



THE RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO
LES ENSEIGNANTES ET ENSEIGNANTS
RETRAITÉS DE L'ONTARIO

DISTRICT 18

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2011

Kawartha Lakes Unit – President’s Report Activities – Thanks to the Organizers

We had another successful year with our traditional activities which has included a summer golf experience (thanks to Bob Ellis and Rich Brien), a winter curling opportunity (thanks to Karen Brentnell) and another great meal and social at the Lindsay Golf Club celebrating Valentine’s Day (thank you to Marilas McInnis, Shelia Davidson, Mike Catling and Lenore Davidson).

Member Payback – New Voucher System

This year the Unit Executive has decided to give back to members who participate in unit organized activities by providing vouchers that can be redeemed by the member at future Unit sponsored activities. For example, those members who attended the Valentine’s Luncheon received a voucher (good for \$5 credit – no cash value). It can be used as payment towards any future event, for example, the AGM. The cost of the AGM is set at \$25. Therefore, a Kawartha Unit member will be able to use his/her voucher to help offset the cost (\$20 plus the \$5 voucher) of this activity. You, as a Unit member will receive a voucher upon attendance and payment at any and all KL Unit sanctioned activities such as the AGM, THWTB, Curling, Golf et al and these vouchers can be used at any future KL Unit activity.

New Format for Annual General Meetings

Our AGM this year will occur on September 28, 2011, at the Eganridge Golf Club (more specific info in the next newsletter). Please mark this date on your calendars. After much discussion, the District and Unit Executives decided to combine the District AGM with the Unit AGM’s in order to save on costs and allow for more interactions amongst the units’ members. As usual there will be some perfunctory business activities as well as lots of time for socializing and an interesting

guest speaker (or two). Please plan on attending this fall.

To Hell with The Bell - Pre registration info

Keep **Friday September 9, 2011** free for our *To Hell With The Bell* breakfast. You can use a voucher to defray the cost.

Executive Membership

After four years as our Communications Officer and, more specifically, our Newsletter Editor, Mike Catling has decided to give up this position. Having seen his excellent professional work on the numerous issues he has put out, I know you join me in thanking him for his service to the unit and district. Many thanks, Mike.

In addition, our Member Services Officer, Karin Robinson, is moving on and I wish to thank her for having taken on this position.

Finally, I have to thank Ev Mighton who is leaving the executive also. Ev, along with Doreen Roadhouse, have been our Goodwill Team and have been able to bring some happiness and memories to our members who are housebound and to the families of members who have passed on. Ev said, “It has been a very rewarding experience but it is time to move on after all these years.” Your warm wishes and visits will be missed by those you have helped support. Ev and Doreen, thanks. We are losing some members but still have a core of dedicated people who I would very much like to thank for their work and commitment.

Bob May (Secretary), **Lenore Davidson** (Treasurer), **Karen Brentnell** (Past President), and **Bruce and Debbie Peck** (Telephone Team) have all made my transition to Unit President a pleasant and painless experience. Merci. Our social activities are developed Ad Hoc by interested members and will continue to be supported by the Unit – let us know if you have an idea you wish to pursue.

The Unit Executive meets 3 times per year to set directions and do follow up on issues and activities. It does require some time and desire, but it is not an onerous time commitment (and who needs that in retirement). If you might be interested in working on the unit executive, please let me or any other executive member know.

That's it for now. Have a great summer! If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 705-328-9889 or rto.d18.ckl@gmail.com. See you in September at the AGM, at THWTB or on the links!

Ward Levine

President ~ Kawartha Lakes Unit

2011-2012 District Executive Positions

Now that the AGMs for Units and the District are all on the same day Unit and District Nominating Committees are going to be competing for bodies to fill positions on next year's Executives – thus this message!

At the District level four executive positions are filled automatically by the Units: the two Vice-Presidents are the Unit Presidents and the two Units elect the two Senators. All other positions are open for election in June. We need people to stand for President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the following Officers: Communications, Health Services and Insurance, Membership/Recruitment, Pension Concerns, and Political Advocacy. Last year we were not able to fill several of the Officers' positions with the result that some members of the Executive had to hold more than one position – some held three! Many members of the District Executive also carried significant responsibilities at the Unit level. The result is that a very few members of District 18 are trying to provide RTO~ERO services to the more than 725 members in the Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes Units that make up District 18 – quite simply, it's not fair to those few individuals.

As the Nominating Committee Chair I am once again asking for RTO~ERO members to volunteer to serve **our** organization. The time commitment is not onerous if enough

individuals get involved. **Many** of you have experience in working on organizations like RTO~ERO and **many** of you have the time to be actively involved so please give it your serious and positive consideration.

Many of you have been members for some time and have not yet seen fit to get actively involved – maybe the time is now!?

If you are interested in any of the positions that I mentioned above but would like to have more information about the job please give me a call at (705) 324-4602 or drop me a note at maxradiff@hotmail.com Your organization needs your help in providing an effective range of services to its members.

The District Executive intends to table a revised Constitution at the District AGM. Anyone wishing to receive an electronic copy before the meeting they should contact me.

Max Radiff

Past President~District 18 Executive

Telephone/Contact Committee

It seems that the days of regular telephone communication with our members is not as necessary, or as welcome, as it once was. With so many of us now having email, and being easily connected to newsletters and reminders of RTO events, the current Telephone Committee is wondering if all of our over 500 members really need to be on our phone calling lists?

We also realize that many of our members do not have email, and depend on printed newsletters to keep them informed of past and upcoming events. On that note, if you would like to receive a telephone call a couple of times each year to be reminded of meetings, or just as a goodwill gesture, please do not hesitate to let us know.

If you know of a member who is not active, and might appreciate a call once in a while, please let us know that person's name and number, and we will happily connect with them periodically as well.

It would take 50 phone captains, each with 10 folks to call, to reach all of our members. This

is a daunting task to organize, so we would like to know if you feel, as we do, that our telephone committee might be one that can be drastically “downsized”.

We will make up new calling lists from those who contact us, to let us know that they would like to be called occasionally.

Bruce and Debbie Peck
Kawartha Unit Telephone Coordinators
 705-324-3417 bpeck19@cogeco.ca

Goodwill Committee Report

Since the last newsletter, the Goodwill Committee sent four cards to members who were ill or needed to be remembered due to the loss of a loved one. Plants/gifts were delivered to two members who were hospitalized. During the Christmas season gifts were delivered to seven members who are in extended care facilities. Donations were made to the Educational Enrichment Fund in memory of seven members who passed away. Doreen Roadhouse and I are passing the duties of this committee to someone new. If you are aware of an RTO member who is ill and needs to be remembered by the Goodwill Committee, please call the new committee member

Ev Mighton
Kawartha Unit Goodwill Committee

In Memoriam

Lawrence Percy Skitch
Bette A Corbett
Grace Kelsey
Isobel Bryant
Jim Duncan
Helen Kennedy
Evelyn McLean

Kawartha Events and Vouchers

Each year members of RTO celebrate the start of another school year by not going to school.

This invitation is being extended to newly retired and veteran retired teachers to come and meet the local Retired Teachers of Ontario executive and learn about RTO and what it can provide for them.

In order to defray your costs, when you attend, you will receive a voucher that will allow you a \$5 discount on any future Kawartha Lakes Unit Function such as the Annual General Meeting, Golf Tournament, Curling Bonspiel or any other Unit sponsored activities. This procedure started at the Valentines Luncheon of 2011 and will continue for the rest of this year.

Remember that membership organized social events will be supported by the unit! If you have an idea for a social event, please feel free to contact any member of the executive.

President's Message – Haliburton Unit

By Pauline Johnson

The end of 2010 and the beginning of 2011 have been relatively quiet for the Haliburton Unit so we have worked at reorganizing some of our systems.

Improving communication, we have refined how the Goodwill Committee operates, how our telephone committees can be kept up to date and we have brought more people on our executive, expanding directors at large. Our first annual Christmas social for members of the telephone committee and the executive also allowed for sharing news, ideas and suggestions. All enjoyed lunch at Mark's Restaurant in November.

We have three to four meetings a year, so if you are interested in seeing what RTO is all about at the Unit level, please let one of the executive know. As we said, people can serve as directors at large and later take on other positions, if they find something they are interested in.

Financially, we are in fine shape in the Haliburton Unit, and have resolved to subsidize costs for unit events and the AGM, choosing scenic locations with exceptional meals for members to enjoy.

We thank Betty Mark and Robert McIvor for volunteering to be our official newsletter photographers. If you find yourself in their vicinity, smile for the camera.

Our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones over the winter months or who have had trials of their own. As always, please let us know when members suffer misfortune or bereavements so we can send cards, express our condolences and lend support.

Teachers are generally extroverts who enjoy being put in situations where they can meet new people and can continue travelling the route of lifelong learners. There are many opportunities to check out in RTO.

The Chickadee Luncheon

By Pauline Johnson

The prime ingredient for a wonderful luncheon event is superb food, followed closely by great company.

The Haliburton Unit is repeatedly drawn back to the Peppermill Restaurant in Carnarvon for its Chickadee luncheon because of its scrumptious roast beef and seafood buffet. Fifty-five people attended on January 11, lingering late into the afternoon getting to know new members and enjoying the company of friends they hadn't seen in a while.

I had the pleasure of winning the draw for the stain glass chickadee. This symbolic piece of art and comments from others about the name --Chickadee Luncheon--made me seek out its founder, Hilda Clark, a long standing RTO member from Wilberforce.

Hilda retired in 1988 and tells me the first luncheons were informal events with Winterbirds, retirees still in the North as opposed to Snowbirds who travelled South. Word spread and whoever showed up when a date was announced was part of the celebration. Once numbers started to increase, the Old Country House suggested it open on its day off to accommodate those of us who no longer had to go back to work after the Christmas Holidays. This informal luncheon

has evolved into a popular event, with many raising a glass to the freedom from the bell that retirement brings.

Many thanks to Marg Valentine and Jim Milne for taking reservations and registering people at the door.

Membership Services Announcement Change of Address Notices

Please notify head office of RTO if your address changes. Also notify the executive if your e-mail address changes, so you will continue to receive your newsletter, if you get it electronically.

Your Senator, Your Voice



An interview with Wayne Cooper, District 18's newest Senator from Haliburton

How did you become an RTO member?

It took personal contact. Louise Cooper was our unit president at the time and she informed me of a retirement workshop in Lindsay, a full year before I retired. I was impressed by the information and documents provided, especially up-to-date financial information. I followed instructions and signed up for RTO; consequently, the paperwork involved in retiring was almost effortless.

As an RTO member, how did you see yourself participating actively?

Initially, not at all. When you first retire, it can be like heading for the playground. You want to recapture that feeling of freedom and joy at having seeming endless days at your disposal. The RTO members' meetings are social, and then, unexpectedly, an invitation from the executive makes you realize that nothing simply happens on its own. RTO needs local hands and voices – maybe yours.

How important is that local voice?

Well, it's not important at all if you don't speak. It's really quite easy to be ignored. Haliburton is a small unit, partnered with a larger unit, Kawartha Lakes. As District 18, we send two senators (currently Ward Levine and me) to the semi-annual meetings in Toronto, and there we have a vote that is equal to much bigger districts. Clearly, our local voice can count.

It is my responsibility to inform our local executive of key issues prior to the senate meetings. There usually isn't time to get this information out to the membership as a whole, and that is why it's important that our local members attend the Annual General Meeting, read the newsletter and speak to us about issues that concern them.

The RTO Spring Senate meets May 16 – 18.

What is likely to be discussed at the Spring Senate?

One of the recent RTO initiatives, the charitable foundation and funding a Chair in Geriatrics at the University of Toronto, is sure to be discussed in detail. Many of the senators have expressed concern over the set-up and operating costs of the charitable foundation—these would have to be approved by the senate.

What is it like finishing your third year of retirement?

I'm already finding that I have to limit the number of activities I engage in socially. I'm a bit of a scholar, musician and cook and so there has to be some quiet time. Even so, I don't begrudge the time I spend at RTO because it's a way of looking out for our collective welfare as retired teachers.

Kawartha Valentine Lunch

The Valentine lunch arranged by members of the Kawartha Lakes Unit was held this year on February 14th at the Lindsay Golf Club. Tables in the room were beautifully decorated. It was a time to enjoy a good meal, participate in some interesting group activities, and visit with friends. Sixty-six people attended and



Marilas McInnis presented the challenging Valentine quiz.

from all accounts, everyone enjoyed the day.

Draws for door prizes were made and each unit member was given a \$5.00 voucher to be used for any future event sponsored by the unit. RTO members Marilas

McInnis and Sheila Davidson organized the luncheon. On behalf of all of us who attended, we thank you.

We appreciate all the time you spent and the work you did to make this event very special.

Lenore Davidson
Kawartha Unit Treasurer



Au Revoir

As Ward has stated this is my last newsletter. About four years ago, I assisted Edna Madill with the RTO newsletter. When Edna left I assumed the editing duties. I wish to sincerely thank all those who submitted articles, reports and pictures. I am especially grateful to Karen Brentnell for sharing the newsletter responsibilities and the staff at *Kawartha Business Machines* for all their assistance. Pauline Johnson of Haliburton has kindly volunteered to become the newsletter editor. I wish her every success in this position. Pauline can be reached at pauline.l.johnson@sympatico.ca or 705-489-3878.

Mike Catling

FLASH!!! This year the Unit and the District Annual General Meetings are being held simultaneously in a common location in order to reduce travel costs, meet other retirees and to synergize the activities taking place.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Retired Teachers of Ontario – District 18

The Annual General Meeting of the Membership District 18 of the Retired Teachers of Ontario (Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes Units) will be held on **September 28, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at Eganridge Golf and Conference Centre.**

R.R. 3 Fenelon Falls Ontario, Canada K0M 1N0 tel: 1-705-738-5111 1-888-452-5111

The business of the meeting is:

- ◆ To receive reports of the officers of the district
- ◆ To approve changes to the bylaws and constitution
- ◆ To elect the officers for 2012

There is no cost to attend the business meeting but if one wishes to partake in the refreshments and lunch, the registration form, included in the next newsletter, will outline the cost and procedure to register your attendance.

If you are attending the business meeting only, please be prepared to show proof of membership in RTO.

Karen Brentnell
Secretary ~ RTO District 18

SOME IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Kawartha Lakes To Hell With The Bell (THWTB)

Attention ALL retired KL teachers – especially new ones!!
Come share some social time with your non-working colleagues and celebrate the start of another school year in which you are not partaking.

Date: September 9, 2011 **Time:** 9:30 a.m.

Location: Captain's Restaurant – Hwy. 35 south of Hwy. 7 – Lindsay

Cost: Free for New Retirees (but you must let us know)

Veteran Retirees - \$10 and you receive a voucher for \$5 OFF your next District 18 – Kawartha Lakes function or use one you already have to defray the cost!!!!

In order to plan for the refreshments you are asked to confirm attendance by contacting Ward at 705-328-9889 or by email at rto.d18.ckl@gmail.com by September 5, 2011.

- also -

The curling bonspiel will be on **November 9th, 2011 in Lindsay**. The cost will likely be \$25 with a \$5 voucher given to *Kawartha Lakes RTO* members at the event for their participation. This voucher can be applied to other upcoming events.

RTO~ERO ANNUAL GOLF MIXED SCRAMBLE

DATE: Thursday, June 30th

TEE OFF TIME: 9:30 a.m. Arrive at 9:00 a.m. please.

PLACE: Sturgeon Point Golf Course (now licensed).

FORMAT: 9 holes of golf (best ball scramble) Singles welcome. We build the foursomes.

COST: \$34.00 per person (\$15.00 for Sturgeon Point Golf Club members)

BUFFET LUNCH AND PRIZES FOR ALL!

Please fill in the information and return this lower portion, with your cheque, by **June 23rd** to:

Rich Brien 51 Victoria Ave. N. Lindsay ON K9V 4G1 705-324-6034

Please make your cheque payable to **RTO Kawartha Lakes Unit**

Please come and enjoy the golf, the fellowship, the little prizes and a great lunch.

Hope to see you there!

Rich Brien and Bob Ellis

Please fill in the information and return this lower portion with your cheque payable to **RTO Kawartha Lakes Unit** by **June 23rd** to

Rich Brien 51 Victoria Ave. N. Lindsay ON K9V 4G1 705-324-6034

Number of Golfers: _____

Name(s): _____

Handicap: _____ (or experience) **Beginner Duffer, Regular player, etc.**

Amount: \$ _____

Rich and Bob

Kawartha Lakes Unit Members who participate will receive a \$5 voucher good for any future Unit sanctioned activity.