



**RTO  
ERO**

DISTRICT 8 LONDON / MIDDLESEX  
**News at 8**

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

SPRING ISSUE

APRIL 2024



**What a haul! District 8 members had a great time at the One Of A Kind craft show. See report on Page 6**

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**MAY 8, 2024 – SPRING LUNCH & AGM**  
Registration form on Page 5

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 – TO HELL WITH THE BELL, Mandarin North**

**OCTOBER 9, 2024 – FALL LUNCHEON, Best Western**

# NEWS AT 8

**Date of Issue: April 2024**

*News at 8* is the official newsletter of the Retired Teachers of Ontario / les Enseignantes et Enseignants Retraités de l'Ontario, District 8 London-Middlesex, published for distribution to its members and provides content on topics of interest to its membership.

The views expressed in submitted articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the District Executive.

Publication of an advertisement or a request for volunteers from an organization does not constitute an endorsement of any product, service, or organization.

Photographs taken at any of our meetings or other activities may be included in our Newsletter or on our website.

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## NEWSLETTER CO-ORDINATION by COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Ian Bennett - Chair

Dale McEwen & Dianne Rumney – Co-Editors

Tom & Pat Telfer – Facebook

Bernarda Norwood – Photographer



## District 8

### Online Resources:

District 8 Website

<https://district8.rtoero.ca/>

Check out upcoming events, access the newsletter, subscribe to receive email updates, find email addresses for the Executive and more

District 8 Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/RTOERODistrict8>

Another way to access current event information, photos, articles and share your thoughts

District 8 Instagram

[@rtoerodistrict8](https://www.instagram.com/rtoerodistrict8)

Quick news you can use to stay connected and informed

District 8 X (formerly Twitter)

[@rtoerodistrict8](https://www.x.com/rtoerodistrict8)

Late-breaking updates for you and other interested communities

## President's Message



RTOERO plays an important role in our lives. For many of us, our extended health care, dental care, hospital care and travel insurance are provided by the insurers at our Entente Insurance

program. We have the best insurance coverage for retired educators in Canada, with over 100,000 subscribers and growing.

We are, however, more than an insurance group. We are a very large social organization that offers many opportunities for members and guests to get involved in great activities organized for our members by our members. It is that involvement of members for members that makes us such a celebrated organization.

Our goal each year has been to provide the traditional activities that have always been a part of our local District 8 family, such as book clubs and card groups, but we have taken the opportunity utilizing the leadership from some of our newest members to organize new experiences for members to enjoy.

We are now offering some great new activities for us to fill some of those not-so-busy days and evenings, build friendships and broaden our experiences. For example, we now have a French Conversational Club, aimed at refreshing and/or improving those second-language skills in our other official language. Under the leadership of Joe Boutross, we have a growing number of members who are taking advantage in order to enhance their enjoyment and exercise their cerebral muscles. What a unique opportunity.

February 13 brought another new event. The District 8 Dinner Club held their third event, this time exploring the food and culture of Italy at Porcino's Restaurant in Hyde Park. We had a special menu, special price, and a great time with new and old friends. Mary Roes, Pam Coulstring and their wonderful team organized an evening with gifts, prizes and games, aimed

at making it a memorable time full of smiles and laughs.

One last example that has been included this year has been our bus trips, the first in the fall to the "One of a Kind" show in Toronto. This followed up on last spring's trip to the Distillery District in Toronto, and both are leading up to our spring trip to Frankenmuth, MI. These trips via highway coach are offered to give a special experience that is out of the ordinary for most of us, accessible to all of us and advertised to all members via eblast from District 8. Nancy Irons-Murray is our travel coordinator and is looking for other places to explore for our District 8 friends. Send in your ideas, and maybe one of them will be the next destination.

Trips and activities are all subsidized by our District and are aimed at attracting members who may not have been involved in RTOERO events before. The invitations are always open to everyone in our membership. This is another advantage of being a District 8 member: access to exciting opportunities for social experiences with your educational friends.

In closing, we want you to be involved. We are an organization of activities. We have a broad membership base with many interests and experiences, eager to take part. If you feel that there is an activity that would enhance our offerings, send me an email with your idea. We are in service to our District 8 family and want to meet the needs of our members.

Don't forget our Spring Banquet and Annual General Meeting on May 8 at the Lamplighter. It is always a great meal and a fun time, and it gives you a chance to meet your D8 executive members. Watch for the registration form in this newsletter.

Happy Spring! Get involved and take advantage of what we offer.

Steve  
[sharvey@rtoero.ca](mailto:sharvey@rtoero.ca)



## We welcome the following new members to RTOERO District 8

Meghan Boast	F. Marian Holley	Frank Pontarelli
Elaine Brenneman	Mary Kay Horton	Colleen Roberts
Michelle Brock	Rudy Jansen	Lorayne Robertson
Lorraine Brown	Lezly Johnson	Daphane Sandre
Susan Carrothers	Dennis Karasek	Kimberly Simpson
Beatrice Currie	Shirley Keating	Megan Singeris
Anna Deren	Deborah Kenney	Purveen Skinner
Pam Deven	Susan McLeish	Elizabeth Teevan
Craig Doupe	Sharon Mitchell	Rosie Triebner
Janet Earley	Elfriede Munroe	Lori Uttley
Robert Fularski	Carmen Rosa Ocampo	Jake Van Meppelen Scheppink
Katia Gagnon	Melina Oliva-DiCarlo	Mary Vanwaterschoot
Yvonne Gorski	Jennifer Orr	Rita Verberne
Terri Healy	Angela Paterson	Barbara Weisdorf
Terry Herbert	Joe Pereira	Diane Wojcik
Shannon Hinnegan		

## Get to know RTOERO's advocacy issues

RTOERO advocates for older Canadians, and Canadians of any age, with a focus on three key areas:

### **National Seniors Strategy**

A coordinated National Seniors Strategy, with dedicated funding and accountable goals, will ensure we meet the evolving needs of seniors.

### **Geriatric Healthcare**

Our healthcare system (and social systems) needs to re-think how to address the rising needs of Canada's fastest-growing demographic—older adults.

### **Environmental Stewardship**

Responsible use of resources, conservation, protecting our air, land and water — improving in all areas is critical to a sustainable future.

# Spring Luncheon & AGM

Wednesday, May 08, 2024

The Best Western Lamplighter Inn, 591 Wellington Rd. S., London



11:00 am - Meet and Greet & Cash Bar

Piano Music by Tom Hart

Travel Displays

12:00 pm - Welcome & Lunch

### Guest Speakers:

**RTOERO Chief Executive Officer Jim Grieve & RTOERO Chief Administrative Officer Sylvia Link speaking on the myriad of changes coming to RTOERO**

**Menu:** (Note: All are gluten free.)

**Chef Salad** (iceberg lettuce and California baby greens, julienne carrots, cucumber, tomatoes, with raspberry vinaigrette on the side); **Entrée** (honey lemon-glazed chicken breast, tarragon chicken jus, chef's seasonal vegetables, herb-roasted mini potatoes); **Dessert** (flourless chocolate cake, salted caramel sauce); **Vegan Entrée** (quinoa-stuffed pepper, roasted vegetables, roma tomato sauce)

+++++

**May 8 Lunch Registration Form** \$25.00 per person (subsidized by D8 \$25.00)

**Payment Options: cheque or online by credit card**

**\*\*\*If paying by cheque: Please mail by April 17 to ensure receipt the following week.**

**Make cheque payable to District 8 RTOERO**

**Send to: Mary DeKay, 11191 Lamont Dr., Komoka, ON N0L 1R0**

Name of Member(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Needs \_\_\_\_\_ \*

### If paying online by credit card:

1. Go to the website: "**district8.rtoero.ca**"
2. Scroll down to the very bottom of the page
3. Tap the link "**Pay Online for District 8 Event or Activity**"
4. Complete the "**RTOERO - District Payment Form**"
5. Finish by tapping "**Submit Payment**".

**\*\*\*Last day to pay by credit card is Tues. April 17, 2024.**

**Note: If paying by this method, no registration form is required.**

**\*If there is a dietary need, please email the specifics to Linda Longstaffe (llongstaffe9@gmail.com).**

# One Of A Kind Craft Show

We were delighted and grateful to have had a sold-out bus trip to the One of A Kind Craft Show, on Thurs. Nov. 30, 2023 at the Enercare Centre, Exhibition Place. This a flagship event for Canadian craft and its makers since 1975. All of the RTOERO members and their guests had the pleasure of joining other craft enthusiasts and advocates for small businesses promoting and supporting national craft makers and artisans with their purchases. This was a very popular event and seems to be a go-to destination for unique gifts and year-round surprises for every special moment, especially around the holiday season. A special thanks to Nancy Irons-Murray, our Travel and Entertainment Chair, and the trip hostess, Joy Antoniuk, 1st VP, for organizing and leading this event, respectively. Due to its sold-out status, we are hoping to offer additional spaces next year, if a decision is made to offer it in 2024.



For all future and current participants, thank you for your interest in RTOERO District 8 bus trips. We look forward to offering more opportunities in future. Nancy Irons-Murray may be reached at [n.ironsmurray001@gmail.com](mailto:n.ironsmurray001@gmail.com) if you have any questions or wish to find out about any upcoming events.

## 🌀 In Memoriam 🌀

RTOERO District 8 is saddened to learn of the passing of these friends and colleagues.

June Beaman	Marion Isaac	Dawn Martin
William Blair	Marion Jamieson	Catherine Montgomery
Calvin Campbell	Maureen Jansen	Theresa O'Donovan
Irene Cudmore	Mary Kaiser	Joyce Pederson
Donald Currie	Angela Lang	Mary-Jo Pereira
Raymond Dayes	Alice Lawrence	Bruno Sinosic
Patrick Ferris	Betty Lawson	Geraldine Stol
Bernice Finch	Barbara Lee	Herbert Vanwaterschoot
Sheila Greason	Deborah Lefebre	Shirley Wardell
Linda Goddard	Robert Lewis	Carol Webster
Donald Heaman	Clarence Lockman	Eleanor White
Barbara Hubbell	Robert Lucas	Warren Wolfenden
Paul Hustler		

## ❄️❄️❄️ *Poinsettia Luncheon* ❄️❄️❄️

Our annual Poinsettia Luncheon was held on Wed. Nov. 29, 2023 at the lovely Hellenic Centre, which was decorated with red poinsettia plants and other seasonal decorations. 200 guests enjoyed this special luncheon which has not taken place since the pre-COVID year of 2019. We all enjoyed a wonderful buffet meal, followed by a seasonal sing-along with Gloria Whitelaw on the piano. Christine Cavers provided the song sheets and gathered a group of RTOERO members to assist with the singing of Christmas carols and other seasonal songs, encouraging all guests to join in.



Our lunch also included a presentation from Betsy Reilly, who shared information about the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, London, including a How it Works book that helps to "build a reader". The lunch also included a cheque presentation from our Past President, Joe Murray, to the



Consistory Club, an award winner of the RTOERO provincial Community Grant. Accepting the \$4,000 donation was Dave McCleod, a registrar with the organization, with his wife Cheryl as our luncheon guests.

The lunch meeting concluded with door prize draws for our poinsettia plants and other RTOERO-branded merchandise. We really appreciated the support of everyone who worked tirelessly behind the scenes with members from our Social and Goodwill committees to operationalize this seasonal celebration luncheon. Also, a special thanks to our Goodwill committee under the Co-chairs' guidance of, Maureen Graham and Joy Squire-Smith, who worked with their committee to send out over 400 poinsettia-themed cards to our members as a small way of staying in touch. A tentative date has been set for **Wed. Nov. 27, 2024**, if you wish to pencil this in as a future Poinsettia Luncheon date.

All of us in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the luncheon and were delighted to see its return as a social option for our members. On behalf of Linda Longstaffe and Joy Antoniuk, Social Committee Co-chairs, and their hard-working committee members, we thank you wholeheartedly for your dedication to make this event such a success.



# BINGO BUS TRIP



Our first bingo bus trip was held on Wed. Jan. 31, 2024 for District 8 London-Middlesex returning bingo club members and new participants. Twenty members and guests travelled to Jackpot Time in St. Thomas for an afternoon of fun. The day started with two bus pick-up locations at Westmount Mall and Four Points by Sheraton. Prior to our departure from the Four Points by Sheraton, we enjoyed a breakfast/brunch buffet at Vic's on Wellington and Bentley Lounge. We travelled by luxury motor coach to Picard's Nut Store and shopped for some delicious chocolate and nut treats.

After a short shopping stop, we made our way to Jackpot Time for Bingo at the 12:15 p.m. session. Participants received a bingo dabber, a two-strip dabbing pack and a \$5.00 Tap Tix Voucher for the slot machines as part of

their player experience. While we did not have any bingo winners, some of our members cashed out some vouchers from winnings from the slot machines. It was a full day of fun and excitement experienced by all. Our next bingo event will be held at Amica on **Thursday April 25, 2024**. Due to its growing popularity, only those participants who have previously registered will be notified and asked to confirm their participation. We have 40 plus members on the list, and only 25 available spots. If membership continues to expand, we may need to look at other venues to accommodate more interested players in 2024-25. A special thanks to the Executive for their continued subsidy of these events.



# RTO London Day Trips

# Frankenmuth

Wednesday, May 1, 2024



## Price Includes:

- Free time in Frankenmuth
- Optional trips to Bronner's Christmas Wonderland and Birch Run Premium Outlets
- Luxury Motor Coach Transportation
- HST

Join RTO London Day Trips for an exciting day in the charming Bavarian town of Frankenmuth! Take in the sights at your own pace with luxury motor coach transportation included throughout.

**Free time in Frankenmuth - 11:00am to 4:00pm:** Spend some free time exploring Frankenmuth, a town steeped in Bavarian traditions, pretty architecture, and plenty of shops.

**Bronner's Christmas Wonderland - Optional:** Get a head start on your holiday shopping at Bronner's Christmas Wonderland! This amazing store is the size of 1.5 football fields and is a shopper's dream with over 50,000 trims and gifts.

**Birch Run Premium Outlets - Optional:** Shop 'til you drop at over 200 top designer brand name stores, including Kate Spade, Michael Kors, Coach, Under Armour, Disney, Cole Haan, Saks Fifth Avenue Off 5th, Burberry, Victoria's Secret, and much more.

### Departing from:

London, 817 Exeter Road, Ramada Inn (at the back by the OPP station) at **8:00am**  
London, Westmount Mall, 785 Wonderland Road South at **8:15am**

**Approximate Return:** 7:00pm

*Please note: Valid passport required.*

**\$50 Members**

**\$75 Non Members**

Book by:

Wednesday, April 17

To book, contact  
your group leader:

**Nancy Ironsmurray**

**519 472 3260**

n.ironsmurray001

@gmail.com



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# The Magic Yarn Project



On February 26, twelve RTOERO members from the London-Middlesex area took part in a Magic Yarn workshop. The Magic Yarn Project creates buttery soft wigs for children experiencing medical hair loss from chemotherapy, alopecia, trichotillomania, burns, and more. Our area is fortunate to have the only Canadian Magic Yarn Chapter meeting monthly to create these magical wigs at the Dorchester Community Centre under the leadership of Chapter Leader Sue Beringer.



Sue has been working at creating Magic Yarn wigs and hats with a growing group of volunteers from the London-Middlesex area since 2020. That first year, 38 wigs and 19 hats were sent to cancer support groups in Toronto and Mississauga. The Magic Yarn Project (London Chapter) currently provides wigs and hats to hospital and cancer support groups in Toronto, Mississauga, Hamilton, London, Waterloo, Scarborough and Ottawa. The goal is for a projected total of 330 wigs and 440 hats in 2024.

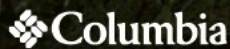
At the February workshop, Sue guided a dozen RTOERO members through one of the many steps required to start the creation of 14 Elsa and Jasmine wigs in just two hours. The next step in the process will be the “bedazzling” of the wigs with jewels and ribbons. If you are interested in being part of the magic, email Penny Wearne ([penny@pennywearne.com](mailto:penny@pennywearne.com)) to be included in the growing group of volunteers.

To learn more about The Magic Yarn Project, click on this website:

<https://themagicyarnproject.com/>

or go to their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/magicyarnwigs>

# KEEPING YOU OUTDOORS SINCE 1938



## EXCLUSIVE INVITATION TO THE COLUMBIA EMPLOYEE STORE FOR: Retired Teachers of Ontario - District 8 Members (London-Middlesex)

ITEMS ARE MARKED WITH EMPLOYEE STORE PRICING

### VALID 2024 DATES

**3/8/2024 - 4/1/2024**  
**6/7/2024 - 6/30/2024**  
**9/6/2024 - 9/29/2024**  
**12/6/2024 - 12/29/2024**

VALID FOR YOU + 4 GUESTS

### WHAT TO BRING

**THIS INVITATION**  
**PHOTO I.D.**  
**PROOF OF AFFILIATION**

*business card | membership card |  
company email signature | pay stub |  
original email | other form of affiliation*

### LOCATION & HOURS

1-1425 Max Brose Dr  
London ON, N6N 0A2

MON-FRI: 10A - 8P  
SAT: 9:30A - 6P; SUN: 10A - 5P

\*Holiday hours may differ.

\*Please check online to  
verify store hours.

### YEAR-ROUND ACCESS

MILITARY PERSONNEL & FIRST RESPONDERS: EVERY DAY

SENIORS (65+): FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Questions? Please email: [londonemployeestore@columbia.com](mailto:londonemployeestore@columbia.com)

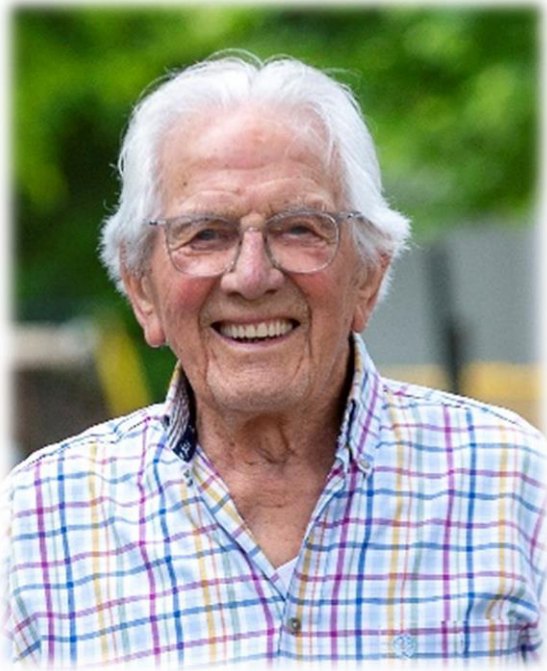
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# Tom Hennessy and his 100-Mile Walk



For the thousands of teachers in Thames Valley who had the pleasure of working with Tom as our Phys. Ed. Consultant for many years, it's sad to realize that he is gone. Many will remember the wonderful relationships that he had not only with teachers but also with our students. We loved his warm and friendly Irish accent. Recently, Tom celebrated his 100th birthday. For this special occasion, he spent a number of weeks walking 100 miles to raise funds for homeless veterans – quite an accomplishment for a 100-year-old! Tom's wife, Joyce Hetherington, has invited those who remember him to join us for his Celebration of Life on Saturday, April 27th at Siloam United Church, 1240 Fanshawe Park Road East, London at 1:30 p.m.

**HERE FOR YOU NOW....HERE FOR YOUR FUTURE**

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