



Twenty-Second Report

District 22 Etobicoke and City of York

The Retired Teachers of Ontario
les enseignantes et enseignants retraités de l'Ontario



Winter 2023



**Some great pics
from our District 22
Fall Luncheon -
more pics on Pages
15, 24 & 25**



President's Message



Much of our attention in September was taken by the pomp and ceremony of the passing of Queen Elizabeth // . She was the only monarch most of us knew, from 1952 to 2022. The era we know as her reign is now in the realm of history. This amazing person provided steadiness and continuity throughout her reign and history will be kind to her. She was well-loved and respected and she served her country and Canada well. The Etobicoke-York communities were invited to share their thoughts in memorial books in our Etobicoke Civic Centre and York Civic Centre.

Happy New Year District 22! The year of 2023 marks a celebration of District 22 as we turn 50 years old as part of the RTOERO community. District 16 Toronto, District 23 North York and District 24 Scarborough share this special 50th also. Several special events will be held throughout the year to mark this occasion. If you have any suggestions for the celebration, please forward them to Anne McIlroy at president22@districts.rtoero.ca.



Our fall events were numerous and so much fun. We started off with our “NoBell Luncheon” at the Mandarin on September 7, followed by two “Welcome Breakfasts for New Members” October 4 and 18 and our annual fall luncheon November 15, all at Weston Golf and Country Club. Our Executive Meetings began again in September in person at Etobicoke Civic Centre but we are holding most of our meetings on zoom during the winter months. Workshops organized by RTOERO for executive reps were once again held but now by the hybrid method, giving the choice of attending in person or by zoom. Certificates were mailed to our members who were celebrating 25,30,35,40,45 and 50 years with District 22.



Hava-Java Thursday January 19th (3rd Thursday of the month)

Convenor Sheila Tait

We meet at Java Joe’s at Thorncrest Plaza, Islington and Rathburn at 10 a.m. Each member who joins us receives \$4 toward coffee and a treat. **It’s good to meet in person again!**

We are back in business for some of our well-organized and well-attended trips. A visit to see the **Tundra Swans** – March 21, the **Shaw Festival Theatre – Gypsy-** May 10, the **Drayton Festival Theatre – Buddy-the Buddy Holly Story** – June 8, **Touring Prince Edward County – History, Cheese & Lavender** and **Stratford Festival – Rent** – October 10. Be sure and check out the travel page in this newsletter from Marilyn Jones.

Stay safe in this ever-changing environment. We know that Covid, RSV and the flu are still with us. Stay tuned for new events as they are planned. A Retirement Planning Workshop in the area of District 22 is being held Saturday, April 1, 2023 at the Airport Marriott. If you know someone who is currently working, let them know that they are invited to attend to see what retirement and RTOERO is all about.

As always, “Here for you now . . . Here for the future.”

Anne McIlroy, President, District 22, Etobicoke and York

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Calendar of Events

January

- 10 District 22 Executive
18 11:00 -12:00
Ask Pamela Live Q & A
- 19 10:00 to 11:00
District 22 Hava Java
- 23 Presidents Meeting
- 25 4 Toronto Districts meeting

February

- 7 District 22 Executive
15 11:00 -12:00
Ask Pamela Live Q & A
- 16 10:00 to 11:00
District 22 Hava Java
- 18 RPW District 16 Marriott Downtown

March

- 7 District 22 Executive
15 11:00 -12:00
Ask Pamela Live Q & A
- 16 10:00 to 11:00
District 22 Hava Java
- 29 RPW District 24 Delta Hotel
(Kennedy Road)
- 29 4 Toronto Districts

April

- 1 RPW District 22 Airport Marriott
- 4 District 22 Executive
21 11:00 -12:00
Ask Pamela Live Q & A
- 22 10:00 to 11:00
District 22 Hava Java

May

- 2 District 22 Executive
- 9 District 22 AGM and Luncheon
- 18 11:00 -12:00 Ask Pamela Live
Q & A
- 19 10:00 to 11:00
District 22 Hava Java
- 27 RPW District 23 Parkview Manor
- 25 4 Toronto Districts

June

- 6 District 22 Executive
- 6 4 Toronto Districts Luncheon
- 7 4 Toronto Districts

From the Awards Committee

The COMMUNITY GRANT AWARD 2022 is sponsored by the National Committee of RTOERO. The Awards Committee recommends to the District Executive an individual or group to be nominated and if successful, the group is eligible for a grant up to \$4,000.

The criteria are to promote projects that will help our organization to meet our strategic goals of improving the lives of Members and Seniors.

We are delighted to say that our District 22- Etobicoke/York recommended the project “MUSIC THERAPY FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DELAYED SENIORS”. The project was successful!!!!

Laura Parsonson, the Project Manager received the \$4,000 cheque at the Fall Luncheon held at The Weston Golf and Country Club on November 15th. Laura and her assistant – Ruth Nagy, a long time Council Member of Etobicoke-York Community Living, were congratulated by Anne McIlroy, our District 22 President and Pauline Duquette Newman – who is newly retired from the National Office. This funding will go towards the purchase of iPod devices, Apple Music subscriptions and group sessions.

The cheque is made out to COMMUNITY LIVING TORONTO the group that will develop a music program geared to each individual. The money is earmarked for the Etobicoke Music therapy initiative. The seniors will be given MUSIC DEVICES that are fully loaded with music chosen by them. This way when they are done they will feel comforted and less isolated. They will also participate in several WORKSHOPS with a MUSIC THERAPIST. The seniors who will take part in the program are ALL ISOLATED AND LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE. Music therapy will help to reduce their loneliness, and participants will benefit widely from the experience – psychologically, emotionally, physically, cognitively and socially. Well done, Laura and Ruth. Congratulations.



RTOERO POST SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS

A final reminder - There are 20 scholarships valued at \$3,000 each to students enrolled in a college or university program that leads to a careers in either seniors health or wellbeing; education; environmental stewardship; or that reflect a strong commitment to diversity, equity and/or inclusion. RTOERO members are encouraged to recommend students in their lives including family members. The deadline is January 13, 2023. For more information contact scholarship@rtoero.ca.

Also, we the committee are looking for our members to recommend District 22 members for our OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE Award 2023 – we can issue 3 awards valued at \$1,000 each. The deadline for submissions of names is April 1, 2023.

Submitted by Sharon Kular - Awards

Saving Our Memories

Pictures, pictures, pictures. Memories upon memories.
Memories at risk.

Many of us have decades of pictorial memories which predate the digital age in the form of prints, negatives and slides. All these are composed of materials which are slowly fading and decomposing. Our stories, our family stories, records of history are at risk of loss or substantial diminishment. (Yes, our photos may well assist some future researcher or descendant in understanding our age.)



Scanning and saving our photos are means of saving our photo records.

This can be done by professional shops, ourselves or savvy family members. (Never underestimate the grandchildren.)

Prints, negatives and slides are all capable of being scanned. It is possible to restore colour, reverse fading, remove stains and dust. So-so pictures are capable of enhancement.

If one wishes to do the scanning, there are many good scanners available that can perform a multiplicity of operations. Among these are Epson, Canon, Plustek, Kodak and other digitizers. If prints are the only task most scanner/printers will do the job and come with good software to do it. Negatives and slides need dedicated scanner options.

The Toronto Public Library has excellent scanning resources at the Digital Innovation Hubs (Digital Innovation Hubs : Toronto Public Library). These are found at

- Agincourt
- Albion
- Downsview
- Fort York
- North York Central
- Richview
- Scarborough Civic Centre
- Toronto Reference



Staff in these centres are there to assist in setting up scanners. All you need are your materials and a high capacity flash drive to save your images. Film and slide frames are available for most formats. Usage times generally have to be booked.

If you have negatives in rare formats such as some of the early 20th century and later 110 negatives it is possible to find templates on line. It is possible to find 3D printing files of templates as well. These can be printed out at the library for only the cost of the plastic.

All of these files can be archived on various media such as external drives, dvd, flash media. You much even put together slide shows, albums and histories.

While you're at it gather all of those pictures sitting on phones and digital cameras.

Submitted by Art Witham - Web Master

TRAVEL 2023



ALL CHEQUES must be made payable to 'YEAR ROUND TRAVEL INC.' CHEQUES must be mailed to MARILYN JONES, made OUT SEPARATELY FOR EACH TOUR and DATED AS REQUESTED FOR THE TRIP. If the trip becomes fully booked, a WAIT LIST will be established. Full refunds will be provided for cancellations made more than 30 days prior to the trip. If you cancel closer to the trip and a substitute cannot be found, you will forfeit your payment.

TUNDRA SWANS

Tues. March 21, 2023

Thousands of Tundra Swans stop over annually to refuel on their migration to the high Arctic Region between Alaska and Baffin Island. This excursion includes return transportation via deluxe coach, visit to Aylmer Wildlife Management Area, buffet lunch at Elmhurst Inn & Spa in Ingersoll, a guided tour of Annandale Historic House in Tillsonburg, a visit to Coyle's County Store, driver gratuity, gratuity on meal, and all taxes.

Departure 9 am Payment due: Feb. 20, 2023. \$109.00 pp

GYPSY

SHAW FESTIVAL THEATRE.

Wed. May 10, 2023

Stephen Sondheim's timeless musical about sex, power and longing with legendary songs including 'Let Me Entertain You' and 'Everything's Coming Up Roses'. Gypsy remains a great American musical. Tour includes return transportation via deluxe coach, reserved orchestra seating, lunch, side trip (to be determined), driver gratuity, gratuity on meal, and all taxes.

Departure 9 am. Payment due: Apr. 10, 2023. \$170.00 pp

BUDDY: The Buddy Holly Story DRAYTON FESTIVAL THEATRE. Thurs. Jun. 8

The life and career of an artistic pioneer are celebrated in this spirited musical biography which chronicles Buddy Holly's triumphs & tragedies. This musical celebration will have you bopping in your seat and singing your way out of the theatre. Tour includes return transportation via deluxe coach, reserved orchestra seating, lunch, visit to St. Jacob's Market, driver gratuity, gratuity on meal, and all taxes.

Departure 9 am. Payment due. May 10, 2023. \$155.00 pp

TOURING PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY - HISTORY, CHEESE & LAVENDER

Thurs. Sept. 14, 2023

Prince Edward County offers a variety of interesting things to see and do on a day tour. We will visit a Cidery, a cheese factory, a vegetable farm, an orchard, a lavender farm with its own boutique, the artsy town of Bloomfield, historic Picton and cultural sites including the Rose House Museum, Sandbanks Provincial Park and the Old Quaker Meeting House. We will enjoy a three course lunch at the Waring House.

Departure 9 am Payment due Aug. 14, 2023 \$124.00 pp

RENT

STRATFORD FESTIVAL

Tues. Oct. 10, 2023

This rock musical by Jonathan Larson, inspired by Puccini's opera La Boheme, is set in Manhattan in the 1990's. It follows a group of young East Village artists, performers & philosophers through their hardships and struggles in their pursuit of life, love and art. Rent tells a story as relevant today as when it took Broadway by storm more than 25 years ago. Tour includes return transportation via deluxe coach, reserved orchestra seating, lunch, side trip (to be determined), driver gratuity, gratuity on meal, and all taxes.

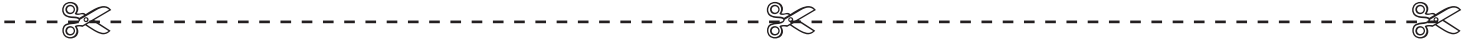
Departure 9 am Payment due Sept. 11, 2023 \$165.00 pp

CHEQUES must be made payable to 'YEAR ROUND TRAVEL INC.' and mailed to: MARILYN JONES, 394 THE KINGSWAY, ETOBICOKE, ON. M9A 3V7.

Please include the names of your guests for the trip.

WE REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF 40 PARTICIPANTS FOR EACH TRIP.

ALL TRIPS will depart from CENTENNIAL PARK NORTHEAST PARKING LOT just north of the Arena (156 Centennial Park Rd.).



TRIP REGISTRATION FORM 2023

NAME _____ **ADDRESS** _____

PHONE _____ **email(best contact)** _____

MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO 'YEAR ROUND TRAVEL INC.' and attach list of attendees.

TUNDRA SWANS. Tues. Mar. 21, 2023. # of TICKETS ___ @ \$109= ___

GYPSY. Wed. May 10, 2023. # of TICKETS ___ @ \$170= ___

BUDDY Thurs. Jun. 8, 2023. # of TICKETS ___ @ \$155= ___

PRINCE ED.COUNTY Thurs. Sept. 14, 2023. # of TICKETS ___ @ \$124= ___

RENT Tues. Oct.10, 2023. # of TICKETS ___ @ \$165= ___

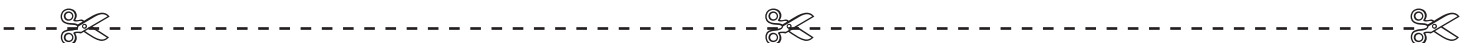
PLATE No. of vehicles left In NE Parking Lot _____ . _____

A cheque for each trip must accompany this registration.

For more information, please contact:

Marilyn Jones 416-237-0251. marjogaga@gmail.com


Mail registration with cheque(s) payable to YEAR ROUND TRAVEL INC.to:



2023

Etobicoke and City of York – District 22

50th RTOERO anniversary



Also District 16-Toronto District 23-North York District 24-Scarborough & East York 50 years

Stay tuned for celebration news for 2023!

Political Advocacy

Environmental Stewardship

There are numerous environmental concerns impacting us locally, federally, and globally. Although there are no upcoming elections, it is imperative that we keep our eyes, and actions, on what is happening. Issues such as the implications from the passing of Bills 23 and 229, the building of Highway 413, and climate inaction, require our constant attention. D22 member Dianne Brown was asked if she would look into the COP27 conference and provide us some clarity. Thankfully, she agreed, and her submission is below. Her article contains pertinent information with suggestions on what we can personally do to support key areas for action. Thank you, Dianne!!



We are always happy to take submissions from our members.

COP27 (27th Conference of the Parties) – Dianne Brown

From November 8-16, 2022, 198 countries that signed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change met in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The World Economic Forum noted 5 key areas for action: Nature, Food, Water, Industry Decarbonization, and Climate Adaptation. These are relatable on a personal level as some encompass our daily lives. More information on each of these areas can be reviewed at this link: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/10/cop27-why-it-matters-and-5-key-areas-for-action/>

The highest risk factor for failure is climate inaction!

The 5 goals stated on the Vision and Mission home page of COP27 are: Mitigation, Adaptation, Finance, and Collaboration. More details can be found here: <https://cop27.eg/#/vision>

The most celebrated accomplishment of COP27 is the funding for climate justice. “After years of resistance from rich governments, nations for the first time agreed to set up a fund to provide payouts to developing countries that suffer “loss and damage” from climate-driven storms, floods, droughts and wildfires.” (Reuters, November 21, 2022) The World Economic Forum’s review of the conference (November 25, 2022) includes an indepth analysis of such areas as biodiversity, the will to save forests and implementing forest pledges, nature-based solutions to negotiations, technology meets nature, flooding, water, indigenous peoples and local communities, and African-led initiatives becoming centre stage. These areas are a fascinating read and can be further explored through this link: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/11/10-key-takeaways-cop27-nature-critical-role/>

How has the world progressed since the last COP Conference in 2021?

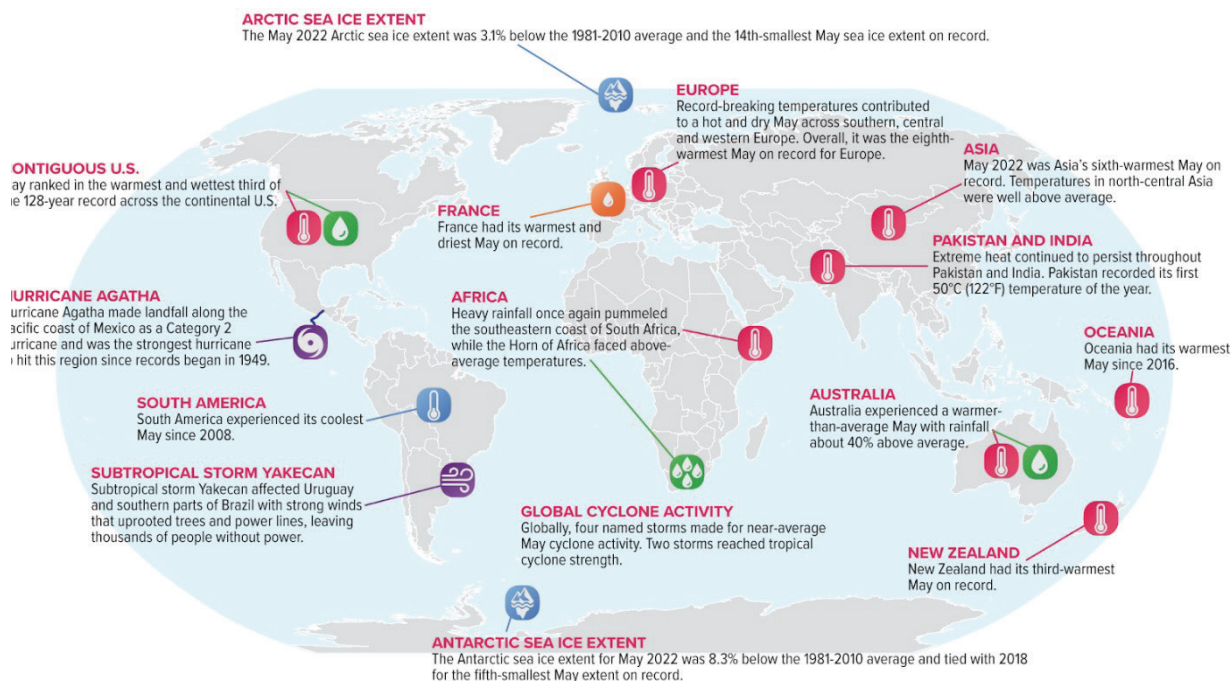
The top takeaway from COP26 was focused on keeping global warming below +1.50C. In January 2020, global temperature rises were recorded at just under 1.20C (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). The illustration below identifies the most current significant climate events.

“At last year’s summit in Scotland, countries agreed they must immediately do more to prevent a dangerous rise in global temperatures. But fast action has not materialized and the consequences of climate change — including deadly floods in Pakistan, drought in the United States, famine in Africa and heat waves across Europe — are painfully clear.” (New York Times, November 11, 2022) It seems the report card on climate mitigation and adaptation is not moving upward, yet. The question is how fast can we expect to realize movement on that massive goal?

Selected Significant Climate Anomalies and Events: May 2022

GLOBAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

May 2022 average global surface temperature was the ninth highest for May since global records began in 1880.



Please note: Material provided in this map was compiled from NOAA's State of the Climate Reports. For more information please visit: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc>

Is there hope?

It took roughly 27 years to reverse the effects of acid rain. This environmental problem was more regional than global in that more industrialized countries were affected, and global warming is just that-global. "At its worst, acid rain stripped forests bare in Europe, wiped lakes clear of life in parts of Canada and the US, and harmed human health and crops in China where the problem persists. Looking back today, there is little argument that the cause was sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides emitted by fossil fuel, combustion by cars and industrial facilities like smelters and coal-burning utilities." (BBC: The bittersweet story of how we stopped acid rain. Lesley Evans Ogden, 7 August 2019)

On a personal level, what can I do?

Our beloved David Suzuki Foundation recommends actions we as individual citizens of the world can do to stave off climate change.

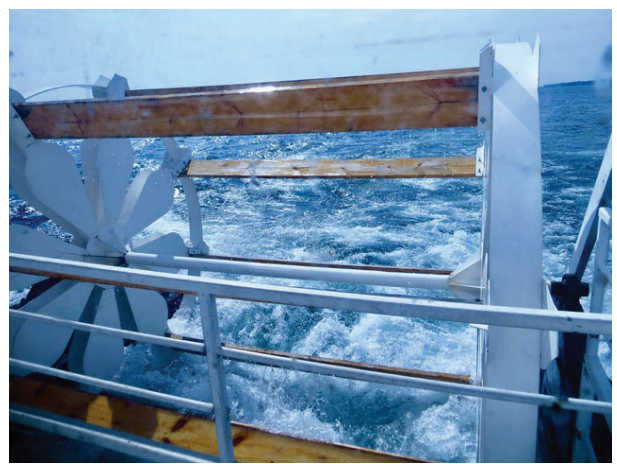
- Urge the government to take bold climate action
- Use energy wisely: switch to a heat pump, use a programmable thermostat, use cold water for laundry, switch your gas stove to electric, use energy saving light bulbs, winterize your home, etc.
- Green your commute (24% of climate-producing pollution is from transportation): walk, ride a bike, plan for an electric car purchase, take public transit
- Consume less, waste less, enjoy life more: google The Story of Stuff video
- Support Indigenous-led climate action
- Invest in renewables and divest from fossil fuels
- Talk about and mobilize on climate action with your local government officials
- Vote

Submitted by Janis McCaskill - Political Advocacy

A Travelogue of the D22 1000 Island Tour - by Bill Zelnick A dreary Wednesday yesterday, but no September rain or cold front to spoil our retired Etobicoke teachers' daytrip by bus to Kingston, Ontario. A marvellous Thousand Islands three hour lunch cruise on the St.Lawrence River was the highlight.



The first Parliament buildings constructed by the downtown docks of the Province of Canada. Parliament was summoned in Kingston following the union of Upper Canada and Lower Canada in 1841.



The Island Queen is a triple decked Mississippi Paddlewheeler. She's richly adorned with oak panels and antique tin on the interior, featuring live music on its first deck, serving sumptuous meals on its second deck, and open air sight-seeing on its top deck.



Fort Henry at the mouth of the Cataraqui River where it flows into the St.Lawrence River at the east end of Lake Ontario is a fortification constructed during the War of 1812, to protect the Kingston Royal Naval Dockyard from a possible American attack during the war and to monitor maritime traffic on the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario. The fort was restored in the 1930s and is a significant tourist attraction.



The historic Martello Tower on a promontory from which to watch for any enemy movement on the Lake.



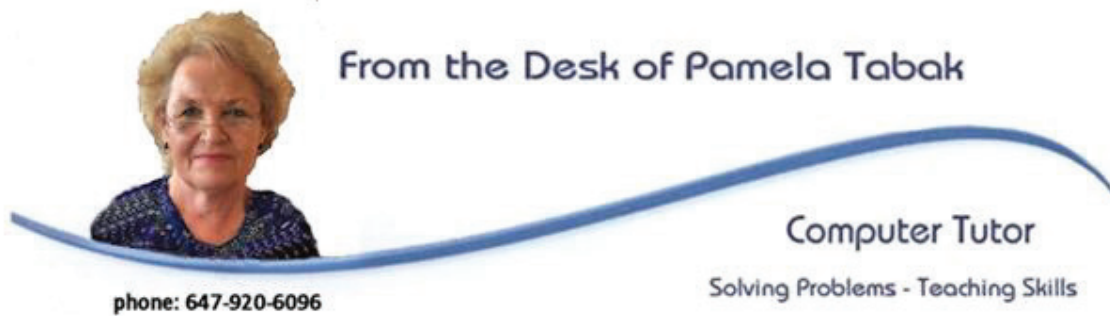
Top open viewing deck. A bit windy, Drinks being served in the dining area below, snacks above.



The 1000 islands actually consist of 1,864 islands that span a 50 mile radius along the St. Lawrence River between Kingston and Brockville. Formed almost 12,000 years ago during the last ice age.



Cottages dot the shores of the river and the many islands on both the Canadian and American side.



If you are thinking that you may like to upgrade to Windows 11 or buy a new computer or laptop with Windows 11 installed please consider the information that I have gathered after working on a Windows 11 laptop and listening to the experience of others.

I must begin by saying that the design and position of many things has changed from Windows 10 and these changes may take a little time to get used to.

My first impression was that it was very easy on the eye but when I started to use it, I realized that this new operating system was not as easy to use as Windows 10. To begin with, the **Start icon** and **Taskbar** are centered. I was able to move it to the left which gave me more room to add more frequently used programs **by right clicking the taskbar** and navigating to **Taskbar Settings > Taskbar Behavior > Taskbar Alignment > Left**.

Unfortunately, if you prefer your taskbar in any other position than it appears you are out of luck.

There is no way to move it or resize the icons and you can't drag-and-drop apps into the taskbar. If you want an app on your taskbar for easy access you will have to click on the **taskbar's Search icon (magnifying glass)**, type in your desired app, right click it and **select "Pin to Taskbar."** Another frustrating aspect of Windows 11 is that the **"Pin to Taskbar"** option isn't immediately accessible for desktop apps. You will need to **select "Show More Options"**.

You will need to know the following before upgrading to Windows 11:

- Requires a recent CPU (within 3 years)
- Some interface changes like the new Start menu and Taskbar take getting used to
- Useful tools are gone i.e., Timeline, some tablet gestures and Action Center

The Cons are:

Changing Default Apps in Windows 11 Is Too Hard

You Have to Sign in to a Microsoft Account to Use Windows 11

Windows 11's Start Menu Is Less Usable Than Windows 10's

Windows 11's Taskbar Is Less Helpful Than Windows 10's

You Still Need to install a Third-Party Antivirus With Windows 11

From my experience and the experience of other Windows 11 users, when using Windows 11, it causes the system to crash when downloading updates. The system "hangs" and causes the keyboard to be inoperable. Shutting down is the only solution which wastes time and resources.

How long can Windows 10 be supported?

You can enjoy using Windows 10 until 2024 or 5 according to online information. I certainly will do so until I am sure that many of the bugs have been corrected. My advice is to read many articles online to help you to decide whether you should move to Windows 11.

Email: pamelahelpsy@gmail.com

website: <http://computertutinc.net>

GOODWILL



The new Goodwill Committee was created in mid-January of 2022 and began our work on February 1st, 2022. We have had a very busy year.

This year we returned to providing in person events starting with the D22 Movie Club in March. During the remainder of the year, the movie club met for six films at the Queensway Cineplex

Theatre. Many thanks go out to Mary Jean Ricci who assisted with this group.

On September 7th we hosted the No Bell Luncheon at the Mandarin Restaurant. We had our largest turnout ever and a good time was had by all. Organized by Claudia Mang who expresses many thanks to Rose Ramundi and Mary Jean Ricci who played host for the event.

Moving into October, we held not one but two Welcome Breakfasts for new members to our district at the Markland Wood Golf Club. Over the course of the pandemic, we were unable to host our usual new member event. We had almost 200 members who joined our district from October of 2019 to September of 2022 to celebrate. We had displays by Johnson Insurance, Iris, Hearing Life and Venngo Member Perks. All provided prizes for our draw. A special thanks to one of our new members, Joe DiFranco, who donated draw prizes for the second breakfast. These events were organized by Claudia Mang and hosted by Claudia Mang and our President Anne McIlroy.

In November we hosted our Fall Luncheon at the Weston Golf Club. We had a great turnout and a wonderful speaker, Philip Cote, who spoke about the Indigenous heritage in our city. A shout out to Judy Paton, the chief organizer extraordinaire, who did a marvelous job organizing this event. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch and draw prizes were provided by District 22, Johnsons Insurance and Joe DiFranco.

A total of 190 Birthday greetings were sent out to members who celebrated milestone birthdays of 80, 85, 90, 95 and over 100 years. Flowers were sent to six members who celebrated their 100th birthday. Condolence cards were sent to the families of 69 members who passed away this year. Get well cards were sent to three members. A great big thank you to Elaine Hileman and Jane Moore who sent out the birthday cards, and to Judy Paton for the condolence cards. Claudia Mang sends out the flowers for 100th birthday and birthday cards to those over 100 years.

Throughout the year, we welcomed 68 new members with welcome gift packages. A special thanks goes out to Rose Ramundi who sends them out.

Although mentioned before, I wish to express my thanks to the members of the Goodwill Committee my wonderful Co-Chair Judy Paton, and members Mary Jean Ricci, Rose Ramundi, Elaine Hileman and Jane Moore. Goodwill is not a task of one, but by all.

Please contact us at d22goodwill@gmail.com if you know of anyone who could use a little cheer. The D22 Movie Club can be contacted at d22movieclub@gmail.com .

Submitted by Claudia Mang - Goodwill Co-Chair



ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON



On Tuesday, November 15, 2022, approximately seventy-five members and guests gathered at The Weston Golf and Country Club. It has been three years since we have been able to gather in person for a luncheon, and you could feel the excitement in the air. The day was grey and cold when we arrived, but as the day went on, the view of a green golf course gradually turned white, the first snowfall of the year. And to add interest to this scene, a very large coyote graced us with its presence as it ran around in the snow. With the winter wonderland outside and a warm fireplace inside, the atmosphere was perfect to enjoy a delicious meal with friends and colleagues.

Following the meal, Laura Parsonson was presented with her well-deserved Community Service Award and grant. After that, it took a while for the many door prizes to be given out. Many of the prizes were provided by Joe Di Franco, a District 22 member, from La Cantina. By that time, our guest speaker, spiritual elder Philip Coté had arrived, after a lengthy delay. Unfortunately, he did not have his power point presentation with him, but he did enlighten many of us with interesting facts, myths, and history.

I am sure that a lot of us went straight to google when we got home.

All too soon, the day came to an end, and we had to face reality by brushing the snow off the windshields before heading home.

Thank you to all who participated and offered a helping hand.

Submitted by Judy Paton - Social/Goodwill



Philip Coté
the burning of the sage

ACER Celebrates 35 in Ward 3



The Association for Canadian Educational Resources (ACER) celebrated 35 years in the community and has planted over 1000 trees in Mississauga. I would like to thank Alice Casselman, President of ACER for all the hard work she and ACER have put into our community. I had the pleasure of meeting them at their celebration of planting 1000 trees in Mississauga at Fleetwood Park.

Camila Rodriguez Cuello

Administrative Assistant to

Councillor Chris Fonseca, Ward 3

T 905-615-3200 ext. 5300

Camila.rodriguez@mississauga





More pics from our *Fall Luncheon and New Members Breakfast*



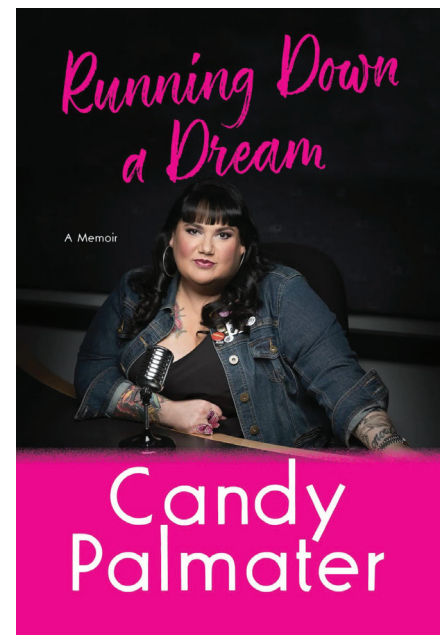
Honouring the Indigenous Peoples of Canada

Book Recommendations:

An Introduction: The recommendations that follow below are a bit different from what was written about Indigenous issues in previous editions of the Twenty-Second report. Since the Truth and Reconciliation Report was issued, there has been a great amount of attention generated on Indigenous issues. I think that it is important that we understand what the issues are and to learn as much as possible about them so that we can lend our voices to policies, programs, and actions that can lead to reconciliation. In one of RTOERO's Vibrant Voices webinars in 2021, members were able to listen to Candy Palmater who urged us to add our voices to indigenous peoples since they represent a small portion of the Canadian population. RTOERO records these webinars when possible and many can still be found on its website. Unfortunately, Candy's presentation was not recorded because she made her living by making public appearances and a recording might compromise her earning power. This was unfortunate because Candy died on Christmas Day, 2021 and her words were lost forever. At our Fall luncheon, members who were able to attend were able to hear a presentation by Philip Cote, an Indigenous Elder who spoke on the topic of Traditional Lands Acknowledgement.

Running Down a Dream – A memoir (2022) by Candy Palmater

Candy starts off her story by describing herself as “a queer, Indigenous (Mi'kmaq), recovered-lawyer-turned-feminist comic who was raised by bikers in the wilds of northern New Brunswick”. She does not do herself justice. She does not give herself full credit for all that she has achieved given the circumstances of her childhood, teens, and early adulthood. She could easily have given up. She does give credit though to the adults in her life who became her mentors and helped her develop a personal philosophy and spurred her to use the skills, talents, and intelligence to become a success in whatever she tried. She became a lawyer by graduating from the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University and was the first Indigenous law student in Canada to be a valedictorian of her graduating class. She was a feminist, anti-racist activist, a government employee, a stand-up comic, actor, entertainer, professional orator and presenter, exceptional writer and creator who worked on CBC and CTV programming. Much of her memoir deals with Candy's relationships with the members of her family. It is clear that she valued her relationship with her mother the most, but her father and her siblings get fair attention and how each impacted her in her personal growth and development of a life philosophy. There are lessons to be learned from her life in that despite her humble early life she was able to accomplish much – the fulfillment of her dreams. Much of the memoir deals with her relationships with the members of her family. There is less about her education, government work and her life in the entertainment industry. She is very honest in her writing. She does not leave out the messy parts of her life - the turbulent times, making lots of mistakes, hurting others, her weight gain struggles, her relationship with the men in her life and how her life changed when she met her life partner, Denise Tompkins. Some of the events that she wrote about are hard to read but that is one of the reasons why this is a fascinating book to read and so it is highly recommended.



And now a recommendation that is a bit different:

***When We Were Alone* (2020) text by David A. Robertson, illustrations by Julie Flett and Indigenous Languages by Alderick Leask.**

This is a very short children’s book which deals with the topic of residential schools. It is recommended to members who may have small grandchildren. I am sure that the very young children who go to our schools cannot help but have heard about the residential schools’ debate that has been in the press, on TV and perhaps by the adults in their family around the dinner table. I am not sure what if anything has been done in our schools with the very young learners. How does one explain this tragedy to youngsters? The book starts out when a young girl helps her grandmother tend her garden. She notices things about her grandmother which leads her to ask questions. The answers that her grandmother slowly reveals talks about her time in story about a difficult time in our history that David Robertson “wanted to make sure the history that I was discussing in this book was something that was digestible and appropriate for younger readers.” Members who were teachers in the primary grades probably do not need any help but there is a downloadable free copy of the Parent/Teacher Guide at www.portageandmainpress.com to help facilitate discussions with young readers.



Submitted by Karl Sproggis - Past President

In MEMORIAM



With deepest regrets we report the passing of these members.

A donation is made annually to RTOERO Foundation, in recognition of all our passed members.

Elizabeth	Antle	Elaine	Kaarl's
Donald	Bartle	Susan	McColl
Pauline	Blendick	Shirley	McGuckin
Merle	Charlton	Leela	Purmasir
Marlene	Clarke	Deanna	Rizk
Mary	Difalco	Eric	Sano
Gloria	Gallogley	Rhona	Swarbrick
Nelson	Gowdy	James	Torrie
Otilie	Haupt	Hazel	Williams
Brian	Johnston	William	Zabarylo
Robert	Judd		



On Valentine's Day, open your heart to the hopefulness for change with this vibrant, compelling and accomplished speaker.

A respected expert on violence against women, Pamela Cross participated as an expert witness on intimate partner violence in the Nova Scotia Mass Casualty Inquiry and in the recent inquest into the 2015 triple femicide in Renfrew County, Ontario.

Become informed, energized and learn the role you can play to help implement change and reduce violence against women in Canada.

WHEN: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 9 AM
WHERE: Zoom Webinar
TICKETS: \$35
REGISTRATION: CFUW Etobicoke



IN SUPPORT OF





DISTRICT 22 EXECUTIVE 2022

Anne McIlroy	416-427-0115	President /Benefits
Marilyn Jones	416-237-0251	1st Vice President /Travel
Paul Woloszanskyj	647-403-4760	2nd Vice President
Mary Jean Ricci	647-405-8202	Secretary
Rose Ramundi	416-656-8827	Treasurer
Karl Sprogis	416-500-4839	Past President
Sharon Kular	416-241-7278	Awards
Claudia Mang	416-626-0798	Governance/Goodwill
Lynn Farquharson	905-891-9838	Membership/Telephone
William McIlroy	416-702-1008	Newsletter Editor/ Membership
Janis McCaskill	905-857-1187	Political Advocacy
Sheila Tait	416-767-2406	Recreation/Recruitment
Judy Paton	416-769-1373	Social/Goodwill
Art Witham	416-242-3207	Webmaster
Maryanne Chard	416-626-1353	Member at Large
Gabriela Kurzydowski	647-381-8872	Member at Large/Travel
Linda Rodegard	416-533-5308	Member at Large
Janet Thacker	905-503-1484	M. at Large/Foundation
Gail Anderson	416-526-7336	PAC Liaison



Members, do you have any memories, pictures, anecdotes of District 22s history over the past 50 years. Send them to district22newsletter@gmail.com and we'll see that they get printed in the next newsletter.



Editor: As referenced below, Benefits Plan participants will have been notified in November of any Plan changes effective January 1, 2023. The changes in routine for submission of receipts for reimbursement were announced in our September Newsletter.

Report of the RTOERO Benefits Committee to the Fall Forum 2022

1. OUR PLANS FOR 2023

The Benefits Committee completed the process of reviewing submitted requests for plan changes for 2023. Recommendations were brought to the Board of Directors for approval. Notice of plan changes were sent out in the Communiqué in mid-November to plan members. All plan changes will be effective January 1, 2023.

A change previously communicated to plan members for 2023 is a change in claim submission timelines; claims will require submission within 6 months of the occurrence.

All District Health Representatives met in November to clarify the changes to the plans before the Communiqué is emailed and mailed to members.

2. PERFORMANCE OF PLANS

- As of the end of August, the total insured lives for all plans reached 100,702.
- Utilization of the plans has increased over 2021 and are approaching pre-pandemic levels. However, utilization of the Hospital and Convalescent Care benefit has not recovered as much as had been expected. Ontario hospitals continue to operate at reduced capacity due to COVID-19 precautions and staffing shortages.
- Claims for Extended Health Care continue to be higher than expected as of the end of August. Inflationary costs are higher than expected.
- For the Dental Plan, claims continue to exceed projections. The higher-than-typical [Ontario Dental Association] fee guide increase is a major contributing factor.
- Travel patterns are moving quickly to pre-pandemic trends; it is estimated that claims are at approximately 90% of their pre-pandemic levels, according to a report from Johnson Insurance.
- It is estimated that the combined plans will have a deficit in 2022.



**Scholarships, 2023
~ RTOERO Gives Back ~**

RTOERO members can recommend students from their family or community for a post-secondary scholarship

RTOERO believes in the power of our community to secure a better future, and we are committed to helping secure better futures for students, for each other, and for seniors in Canada. One of the ways we work towards achieving this goal is through our post-secondary scholarship program, established with reference to our strategic goal: To improve the lives of members and seniors.

This year, RTOERO is awarding 20 scholarships valued at \$3000 each to post-secondary (college or university) students enrolled in programs that lead to careers in either seniors health and wellbeing; education; environmental stewardship; or that reflect a strong commitment to diversity, equity and/or inclusion.

RTOERO members are encouraged to recommend students in their lives, including family members, who meet the criteria.

Over the past 17 years, RTOERO has awarded scholarships totalling \$550,000.

Eligibility

The applicant must be studying in a college or university program that leads to a career in either seniors health and wellbeing; education; or environmental stewardship; or that reflects a strong commitment to diversity, equity and/or inclusion.

This includes fields such as: Health sciences; medicine; nursing; personal care; geriatric health care; research into healthy active living for seniors; architects, designers of age-friendly spaces, critical race studies and teaching or careers in education.

Students must be enrolled in their programs at the time of the application deadline. i.e. students must be taking part in their program at the time of the application deadline, Jan 13, 2023.

Students still in high-school at the time of the application deadline are ineligible.

In addition to the completed application, the applicant must provide official Confirmation of Enrolment from their post-secondary institution, in PDF format.



CanAge*

Our Mission:
Advance the rights and wellbeing of Canadians as we age.

CanAge* is Canada's national seniors' advocacy organization, working to improve the lives of older adults through advocacy, policy, and community engagement.

We are non-partisan and backed by a pan-Canadian membership base.

CanAge has quickly established itself as Canada's national advocate for issues affecting older people in our country, having ramped up operations in 2020 in urgent response to the threat COVID-19 poses to vulnerable seniors in long-term care.

CanAge has been working tirelessly, both behind the scenes in meetings with policymakers and on the national media stage as a trusted commentator, moving the needle on behalf of our rapidly aging population.

CanAge offers our members exclusive access to benefits from vetted senior-friendly partners. Our member base includes older people, their loved ones and their advocates—engaged citizens of all ages and with diverse lived experiences unified by their desire to make Canada a better place to age for us all.

Join CanAge for FREE (You'll also receive our newsletter)

Exclusive access to exciting offers and perks from our trusted partners. Advance notice of engaging events, announcements and inspiring learning opportunities.

Connect with a community of other passionate advocates who share your interests.

Participate in surveys and polls, lending your voice to guide our advocacy work and future member benefits.

Support a worthwhile cause with the power to change countless lives across Canada.

GET OUR FREE NEWSLETTER! <https://www.canage.ca/>

*RTOERO's vision is "a healthy, active future for every member of the education retiree community in Canada" and works closely with other groups with similar goals. This site may assist some members.

CHANGES TO RTOERO BENEFITS FOR 2024

RTOERO welcomes suggestions for improvements and additions to our benefits plans and each year the Benefits Committee reviews all recommendations from Districts and individual members for possible changes to those plans.

Plan participants should submit their recommendations directly to the Benefits Committee or to Stephen Wong, Coordinator of Benefits at the RTO/ERO Office before December 15, 2022. Emailed submissions:

YOU CAN GET OUR NEWSLETTER...
...as a **PDF** on your **COMPUTER** or your **MOBILE** or **HARDCOPY**



RTOERO Toronto District 22 maintains its own mailing list for both versions - we just need to know your preference directly.

Contact the RTOERO national office. They will inform the editor.

- To continue receiving your **HARD COPY** - Do Nothing
- To begin receiving emails regarding the PDF being available on-line or to restart your hardcopy:

Contact Membership Services at membership@rtoero.ca

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

The **RTOERO Member Services Committee** finds resources for members related to the provision of relevant information regarding wills, powers of attorney, estate planning and other important areas of interest.

Links and websites can be found on the RTOERO website.

Members are reminded of this resource at <https://rtoero.ca>.

In addition to CanAge referenced on Page 29, the *Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE)* | <https://cfee.org/> is recommended as worth checking from time-to-time.

CFEE

The Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization, founded in 1974, that works to improve economic, financial, and enterprising capability. CFEE works collaboratively with our funding partners, departments of education, school boards, schools, educators, and teacher associations to develop and provide free, non-commercial programs and resources for teachers and students – developed and reviewed by educators.

CFEE also works internationally with organizations such as the OECD in Paris, Child and Youth Finance International in Amsterdam, and the Association of Asia Pacific Countries (APEC). Overall, CFEE's work primarily focuses on youth but also aspires to help people of all ages be better prepared to undertake their economic roles, responsibilities, and decisions with confidence and competence.

CFEE: Our Vision

Every Canadian has the capability and opportunity to build a successful economic future.

CFEE: Programs that may be of interest:

- **Money and You: Seniors Edition:** help those in the senior, or nearing senior years, with the financial decisions that arise and that remain.
- **Let's Talk Money: Seniors:** Open, honest conversations about money
- **Money Laughs:** Financial Education Can Do With A Little Humour
- **Workshops for Seniors:** It's Never Too Late for Improving Financial Knowledge and Skills

Did You Know?

What does 'We're all treaty people' mean?

You may have heard the phrase 'we're all treaty people.' Have you considered what the phrase means for us collectively and for as individuals?

The phrase is meant to highlight how we all have responsibilities based on the treaties signed between the Crown and different First Nations. The historic treaties are agreements that describe rights and relationships between the First Nations people and the European newcomers – a relationship that was meant to be respectful and mutually beneficial. It's important to recognize that while there are written treaty documents, these documents didn't capture the spirit and intent of treaties. There is an oral history that provides the First Nations peoples' perspective.

There are both historic and modern treaties (often called comprehensive land claim agreements). Treaty rights are protected in the Constitution Act of 1982.

Learning about treaties is included in a number of the 94 Calls to Action. Including Call to Action 62, which relates to education and Call to Action 92, which covers the corporate sector in Canada.

Here are some ways to learn more about treaties:

- CBC created a short explainer video talking about treaties: <https://cbc.ca/player/play/727151683808>
- Treaties are covered in the University of Alberta's open online course called Indigenous Canada, offered through Coursera: <https://coursera.org/learn/indigenous-canada>

Do some searching to find out about the treaties in your area. In Ontario, you can look up your address on an interactive map offered by the Ontario Government. Find the map here:

<https://ontario.ca/page/map-ontario-treaties-and-reserves>

Information for this article comes from:

<https://teaching.usask.ca/curriculum/indigenous/voices/land-agreements/welcome.php/rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100028574/1529354437231>



There are four RTOERO Districts in Toronto with the legacy names of Metropolitan Toronto prior to amalgamation in 1997.

Our four districts serve **all** education employees retired from educational institutions in Toronto. We welcome retirees from public/Catholic/French/private schools; universities and colleges; aboriginal schools; and, early childhood education centres.

Visit their individual websites.

Etobicoke and York – District 22

District 22 serves RTOERO members in the western portion of Toronto. <https://district22.rtoero.ca>

North York – District 23

District 23 serves RTOERO members in the northern portion of Toronto. <https://district23.rtoero.ca>

Scarborough and East York – District 24

District 24 serves RTOERO members in the eastern portion of Toronto. <https://district24.rtoero.ca>

Toronto – District 16

District 16 serves RTOERO members in the central portion of Toronto. <https://district16.rtoero.ca>

Other districts nearby:

Durham District 28 - <https://district28.rtoero.ca>

Peel District 39 - <https://district39.rtoero.ca>

York District 34 - <https://district34.rtoero.ca>

There are 51 Districts across Canada. Check them out here: <https://rtoero.ca/about/rtoero-districts/>

Members are welcome to join any district in Canada. If you move to a new address, there is a district for you – just let RTOERO know. Stay in touch with former districts through their websites. Moving out of Canada? Your district’s magazine is online.

Information for you: Vacant Home Tax

All Toronto residential property owners must submit a declaration of their property’s 2022 occupancy status by February 2, 2023.

[Submit Declaration Online](#)

A declaration is not required if the property does not contain a residential unit. (Examples – vacant land, parking space, condominium locker). A residential unit is comprised of one or more self-contained units, including a dedicated washroom and kitchen.

An annual tax will be levied on vacant Toronto residences, payable beginning in 2023.

A property is considered vacant if it is not used as the principal residence by the owner(s) or any permitted occupant(s), or if it was unoccupied for a total of six months or more during the previous calendar year. Properties may also be otherwise deemed vacant under the [bylaw](#).

The goal of the City of Toronto’s Vacant Home Tax (VHT) is to increase the supply of housing by discouraging owners from leaving their residential properties unoccupied. Homeowners who choose to keep their properties vacant will be subject to this tax.

If required, homeowners can download and submit a completed [paper declaration form](#). The paper form must be completed in full and received by the City of Toronto before the deadline. Please be aware of Canada Post delivery times. For the best user experience, use the free Adobe Acrobat Reader software to complete and save the fillable form.

Revenues collected from the Vacant Home Tax will be allocated towards affordable housing initiatives.

How It Works	Expand All +	Collapse All -
Types of Property Status Declarations	+	
Exemptions	+	
Paying the Vacant Home Tax		Contact Information
Change of Ownership & the Vacant Home Tax		City of Toronto Revenue Services General Correspondence 5100 Yonge St. Toronto, ON M2N 5Y7
Audits		From Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. call 311 - Tax & Utility Inquiry Line Outside City Limits: 416-392-CITY (2489)
Notice of Complaint		Telephone: 311 TTY: 416-338-0TTY (0889) Fax: 416-696-3605 Email: propertytax@toronto.ca
Appeals		Email: utility@toronto.ca
Late Payments, Late Declarations & Fines	+	
Background	+	

Here are some of our winners and speakers at the **Annual Fall Luncheon** and the **New Members Breakfasts**





CloudMD helps members receive right diagnosis, treatment plan

Starting Jan. 1, CloudMD will replace Teladoc as RTOERO's medical second-opinion service for Extended Health Care Plan participants. CloudMD is a Canadian-based health solutions company.

The bilingual medical second-opinion service includes the following:

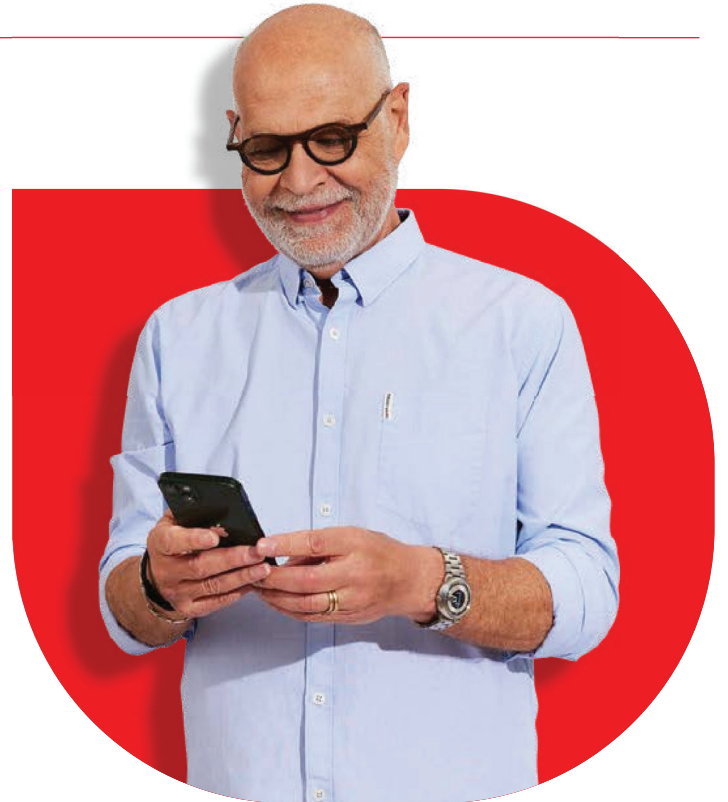
- second opinion diagnosis and treatment
- answers to questions about a medical condition
- assistance understanding prescribed care and treatment options
- support finding a specialist or treatment facility in Canada
- help navigating the healthcare system
- relevant information about a medical issue

How CloudMD service works

The CloudMD service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year by phone or through the online portal.

You will speak to a registered nurse coordinator, who will undertake the following activities on your behalf:

- Conduct a thorough intake of your medical history.
- Collect medical records and information, via a secure portal, from your family doctor, specialists and other health team members.
- Gather information about your health diagnosis, treatment, imaging and tests.
- Review medical records and consult with the medical advisory team to determine if additional imaging or tests are required and to identify the specialist to provide the medical opinion or review.
- Review the specialist's written report.



Reach out to the CloudMD network of medical experts to provide you with an in-person or virtual appointment for a second opinion.

For more information

For more information, or to access the CloudMD service starting **Jan. 1**, go to rtoero.ca/services/CloudMD or call 1-800-661-8193.



Book your spot today
rtoero.ca/retirement-workshop



The webinars are for anyone from the education community – whether you’re retiring this year or considering retirement in the next few years.

WATCH FOR WINTER IN-PERSON RPWS SPONSORED BY LOCAL RTOERO DISTRICTS



RTOERO
 22 Etobicoke & York
 23 North York
 24 Scarborough/East York
 16 Toronto

1-800-361-9888 rpw@rtoero.ca rtoero.ca/events/

Inperson Retired Planning Workshops (RPWs) are back

RTOERO will resume the very important and highly informative In Person Retired Planning Workshops (RPWs) in 2023 with 4 dates designated for the Toronto Districts 16, 22, 23, & 24. They are as follows. **We will be looking for volunteers to facilitate as per past practice.**

District 16 Saturday Feb 18 2023. 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Venue: Marriott at Carlton/Yonge.

District 24 Wednesday March 29 2023. 4:30p.m. - 6:00p.m Venue: Delta Hotels, Marriott Toronto 2035 Kennedy Rd.

District 22 Saturday April 1, 2023. 9:30a.m. - 12:00 Venue: Airport Marriott.

District 23 Saturday May 27, 2023. 9:30a.m. -12:00 Venue: Parkview Manor



Welcome to RTOERO

Enjoy the benefits we offer. RTOERO no longer has Full or Associate categories and therefore will not be listed as such moving forward.



Pratima	Bhatia	Cary	Hogan	Manoranjan	Purmasir
Linda	Dianne Brown	Doris	Judd	Jacqueline	Robinson
Monica	Calligaro	Hans	Kaarl	Mary	Rudnicki
Joe	Culmone	Rita	McDowall	Sukhjinder	Sidhu
Joe	Di Franco	Robert	McGuckin	Mary Jane	Tenuta
Franca	Di Martella-Orsi	Michael	Mitchell	Amelia	Torrie
Janice	Etter	Loretta	Notten	Nadia	Yetman
Gayle	Finless-Hall	Susan	Padmore		
Michael	Gallagher	Lina	Pimento		

If you are changing any information, address, phone contact or email address, it is imperative that you contact the provincial office by email: membership@rtoero.ca or tel: 416-962-9463 toll free: 1-800-361-9888 to make any changes.

The Twenty-Second Report is published three times per year - in January, April/May, August/September or as required.

Deadline for submissions is three weeks prior to the month of publication.

We reserve the right to edit and/or condense all contributions and submissions.

Please send your stories, jokes, anecdotes, columns, comments, criticism, letters and pictures to: William McIlroy

☎ 416-702-1008 ✉ district22newsletter@gmail.com

Canadian Publication Mail Agreement
#40032154

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