

Vision 20/20



District 20 acknowledges that this land on which our members reside is situated on traditional Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Territory.

Volume XI Issue i, Spring 2021

RTOERO District 20

Virtual Annual General Meeting

Thursday, May 13, 2021

10:00 AM



Open to all members via **ZOOM!**

Please go to page 15 for election details.

Special this edition: Some of our personal stories from 2020 - the year of the pivot. Starting on page 10.

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District 20 Zooming through an online meeting in...
It's the way we do things now!



RTOERO District 20 Executive and Committees 2020–2021

EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT: Les Forkes president20@districts.rtoero.ca 613.389.1015

PAST PRESIDENT: Dennis Quinn

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: Juanita Everett

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: Vacant

SECRETARY: Ted Whiteland

TREASURER: Madeleine Wotherspoon

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Liz Carson

COUNCILLORS

Patricia Bland

David Kendall

Lorraine Kenney

John Kitney

Dave McLatchie

Lorraine Tank

Councillor Vacancy for Environmental Stewardship

CHAIRS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

AWARDS: Juanita Everett everett.jl@gmail.com 613.900.8147

BENEFITS: Lorraine Tank

COMMUNICATIONS (VISION 20/20): Patricia Bland rtoero20@gmail.com

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: Dennis Quinn

GOODWILL AND MEMBERSHIP SERVICES: Ann Botros

POLITICAL ADVOCACY: David Kendall

RTOERO FOUNDATION: Ted Whiteland

TRAVEL: Dennis Quinn

WEBSITE: Ted Carson

Attention District 20 Members: Does your not-for-profit group have a connection to education in the community? Consider applying for a **Service-To-Others Grant** from your District 20. See the details on page 16.

Vision 20/20 is published three times a year: Winter, Spring and Fall. The colour e-copy is emailed and available at RTOERO20.com. The printed copy is sent via Canada Post. All materials and editing are completed by District 20 volunteers and all printing is managed by DigiGraphics in Kingston.



14 Davey Crescent
Amherstview, Ontario K7N 1X6
Remember to update your personal info with RTOERO.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Les Forkes president20@districts.rtoero.ca 613.389.1015

Hello fellow RTOERO members and welcome to spring. This time last year we faced a change in our lives that none of us could have predicted. I hope that you, your

family and friends have escaped this pandemic without serious consequences. This year we can look forward to more than April showers, May flowers and lockdowns as the COVID-19 vaccines will soon be available to all.

Despite the fact that the District 20 Executive has not been able to meet in person for the past year we have continued to work on your behalf through Zoom meetings. We meet approximately every four weeks and we have remained as active as possible in the community. During the past few months District 20 has donated \$6500 to local food banks stretching from Kingston to Sharbot Lake to Napanee. **Madeleine Wotherspoon** and I had the opportunity to tour the Lionhearts facility and were impressed with their organization and dedication to those who receive their services.

If you do not regularly check the RTOERO website I suggest you do visit from time to time as you can find a great deal of valuable information there concerning your benefits as well as the outreach being done by RTOERO. Currently you can find recordings of two recent webinars. One is titled the **Rights of Older Persons** and the other is **Aging in Isolation**. Both are worth taking the time to watch.

RTOERO provides outstanding health benefits to its members, however, not all health related items are covered. If you are considering a large dollar purchase that could benefit your health and have a doctor's

prescription, it is essential to contact Johnson to see if the item is covered. An example of this could be a lap pool to help you recover from a stroke or injury. The doctor writes a prescription for it and you make the purchase and make the claim. It is then that you are denied as this type of item is not covered by our plan. This could be a serious financial outlay for which you now have full financial responsibility. Before making any large item purchase which you hope to have covered take the time to contact Johnson in advance of the purchase.

This year RTOERO is providing financial support to college and university students in the form of 20 scholarships at a value of \$3000 each. This year there were 194 applications for these funds. It will be a difficult challenge to select only 20!

In January I was starting my 71st trip around the sun when I realized the sticker for my license plate was due. When I went to Service Canada to get a new one they checked my drivers permit and health card to ensure they were in order. Both of my cards had expired. I had not received notice to renew any of the three items. Service Canada was quick to help me and informed me that they were no longer sending renewal notices. Please take a moment to ensure that all your documentation is up to date. This is just part of the new world order during a pandemic.

Coming up May 13 at 10am we will be holding our Annual General Meeting for District 20. This will be a Zoom meeting and will be available to all members. More information on how to access this meeting will follow as it will be set up by our provincial IT department. Please take time to look at the list of candidates that Past President **Dennis Quinn** has outlined in this newsletter on page 15. (continued pg.3)

President's Message (continued from pg.2)

If you are interested in any of those positions they are all open for election. If a challenge is made to any position the vote will be handled by the provincial IT department so that all members can vote.

At this time I would like to note that long time Executive member and Past President **John**

Kitney will be leaving the Executive. John has been the driving force behind the construction of a new governance model for District 20.

Thank you, John, for all your valuable service to RTOERO District 20.

This will be my last letter to you as President of District 20 and I want to thank you for your support the past two and a half years. I appreciate the hard work and dedication of all Executive members who have made my term as president so rewarding.

Les Forkes

President RTOERO District 20

BENEFIT MATTERS

Research Pays When Choosing Benefits Packages

By Lorraine Kenney



Insurance benefits are generally things that we give little attention until we need them, and as members of the education profession, perhaps even take for granted. Earlier my career my family opted to go with the health insurance plan that my husband's employer offered – a case of better benefits at a better or equal cost. I retired before he did

All dealings with Johnson have been easy and efficient!

and so our benefits continued with him. When his benefits were about to end he began detailed research into what was available, including the RTOERO plan. The choice proved to be a quite obvious in terms of benefit options and cost - which honestly came as a complete surprise. Since I had not been insured through the education sector for a very long time, I was concerned about how difficult it might be to enroll with the programme. It was seamless and clear

and a most comfortable decision. All dealings with Johnson have been easy and efficient... including travel claims under our Extended Health coverage. In March 2020 we were renting in Hilton Head when we were instructed to come home due to the pandemic – we received half our month's rent back from Johnson. We had a trip organized to Portugal in May and Johnson readily refunded 50% of our land portion expenses and the tour company refunded 50%. We remain very happy with our RTOERO coverage and heartily encourage all education workers to check all that Johnson has to offer as we are sure that you will be pleasantly surprised. It is peace of mind to have reliable insurance coverage in good times and stressful times too.



BENEFIT MATTERS REPORT BY *Lorraine Tank*



Good News !!

Our Health Benefits provide the most comprehensive and affordable benefits possible for our members. Our Benefits rates and plans are reviewed annually. Due to a surplus from 2020, the 2021 premiums have been **reduced by 3 %** in each of our group plans.

COVID-19

The Benefits staff at RTOERO have been receiving many questions regarding COVID-19 vaccines and testing while traveling. Clarifications have been posted in the Pandemic Preparedness section of the website. Please refer to:

<https://rtoero.ca/rtoero-pandemic-preparedness/>

This information is frequently updated.

Member Benefits – NEW Member Portal

Johnson Insurance will be launching a **new member portal** that will provide members with an improved process to submit claims. It will also ensure that members receive their reimbursements faster, for most claims. The portal is expected to be launched by **March 30, 2021**. Members will be receiving instructions on how to re-register using a new secure password. Please look for coming emails from Johnson regarding this new portal. Please note, the current Members Only Website will remain accessible.

Member Reminder

Members are reminded to check with Johnson Insurance regarding coverage for any new medications, medical appliances and equipment before purchasing. Not all are covered. For example, only some brands of CPAP machines are covered under our group plan.

Stay Safe

Be Physically Active

Keep Connected with Loved Ones

Harness Your Happiness - do something everyday that puts a smile on your face!

Did you know? Certificates for members who turn 100 years old will be sent from the RTOERO office, along with birthday greetings. Members over 100 years also receive free membership.

Save with RTOERO

Compare 2021 health benefits for education retirees

RTOERO			OTHER*		
Extended Health Care + Hospital + Dental					
SINGLE \$190.38/mo	COUPLE \$378.94/mo	FAMILY \$459.97/mo	SINGLE \$202.71/mo	COUPLE \$399.50/mo	FAMILY \$479.00/mo
<small>tax incl., may differ slightly outside Ontario due to provincial tax rates</small>					
ANNUAL COST SAVINGS WITH RTOERO					
SINGLE \$147.93/year		COUPLE \$246.72/year		FAMILY \$228.34/year	
Prescription Drugs					
\$3,400			\$4,000		
ANNUALLY - 85% REIMBURSED			ANNUALLY - 85% REIMBURSED		
✔ covers ALL prescription drugs			✘ NOT ALL prescription drugs covered		
Paramedicals eg: massage therapy					
\$1,300			\$1,250		
ALL PRACTITIONERS COMBINED - 80% REIMBURSED			ALL PRACTITIONERS COMBINED - 80% REIMBURSED		
✔ No doctor's authorization needed			✘ Doctor's authorization required for some practitioners		✘ LIMITED reimbursement - per-visit max
Vision					
\$400		\$150		\$375	
VISION CORRECTION		EYE EXAMS		VISION CORRECTION	
✔ 80% - Every 2 years		✔ 80% - Every 2 years		✔ 80% - Every 2 years	
Travel					
\$10 million			\$2 million		
PER INSURED UP TO 93 DAYS PER TRIP			PER PERSON UP TO 95 DAYS PER TRIP		
✔ \$6,000 trip cancellation/interruption	✔ \$250/day for meals and accommodation, up to \$5,000 per trip	✔ Private hospital room	✔ \$10,000 vehicle return	✔ \$6,000 trip cancellation/interruption	✘ \$150/day for meals and accommodation, up to \$1,500 per trip
✔ \$1,000 lost luggage per trip	✔ Guaranteed acceptance for trips longer than 93 days			✘ Semi-private hospital room	✘ \$2,000 vehicle return
				✘ No coverage for lost luggage	✘ Medical questionnaire required for trips longer than 95 days
Dental					
Basic & Preventative			Basic & Preventative		
85% UNLIMITED REIMBURSEMENT			80% UNLIMITED REIMBURSEMENT		
Minor Restorative			Minor Restorative		
\$850 - 80% REIMBURSED			\$750 - 80% REIMBURSED		
Major Restorative			Major Restorative		
\$800 CROWNS + \$800 BRIDGES, PARTIAL DENTURES			\$700 - 50% REIMBURSED		
50% REIMBURSED					

*RTIP Plus 4000 Plan



1-800-361-9888 | 416-962-9463 | rtoero.ca

PARTICIPE IN OUR DISTRICT 20 COMMUNITY



District 20 is most pleased to welcome two new members of our team:

Lorraine Kenney and Dave McLatchie!

"Lorraine 2" and "Dave 2" recently joined RTOERO and are eager to participate in serving our region with their skills and attention to our community.



Are you interested in offering your enthusiasm as a retiree in the Frontenac, Lennox and Addington region? Consider being a guest attendee at one of our upcoming Zoom meetings where you can decide if you would like to become an active member of our Board. Any role you play is appreciated and any contributions you make build the quality of your team.

INTERESTED? Contact District President, Les Forkes, by email at president20@districts.rtoero.ca or by phone at 613-389-1015 or email rtoero20@gmail.com.

NEW DISTRICT 20 EXECUTIVE POSITION



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Climate change. Air quality. Water quality. Bio-diversity loss. CO2 emissions. Plastic pollution. Simple words. Intimidating concepts. We can make a difference and motivate others to be part of the solution and encourage others to be part of the solution."*

In concert with provincial plans and *VibrantVoices.ca our District 20 Executive has created a new Councillor position for **Environmental Stewardship**.

As an Executive member this individual will focus attention on keeping the Executive and membership apprised on environmental issues and possible actions that can be implemented to address environmental concerns. Being such a new position, there are no concrete boundaries or duties as this will be an evolving role. Members who have an interest in filling this important position on the local District 20 Executive are encouraged to contact District President, Les Forkes, by email at president20@districts.rtoero.ca or by phone at 613-389-1015 or email rtoero20@gmail.com.

*https://rtoero.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Environmental_Stewardship_WP-Web_EN.pdf

Project Service-to-Others Grant Update



The **Machine Mavericks FIRST Robotics Team of Kingston** were recent recipients of an RTOERO District 20 Project Service-to-Others Grant for \$1929. Take a few minutes to visit their story on YouTube to better appreciate this exciting initiative. See the full story: (180) Machine Mavericks, FRC Team 7480 Chairman's Presentation Video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89W2hMlvdLA>



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES Liz Carson, Membership Secretary

IN MEMORIAM

On behalf of the members of District 20, the Executive expresses its sincere condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of those recently deceased. We share in the mourning of their loss and celebrate the services they rendered. During this time of COVID-19 and social distancing, we extend our thoughts to those who are affected by these additional difficulties. Our list is current as of April 2021.

Kenneth Ball

Hugh McInnis

Gary Clarke

Ella Morton

Edna Fanjoy

Judy Moulton

Dorothy Fresque



IS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE? Have you moved? Changed phone numbers? Are you in a different RTOERO District? Do you have a language preference? Are you the primary contact in your household? Contact RTOERO by email membership@rtoero.ca or phone 1-800-361-9888.

Welcome New Members!

District 20 welcomes our new members! As of April 2021 we are comprised of 1393 registered members in Frontenac, Lennox and Addington.

Glenda Adamthwaite-Huetl

Iain Munro

Gail Ball

Wilma Pettingill

Dianne Clarke

Joanne Stewart

Lise Doutre

Julie Swift

Robert Hamilton

Brian Weir

Pamela Ludlam





RTOERO FOUNDATION UPDATES

Ted Whiteland
Vice-Chair RTOERO Foundation
<https://rtoero.ca/rtoero-foundation/>



Greetings! I am pleased to confirm the following successful grant applications for the 2020 Fall edition. Grants had been delayed due to applicants having been committed to assisting with COVID-19 related issues earlier in 2020.

The first research grant of \$25,000 goes to **Nipissing University** for a project focused on Social Isolation and Dementia Care. Social isolation has been recognized as a significant mental and physical health concern, particularly with those impacted by dementia.

The second research grant of \$25,000 goes to the **Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging (RIA)** for a project proposing the creation of a community conversation guide to be used by residents and caregivers in Woolwich, Ontario, a rural township of just over 25,000 residents, made up of 10 smaller communities.

Individual donations for 2020 provided a very pleasant surprise as they surpassed the budget expectations of the RTOERO Foundation. What was significant was that several of our Members chose to donate their \$300 special allotment from the government in support of the initiatives of the Foundation.

A huge thank you is sent out to those who chose to make that donation and to the many others who have continued to support the Foundation through annual giving, monthly donations and tribute giving. What is very pleasing is that we now have had many more choosing to make regular donations as they have discovered that the Foundation support of research focused on seniors is of benefit to *all* seniors and those who will join our growing ranks in years to come.

To become a regular monthly or tribute gift contributor to the Foundation, it is as easy as contacting the Foundation manager of donor relations **Deanna Bytrus** at 416-962-9463 ext. 271. For those wishing to discuss planned giving to the RTOERO Foundation, call Executive Director **Mike Prentice** at 416-962-9463 ext. 285.

Summer special **Summer Membership**

Try us for just **\$10**

June 1 to August 31
 Enables you to take summer programs and pick-up a copy of *Vista*, our monthly publication.

Like what you've tried?
 Extend your membership to June 30, 2022 for only \$35 (\$10 off our regular price)!

www.SeniorsKingston.ca

 **Phone From Home**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at the Seniors Association
 Have an area of expertise or interest and an hour to give each week? We need your help to lead one-hour conference calls on topics of interest to seniors.

Contact **Pat Murphy** 613.548.7810 ext 238

www.SeniorsKingston.ca

The Year of The Pivot

The following pages include reflections from a few of our District 20 Executive.
See if you relate!

Pat Bland's Story of One Year Ago



Early March 2020. RV Park in Sunny South Florida. The news from Europe was flooding my Twitter account with detailed horror stories about a wildly spreading virus that was overwhelming Italian and Spanish cities and several cruise ships. It was identified as the very contagious COVID-19 and the world appeared seriously endangered. The American newscasts reflected a naivety that was even more fearful. CBC (Canada) radio on our WIFI expressed conscious concern for the potency of the virus and highly encouraged extra hand washing and elbow greetings. A sense of dread was moving into the camp where the 200 or so "seasonals" (half of which were Canadian snowbirds) shared a sense of anxiety and confusion. Our social gatherings were highlighted with several people's stories of difficulty making calls to cancel flights planned for European destinations; there were no issues related to Caribbean resorts – yet. Cruise lines were becoming floating islands without ports around the globe. A tsunami of trepidation was mounting.

People I knew in Ontario were still packing and preparing to go south for their booked March Break excursions. It made me shudder as there was no way it seemed safe to travel. The beaches were packed with buzzing, explosive parties of Spring Break sunseekers who seemed completely ignorant of the fact that the virus was starting to take North American victims who had traveled. In Canada Sophie Trudeau was isolating after testing positive following her presence in England. Grocery shelves were depleted of domestic cleaning products, hygiene toiletries and crackers. Why were people still planning trips?

My husband and I had booked a reduced stay at the camp so we could return to Ontario to spend time with our new and first grandchild, a sweet baby girl. In February we reserved campsites for the 3 night trip it would take to land back in Kingston, starting March 14. The north and south bound traffic through the I95 corridor can be impossible at times, so we secured our travel plans. This was a very fortunate choice!



March 14, 2020. On the morning of March 14, our fifth wheel was hitched to the truck, the cat was snug in her comfy kennel, and our glove compartment was loaded with sanitizing cloths and a tiny bottle of Purel. We drove out of our campsite with one person rushing up to us to announce he had found toilet paper in the RV department at Walmart— an oversight of the average consumer. The campsite focus had pivoted. The remaining snowbirds at the camp were suddenly packing furiously to go north ahead of schedule as they were urged by the Canadian government to return home and avoid any non-essential travel. The State of Emergency had been declared in Canada, and eventually in Florida. On March 11 the World Health Organization had officially declared a global pandemic caused by the rapid spread of the Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2 that causes the COVID-19 respiratory disease. Disney stopped all business and schools were closing. We could not get home fast enough... (continued on pg11)

A Year Ago (continued from pg. 10) The I95 in Florida was a one way highway with all vehicles headed north, as if they were evacuating from a hurricane warning. No traffic was headed south. In March. As we traveled further north, the less we saw any traffic at all - except for transport trucks - likely carrying toilet paper. The only stops we made were gas related where we used cat litter baggies as gloves and made the quickest pit-stop visits ever. We met a couple desperately seeking sufficient water jugs for their voyage north. Water. The I95 corridor. Different states had different levels of emergency actions.



Campsite registration desks only took pre-booked campers and were about to close their doors for good. It felt strangely threatening if there were other people anywhere near you.

March 17, 2020 at the CA/US border in Alexandria Bay/Thousand Islands. Never have we seen the border so empty and easy to pass through. The customs agents asked us quick to answer questions, handed us a page about staying distant and washing hands and said "go home" - all in about 2 minutes total. One hour later we had parked our RV, took our bare essentials, and drove HOME. In CANADA. Our two weeks of isolation would begin and we were never so comforted to be safe in our country.

Ted Whiteland's Memories of Pre- vs Current COVID-19:

Then: Like most, I was enjoying my volunteer time and retirement in general, buying and selling Rock & Roll music, organizing on-line Auctions through Maxsold, visiting my 98 year old father who lives at home in a different community and enjoying time with our pre- and teen grandchildren.

Now: I am very cautious and reach out to some seniors in my two communities to make sure they are safe and supporting them when necessary. I continue to enjoy my volunteer work with the District RTOERO Executive (Secretary and Foundation Rep) and with the provincial RTOERO Foundation. As Vice chair, I am much more in touch with what is taking place and readying for the handoff to the Chair position.



I am spending way more (even too much) time in front of Netflix and now Amazon Prime, plus the sport shows and regular TV. However, I am being much more active now with a daily exercise regiment. My reading is picking up and expanding. Like most, if not all, I am waiting for my turn with the COVID-19 vaccinations and plan to maintain my usual COVID-19 mitigation behaviours!

Les Forkes' Story of 2020: DISAPPOINTING OR WONDERFUL?

My wife and I had great plans for 2020. We were starting 2020 on New Year's Eve 2019 with our son getting married. This was the beginning of what we hoped was going to be a great year.

The wedding was a huge success and we were so happy for the newlyweds. A couple of weeks later we left for 5 weeks in Naples Florida. During that time we planned our next trip as 2020 was our 40th wedding anniversary. We set up a trip to Croatia and to England to spend a week with my cousins. All was wonderful!

Near the end of February we headed back to Kingston to volunteer at the Briar for 2 weeks. This fantastic event went off without a hitch and then the hammer fell. COVID-19 struck with a vengeance.

In the end we had to cancel our trip. Fortunately we were able to have our money refunded. Lucky for us as it turned out we had water in our basement that ruined our floors and some of the walls. None of this was covered by insurance. So, I learned a new skill—how to lay interlocking wood floors. Thankfully, my son was there all the way and did most of the work!

We all struggled with staying indoors, masks and not seeing family or friends for long periods of time. Golf was our salvation for the summer. Then came the fall and things got a little worse.

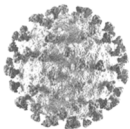


However, with the fall came a wonderful event. Our first grandchild arrived in late September. We could not have been more thrilled. During the winter we spent a great deal of time with her. It made us so happy to watch this beautiful little girl smile.

Normally, we would have been booked to travel to Florida for a couple of months in the winter, but thanks to COVID-19 that was not possible. We actually did not miss a thing as we were able to watch baby Winnie grow and develop. All in all we, have been fortunate during this stressful time. 2020 definitely brought a mixture of highs and lows. I hope that each of you was able to find some special happiness during this pandemic. **Get a vaccination as soon as possible and stay safe!**

Pandemic Highs and Lows – Dennis Quinn, Past President.

I am sure that many people have found the past year incredibly frustrating with highs and lows—sometimes occurring often day to day.



My personal high is that no one I know well in Canada, family or friends, has so far contracted the COVID-19 virus. The low side of that equation is that my daughter and son-in-law in Texas both caught it and survived with few issues. But they have also just received their first vaccine dose. So you see - highs and lows. It is frustrating waiting for the vaccine. I was congratulating a friend 2 weeks ago for reaching his 80th birthday very recently and for receiving his vaccine shot. I suggested that there is much to be said for getting older. (continued on pg. 13)

Highs and Lows (continued from pg. 12)

It was satisfying to book a vaccination appointment for mid-April but frustrating to know that I will have to wait until early August for the next one. And it is frightening to think that the Variants of Concern are lurking out there.

Two lows during the year had to do with travel. The first was curtailing a Florida trip on the advice of the Canadian Government in March 2020. The second was cancelling a two month, winter stay in Victoria this past January. The high coming out of both of those disappointments is the fact that we received a large recovery of the financial investments made in each. Our RTOERO Travel Insurance had much to do with the Florida reimbursement. The goodwill of our potential Airbnb host made everything to do with the Victoria return successful – what a high that gesture was!



So, it is a high that I am still here and well. I have read many good books, completed a 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle and watched some very good television programs. I am walking 5 or 6 times a week for 50 minutes, am anxious to get back on the golf course and am looking forward to an eventual return to normal living. And I have been able to watch every Red Wings game to date! Living the life!

Juanita Everett's Update Since the Pivot

Since the last newsletter I have kept quite busy. I've read several books—3 with themes of WWII: *The German Midwife*, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* and *The Huntress*. The assortment included both fiction and non-fiction. I have also read *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt. This novel chronicles the life of Theo Decker, a 12 year old boy, caught in the explosion of a New York art museum in which his mother is killed. He escapes with a small but important painting, his mother's favourite, and this event shapes the next 20 years of his life. Having read this 900+ page book I now feel ready to tackle *War and Peace* by Tolstoy.

In addition to reading I continue to walk our recently adopted dog, Apollo. Thanks to our daily outings of 3-5 km I have logged 200 km to complete a virtual fitness challenge, the Ring of Kerry. My husband and I recently received our first COVID-19 vaccinations. After our second shots in mid-June, we plan to take a trip west this summer to visit our daughter and granddaughter. Like all my friends, I'm looking forward to in-person hugs and kisses.



What is the Role of a Political Advocacy Chair (PAC)?? David Kendall shines some light on his position.



In my role as the Chair of PAC I monitor the activities of the major political parties at the provincial and federal levels and review and report on the platforms of the political parties. I meet with MPP's and MP's as well as the Executives of local political parties to present the RTOERO position on a variety of topics. I also identify and report on proposed legislation that directly impacts seniors (i.e. Federal Bill C - 27 affecting pensions). During election periods our District 20 co-sponsors All Candidates' Meetings in conjunction with Teacher Affiliates, CUPE and other like-minded organizations in both District 20 and District 19 (Hastings, Prince Edward). I am also an elected member of the provincial Board of Directors for RTOERO and in that capacity I keep the District 20 Executive apprised of events and activities from our 51 Districts located across Canada representing in excess of 81,000 members.



TRAVEL MATTERS
REPORT BY *Dennis Quinn*, CHAIR, KARTTC

Kingston Area Retired Teachers Travel Committee (KARTTC)

Call for Committee Members

If you love travelling and want to organize ventures for District 20 Members please contact Dennis Quinn, Chair of KARTTC.

KARTTC MISSION STATEMENT

The Kingston and Area Retired Teachers Travel Committee (KARTTC) researches, designs, promotes and leads unique travel itineraries that provide carefully planned group experiences for mature travelers. Though not limited to retired educators, travel participants share a common interest in learning about the countries and the cultures they visit. KARTTC places a high value on quality and attention to detail and endeavours to treat our travelers and suppliers with fairness, courtesy and the utmost respect. We aspire to maintain a high level of professionalism and to recognize the specific needs of our travel participants in order to provide a unique travel experience.

MERIT TRAVEL still maintains a presence in the area for District 20 members. Although the Princess Street office is closed, **Gayle Outhwaite** represents Merit and welcomes RTOERO members who are ready to start making travel plans in the post-pandemic era.

The following **Merit Armchair Virtual Tours** are available as follows:

Thursday, April 8th at 1PM EST – Quark Expeditions in Canada
Registration Eventbrite link: <http://bit.ly/Quark-TT>

Thursday, April 29 at 1PM EST - Ireland with Royal Irish Tours
Registration Eventbrite link: <http://bit.ly/Royal-Irish-Tours-TT>

Project Service-to-Others Grant Update

The **Machine Mavericks** FIRST Robotics Team of Kingston were recent recipients of an RTOERO District 20 Project Service-to-Others Grant for \$1929. Take a few minutes to visit their story on YouTube to better appreciate this exciting initiative. See the (180) Machine Mavericks, FRC Team 7480 Chairman's Presentation Video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89W2hMlvdLA> for the full story!



RTOERO District 20 AGM 2021 Nominations Virtual Zoom Meeting Thursday, May 13, 2021 10:00 AM

Nominations **ARE NOT closed** at this time. Further nominations may be forwarded to the **Les Forkes (president20@districts.rtoero.ca 613.389.1015)**, to be presented at the District 20 Virtual Annual General Meeting on May 13, 2021. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor (virtually) at that time.

Nominations for the District 20 Executive Board for 2021-2022 as reported by Past President Dennis Quinn.

On May 13, 2021 nominations for positions on the District 20 Executive Board will be presented to the membership and elections will then occur. The following nominations have been made as of March 31, 2021:

President	Juanita Everett
First Vice President	Dennis Quinn
Second Vice President	Madeleine Wotherspoon
Past President	Les Forkes
Treasurer	Dave McLatchie
Secretary	Ted Whiteland
Councillors (5)	Patricia Bland
	Liz Carson
	Lorraine Kenney
	Lorraine Tank

District 20 is seeking an enthusiastic member who will lead a portfolio dealing with the environment and also be a Councillor on the Executive Board. The description of the **Environment Stewardship** portfolio is found on page 7.

Elections Process:

According to the District 20 Governance*, to be presented to the membership for approval on May 13, the following Articles deal with elections to the Executive Board:

Articles 2:20, 2:21, 2:22, 2:25.

*The District 20 Governance is found online at rtoero20.com/about-us



Award/Grant	Deadline	Criteria
Provincial Scholarship	February 2021 (closed)	Form on RTOERO web: www.rtoero.org/scholarship/
RTOERO Charitable Donation	February 1, 2021 (closed)	Nominations from Districts
RTOERO Distinguished Member Award	Nominations in 2021	3 per year Nominations from Districts
RTOERO Provincial Founding Member Award	Nominations in 2021	1 per year Nominations from Districts
Provincial Service-to-Others	Nominations in 2021	Local, national or international programs often involving children, disadvantaged groups, culture and heritage
District 20 Project Service-To-Others District Grants	April 1, 2021 AND October 15, 2021	Focused on local groups with an education related theme, connection, goal or component
District 20 Irwin Ruttle Award District Award Previous winners on RTOERO20.com	April 1, 2021	For outstanding voluntary contributions to our RTOERO District 20

Please consider applying in 2021!
 Send Applications for the Service-to-Others Grants to
 Juanita Everett, Awards Chair, RTOERO District 20,
 78 Hambly Road, Napanee, ON K7R 3K8 Grant applications are available at
www.rtoero20.com or requested from: everett.jl@gmail.com or call 613.900.8147

Did you know???

- You can invite your friends and colleagues to attend a **free (virtual) retirement planning workshop**. Visit <https://rtoero.ca/events/retirement-planning-workshops/>
- You can find plenty of **TAX TIPS** for you at https://rtoero.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/TaxTips2020_EN_final.pdf.
- You can shop for RTOERO signatures products at **rtostore.ca**.
- You can access the RTOERO **Guide to Retiring Happy** at https://rtoero.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/RTON059-Retiring-Happy-Booklet_INT_ENG.pdf.

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