

Fall Newsletter

Fall 2023



**RTO
ERO**

District 7
Windsor-Essex



President's Message

Bill Bowden

RETURN TO:

RTOERO District 7
1963 County Rd 27
South Woodslee, ON
N0R 1V0

PAST PRESIDENT

Margaret Clarke

PRESIDENT

Bill Bowden

PRESIDENT-ELECT /

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Judy Bowden

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Gina Marcon

SECRETARY

Michael Oddy

TREASURER

Margaret Clarke

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Jim Sparrow

The full slate with contact
information can be found on
the last page

Welcome to Fall, one of my favourite times of the year. A time to celebrate, be with family and eat turkey and ham - *Thanksgiving*. A time to have fun. enjoy the laughter of children and maybe even dress up in costume – *Halloween*. A time to stop, think and acknowledge our heroes - *Remembrance Day*.

On a lighter note, a time to spend money, visit friends and just enjoy oneself - *District 7 Shopping Trip* and/or our trip to Petrolia for *Starbright Christmas*. Sorry but Starbright is sold out!

I was discussing attitude and positivity with a group of friends recently. Are you a half full or a half empty person? It is so easy to tear something or someone down or be negative about a situation. Yet it is just as easy to be positive; look on the bright side and just be happy. In the coming months there is a possibility of significant changes that could affect all members of RTO/ERO. I hope these announcements are positive and to your liking.

During these trying times I hope everyone is in full support of our affiliate members - ETFO, OSSTF, OECTA, AEFO and the other members of the teaching community. The role of an educator gets harder and harder. I know they really appreciate our support.

Continued on page 2



President's Message

continued

YOU as members of RTO/ERO DISTRICT 7 should take advantage of all we have to offer:

Scholarships Bursaries Grants
Benefits Plan Social Events

For what I may have forgotten I apologize.

Some of you will be heading south to warmer climes in the coming weeks. I wish you a safe, trouble free trip and an enjoyable winter season. Don't forget to follow District 7 in our winter electronic version available in January.

Please remember the Executive of District 7 is here to help you. Our doors are always open to members. Maybe you would like to become a part of your Executive. Just let me know. You know where to find our emails and phone numbers. Just flip over this Newsletter. Please remember "*It is the best of times not the worst of times*" (apologies to C. D.) *Be Safe!*



Goodwill Report

Glenna Hemphill

Happy Autumn! In October, the time of this writing, my thoughts turn to Christmas. The shopping for Christmas gift bags is finished and Liz Antal and I have begun putting the bags together. This year we are doing approximately 165 gift bags. My group of deliverers is set and, hopefully, these can be distributed during November and December – on nice sunny days with no blizzards!

I will soon be requesting address labels for all those retired since 2003 and then I can begin doing the Christmas cards. How many will be returned this year due to incorrect addresses, I wonder.

I continue to send out cards for birthday, cards of sympathy and cards for special occasions. I have received many cards of thanks for doing this so am constantly reminded of how important this is to our members.

Please continue to keep me informed if you know of someone in need of a cheery card. Enjoy the autumn weather and Happy Holidays to all of you.

Contact Glenna at 519-967-7102 or rhemphill@sympatico.ca



À la Une

Diane Picard

Que de plaisir cet été! Nous avons accueilli de nouveaux retraités à notre déjeuner "To Hell with the Bell" au Dominion golf. Nous espérons que vous découvrirez des activités qui vous plairont et que vous vous joindrez à nous. Faites de nouveaux amis et renouez avec de vieux amis. Pour ceux d'entre vous qui viennent de prendre leur retraite... Bienvenue!

Club du déjeuner

Nos nombres mensuels augmentent! Venez prendre un petit déjeuner entre amis...vous courez la chance de gagner votre déjeuner !!!

Dates et lieux – chaque 2e jeudi du mois à 9 h 30

Le 19 octobre, 2023

Uptown Restaurant

521 Rue Tecumseh O

Windsor

Le 9 novembre, 2023

Spoonz

(Windsor Crossing

Outlet Mall)

Le 14 décembre, 2023

LA Town Grill

5975 Rue Malden

Lasalle

Le 11 janvier, 2024

Baker's Restaurant

5570 Rue Wyandotte E

Windsor

Voyages et événements

Visite aux Vignobles du comté d'Essex

Le 27 septembre 2023

Après-midi extraordinaire ! Une de nos plus récentes membres en se présentant aux autres participants de la tournée aux vignobles reconnecté avec son enseignante de jardin d'enfants !!!



Sortie de Golf 2023

Nous avons accueilli 7 équipes! Quelle belle journée de golf! Du plaisir à jouer entre amis et par la suite manger et rire! Et qu'est-ce que vous faites avec une balle contre un arbre comme celle-ci ???





Political Advocacy

Jim Sparrow

I enjoy reading political news articles from the Toronto papers, CTV, CBC and TSN. I often ask myself, "What if.....?" or "Will.....?"

This past summer I have asked myself:

"What if **Poillievre** was elected Prime Minister?"

"What if Doug Ford loses more **cabinet ministers**?"

"Will the **Greenbelt** issue ever end?"

"Will voter fatigue and inflation be **Trudeau's undoing**?"

"Will **threatened regulations** (i.e. to the grocery sector) really lead to higher costs?"

"Will it take years to resolve the **housing crisis**?"

"What will the **new political party** be called and what is its platform?"

"What is the **shared intelligence** from the Five Eyes?"

"Will a **no tipping policy** be realistic for restaurants?"

If you read political news as I do, you would have ideas for some of my questions or you could add many more questions to my list. I would love to print some of your political thoughts and answers (without favoring one political party).

I will be political now. As retired educators there is one issue I am certain we all are asking ourselves: Will the impasse lead to working to rule or even strikes? It is no secret that the Ford government has intensified its efforts to undermine the public good, not only in education. Bills 307, 124, and 254 are examples (all were struck down). I get asked about the strike issue and what RTO/ERO is or will be doing to support the education sector. I was honoured in 2019 and early 2020 to walk the picket lines with ETFO, OSSTF and OECTA members, not as an RTO/ERO member but as a concerned retiree in education. I do not know what RTO/ERO Provincial may advise if work to rule or strikes become a reality. I would hope there will be support in many ways. Regardless, you can support our present education sector by walking the picket line or supplying treats to the picketers.



RTOERO

DISTRICT 7

FALL LUNCHEON



DETAILS

PLACE: SERBIAN CENTRE
6770 TECUMSEH ROAD, E.

DATE: NOVEMBER 22, 2023

TIME: 11:15 A.M. -REGISTRATION
12:00 P.M. – LUNCH
12:30 P.M. - ENTERTAINMENT

LUNCHEON DISBURSEMENTS

MEMBERS: \$20.00

GUESTS: \$20.00



MENU

SERVED BUFFET STYLE

- FRESH GARDEN SALAD
- CHICKEN SCHNITZEL
- ROASTED POTATOES
- MIXED VEGETABLES
- PENNE WITH MEAT SAUCE
- ROLLS AND BUTTER
- COFFEE/TEA
- DESSERT



Please make cheque payable to RTOERO DISTRICT 7 and return the section below, along with your cheque, by November 15, 2023 to our Treasurer:

Please note that there will be no refunds after the deadline.

MARGARET CLARKE

558 DORSET PLACE, TECUMSEH, ON N8N 3N4

519-735-0727 OR

mtclarke@mnsi.net



LUNCHEON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023

NAME: _____

RTOERO MEMBER: _____ GUEST: _____

NAME: _____

RTOERO MEMBER: _____ GUEST: _____

ADDRESS OF CONTACT PERSON: _____

Are you a new retiree? _____

AMOUNT: \$ _____



'Starbright Christmas'

VICTORIA PLAYHOUSE

PETROLIA

December 8, 2023

SOLD OUT

a great tradition - a musical variety show featuring a host of entertainers that will ignite your Christmas spirit



GET READY FOR DISTRICT 7 - 2024 TRAVEL

STRATFORD - FOR THE FIRST TIME - TWICE

2 hilarious award-winning comedies

TURKEYVILLE

Back by popular demand

PETROLIA - TWICE

THE STARBRIGHT sellout will be back

LOOKING INTO

THEATRES IN LONDON, GRAND BEND AND WINDSOR

CASINO OUTING

NIAGARA FALLS - OVERNIGHT

Shaw Festival / Casino

GRAND RIVER CRUISE

Lunch and entertainment



HOORAY!! HOORAY!! WE ARE GOING SHOPPING!!!

Before Christmas Bargains

- WHEN:** MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023
(BLACK FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24TH, 2023)
- WHERE:** GREAT LAKES CROSSING, MEIJER'S, TARGET, KOHL'S
- COST:** \$45.00
- DEPART:** 8:00 A.M. ESSEX, ESSEX CAR PARK
(CORNER OF ARNER TOWNLIN AND HWY. #3 BYPASS)
8:30 A.M. WINDSOR, DEVONSHIRE MALL
NORTHWEST CORNER DEVONSHIRE MALL PARKING LOT
(IN FRONT OF FORMER SEARS STORE AT HOWARD AND E.C. ROWE)
- RETURN:** 8:00 P.M. WINDSOR (APPROXIMATELY)
8:30 P.M. - ESSEX



- DON'T FORGET:**
- PASSPORTS
 - OUT OF COUNTRY HEALTH INSURANCE
(IF NOT ALREADY COVERED BY YOUR CARRIER)
 - PROOF OF DEPARTURE
 - YOUR LIST FOR SANTA
 - COMFORTABLE SHOES

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT ON THE BUS



Contact Bill @
519-948-5214 or billben9999@yahoo.ca
limited number of seats left - (15)
Make Cheques PAYABLE to RTOERO DISTRICT 7
Mail to: Bill Bowden
1104-8325 Riverside Drive, East
Windsor, ON N8S 1E8

As we are non-profit and reservations and some deposits/payments are required in advance, there are no refunds. However, should it be necessary for you to cancel you may sell your reservation to another member.



In the Spotlight

Meet Helen Biales

*Past RTOERO District and Provincial President
and so much more!*

Helen had an outstanding career with the London Separate School Board and the Windsor Separate School Board both as a classroom teacher and as principal. During her teaching career, Helen was actively involved with the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) both at the local and Provincial level including serving as Provincial President. Helen also served as Governor in the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF). As a committee member of CTF, Helen was sent to Mozambique, Malawi and Sierra Leone to evaluate funding for teacher development projects.

Helen worked passionately as the president of ACER-CART (Canadian Association of Retired Teachers) involving herself with the Canadian National Seniors Organizations to address issues of concern facing our aging population. Helen has been involved with RTO/ERO District 7 since 1997 including serving as our President in 2001. Provincially, Helen served as Provincial President in 2004



Helen's contributions to the Community and to her church are outstanding.

Service to the Community:

- appointed to *New Horizons for Seniors*, a federal committee, in January of 2010
- served on the *Seniors Advisory Committee for the City of Windsor* from June, 2007 through November, 2009
- appointed to the *Alzheimer's Society of Windsor-Essex County* in October of 2006 where she served on a number of committees through to 2017
- served on the *Hiatus House*, Board of Directors from October of 2008 through to 2019
- appointed to the *Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital* Board of Directors in April of 1994 where she served on several committees through to 2003
- served as a member of the *HIROC Insurance Board* from 1998 – 2004
- served on the *Sexual Assault Treatment Centre* committee both as a member and as chair from 1997-2000



Service to her Church:

- member, lector, server and served on a variety of committees at St. John Vianney Church facilitator for Diaconate program for London Diocese, September 2007 – 2011
- member of Discernment & Evaluation Committee for Diaconate program, September, 2011 - 2023 member of Admissions Committee for Diaconal Program, September, 2011 – 2021
- president of the Windsor Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada 2018-2021, currently Regional Chair

Helen has been the recipient of many well-deserved awards

- RTO/ERO Community Service Award, 2023
- SPG Hidden Champions award, 2020
- RTO/ERO Founding Member Award, 2016
- Lenore Graham Distinguished Member Award, 2013
- Life Membership in OECTA, 2004
- The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, 2002
- Life membership in Sigma Phi Gamma International Sorority, 1996
- Fellow of the Ontario Teachers' Federation, 1991
- Margaret Lynch Award, 1984

In her spare time Helen enjoys golf, reading, puzzles of various kinds, bowling and especially travel. She is currently enjoying the opportunity to travel again after the pandemic. One of her most fascinating trips was to Churchill, Manitoba to see the polar bears. Helen felt very fortunate to see many of these animals as they were waiting for Hudson Bay to freeze so they could cross.

Helen Biales is truly an outstanding person, educator and community leader. She has dedicated her life to an outstanding career and to serving her community, her church and RTO/ERO extremely well both at the District and at the Provincial level.

In Memoriam

July, August and September 2023



Elizabeth Bondy-Medd

Robert Chandler

Raymond Charbonneau

Lori Drouillard

Monique Goyeau

Mildred Hall

Elizabeth Maddocks

Anthony Mariotti

Robert McIntosh

Donald Parsons

Mary Plantus

Maxine Price

Elfrieda Reimer

Janet Romiens

Lynne Taylor

Joan Tinkess

Marie Wilson



REMEMBERING OUR COLLEAGUES



DID YOU KNOW?

ABOUT THE MAY COURT CLUB OF CANADA



The May Court Clubs
of
CANADA

The May Court Club of Canada, an iconic Windsor Landmark, is located on Wyandotte Street between Marion Avenue and Pierre Avenue. This incredible charity receives donations of all kinds from the community, turns around and sells these household objects, shoes, clothes, books and toys and uses the profits to do good work in our community. Along with being a thrift shop, and a charitable organization, May Court Club is also a club where members spend time together and socialize. They enjoy potluck dinners, Tea Party Socials, and various outings.

The May Court has a long history (89 years in fact) in Windsor and Essex County. They were responsible for bringing programs like the *Kids on the Block Program*, *Preschool Programs* and of course *Breakfast Programs, into our schools*. Once municipal Social Service agencies began taking over many of these programs, May Court found other child-focused organizations in need of help.

May Court Club shop is run entirely by volunteers. They own their building, therefore there is little overhead which means that they are able to direct their profits back into the community. Last year May Court donated \$50,000.00 to 19 local charities. These included *The Therapeutic Riding Association*, *The John McGivney Centre*, *Noah's House*, *New Beginnings* and so many more. May Court is also located in the heart of a neighbourhood that finds itself often in need. Their volunteers answer that call weekly.

Kathy Roy is currently the Past President of the Windsor May Court Club. After a very successful 35-year teaching career with the Windsor Catholic Separate School Board, Kathy retired in 2008 and immediately joined RTOERO. She began volunteering at the May Court Club in 2013.

Post Covid when the shop was able to open its doors again, Kathy became the Tuesday shop manager. She opens and closes, schedules the many volunteers and oversees the receiving donations side of the shop. When asked about the importance of volunteering in retirement, especially volunteering at May Court Club, her answer was simple yet poignant... it fills the need of the retired teacher to continue to do what they did throughout their career in the classroom.

Kathy is looking forward to the goals May Court has set for themselves for 2024. To celebrate it's 90th Anniversary, May Court wants to donate \$90,000.00 to the community. She is calling on the retired teacher community to please consider donating their household items, gently used clothes, purses and shoes, linens and toys to May Court Club. Also, for all you thrift shoppers out there, please stop in the shop and take a look at the wonderful items for sale. You may find that one of a kind outfit or set of dishes you have always wanted. May Court is open Tuesday to Friday 10:00 AM to 4:00 to receive donations. Just knock on the door, and someone will be happy to help you. Shop is open to customers Tuesday to Friday 1:00 to 4:00. Saturday is 11:00 to 3:00 for customers to shop and to receive donations. Thanks, Kathy, for giving your time, patience and energy to this worthwhile cause.

Submitted by Gina Marcon



RTO/ERO

Breakfast Club



NOVEMBER - 9:30 A.M.

Thursday, November 9, 2023

[Spoonz](#)

1555 Talbot Road (Crossings)

Windsor

DECEMBER - 9:30 A.M.

Thursday, December 14, 2023

[LA Town Grill](#)

5975 Malden Road

Windsor -LaSalle

JANUARY - 9:30 A.M.

Thursday, January 11, 2024

[Baker's](#)

5570 Wyandotte Street, East

Windsor



*FOR THE LATEST
BREAKFAST CLUB
AND TRAVEL
NEWS BE SURE
TO CHECK OUR
DISTRICT
WEBSITE*

*COME OUT AND
JOIN OUR
GROWING CROWD
FOR GOOD FOOD
AND GREAT
CONVERSATION
AND FELLOWSHIP*

If you have any suggestions to add to our list of Breakfast Diner/Restaurants please let me know. We are always looking for new venues. For information contact Bill @519-948-5214 or @billben9999@yahoo.ca



BULLETIN BOARD

THEATRE & SHOPPING TRIPS

GREAT LAKES - November 20, 2023
STARBRIGHT - December 8, 2023

DISTRICT 7 FALL LUNCHEON

November 22, 2023
SERBIAN CENTRE

BREAKFAST CLUB DATES

November 9, 2023
SPOONZ RESTAURANT

December 14, 2023
LA TOWN GRILL, LASALLE

January 11, 2023
BAKERS BAR AND GRILL

A PEEK INTO THE FUTURE

EVENTS IN THE PLANNING STAGE

SPRING 2024 - TURKEYVILLE
SPRING 2024 - GOLF TOURNAMENT
JUNE 2024 - STRATFORD
SUMMER 2024 - GRAND RIVER CRUISE
DECEMBER 2024 - PETROLIA
SPRING 2024 - GOLF TOURNAMENT

And more!

***BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WINTER NEWSLETTER FOR
DATES AND MORE INFORMATION***



COMMUNITY GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS (TORONTO OFFICE)

SCHOLARSHIPS are awarded to successful applicants enrolled in a post-secondary programme leading to a career in either seniors health and well-being, education, environmental stewardship or that reflect a commitment to diversity, equity and or inclusion. More information and the on-line application will be available on the rtoero.ca website shortly.

APPLICATION DEADLINE - JANUARY 12, 2024

COMMUNITY GRANTS are designed to encourage Districts to support and partner with local organizations to promote worthwhile projects that look to improve the lives of those in our community. Applications are submitted through your local District. If you are interested in applying please get in touch with your local District. More information will be available on the rtoero.ca website shortly.

APPLICATION DEADLINE - JUNE, 2024

DISTRICT GRANT APPLICATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Revised January 2020 – final approval pending

GRANT REQUEST TO DISTRICT 7 – WINDSOR ESSEX RTOERO

District 7 of the Retired Teachers of Ontario sets aside approximately \$1500.00 yearly in order to provide special grants to local groups and organizations. These grants are awarded based on the following criteria:

- **Groups/ organizations must be non-profit and must not have applied and received a grant within the last 5 years**
- **Monies received may not be used for honourariums, salaries or travel expenses**
- **Intended project must benefit children, seniors or the community in general**
- **Project must take place during the year in which the grant is awarded**
- **Involvement of local RTO/ERO members is required. NOTE: When considering the request, some weight is placed on the number of RTO/ERO members participating in the project.**
- **Application must be received by January 4th of the calendar year in which the event is to take place**
- **Application must be completed in full and be accompanied by:**
 - a) **a detailed financial statement for the previous 2 years – (example -2022, 2023 for a 2024 Project)**
 - b) **a budget forecasting the projected revenues and expenditures for the PROJECT year (2024)**

Applications are due by January. 4, 2024 for events scheduled to take place during 2024. The applications will be reviewed by the Committee at the January, 2024 Executive Meeting and applicants will be notified of the Committee’s decision shortly thereafter.

RTO/ERO DISTRICT 7 GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the form below, preferably via e-mail, and return to Margaret Clarke, Chair, RTOERO District 7, Grant Committee, at mtclarke@mnsi.net or (558 Dorset Park Place, Tecumseh, ON N8N 3N4 home address, **by January 4, 2024 for events scheduled to take place during 2024.** Grant requests will be considered at the January Executive Meeting and your Organization will be notified shortly thereafter.

Name of Group or Organization _____

Contact person (s) _____

Contact address, e-mail, fax and phone number _____

Amount requested _____

Is this for an ongoing project _____ or a special event _____? Date of Event: _____

DISTRICT GRANT APPLICATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Revised January 2020 – final approval pending

Describe how the grant would be used. Be specific. Use an attachment, if necessary.

What other groups are contributing, or will be asked to contribute to the project?

How much will your organization be contributing to the project?

Name the RTO/ERO members involved in this project (at least two, preferably 3 depending on the group or activity) and include their RTO/ERO Membership number.

<u>Member</u>	<u>Membership Number</u>
---------------	--------------------------

What is the nature of each Member's involvement?

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Involvement in the project</u>
---------------	---

How will RTO/ERO District 7 be recognized or what publicity will RTO/ERO receive?

Please attach:

- a) a detailed financial statement for the previous 2 years (2022, 2023)**
- b) a budget forecasting the projected revenues and expenditures for the PROJECT year (2024)**

A follow-up report is required by December of the year in which the grant is received.

**** Should your application for a grant be approved:***

-By completing this application form, you have given RTO/ERO District 7 permission to publish the name of your organization and purpose for the grant requested.

****additional application forms are available on our District Website**

DISTRICT 7 WINDSOR -ESSEX

SERVICE TO OTHERS ~ AU SERVICE D'AUTRUI

<http://district7.rto-ero.org>

TABLE EXECUTIVE

PAST PRESIDENT	Margaret Clarke	519-735-0727	mtclarke@mnsi.net
PRESIDENT	Bill Bowden	519-948-5214	billben9999@yahoo.ca
PRESIDENT-ELECT/ FIRST VP	Judy Bowden	519-948-5214	judithbowden@hotmail.com
SECOND VP	Gina Marcon	519-253-9165	ginamarcon2019@gmail.com
SECRETARY	Michael Oddy	519-969-0042	miche4195@gmail.com
TREASURER	Margaret Clarke	519-735-0727	mtclarke@mnsi.net
ASSISTANT TREASURER	Jim Sparrow	519-978-2806	sparrowjm25@gmail.com
STANDING COMMITTEES			
ARCHIVIST	Emy McBride	519-945-1380	emily.mcbride@sympatico.ca
COMMUNICATION			
Newsletter Editor	Paul Barber	519-981-3529	pbarber@myorton.com
Newsletter Assistant Editors	Gord /Maggy Miall	519-944-1061	mgmiall@bell.net
Public Relations and Media Rep	Judy Bowden	519-948-5214	judithcbowden@hotmail.com
Webmaster / Facebook Page	Paul Barber	519-981-3529	pbarber@myorton.com
Bilingual Committee	Diane Picard	519-564-2763	diapic50@gmail.com
GOODWILL	Glenna Hemphill	519-967-7102	rhemphill@sympatico.ca
BENEFITS	<i>vacant</i>		
MEMBER SERVICES			
Member Records	Val Luscott	519-839-5128	luscottvalerie@gmail.com
Member Services	Roger Leblanc	519-996-9916	rlleblanc15@gmail.com
PENSION	Gord Miall	519-944-1061	mgmiall@bell.net
POLITICAL ADVOCACY	Jim Sparrow	519-978-2806	sparrowjm25@gmail.com
SOCIAL			
Chair	Toni Michalczuk	519-258-7382	tmichalczuk@cogeco.com
Assistant	Maggy Miall	519-948-5214	mgmiall@bell.net
Assistant	Arlene Bryce-Hansen		arlenebh@gmail.com
TRAVEL	Bill Bowden	519-948-5214	billben9999@yahoo.ca
TEACHER EDUCATION	Monique Dugal	519-259-3741	mldugal1465@gmail.com

RTO/ERO PROVINCIAL OFFICE

Toll Free (Canada/U.S.)1-800-361-9888

FAX (416) 962-1061

Website www.rto-ero.org

Office Hours

8:30 to 5:30, Monday to Friday

ONTARIO TEACHERS PENSION PLAN BOARD

Toll Free 1-800-668-0105

FAX (416) 730-5349

Website www.otpp.com

Office Hours

8:00 to 5.30, Monday to Friday

JOHNSON INC (RTO/ERO Health Plan Administrator)

Service 1-877-406-9007

Claims 1-800-638-4753