

BEYOND THE BELL

District #46 Muskoka Retired Teachers

www.rtomuskoka.org

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Know Your RTO/ERO Health

Your RTO/ERO Health Plans booklet contains contact information for **MONDIAL ASSISTANCE** (formerly World Access). If you are travelling to a country that is not included in one of the listed telephone areas, you should use the collect telephone number. Please note that not all hotels or regions permit collect telephone calls. If you are not able to make a collect call from the hotel or a public pay phone, please call direct and you will be reimbursed with your claim.

Check with your travel agent, or Mondial Assistance, before you travel if you have any questions about calling Canada while you are away.

RTO/ERO Extended Health Care Plan Passport Covers with Mondial Assistance emergency phone numbers, were included with the 2009 Renewal Mailing of all RTO/ERO Extended Health Care Plan Participants.

Renewal Letters, Going Places and the Group Benefits Update were mailed to RTO/ERO Plan Participants in November 2008. Make sure you keep this information in an easily accessible place -- you never know when you might need it!

If you change your email address please contact Membership Chair, Mary Patterson at rtomuskoka@yahoo.com to continue to receive your newsletters and notices of all events.

Great Success

On April 21, your RTO Muskoka Executive hosted 42 participants for a retirement workshop and dinner. This Retirement Workshop, held at the United Church in Gravenhurst was very successful. The turnout was triple that of two years ago and all participants left wishing they could retire tomorrow.

President Bob Harris welcomed the group. Vice President Lorna Walking explained the structure of RTO, both provincially and locally.

Dave Giles, a provincial pension committee member, explained Teachers' Pension Plan, RTO's involvement in it and financial considerations. After dinner, a representative from Johnson's Insurance explained our health plan and various insurance plans. Bob Harris closed the evening with some hints and jokes about retiring.

Your Executive members attended to make the participants feel welcome and assure them that retirement is a wonderful lifestyle.



Dave Giles from RTO presents

The realization that this is my last publication of the District President's message is a bit of a shock to my system. I have thoroughly enjoyed being District 46's first president and have been proud to share in its inauguration. We have established our District through the hard work of an excellent executive and a large number of active, dedicated members. In addition to our local activities, Muskoka has a member of the Provincial Executive, the chair of the provincial Audit committee and a representative on the Member Services committee. Our "Project Service to Others" initiatives, our volunteer awards and our annual student bursary are also great sources of satisfaction.

Please return your reply slip to attend our AGM on June 2. We are planning a very upbeat meeting in contrast to all the gloom and doom scenarios that currently surround us. We will be showing the new RTO/ERO recruitment video and after lunch we will be entertained by Darryl Hollingsworth. Darryl is a professional musician who has performed for many years at Deerpark and Inn at the Falls. Join us to enjoy his performance.

At the AGM, we will be

asking you for ideas about improving our services to you, our members. Please give this some thought in the meantime and come prepared to discuss your suggestions.

The news that our teachers' pension fund lost money last year is no surprise. However, the fund itself is very stable, with investments broadly-based and conservative in nature. The performance one year does not greatly effect the total revenue over time. The really good news is that your pension is safe and is guaranteed to be delivered to you, complete with the cost of living provision, as it has in the past. If you choose to personally invest in one of the "Big 3" auto makers, that is entirely your own decision.

It was with regret that your executive council accepted the resignation of Jennifer Jilks as the Political Action Committee representative. She found difficulty being able to serve because of many other commitments for her time. Thank you, Jennifer, for the work that you contributed this year.

On the subject of executive, it is time to think about our executive council for next year. All positions, with the exception

of past president are open. New people are important to the livelihood of a healthy organization. If you are interested in serving, or would like more information about a position and its duties, please contact Marg Couture or myself.

First vice-president Lorna Walkling and I attended a provincial workshop for District Presidents. In addition to hearing inspiring speakers, there were sharing sessions and small group interactions. Participation in such events stimulates a renewed sense of enthusiasm and encourages a desire to try some new initiatives.

"Here for you now..... Here for your future." This phrase describes the positive impact RTO/ERO has and reinforces the organization's commitment to its members. Our worries and aspirations change over time throughout our retirement years. Individual life expectancy keeps expanding and as we age, our priorities and the focus of our attention will evolve. Financial security, life style changes and health issues will all contribute to change our life view. It is reassuring to know that we, as individuals, are not alone in this venture, and that a supportive organization is in place to help us cope with these developments. Thank you RTO/ERO.

New Members May 2008-May 2009

Thomas Bruin
Judith Anderson
Karen Cox
Frances Kennedy
Iris Robinson
Jon Snelson
Carol Stead
Donnadale Wilcox

Gerald Hopkins
Anne Clement
Catherine Bamford
Catherine Campbell
Susan Nicholson
Latherine Peck
Elaine Cotterell
Helen Corrigan
Christine Yahiro

In Memoriam May 2008 – May 2009

Robert Kirkpatrick
Beryl Braden
John Wilcox
John Wheeler
Patricia Carr



Leo Couture, Lorna Walkling, Bob Harris and Margaret Couture attending the President's workshop in Toronto in March

District #46 Executive

President	Bob Harris	705-687-5478	rsharris@sympatico.ca
First Vice President	Lorna Walkling	705-385-2948	lorna.walkling@sympatico.ca
Second Vice President	Mary Patterson	705-762-5270	marykp99@yahoo.com
Secretary	Shirley Harris	705-687-5478	rsharris@sympatico.ca
Treasurer	Leo Couture	705-762-1144	balacooch@aol.com
Travel & Social	Lee Shea	705-645-8677	mlshea@sympatico.ca
Health Insurance	Rod Mundy	705-789-5777	rodmundy@vianet.ca
Newsletter	Mary Storey	705-684-9560	mstorey@cogeco.ca
Webmaster	Laurie Fountain	705-645-9754	laurie@muskoka.com
Gravenhurst Goodwill	Norma Carrick	705-687-7572	
Bala & Port Carling Goodwill	Pearl Davidson	705-762-3477	momcpd@muskoka.com
Bracebridge Goodwill	Anne Glazier	705-645-4756	

Note from the Editor

Ah! The Rites of Spring. Amazing how much energy we have when the weather changes and our record amount of snowfall has finally left.

It is such a pleasure to look out on the lake and see the ducks and geese. Canadian Geese, Buffleheads, Mergansers, Cormorants, Wood Ducks, Mallards and Loons are all swimming madly as I type. Replacing the blanket of white frozen snow and ice, are the sure signs of spring.

Then, there is the yard work! Gardens to be raked, windows to be washed and cars to clean.. No, I am not complaining; it is so good to be outside enjoying the Spring weather and I certainly need the



exercise.

On another note, it is so pleasant to meet several of you out and about in Muskoka. I meet members at our Coffee Parties (Morning Recess), at the various places where I volunteer and even in the grocery store. Retired teachers are a special group of people; always friendly, always informed and always ready to take on the next task.

I look forward to a great summer.

Mary

Opportunity

Beaver Creek Institution is presently seeking the assistance of an individual or individuals willing to volunteer their time to facilitate a Creative Writing Group at the institution. We are attempting to provide the residents with productive leisure activities. If you or someone you know would be willing to consider this or a similar project, please contact Chaplain Arn Main at [705] 687-1719 for more information.





Upcoming Events

RTO Muskoka AGM and Luncheon

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Turner Centre, 120 Taylor Road, Bracebridge

- 9:30 AM Registration and refreshments
- 10:15 Business Meeting
- 11:30 Video: Recruitment
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:45 Darryl Hollingsworth on piano

Cost: \$10.00 per person

To Register, return to Lee Shea before May 28, 2009.
120 Front Street, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1J7
705-645-8677

Make cheques payable to: RTO Muskoka, District 46

I (we) would like to attend the RTO Muskoka
AGM and Luncheon, June 2, 2009

Name: _____

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Payment enclosed \$ _____

Muskoka RTO Executive invite you and a friend to a

BBQ at the home of

Marg and Leo Couture

1094 Hurling Point Road, Bala,

July 8, 2009

Noon



Bring your lawn chair, an appetite and the sun!

Also, a salad or dessert would be appreciated.

RSVP: Marg and Leo by June 29th 705- 762-1144 or
margaretcouture@aol.com
or balacooch@aol.com

Theatre Trip Drayton Festival Theatre Thursday, October 8, 2009

Brigadoon

Lerner & Loewe, A Magical Musical Fantasy

Departure Times from:

Huntsville (Centennial Ctr.)	7:30 am
Bracebridge (Hammonds)	8:00 am
Gravenhurst (McDonalds)	8:15 am

The Day's Agenda:

- 9:15 – Pit Stop at Cookstown Service Ctr.
- 12:00 – Dinner – Drayton – Buffet
- 2:00 – Performance of “Brigadoon”
- 5:00 – Supper – Order from menu – Own Expense
- 9:30 – Approximate Return Time to Gravenhurst

Price – All Inclusive: \$85.00 per person

Price includes: Bus, Dinner (Noon), Theatre, Tax & Gratuities

Bus Capacity – 55 persons

Make cheques payable to: RTO Muskoka, District 46

Return to: Lea Shea 120 Front Street, Bracebridge,
ON P1L 1J7 705-645-8677

I (we) would like to attend the Drayton Theatre trip.

Name: _____

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Payment enclosed \$ _____

For ____ person(s) @ \$85.00

*RTO again has field level seats for the baseball game
of the Blue Jays vs Los Angeles Angels on
Sat. August 22nd at 1 pm.*

*If you are interested in the discounted price of \$39.00
please call Bob Harris 687- 5478
By June 30th.*

