvine was always a person who ensured that all details were attended to and that all participants felt welcome.

Irvine began her teaching career in 1940 in Forest Hill Village. In 1958, she accepted a position with the Richmond Hill Public Board, which later became the York Region District School Board.

Her contributions to District 34 were formally recognized at the Fall Senate in 2010 when the provincial executive awarded her with the Distinguished Member Award. She was acknowledged for her outstanding dedication to her fellow members of RTO/ERO. We have been lucky to have had Irvine provide such tremendous leadership and dedication to the members of District 34.

In 2012, Irvine was made an Honorary Member of District 34 for her commitment to organizing a variety of social activities in York Region.

Congratulations, Irvine.



Book Recommendations

By Catherine Norton

Canada 150 is the perfect opportunity to turn our attention to non-fiction – a wide variety of new books have appeared that review our history, our heroes, our turning points. I’ve chosen three titles, each with a different focus and format.

First, I’d recommend Charlotte Gray’s *The Promise of Canada: 150 Years – People and Ideas that have Shaped Our Country*. Well-known as an historian and biographer, Ms Gray has combined these talents to focus on nine Canadians who “helped shape the way we think about ourselves”. Her selections are surprising (George-Etienne Cartier), iconic (Tommy Douglas), and diverse (Elijah Harper). With each chapter, and each new generation, we learn more about our country’s growing sense of self and the ideas that have defined us. Ms Gray’s attention to historical detail and her talent in imagining – but not inventing – personal storylines, makes this academic study very readable.

As he vacates Rideau Hall in

September, I'd recommend Governor-General David Johnston's *The Idea of Canada: Letters to a Nation*. Johnston has a passion for reading and a lifelong practice of writing letters. His book is a collection of missives that reflect his love of country, his experiences with Canadians, and his thoughts about the issues we face as a nation. Some of the letters are addressed to people he has met during his official travels these past seven years; others are directed to historical figures he wants to commend or question or simply recognize; still others are sent to large groups such as "Canadians born in the twenty-first century". Always, Johnston is exploring what makes Canada unique and special.

Lastly, I'd suggest Jane Urquhart's *A Number of Things: Stories of Canada told through Fifty Objects*. The tales are short, varied, and interesting, as Urquhart shines a light on everyday items such as a prayer mat, historical artifacts like Pearson's Nobel Peace Prize medal, and vanishing pieces of Canadiana such as lighthouses. Scott McKowen's illustrations

add to the sense of wonder and appreciation. It's a book with something for everyone, an easy chapter-at-a-time read that will make you proud of our people and our history. Celebrate Canada 150 with a great Canadian read! There is lots to learn and lots to appreciate.



Footloose

By Craig Lee

Moving in from Chicago, newcomer Ren McCormack is in shock when he discovers the small Midwestern town he now calls home has made dancing and rock music illegal. As he struggles to fit in, Ren faces an uphill battle to change things. With the help of his new friend, Willard Hewitt, and defiant teen Ariel Moore, he might loosen up this conservative town. But Ariel's influential father, Reverend Shaw Moore, stands in the way.

Date: Saturday, Nov. 25, 2017

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Richmond Hill
Centre for the Performing Arts
10268 Yonge St.
Richmond Hill, ON

Cost: \$25.00

Please place your order by
Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017

Send your registration form (pp.
13 & 41) with a cheque made out
to: **RTO/ERO District 34** to:
Craig Lee
21 Lippincott Court
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 7M5

Tickets may be picked up at
the box office on the day of the
performance. Acknowledgements
will be emailed upon receiving
the registration form.



The Game's Afoot

By Craig Lee

A Christmas Who Done It Comedy Thriller at Theatre Aurora

It is December 1936 and
Broadway star William
Gillette, admired the world
over for his leading role in the
play Sherlock Holmes, has
invited his fellow cast-members
to his Connecticut castle for a
weekend of revelry. But when
one of the guests is stabbed
to death, the festivities in this
isolated house of tricks and
mirrors quickly turn dangerous.

Then it's up to Gillette himself,
as he assumes the persona of
his beloved Holmes, to track
down the killer before the next
victim appears. The danger
and hilarity are non-stop in this
glittering whodunit set during the
Christmas holidays.

Date: Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Theatre Aurora
150 Henderson Drive
Aurora (south end of Aurora west
off Yonge St.)

Cost: \$20.00

Please place your order by
November 10, 2017. Send
your registration (pp. 13 &
41) with a cheque made out
to: **RTO/ERO District 34** to:
Craig Lee

21 Lippincott Court
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 7M5

Tickets may be picked up at
the box office on the day of the
performance. Acknowledgements
will be emailed.



Welcome New Members

By Evelyn Lawrence

Since our last newsletter was printed, the Provincial Office has informed us that the following have become members of RTO/ERO and have indicated their wish to be affiliated with District 34 – York Region. Information which is received after we go to print will be included in the next newsletter.



On behalf of the Executive and all of the members of RTO/ERO District 34, I extend a warm welcome to these new Members within our ranks:

George Anderson
 Patricia Bain
 Beverley Belfer
 Roger Bennett
 Jacqueline Bennett
 Janet Bockner
 June Botterill
 Kim Braga
 Sandra Burella
 Jennifer Butcher
 Luanne Camuti
 Donna Chu
 Rita Cipolla
 James Clarke
 Margaret Clarke
 Fabienne Couillard-Stevens
 Ronald Crocco

Rozanne Crohn
 Sylvia Digby
 Rimma Dobkina
 Shirley Drenko
 Deanna Durphy
 Teresa Evans
 Nancy Falcioni
 Stephen Fish
 Cynthia Freeman
 Janice Genova
 Ann Gnoinski
 Carol Grossman
 Darlene Grundsten
 Anne Hamilton
 Phillippus Hattingh
 Janice Hogg
 Nicolette Holbrook
 Lottie Hunwicks
 Donna Ireland
 Emily Jewett
 Sandra Jull
 Barbara Katz-Cooke
 Paul Kehoe
 Mark Kosta
 Beverley Lawrence
 Raymond Lefaive
 Siu Chui Liu
 Catherine MacLean

Beverley Maister
 Anna Marchetti Landry
 Richard Maurice
 Jeanette McLennan
 Lynda McMillan
 Kenneth Milne
 Janice Miner
 Marina Moreau
 Jill Morrison
 Sharon Moss
 Kimberley Nelson
 Andrew Nych
 Sean O'Connor
 Robin Pereira
 Nadia Perez
 Joni Preece
 Gila Rabin
 Janet Sherman
 Rilla Silber
 Tina Sinopoli
 M. Sisti Petruccelli
 Jennifer Strachan
 Diana Smith
 Shirley Smullen
 Anne Snelgrove
 Rachel Stetter
 Wojciech Szczygielski
 Peter Szigeti
 Sylvie Talarico
 Paula Tarabelli
 Paul Titanic
 Maureen Weaver
 Margaret Wider
 Patricia Zrihen

**WELCOME NEW
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

Jake Atteslander
 Esther Barak
 Maureen Dey
 Anna Maria Di Tomaso
 Gerald Frank
 Riita Gandhu
 Miriam Groberg
 Paul Gupta
 Thomas Hawkins
 Maureen Henderson
 Bari Elizabeth Hertzberg
 Regina Kagal
 Colleen Kennedy
 Jean Kinzinger
 Perry Kuhn
 Adelina Marinelli
 Catherine May
 Kevin Moyle
 Tinka Nanofski
 Danieli Nurit
 Michael O'Neill
 Valerie Quattrin
 Maria Rocca
 Elizabeth Scuse
 Ronald Welsh

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
FROM OTHER DISTRICTS**

Elizabeth Bruzzese
 Jeanne Hamilton
 Sharon Hanns



Disney's Beauty and The Beast

By Craig Lee

Alexander Mackenzie High School invites you to be "our guest" for an enchanting theatrical experience. Featuring iconic songs such as 'Belle', 'Beauty and the Beast', 'Home', and 'Something There', this classic story of love, magic and acceptance will delight all ages. Come and experience the theatrical magic of Disney on the RHCPA stage.

Date: Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location:

Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts
10268 Yonge St.
Richmond Hill, ON

Cost: \$15.00

Please place your order by
Thursday, November 2, 2017

Send your registration (pp. 13 & 41) with a cheque made out to:

RTO/ERO District 34 to:

Craig Lee

21 Lippincott Court
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 7M5

Tickets may be picked up at the box office on the day of the performance. Acknowledgements will be emailed upon receiving the registration form.



In Memoriam

With sorrow we have learned of the passing of the following members of District 34. To their families we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

Mary Barsauskas
Iva Blackshaw
Carol Brooks
Margaret Conner
Raymond Cousins
Jean Deverill
William Elliott
Nora Garvin
Chhaya Gupta
Bill Hazell
Monty Joffin
Bertha Littleford
Shelley Soul
Joan Stanley
Keith Steckley
Mary Stoyles
Ursula Reid
Trudy Warga

Political Advocacy Report

By Elaine Adam

Here is a summary of “Highlights from the PAC Liaison Report for the March 21, 2017 Meeting”.

RTO/ERO became a member of *Seniors' Voice* and has established a partnership with Elder Abuse Ontario. Work has commenced on refuting Bill C-27, an Act to amend the long standing Pension Benefits Standards Act.

A PAC workshop is planned for September, which will cover many issues relating to seniors. Politicians from various levers of government are invited.

A check list for Age-Friendly Communities will be adopted and a link to the website is provided.

A report was presented on hydro rates. Other issues cover extraction of water by bottling companies, Standards of Care and Personal Support Workers, and the Right to Die. Please access our website at www.34thstory.com to read the report.



Be Sure To Sign Up For Event Reminders

By Angela Stewart

Welcome to our new retirees!

RTO – District 34 publishes a newsletter three times a year and it is full of many fun and interesting events.

If you would like reminders of these events, in the form of a monthly email, please contact Angela at:

34thstoryreminders@gmail.com



Save The Date

By Regine Baker

The RTO District 34 Annual General Meeting and Spring Luncheon will be on Thursday, May 24, 2018 at the Meadowbrook Golf Club in Gormley. Mark the date on your calendar now so you don't miss out. More details will be in the spring issue of *The 34th Story*.



Acknowledgement, Waiver and Release

The participants in _____ (the “Event”) acknowledge and agree that RTO/ERO, including District 34, will not be responsible for any loss, injury or damage of any nature, including death, howsoever arising in connection with this trip/excursion/event. Participants in the Event are therefore hereby advised to carry their own insurance in connection therewith.

By signing below and in consideration of the participant’s attendance at the Event, the participant hereby releases and forever discharges RTO/ERO, District 34 and their respective directors, officers, members, agents, employees and volunteers (collectively, the “Releasees”) from any and all actions, causes of action, claims and demands (collectively, the “Claims”) from any loss, injury or damage of any nature, including death, which has arisen or may arise from the participant’s attendance at the Event, unless such loss, injury or damage has arisen as a result of the sole negligence of one or more of the Releasees.

Any Claim arising out of the participant’s attendance at the Event will be governed by the laws of Ontario, Canada and the participant consents to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of Ontario, Canada in any such action.

Participant’s printed name	Signature	Date
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Participant’s printed name	Signature	Date
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Participant’s printed name	Signature	Date
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Participant’s printed name	Signature	Date
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Additional copies of this form may be downloaded from our web site.

Registration for RTO District 34 York Region Events

Please print.

Name of Event: _____

Date of Event: _____ Cost per person: _____

Registration Deadline Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Bus Pick-up: (if included in the price of the event); (check only one):

Newmarket Location

Richmond Hill Location

Meal choice (if applicable): _____

Enclosed is a cheque for \$_____ for _____ person/people at \$_____ each made out to:

RTO/ERO District 34

Send your completed registration form with your payment to the address given in the event description.

NOTE: If bus transportation is included in the price of the event, the signed waiver found on page 40 must be included with your registration.


Find Us on The Web

Use the QR Code reader on your smart phone to find our website. Scan the code below to get to our web site.



Advertising Events in *The 34th Story*

By Evelyn Lawrence


The only events that are advertised in *The 34th Story* or via email communications are those that have been authorized by the executive. From time to time, our Email Communications Representative, receives a request from a member to advertise an event that has not been sent to the executive for approval. Please do not send these to Angela Stewart as it is not her job to alert the executive of these requests made by other members. Please contact the president or one of the vice-presidents, if you believe that you have an event that would be of general interest to members or would supply some benefit that would be in the best interest of our District 34 members. 

PLANNING A TRIP

Before planning a trip out of the province or outside of Canada, it is wise to call Johnson Insurance to check on your RTO/ERO health insurance coverage.

Changes in your health or in your prescriptions may alter your travel coverage. If an emergency should arise while you are away, contact Allianz Global Assistance within 48 hours of the emergency, or before medical attention is administered when the situation is non life-threatening. Contact with Allianz will ensure that your care is top priority and that the medical expenses for this unforeseen health condition are effectively monitored.

Johnson Insurance
1-800-638-4753
905-764-4041 (Fax)

Allianz Global Assistance
1-800-249-6556 

Classified Advertising

Classified ads are for the information of our members and do not imply endorsement by RTO/ERO District 34.



Johnson Inc.
RTO/ERO Health Benefit
Plan Administrator
Service 1-877-406-9007
416-920-7248
Claims 1-800-638-4753
905-764-4888
Website
www.johnson.ca

34th Story Website
Check our website at
www.34thstory.com

- for District 34 news,
- for additional photographs of events,
- for links to interesting websites,
- for information about your committees,
- for the District 34 constitution and policies

Changing Your Name, Address or Phone

The District 34 membership information comes from the Provincial Office. Please contact them about any changes.

RTO/ERO PROVINCIAL OFFICE

416-962-9463
1-800-361-9888
FAX 416-962-1061
Office Hours
8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Monday to Friday
www.rto-ero.org

DISTRICT 34 MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Evelyn Lawrence
905-642-5435 or
eplawrence@sympatico.ca.
Questions regarding
membership and newsletter
mailings may be directed to
Evelyn as well.

DISTRICT 34 EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

34thstoryreminders@gmail.com
For change of email address
only, NOT residence address
changes.

Newsletter Submissions

Articles are required for consideration for inclusion in future issues. Please keep articles to 500 words or less. A picture is a nice touch.

Do you have:

- a memorable teaching experience,
- special memories of a colleague or student,
- a good book to recommend,
- an account of an unusual holiday,
- an important question,
- suggestions for the editor,
- suggestions for district trips or social activities,
- information you would like to see in the newsletter or
- an issue you would like to raise?

Email the editor -
Chris Prefontaine
7chris.prefontaine@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

November 15 for January

February 15 for April

July 15 for September

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE
CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:
34th STORY, 7 Braid Bend
Stouffville, ON L4A 1R7

