

District 20 acknowledges that we are on the traditional homeland of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat, and thank these nations for their care and stewardship over this shared land.



### Your 2023/2024 RTOERO District 20 Executive!

PRESIDENT: Juanita Everett president20@districts.rtoero.ca 613.900.8147

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: Dennis Quinn

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: Lorraine Kenney

SECRETARY: Ted Whiteland

**TREASURER:** Doug Helliwell

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Liz Carson

#### COUNCILLORS

Patricia Bland David Kendall Lorraine Tank Environmental Steward: VACANT

#### **CHAIRS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

AWARDS: Lorraine Kenney BENEFITS: Lorraine Tank COMMUNICATIONS (VISION 20/20): Patricia Bland rtoero20@gmail.com GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: Dennis Quinn GOODWILL AND MEMBERSHIP SERVICES: Lorraine Kenney POLITICAL ADVOCACY: David Kendall RTOERO FOUNDATION: Ted Whiteland TRAVEL: Francine Leblanc

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"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."\*

Our District 20 Executive has a vacancy for the Councillor position for **Environmental Stewardship.** As an Executive member this individual would focus attention on keeping the Executive and membership apprised on environmental issues and possible actions that can be implemented to address environmental concerns.

Members who have an interest in filling this important position on the local District 20 Executive are encouraged to contact District President, Juanita Everett, by email at <u>president20@districts.rtoero.ca</u> or call 613.900.8147.

\*https://rtoero.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Environmental\_Stewardship\_WP-Web\_EN.pdf



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

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### President's Message

Juanita Everett president20@districts.rtoero.ca

## The President's Message

gives me the opportunity to share news about District 20 activities and events, but I would like to begin this one by expressing my gratitude to our RTOERO District 20

Executive who have gone above and beyond to make this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year such an outstanding one. From organization and communication to representation at events this executive has exceeded all expectations. A special thank you to **Dennis Quinn** for spearheading the committee, to **Pat Bland** for getting all those e-blasts out, and to **Cindy Dunning** and **Doug Helliwell** for keeping the numbers straight. The initiatives undertaken have been planned to benefit our members directly.

This spring and summer have been funfilled for any District 20 members who participated in our 50th Anniversary events. Things got off to a frosty start in January with our walking challenge "50 km for 50", but warmed up at the Golden Tea at Selby United Church with many delicious treats and a great opportunity to catch up with old friends. Our AGM in May was an outstanding success. Held at the Renaissance Event Venue in Kingston, it was filled to capacity and we all enjoyed a delicious meal and excellent entertainment and guest speakers. As a result our followup activities - the Playhouse bus trip and the \*\*Napanee River Cruise - were also

fully subscribed! *(See Update below.)* With summer slipping by and September just around the corner with its mix of nostalgia and relief, we will keep the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary momentum going into the fall with special golden birthday version of the annual **"To 'ell With the Bell**" Breakfast. It will be held at the Travelodge on Princess St. in Kingston on Tuesday, September 5 with Dennis Quinn hosting - as I will be enjoying a cruise of the Greek Islands!

We are replacing the cancelled snowy 50th Tea from February with a nostalgiafilled **Sock Hop** at the Millwood Drive Clubhouse on Thursday afternoon, October 19th. Look for even more fun to come as we wind down our golden anniversary year with Crafts and



Carols in November and December.

I hope to see many of you there!

Juanita Exerett

President RTOERO District 20 613.900.8147 president20@districts.rtoero.ca

\*\*News Update: The Napanee River Cruise scheduled for Thursday, July 13th, had to be suddenly cancelled due to a broken motor on the boat. Rescheduling was not a secure option. We are so sorry for this unexpected and disappointing situation! Thank you to all who registered. Do join us at the BBQ on August 10th and at our big breakfast on Sept. 5th!

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES Liz Carson Membership Secretary

# Welcome New Members!

Donna Abbink Elva Lee Ball Barbara Booth Charlene Bright Susan Carrington Gaynor Chomitz Stephanie Gerics Mike Hicks Rosalind Johnston Christine LeClair Tiffany Mountenay Stacey Murphy Wendy Procter Trish Rance Michielin Janet Revell Kenton Rich Jo-Anne Riley Christine Robertson Martha Runte Mary Saunders Daryl Sheffield Elisabeth Sorensen Cynthia St-Jacques Lori Raybould Sweet Douglas Walker

Join us for To 'ell With The Bell!= on Sept. 5!

District 20 welcomes our new members! As of July 1, 2023 we are comprised of 1387 registered members in Frontenac, Lennox and Addington. There are currently 53 Actively Employed members who have not fully retired, but are receiving RTOERO information in preparation for their retirement plans.

# 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. Our list is current as of July 1, 2023.

Vernon Bright

Ruth Brown

Judith Elliott

\_\_\_\_

Deborah Gibson

Allan Glenn

James Horan

Elaine O'Grady

Ellen Pajur

Barbara Parrott

Wayne Rice

**Gwendolyn Scott** 

Sheila Way

John Whalen

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**Committee Chair and Councillor** 



## INTERNATIONAL SENIORS SUMMIT

RTOERO will sponsor The Future of Aging Summit in Toronto at the Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel on May 16-17, 2024. The targeted audience includes elected officials, policy makers, academics, community advocates and thought leaders from around the world. This event will focus on sharing ideas, building competency and contributing to the improvement of the later years for the current and future generations in Canada.

### **MEMBERSHIP GROWTH**

We all recognize the need for continued growth in membership in our benefits program to ensure stability and enhancement in plan provisions. Since 2002 RTOERO has offered support to our education community partners. During past years, we have opened opportunities to those in the active education community to join our family prior to retirement to learn more about the many benefits of membership. Our Retirement Planning Workshops (RPW's) have reached thousands within the education community and membership has provided important information as they plan for their retirement years. Current membership in RTOERO stands at 83,546.

### MEMBERSHIP FEE VOTE

Over the years The RTOERO membership fee has been developed in conjunction with growth in program and benefit provisions. Currently the maximum membership fee is \$73.00. RTOERO recognizes that setting a membership fee has been a detractor from attracting new membership.

At the Fall Forum in October 2023, Corporate Members representing our 51 Districts will meet in a special session to review, discuss and vote on the • Age range of members in OTPP is 5 years old to 110 following resolution being presented by the Board of Directors:

"That RTOERO membership fees for members enrolled in the Entente Group Insurance Program be financed through income earned on long-term investments, subject to annual inflationary and membership growth adjustments."

Should the Corporate Members choose to adopt this position, Members will not be required to pay a membership fee each year.

### **BENEFIT PLAN CONFUSION**



RTOERO has provided a health insurance program for members since 1981. Our plan has continued to grow and mature since its inception. One of the confusing aspects of the plan has always been ownership. Members have referred to the plan as

the Johnson plan, the RTIP plan, the OTIP plan, and other titles. To be clear, the Benefits Program is fully owned by RTOERO. Johnson Inc. acts as the claims and service administrator of the plan on behalf of RTOERO.

In an effort to end or at least reduce this confusion, RTOERO believes that it is time to provide a proper identification to the



program. The RTOERO health benefits plan will be officially referred to as the **Entente Group Insurance Program** on a go forward basis.

### **ONTARIO TEACHERS' PENSION PLAN (OTPP)**

- Update as of December 31, 2022:
- Membership: 183,000
- Active Members: 153,000 Retired Members
- There are 1.2 Active Members for every 1.0 Retired Members.
- 7923 new OTPP Members in 2022
- Over 5500 new retirees in 2022. Typical years of credit at retirement is 26 years and average number of years in retirement is 32.
- years old. (A pensioner who passed away had a dependent 5 years old.) Pensioners over 100 years of age: 148
- 34 OTPP members have been retired for more than 50 years.
- OTPP assets as of December 31, 2022 stood at \$ 247.2 Billion.
- Targeted assets by 2030:\$ 300 Billion



BENEFIT MATTERS REPORT Lorraine Tank Committee Chair and Councillor



I recently attended RTOERO's District Health Representatives Workshop in Toronto. There were many interesting guest speakers, including <u>Patricia Wendy</u>, whose talk examined the need for us to recognize that when we are caring for a spouse, family member or friend, we need to be aware and take care of ourselves first.

She gave an interesting airplane analogy. When travelling in an airplane and tragedy strikes, you need to put your oxygen mask on first before helping your travelling partner with theirs. In

caregiving as well, you need to be well and healthy to be effective as a caregiver.

## Addressing Caregiver Burnout and Burden

Many caregivers disregard their own health and well-being to care for someone else. This, in turn, will have an impact on the person receiving the care. Causes for burnout can stem from fatigue, frustration and becoming uninterested in things they used to enjoy. Under extreme circumstances, caregiver burnout can result in elder abuse.

Caregivers need to be aware and watch for predictive factors that could lead to problems. These factors include depression, poor problem-solving skills, financial difficulties, social isolation, lowering self esteem or the quality and/or history of the relationship between the caregiver and the care recipient.

Caregivers need to use coping strategies. Some of these strategies include exercise, self care, planning, delegating some jobs to others, prioritizing, or making reasonable expectations (everything does not need to be perfect).

Caregivers need to establish and stick to routines. They must make time for themselves and keep up with their own hobbies and friends.

**\*Patricia Wendy** is the Manager of Social Work at the Hospital and Bereavement Program of Circle of Care, Sinai Health System, Toronto, Ontario.



**Rob Plumley**, Community Development Officer for Lennox and Addington County (r) recently was presented a cheque from District 20 President **Juanita Everett** for the addition of a picnic table and benches for the **Flinton** hiking and mountain bike trail within the Quinte Conservation Area.

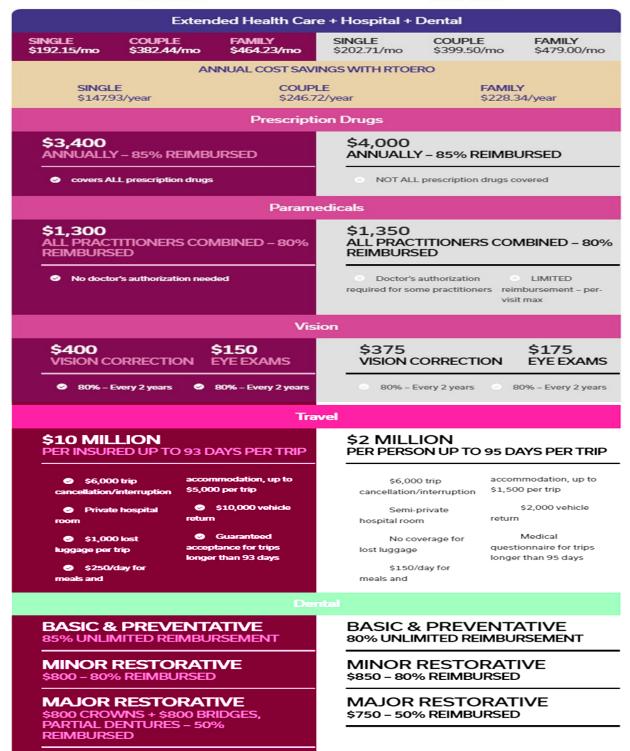


# SAVE WITH RTOERO

Compare 2023 health benefits for education retirees

RTOERO

**OTHER\*** 





Ted Whiteland Chair RTOERO Foundation https://rtoero.ca/rtoero-foundation/ **RTOERO FOUNDATION UPDATES** 



2023 has been a very busy year for the RTOERO Foundation. Working with a Board of ten Directors, much has been accomplished over the past year.

We continue to follow our five-year Strategic Plan. We welcomed two new Board members: Micki Clemens (District 15 Halton) and Suzanne Poudrette-Gagnon (District 45 EstaRIO).

After a COVID hiatus, we identified six successful projects which shared \$213,000 in grants. I am most pleased to acknowledge our local recipient: Compassionate Communities Kingston Canada which was awarded \$43,000 for a project called Community Connectors: Seniors Helping Seniors. (See the photo below right.)

Our fundraising continues to evolve. We want to thank our corporate sponsors: Johnson Inc., Securian Canada, Hearing Life, Venngo, Iris, Fiera Capital, RPIA, Canadian Premier and SmartSimple. Through individual donors' thoughtful generosity, we have been able to fund innovative and impactful grants.

We have introduced three new fundraising events:

1.Two 50/50 raffles have had resounding successes. In each, the lucky winners took home over \$33,000 each plus two early bird winnings of \$1000 each. STAY TUNED FOR THE **NEXT 50/50 DRAW!** 

2. Our first ever Silent Auction was a great success in early May.

3. Our first In-Person Auction took place during the opening reception at the RTOERO Annual Meeting/Forum.

**District 20** and three other Districts proudly lead all RTOERO Districts in contributions representing \$1 per member from existing District reserves goal of raising \$83,000.

**Respectfully Submitted** Ted Whiteland **RTOERO** Foundation Chair



as we continue to meet our 2023 target (I-r) Ted Whiteland RTOERO, District 20 Secretary and RTOERO Foundation Chair, Florence Campbell Compassionate Communities Kingston; Lorraine Kenney, RTOERO D20 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Awards Chair; Juanita Everett, District 20 President.

> Receiving strange phone calls, texts or emails? Someone asking for a "favour" or "help" or chance to win? Unknown email or phone number? If you have any doubts at all, remember: Hang Up. Delete. Block. Report. Do not reply! Be safe and not sorry! If it was a real friend, they will try again.



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## TRAVEL COMMITTEE Francine LeBlanc, Chair

RTOERO District 20 Announces an exciting trip for its RTOERO members! Ecuador and the Galapagos

# May 9-18, 2024

**Ecuador** puts new meaning behind the saying, "good things come in small packages". In terms of flora, fauna, and opportunities for viewing unique local wildlife, this South American country runs the gamut. Journey to **Quito** for a taste of Ecuadorian culture and Spanish colonial history. Then, island hop through the **Galápagos**, where you'll move from mangrove swamps to lava flows to sunny shorelines, encountering scores of exotic creatures along the way. End in the indigenous city of **Otavalo**, famous for its colorful market.



## Your tour package includes:

- \* 4 nights in handpicked hotels
- \* 4 nights aboard the M/V Galapagos
  Legend Ship
- \* 8 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners
- \* 10 sightseeing tours
- \* Expert Tour Director and local guides
- \* Private deluxe motor coach
- \* 2 on-tour flights

**Included highlights:** Cerro Panecillo, Old Town Quito, La Compañía, Rábida Island, Snorkeling with sea turtles, Tagus Cove, Giant Tortoise Nature Reserve, Otavalo market

**Tour pace:** On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 2 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including cobblestone streets, unpaved trails, and sandy paths, with some hills.

**Price:** includes the above, flights and taxes - \$7.019.00 Canadian, based on double occupancy.

For booking details, please contact: **Francine LeBlanc, OCT** Email: francinelb@cogeco.ca or call 613-572-0876.



Francine LeBlanc

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# Lorraine Kenney Second Vice-President, Awards Chair, Goodwill Chair Each year District 20 proudly awards grants to local organizations whose values align with those

of RTOERO, including Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Community Connection, Environmental Sustainability, Commitment to healthy living and Wellbeing, Service and Accountability. This year we were very happy to award a Service to Others Grant to H'Art Centre (www.hartcentre.ca) in the amount of \$1000. This not-for profit community arts hub provides opportunities for artists with disabilities to create, learn and collaborate with trained community artists. District 20 is proud to support the work of this vibrant organization! Congratulations!

**GOODWILL AND GOOD NEWS** 



Service-to-Others cheque presentation for the H'art Centre at the District 20 AGM on May 25th, 2023. (L-R) District 20 President Juanita Everett, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Awards Chair Lorraine Kenney, STO grant recipient General Manager H'art Centre, Andrea Fitzgerald.

# THE RTOERO DISTRICT 20 LES FORKES MEMORIAL INTERGENERATIONAL created in honour of a former District 20 STUDENT LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

This marks the second year of this award, President and long-time educator in the Kingston area, Les Forkes.

The scholarships are awarded to graduating students who are pursuing post-secondary programmes with a focus on Seniors. Two awards have were given last year, but since 2023 marks District 20's Golden Year, the Executive decided to grant three scholarships to very deserving applicants.

Jillian Shea, Napanee District Secondary School, volunteered in the Convalescent Unit at the L&A County Hospital after completing the Hospice Care Provider Programme, and will continue her studies at St. Lawrence College in the Practical Nursing Program.

**Abbi Woods**, North Addington Education Centre, has volunteered at the Pine Meadow Nursing Home and has been accepted into the Practical Nursing Programme at Loyalist College.

## Mathilde Ducharme-Gauthier, Ecole

Secondaire Mille-Iles, volunteered at Providence Care Hospital and will further her education in the Pre-Health programme at Algonguin College.

The awards winners' names were announced at each of their Graduation ceremonies in June. They will be each be presented with their \$1000 cheques at the sites where they completed their volunteer work. Congratulations to our three very worthy recipients and good luck with your studies!

Lorraine Kenney, Awards Chair





### JUST ONE THING by Cindy Dunning, Outgoing Environmental Steward

# JUST ONE THING

Column by Cindy Dunning

Summer 2023

Environmental stewardship is how we take care of our natural world so that all living things can be happy and healthy, now and into the future.

Everyone can do **just one thing** and become an environmental steward! Choose one thing (or more) from the following, which focus on everyday choices, learning more, and community activities.

#### JUST ONE THING – EVERYDAY CHOICES

- Water deep!
  - Did you know that native plants thrive more partly because they have deep roots. To help encourage deep roots in all plants, water deep (for a longer time) and less often.
- Eat Locally
  - Eating locally has many benefits including getting the freshest and tastiest foods from vegetables to meats. It also helps the local farmers stay vibrant and develops a sustainable food source with less carbon footprint from transportation.
- Clean your teeth
  - Switch to a bamboo toothbrush, which can be used as a garden name plate (break off the bristles) after is is worn out. What about using a glass floss container and just replacing the floss roll when needed. Check out all those ingredients in your toothpaste, then maybe go find a simpler variety with simple ingredients. Mouthwash – try apple cider vinegar instead or check out a diy recipe or a natural brand commercial mouthwash.

#### JUST ONE THING - LEARNING MORE

- Research historical climate data o CBC has a historical
  - interactive climate data set that you can explore at https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca /features/2023/climatedashboard/
- Read A Book
  - Learn about a new plant or animal with a reference book, such as Lone Pine's Ontario Wildflowers. This includes 101 wayside flowers. I have seen 76 so far!
- Watch
  - Canada: A Year in the Wild (currently on Prime) is an amazing look at the wild in four seasons.

#### JUST ONE THING - COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Become a Turtles Kingston Driver
- Tr cc fo Bd ht
- Turtles Kingston has a team of coordinators who help lead the way for saving the 5 local turtle species. Become a driver for injured turtles at https://www.turtleskingston.com/wha t-can-you-do
  - Visit a local market
    - Before purchasing at a market, ask where the food comes from? Do they answer with a local farm? Then you are really getting fresh food.
       Some markets though import from a distance, so beware and have a conversation.
- Join a local walk
  - There are multiple local walks available to enjoy a great summer day or just go for a slow walk in your neighbourhood

Does your Not-for-Profit group have a connection to education in the community? Consider applying for a Service-to-Others grant from our RTOERO District 20. Download an application at district20.rtoero.ca/ servicetoothersgrants/ Or email president20@districts.rtoero.ca

Award/Grant	Deadline	Criteria
RTOERO Post-secondary Scholarships	January 12, 2024	rtoero.ca/giving-back/scholarships
RTOERO Charitable Donation	February 1, 2023	Nominations from Districts
RTOERO Distinguished Member Award	February 2024	https://rtoero.ca/about/awards/ 3 per year
RTOERO Provincial Outstanding Leadership Award	February 2024	1 per year Nominations from Districts
RTOERO Community Grants (Previously Provincial Service -to-Others)	https://rtoero.ca/giving- back/grants/ Spring 2024	Local, national or international programs often involving children, disadvantaged groups, culture and heritage
District 20 Project Service-To-Others Grants	April 1 and October 1 2023	Focused on local groups with an education related theme, connection, goal or component
District 20 Irwin Ruttle Award District Award	April 1, 2023	For outstanding voluntary contributions to our RTOERO District 20
THE RTOERO DISTRICT 20 LES FORKES MEMORIAL INTERGENERATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP	June 1, 2023 Second Year!	Available for a graduating Secondary School student who volunteered with seniors in the District 20 area. Forms at secondary schools and through our website https://district20.rtoero.ca/ rtoero-district-20-memorial- scholarship/



Attending Forum in Toronto: L-R Doug Helliwell, Linda Helliwell , Juanita Everett, Francine LeBlanc

TieOnOne Gathering at craft place. L-R Juanita Everett, Lorraine Tank, Lorraine Kenney, Patricia Bland, Doug Helliwell and new members Stephanie Gerics and Stacey Murphy.



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