1997 Executive
First Executive Meeting of newly appointed 1996 - 1997 Executive.
Theresa Strutt, Helen Marchell, Anne Brownjohn, Don Mason, Judi Palmer,
Barb Sweeney, Win Giguere, Mary Izawa
Jon Austin (2nd V.P.), Jim Marshall (President),
Bob Murphy (1st V.P.), John Moore (Secretary)

2000 Executive

Back: Judith Willis (Historian/Photographer), Brian Holstein (Peelings Editor),
Bonnie Fredenburgh (Member Assistance), Win Giguere (Health Issues),
Bob Murphy (Elected Senator/Pension Awareness), Joanne Whitford (Social Committee),
George Webster (1st V.P./Communications),

Seated: Ken Tazzman (Political Action), Larry Holseth (Treasurer), Eric Simpson (Secretary),
Doug Deller (Past President/Website Manager), Ann Shaffer (President)

2002 Executive


2003 Executive
Executive and Committee Chairs

2004 Executive

Peelings is the official newsletter of the Retired Teachers of Ontario (District 39, Peel), published quarterly for distribution to its membership.
President’s Report - Linda Kenny

It still seems odd not to be gearing up for school opening next week, but it’s an odd feeling that is rather pleasant. By the time you receive this newsletter, school will be in full swing for another year and all the lucky retirees can continue to play golf, take long walks in the early autumn sunshine, putt in the garden or just put our feet up and enjoy the fact that we are no longer required to be in school. Life is good!

When you receive your Fall issue of Renaissance, there will be an insert with it, called Health Matters. It is packed full of interesting information about the RTO/ERO Health Plan as well as useful and informative health information. For instance, you will be pleased to know that an independent team of consultants has rated “the RTO/ERO plan as equal to or superior when looking at the components of the coverage to the other plans in most areas.” There are also comprehensive articles on the management of Type 2 Diabetes (including many useful Web sites) and an article on safe food handling. If you are planning to travel to Europe this fall check out the last page of the insert for information on which countries are now requiring proof of Travel Insurance before you are allowed to enter the country. You are advised to visit http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries_pays/menu-eng.asp to determine the medical insurance requirements of the countries you are planning to visit.

Your District 39 Executive held their first Fall meeting on Wednesday, September 14. One major focus was planning the last minute details for our Annual General Meeting, on Monday, October 17. Please plan to attend. We are pleased to have Gordon Cressy as our speaker. As well, there will be tables for RTO/ERO members to showcase their talents. If you have served on a District 39 Committee or held an Executive position you will be able to have lunch after the meeting for only $5. Thank you to Larry Holseth, our treasurer, for arranging this subsidy as a way of saying thank you to people who have contributed their time and expertise. We will also be holding elections at this meeting and we would be very pleased to have many nominations for the available positions. Please consider becoming involved on a committee or on the Executive. It is not a huge commitment of time and it is an enjoyable way to spend time with other RTO/ERO members. Not to mention that you could get a $5 lunch.

The RTO/ERO Fall Senate is being held on October 24, 25 and 26, in Toronto. District 39 will be sending two people as Senators and one or two more as observers. Look for a report on the business of Senate in our Winter 2012 issue of Peelings.

The Old Britannia Schoolhouse was awarded the $4000 Project Service to Others (PSTO) grant this year to help them preserve some historic maps. The work has...
been completed and the maps are now in the schoolhouse ready for use by visiting classes. The Friends of the Schoolhouse will have a table at our October 17 Annual General Meeting. Please plan to stop at the table to see our PSTO dollars at work.

In the spring I applied to be, and was accepted as, a member of the provincial Project Service to Others committee. I begin my official duties on this committee in September when we meet to consider scholarship applications. We meet again in the Spring to consider PSTO requests. I would urge you to look into both the scholarships and the PSTO grants. You may have a relative who is eligible to apply for the scholarship or you may be serving on a committee that could benefit from a PSTO grant.

We hope to see you at the October 17 Annual General Meeting.

We will receive a slightly better increase to our pensions in January 2012 than we received in January 2011. Remember, you must apply to receive Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Old Age Security (OAS).

The Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan (OTPP) has sold its interest in Sydney Airport and, with a cash payment, purchased 39% of the Brussels airport and 30% of the Copenhagen airport.

Teachers’ Private Capital has agreed to acquire a majority stake in Flexera Software, USA. Flexera Software is the leading provider of strategic Application Usage Management solutions for application producers and their enterprise customers.

OTPP announced it has entered into an agreement for the acquisition of Babcock and Brown Gates Parking Investments which includes Imperial Parking Corp. (Impark). So when you park in one of their lots in Toronto, you are helping the pension fund.

OTPP, after making successful bids in Chilean government-held auctions, has announced that it has increased its holdings in two Chilean water utilities.

Peelings is Your Newsletter

Write an article telling us about:
* a place you have travelled to
* a restaurant where you had a fine meal
* a book (film, play) you can recommend to others
* a source for genealogical information
* a hobby, or an activity, you enjoy
* anything else that you would like to share

Your pictures, and a picture of you, will make your article more interesting.

Have your experiences published in Peelings. Send your article and pictures by e-mail to Paul Maloney, Communication Chair, pmaloney@interlog.com
We are delighted to have RTO/ERO become a group that is inclusive of all employees who support the education of our youth.

NEW RETIREE CELEBRATION BREAKFAST

On Monday, October 17, 8:15-10:30, at the Capitol Banquet Hall (Dixie Road and Courtney Park) new retirees are invited to a celebratory event. Invitations will be sent out by mid-September. Included are:

- **A continental Breakfast with door prizes** (no cost)
- **Time to interact with friends**
- **Information about RTO/ERO, locally and provincially**
- **Time to browse interest tables and enjoy entertainment**
- **Annual General Meeting to follow at 10:30**
- **Join us for the Luncheon after the AGM** (cost $20.00)

**YOU MUST REGISTER FOR THE LUNCHEON SEPARATELY AT**


**RSVP for breakfast by Mon. October 3:**

Lorraine Bayliss
Email: l.bayliss@sympatico.ca
Telephone: 905-857-3273
67 Birchview Cres., Bolton, ON L7E 3X2
The Out of Province Travel Group for RTO/ERO District 39 (Peel) has big news to share with you! After our first trip to Chicago, we organized a second trip to Boston, last May, for about 30 travellers. As this issue of Peelings is going to print, the third trip is underway — this time to San Francisco. 

Originally we were part of a Tri-District planning team involving Halton, Durham and Peel. Based on the feedback from the Boston trip, difficulties encountered with the travel provider, and consultation with our Peel RTO/ERO President and First Vice-President, and after several meetings with the original planning team, the final decision was made to withdraw Peel from this group. This was a business decision with the ultimate goal of making a good idea even better! Since then, Durham is no longer part of the group either.

So, on to the big news! After searching for a new travel provider, we found Georgia Hardy Tours! They are specialists in creating luxury travel experiences for many groups with insider information and anecdotes. I can now share with you the fabulous 3 night/4 day trip they have organized for our fourth travel adventure, out-of-province to New York City from May 29-June 1, 2012. We are very excited about what they have included in the package for a price of $1295 per person (single supplement $350) including:

- return airfare on Porter Airlines from the Island Airport and departure taxes
- all airline and hotel taxes and fees
- private coach transfers to and from the hotel
- three nights accommodation at the Millford Hotel, a few steps away from Times Square (a property affiliated with Marriott Hotels)
- two special dinners at unique restaurants
- three full American breakfasts
- Hop On Hop Off, Double Decker Bus Tour - 2 1/2 Hours (Pass is good for 24 hours)
- six subway tickets
- a ferry cruise past Staten Island and the Statue of Liberty (no whale-watching though)
- entrance to the Guggenheim Museum

A Georgia Hardy Rep will be part of a pre-departure presentation to cover all the information and give out airline tickets a month before departure. As well, a Georgia Hardy Rep will be leading all excursions in New York City. Our goal has always been to provide an exciting trip with half of the time organized (should you choose to participate) and the other half at your leisure for theatre, shopping, or the many attractions in New York City!

This trip is open to only 30 travellers and will fill up fast for RTO members and friends. It is filled on a first-come, first-served basis. On other trips we have had a mixture of couples and singles so you can come with a friend or your spouse. We will have a table at the Annual General Meeting with detailed brochures and application forms. A non-refundable deposit of $500.00 is due by October 30th. You can also request this information from me by e-mail at suestephenson@rogers.com or by phone at 905 453 9178. Our rep at Georgia Hardy is Melina Mancini and she can be reached at melina@ghardytours.com or by phone at 416 483 7533. I am looking forward to going on this trip with you!

Sue Stephenson
After a hot summer, most of our regular activities began in September. In each newsletter, I try to outline our regular activities for the month as well as special events like trips. However, some recent changes in venues have meant that there may be changes not only in the order of our events, but also in the day. The best way to keep in touch is by subscribing to our monthly calendar by e-mailing rtod39@rogers.com or by calling me if you are not sure. Here is an outline of our usual arrangement.

The first Thursday of each month is devoted to Cards and Conversation at the Educators’ Centre, 6435 Edwards Blvd., Mississauga.

The last Thursday of each month is set aside for bowling at Brampton Bowling Lanes, located at 12 Beech Street, in Brampton. Call Larry Holseth (905 459 8965) for further information or directions.

Our AM Specials are usually on the second Thursday of each month and are held at the Educators’ Centre, beginning approximately at 10:00 am. Sometimes, because other events are scheduled, we must switch dates. On September 15, Matthew Wilkinson from Heritage Mississauga will present Forgotten Railways of Mississauga.

In the months that we have a trip planned, that trip will be our AM Special. I outlined some of my concerns about booking a trip to some of the larger named theatres such as those in Toronto, but we did attempt to book a trip to Toronto for the Mirvish production of *The Railway Children*, in the Roundhouse Theatre. I was assured that, although it was booked near the end of the run, it was still viable. However, no sooner had the newsletter come out, than the bus company called to say that the trip was cancelled and that the show was ending early. Unfortunately, this kind of cancellation does occur when a theatre has a run rather than a season. If the show is not doing as well as they had hoped, the run is ended early. Like you, I was looking forward to seeing it, but there was little to be done.

A second outing has been arranged for November 9, 2011 at the Famous People Players Theatre, 343 Evans Avenue in Toronto. It will also include lunch, but this is not a bus trip. The theatre is close to Peel and has ample parking. We want to offer this as a simpler alternative to a bus trip. The cost is $58.00 per person and the payment and form must be received by Wednesday, October 5, 2011. Lunch is at 12:00 (noon) and we will meet you in the lobby between 11:30 and 12:00 with your tickets.

After talking to the bus and tour company, we have arranged another trip to Niagara for Wednesday, December 7, 2011 to a show entitled *Jingle All the Way*. This production is presented by the same company and theatre that does *Oh Canada Eh!* It is their Christmas Show and we went to their regular show a few years ago. If it is anything like *Oh Canada Eh!* it is pure fun and entertainment and includes lunch. The day will also include a visit to the Kittling Ridge, the only combination winery and distillery in Ontario. The cost will be $90.00 a person and the forms will be included in this newsletter. We hope
that you will join us. Times and locations for pickup are included on the form and we should return by 5:00 pm. Forms and cheques must be returned by Tuesday, November 1, 2011.

As well, we have walks scheduled for the Fall. These usually occur on the third Thursday of the month although, depending on the circumstances, this may be altered. In addition, weather always dictates whether a walk proceeds. As previously noted, all of our events are published in our monthly e-mail calendar. If you would like to have it sent to you please e-mail rtod39@rogers.com to be added to the list.

The Social Committee has also arranged for something that has become a tradition over the last few years. We have booked *Smile Theatre* for December 1, 2011. The price remains the same, $6.00 a ticket. This event is subsidized heavily by RTO/ERO District 39. We hope that you will join us for coffee and dessert at 12:30 pm, before the show starts at 1:30 pm. Tickets will be sold at most of our events and at the door. Times are changing and we have had to change our venue. Our Smile Theatre event will be in the Great Hall of the Unitarian Congregation of Mississauga, located at 64 South Service Road, Mississauga. We hope you will be able to join the Social Committee in what, likely, will be our last presentation by this company.

**In Memoriam**

Irene E Evans, March 13, 2011  
Gail P Bunton, May 20, 2011  
Grizilda F Dodd, May 20, 2011  
Margaret Evelyn Vannest, May 27, 2011  
Margaret R Henry, May 29, 2011  
Elizabeth A Patterson, June 4, 2011

**Nordixx Pole Walking Canada Is Helping Improve Health & Fitness levels of RTO/ERO Members**

Harvard researchers published a compilation of 33 separate studies on the benefit of exercise in their August 2011 journal. They found that getting 150 minutes of exercise a week cut heart disease risk by 14%; 300 minutes a week, by 20%; and 750 minutes by 25%. Healthy, active living is the recommended prescription for longevity.

The exercise that shows the highest health benefits, although it is a low-impact exercise, is Nordic Pole Walking and the benefits are many. It will  
* Burn up to 46% more calories than exercise walking without the poles  
* Increase cardiovascular training to 25%  
* Incorporate 90% of all body muscles  
* For Diabetes Type 2 – improve diabetes metabolism, reduce insulin resistance and reduce medication drastically within three months  
* Reduce high blood pressure by 18mmHg within 8 weeks  
* Eliminate back, shoulder and neck pain  
* Increase production of “positive” hormones  
* Support stress management and mental disorders  
*Develop upright body posture, AND  
* Have (about 26%) less impact on hip, knee and foot joints

The Provincial RTO/ERO Foundation has endorsed Nordic Pole Walking as a healthy lifestyle activity for its members and Nordixx Pole Walking Canada will be making a donation to the RTO/ERO Foundation for all poles sold to RTO members.

District 39 will be holding a Nordic Pole Walking workshop in November. Come out to participate in this free clinic sponsored by Nordixx Pole Walking Canada. Find out more at the AGM, or contact Sue Cooper-Twiss 905 877 4824, scooptwiss@cogeco.ca for more information. Go to District 39’s Web site www.rto-peel.com for the registration form.
Celebrate with Elvis

This summer I was finally able to attend the famous Collingwood Elvis Festival, something I have wanted to do for many years. I am not a big Elvis fan but listening to his songs brings back fond memories of my childhood.

As most of you will probably remember, his first appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show caused quite a disturbance. Many of the adults were all shook up about the moves he made. Such a disgrace!

When I close my eyes I can still picture that performance with Elvis in his gold lamé jacket. Funny that my memories are in colour when I know for sure the television was black and white.

The hound dog of a celebration was entitled 'Salute to Vegas' and more than 120 Elvis Tribute artists from as far away as Australia, took part. There sure was a whole lotta shaking going on!

The venues were as varied as the performers themselves, from large arenas to small intimate bar settings to a huge stage set up on the street. There was even a roustabout Family Village with a carnival atmosphere and younger singers, [the youngest being only 3 years old], who could shake, rattle and roll just like Elvis.

Thursday we attended a concert at the Collingwood Curling Club and enjoyed the music of past champions. I got lucky because one of the artists gave me an Elvis scarf which I shall keep as a good luck charm.

Friday morning, Denise dragged us out of bed at 5 o’clock to watch Breakfast Television broadcast live from the streets of Collingwood. Everyone was rubberneckin to get a look at the host Jennifer Valentyn as she introduced some of the Elvis contestants and then set up a fake parade as a preview to what would happen on Saturday.

A very special guest was present at most of the festivities; one of the Chilean miners who was trapped underground last summer for 69 days. His name is Edison Pena and he kept the other miners entertained by teaching them Elvis songs and moves. Though he did not look like Elvis, more like a cute teddy bear, he sure could sing and dance like the King. When asked [through a translator] what he thought of Canada, his answer, “It is very hot”, received a roar of laughter from the crowd.

Friday afternoon on the outdoor stage, from 1 o’clock til late in the evening, all the tribute artists took turns singing a different Elvis song. Their enactments of the King were electric. Many of them resembled Elvis in look and mannerisms and since seeing is believing I recommend that you try to attend next year, even if it is just for one day.

Friday night we went to Olde Town Terrace where we finally heard Roy LeBlanc [pictured opposite] Collingwood’s favourite.
Saturday was the classic car and Elvis parade with hundreds of spectators lining the streets to get another glimpse of their favourite tribute artist. Pictured here is Denise Panunte with Pete Storm from Kent England. Pete was the winner of the Professional Concert Years competition and eventually went on to place third at Memphis.

Sunday was a special day with some of the performers singing gospel music in the Inspirational Elvis Competition with Daylin James as the eventual winner. None of these men are after fame and fortune. They just want to follow the dream and pay homage to the King of Rock and Roll. I recommend you plan to someday experience these incredible performances. I guarantee you will come away with Elvis fever.

### Winners

- Non Pro- Early years, Matt Dowsett
  Concert years, Wayne Junior
- Pro- Early years, James Gibb
  Concert years, Pete Storm
- Youth- Senior, Brycen Katolinsky
  Junior, Connor Russo

Throughout this article are the titles of Elvis songs. See if you can find them. There are 14 and the answers are on page 15. I know I should have written them with capitals and in italics but then you would not be able to play the little game.
IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT RUINS or HOW I GOT THERE FROM HERE

by Linda Elgie

Shortly after I retired, I read, in the Toronto Star’s Saturday Travel Section, an interesting article about a tour to Egypt that had some spaces left. So I put my name on the list, only to be disappointed when the trip was cancelled a few weeks later.

I had already whipped myself up with great anticipation and told everyone about my impending trip. My husband suggested that I go to Egypt anyway. So out came the Insight brochures. Most of their tours to Egypt included other Middle-eastern countries, so I signed up for one going to Israel and Egypt.

During my first trip to this region I was introduced to several stunning examples of Roman ruins — amphitheatres and mosaic tiled floors — which would lead to several other trips in search of more ancient ruins in what was once “The Roman Empire”.

The next trip was to Carthage, which is now a suburb of Tunis, the capital of Tunisia, in northern Africa, to visit the site of the ancient baths. I was a little disappointed with this choice of site to visit, as Carthage is also the site of a Roman amphitheatre which gets much more photographic coverage in travel brochures. As an aside though, the ancient Roman baths offered some good opportunities to photograph the Presidential Palace and grounds which are normally verboten in autocratic states such as Tunisia.

Tunisia is also the home of the Bardo Museum which contains the largest collection of Roman mosaics in existence. But to me, the most interesting site in Tunisia was Dougga and it wasn’t even on our itinerary!!!!!! Many of us on this tour paid extra and gave up a day of relaxation on the beach or around the pool of our 5 star hotel in Hammamet to visit Dougga, a site still lived in by Tunisians until the 1960s, when it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

It was there that, for the first time, I encountered Roman public toilets. It seems that expelling one’s waste was a social affair. There are several holes in the marble so that one could multi-task, as it were, and catch up on the latest gossip while doing “what comes naturally.” Everyone had their photo taken while “on the pot” but none of us had our pants around our ankles!!! Someone mentioned that the toilets in Ephesus were much better, so that became my next destination.

I discovered that ancient Ephesus was in Turkey, so a two week tour was arranged, again through Insight. Turkey just happened to be a neighbour of Syria where my niece was teaching at the time, so my itinerary was altered to accommodate a visit there to see whatever was in Syria.

Turkey turned out to have many other Roman ruins besides Ephesus and in my opinion the toilets there were NOT as good as those in Dougga. But it was a moving experience to walk along the chariot ruts of the Cardo Maximus in Ephesus. It made my 50 plus years seem very insignificant in the overall scheme of things, much like my feelings as I gazed over the Grand Canyon a few years earlier.

Little did I know that my side trip to visit Lianne in Syria would turn out to be one of the most outstanding trips of my life and probably worthy of an entire article in itself.

My niece was teaching at a private school in Aleppo, the second largest city in Syria, which, by now, most of you know from the news reports, this past summer, of the unrest in the country and the brutality of its autocratic regime.

Syria is filled with ancient Roman sites including a portion of an original
Roman road just outside of Aleppo. I got to visit Palmyra, see some amphitheatres which are still in use, several dead cities, ancient water wheels which provide irrigation to this day, Roman bridges that are still in use, just to mention a few. These sites were far more interesting than visiting the museums in Syria.

Syria’s neighbour to the south is Jordan and, since I was so close, my niece and I made a three day trip to Jordan to visit the ruins at Petra. On our way there, we stopped to tour Jerashe, another very intact Roman city like Dougga, where we stood below Hadrian’s Arch. It seemed that every city visited by Hadrian, built an arch in his honour.

Petra is just as fascinating as its photographs indicate. The buildings carved into the rocks are awe-inspiring and certainly make one marvel at the skills of these ancient civilizations, carving buildings right into the stone. Seeing them is also a humbling experience.

And so it goes — a visit to one ancient ruin led to another and so on. I haven’t seen every Roman ruin yet, but I’m still working on that and I look forward to the situation settling down in Libya where, much like the ruins in Syria, very few people outside of the country have had the opportunity to visit.

June and July 2011
New Members:

Diane Aikman
Rosario Apilado
Judith Bernard
Bruce Berry
Hans Betsings
Bonnie Billings
Monica Briscall
Carol Bucknam
Barbara Bumaster
Malcolm Byard
Susan Calvert-Gordon
Joan Candy
Mary Ann Carrick
Eiko Comartin
Debra Corcoran
Joanne Cornelius
Adolfo T. Da Silva
Maureen A. Darling
Jane Day
Cathy Di Michele
Joan Dinnin
Beatrice Doucette-Baird
Janet Dunster
Mary Ennis
Theresa Fontaine
Carolyn Gonyou
Terry Gordon
Pierluigi Grindatto
Maria Guidoni-Di Vito
Sharon Lee Haney
Mary Haslett
David Hayden
Marilyn Hayden
Mariene Hayes-Sheen
Maureen Haynes
Patricia C. Hodgins
Shelia Hoyte
Susan Jimmink
Edith Kaus
Catherine Kelemen
Deborah T. King
Katherine Koningin
Joanne Kostuk
Cheryl Kramer
Caroline Larmon
Eugene Laskiewicz
Noel Lim
Linda Longfield
Lynne Longman
Terry Malette
Antonio Mancini
Mary D. Matheson
Frank McDonald
M Catharine McMurray
Cathy Mechan
Lyne D. Melville
Dossie Misener
John Morrison
Linda Nicholson
Robert Norris
Sandra A. Orr
Eugene Ouellette
Domenic Paluzzi
Robert Phillips
Jane Potoszky
Monica Riske
Adrienne Robb
Thomas W. Royle
Nancy Sainthill
Pamela Sawyer
Michael D. Schultz
Carl Scott
Christine Shain
Sharon Singer
Ann P. Smith
Christine Sniher
Anne Stephens
Beverley A. Stover
Virginia Street
Irene Sulek
Mary Jane Sullivan
Joan Thompson
Karen Turcott
Anna Vandenpool
Sharon Watson
Pamela Young

Transfers in:
Welcome to
Kathleen Hall from District 17 Simcoe
Grete L. McQuaid from District 20 Frontenac, Lennox & Addington

Transfers Out
D. Virginia Fontyn to District 14 Niagara
Sandra Cooper to District 42 Mainland British Columbia

Membership Tally as of July 31 2011.
Total 3152
Associate 191
Full 2961

Peelings Fall 2011 Page 11
The Annual General Meeting
and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Monday October 17, 2011, Capitol Banquet Hall, 6435 Dixie Rd., Mississauga
(Corner of Dixie and Courtney Park)
Luncheon at $20/person by Reservation Only

To all current and past Committee Members and Executive Members
75% off regular price = only $5.00

9:30 Registration, Refreshments, and Interest Tables
10:30 Guest Speaker, Gordon Cressy, followed by meeting
12:30 Luncheon

Please complete and return by October 3, 2011
RTO District 39 c/o Larry Holseth, 6 Tullamore Rd., Brampton, ON, L6W 1J7

Meeting Only_______ Meeting and Meal ______

Enclosed is a cheque payable to RTO/ERO District 39 (Peel)

$__________ for__________ meals (non-refundable)

Choice: Beef_______ Chicken_______ Vegetarian_______Salmon________

My Name:______________________________________Phone:________________
Retirement Date:_______________
My e-mail:_________________________________________
My Guest's name is:____________________________________

Committee or Executive position(s) and Year(s) held (Needed for discount price.)

Your Comments on meetings, lunches, entertainment, speakers, social, newsletters, etc.)

__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Peelings Fall 2011 Page 12
Wednesday November 9, 2011,
Famous People Players production and lunch at the theatre
343 Evans Avenue, Toronto.
Transportation arranged by guests. Ample parking on site.
Cost is $58.00 per person
Meet in the Lobby between 11:30 am and noon for tickets.
Lunch at noon followed by the show.
Form may be downloaded from our Web site.

Make cheques payable to RTO District 39
No post-dated cheques, cheques must be received by October 5, 2011
Please mail to:
Dennis and Ruth Taylor, 91 Jessie St., Brampton, ON L6Y 1L8
Telephone 905 457 8804
Member’s Name: _______________________________________________________

Telephone: _______________ Address: ____________________________________
City: ___________________ Postal Code: ______ E-mail ________________________

Guest’s Name (one only): __________________________________________

Fall Excursions

Wednesday December 7, 2011
Oh Canada Eh! [Production of Jingle All the Way] and lunch
Stop at Kittling Ridge
Cost is $90.00 per person
Make cheques payable to RTO District 39 for $90 per person. No post-dated cheques.
Cheques must be received by November 1, 2011. Estimated return 6:00 pm
Please mail to:
Dennis and Ruth Taylor, 91 Jessie St., Brampton, ON L6Y 1L8 Telephone 905 457 8804

Member’s Name: _______________________________________________________

Telephone: _______________ Address: ____________________________________
City: ___________________ Postal Code: ______ E-mail ________________________

Guest’s Name (one only): __________________________________________

Coach Boarding Shopper’s World Brampton Highland Farms Hwy #10 at
Location North Parking Area at 9:15 am Matheson Blvd. at 9:30 am
(SE corner of property)
Member will board at ________________________________________________
Guest will board at ________________________________________________
Second Important Notice for District 39 members using email. THANKS AND A REQUEST

In the Summer 2011 Peelings we notified you of some changes to our e-mail delivery. As a result many of you have updated your e-mail information and are receiving our information. However, on our latest e-mail distribution concerning the Theatre Trip Cancellation (July 19), 946 of those with valid e-mails had not opened the e-mail.

This may mean:
1. You have more than one valid e-mail address and you don’t check the one on file with us. If this applies to you, please send an e-mail to rtod39@rogers.com including your name and correct e-mail address.
2. Your spam filter doesn’t like our new e-mail address. If you only have one e-mail address, haven’t changed it recently and aren’t receiving e-mails, check your spam folder. Open your spam folder and look for something like RTO-ERO D39 (Peel)
[rtod39=rogers.com@mcsv1.net]; on behalf of; RTO-ERO D39 (Peel)
[rtod39@rogers.com]
OR RTO-ERO D39 (Peel)
[rtod39=rogers.com@mcsv173.net]; on behalf of; RTO-ERO D39 (Peel)
[rtod39@rogers.com]

If you find something like this in your spam folder, select it and then click on “Not Spam”. That will tell your provider that this weird header is in fact OK.

RTO/ERO and District 39 (Peel) are attempting to make electronic communication the norm to save paper and mailing costs. For it to be effective, we ask that all members help us to keep our records current.

Membership Services Survey.

On June 14, members with e-mail were given the opportunity to complete an online survey on services provided by RTO/ERO District 39 (Peel)’s Recruitment and Membership Committees. 231 members completed the survey, 219 told us who they were and were entered into the draw. The 3 winners of the $25 gift certificates to a Cara Chain Restaurant were Gail Cumberland, Tom Smith and Mike Cummins. Congratulations and we trust you’ve already cashed in! A brief summary of the results follows.

Members who answered are representative of previous surveys by RTO/ERO in that the vast majority identify access to Benefits and our Health Plan as the primary reason for membership (72.3%). 18.2% of those responding had joined in the past year while almost half (43.7%) had been members for 2-5 years, with 87.3% indicating that they joined RTO/ERO immediately on retiring from teaching.

Satisfaction with the Retirement Planning Workshop presented by RTO/ERO was high with 87% of respondents being Satisfied or Very Satisfied with a rating of 4.2/5

When asked to rate their
Satisfaction with District 39 (Peel) Membership Recruitment Committee actions (on a scale of 1 to 3), the following results were noted:
Communication/information prior to your retirement 2.70
Offering an opportunity to attend a Retirement Workshop 2.74
Location of the Retirement Planning Workshop 2.75
Timing of the Retirement Planning Workshop 2.80
Assistance in joining RTO/ERO 2.76
Information/Invitation to a New Retirees Event 2.75
Information about ongoing District 39 (Peel) events 2.82
A Welcome from District 39 (Peel) via e-mail or post 2.78

When asked what is important for you as a member of RTO/ERO, District 39 members’ Top 3 items (on a scale of 1 to 3) were: Pension Updates 2.93, Health Plan Updates 2.86, Travel Opportunities 2.51.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs). 49 respondents indicated potential interest in SIGs. Some of the frequent suggestions were Book Clubs, Gardening, and Exercise such as hiking, cycling or Nordic walking. Unfortunately, most people aren’t ready to assume leadership of such groups. Overall, respondents are pleased with the level of service provided to District 39 (Peel) members by the Membership and Recruitment Committee. Many offered suggestions which your executive will be reviewing over the coming months. Thanks to all of you who contributed by completing the survey.

We will be sending more electronic surveys to all members, seeking feedback on other aspects of District 39 (Peel)’s services. Watch for that e-mail in your inbox! Participants will be eligible to win a Gift Certificate at a chain restaurant.

Bob and Diane Murphy on their 50th Wedding Anniversary Sept. 16, 2011

Bob And Diane have 2 daughters, a son and 4 grandsons.

List of Elvis Songs in Article

All Shook Up
Hound Dog
Whole Lotta Shakin Going On
Roustabout
Heartbreaker
Shake, Rattle and Roll
I Got Lucky
Good Luck Charm
Teddy Bear
Wooden Heart
Rubberneckin
Seeing is Believing
Just For One Day
Fame and Fortune
Follow That Dream
Fever

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Teaching in Different Countries: Part 1
by Ives Pereira

It takes a special person to become a teacher just as much, I would imagine, it would be to become a doctor or an accountant.

I guess that I am one of those fortunate teachers who was able, due entirely to unplanned and unforeseen circumstances, to have taught in different continents at different times in my very interesting and sometimes tumultuous life. As a student under the Commonwealth Scholarship plan, my formative years as a teacher were spent mostly in Mumbai (then Bombay) as a student teacher at St. Xavier’s Institute of Education run by Jesuits, assigned to a variety of Schools of different socio-economic backgrounds. I was required to give fifty lessons under the supervision of a professor who went over my lesson plans with a critical but encouraging disposition the day before the lesson was presented, to make sure that it conformed to the best pedagogical standards. It was one of my most enlightening and broadening experiences since I was posted to a variety of schools and had to teach students from different socio-economic levels. At Cathedral High School for example, I was thrust among students who came from wealthy families (some from the Diplomatic Corp) who were obviously given a privileged start in life and were exposed to many experiences that poorer students did not have before they entered school. Hence, the levels in a comparative grade in a school in the poorer section of the city, were found to be much lower. As a result, one learned to come down to the level of the students if any learning was to materialize. Of course, there were always students in both groups who, by very virtue of being born with high IQs were able to forge ahead of their colleagues in spite of the teacher. Schools with poor and under-privileged students were generally over-crowded, and it was difficult, if not impossible, to give students individual attention because of the sheer numbers in each classroom. It was no wonder, therefore, that many students who could not follow the best planned-out lesson, were forced into seeking tuition outside school hours, at much financial hardship to their parents, to enable them to keep pace with their colleagues.

In the sixties, teachers generally talked and chalked their way through a lesson while students looked at the teacher intelligently, but sometimes took in nothing. The Socratic Method was often employed as a tool to determine whether the students digested the subject matter, particularly when it pertained to learning English skills. Of course, we have now come a long way, sometimes through trial and error, (mostly through error I make bold to say) in determining how students learn, and methodology has changed dramatically as has the culture of teaching. In the twenty-first century, schools in Mumbai have come a long way in promoting “thinking” rather than “rote learning”. This is why India is now emerging as a think tank of the world and is making such a remarkable economic comeback. Underprivileged students, as epitomized in the movie Slumdog Millionaire, still continue to pour into schools and pose a challenge to their teachers. Generally, students in India are keen to succeed in school. When they get home, many of them are supervised by their doting parents, to establish that their school work is done well. It was realized that without an education, it would be extremely difficult to succeed in life, given the intense competition in an already over-crowded domain.
After the Revolution in Zanzibar, where I was born, my family was forced to move to Uganda, where it was safer. As a teacher in Uganda, I found myself in the role of teacher, parent, and counsellor. The students at the High School were the pick of the village community from where they came. These were students who stood out and were therefore sponsored by the village. They were hungry for an education and since they were to face the Cambridge Overseas School Certificate examinations on the completion of their High School Education, they would spend most of their waking hours studying. Electricity was not available in most of the feeder villages so it was not uncommon to have students sitting under street lights well into the night, busy doing their homework or simply reading a novel in spite of the deafening traffic noises. As a teacher, when I visited the students in their huts in the evenings, I came to understand, and could not help but empathise with, their many difficulties. Most of the students suffered from malnutrition because their main diet was carbohydrates to the exclusion of other food groups. As a result, I took it upon myself to organize fishing trips to Lake Victoria on weekends. This gave the under-nourished students an opportunity to interact with their teacher on a social level. More importantly, it also gave them an opportunity to catch Tilapia (a gourmet fish) which would help supplement their diet. These trips to the lake became possible because of the generosity of the Indian business community who would supply me (free of charge) with a truck to transport the students every other Saturday to the port of Bukakata on the shores of Lake Victoria.

One Friday afternoon, I noticed an unexplained restlessness among my senior students. I asked them whether they knew something that I needed to know. Were they expecting an earthquake? After all these were quite frequent in the Rift Valley of Uganda and caused students from time to time to dive out of the classroom windows whenever the building started shaking. But this was not the cause of their restlessness. I was soon informed that “white ants” were in season. The students informed me that they made an excellent meal. At first I thought that the students were putting me on, in order to get away from the English test that was scheduled that afternoon, but they assured me that if I went with them they would show me exactly what they meant. Dr. Alexander, the school Principal, was reasonably accommodating and allowed me to abandon classes for the afternoon and follow the students into a wooded area. Here one could see a number of tall anthills — some, almost six feet high. The students did not waste any time but zeroed in on an anthill that was no more than three feet high. A black cloth was placed neatly over the hill to simulate night (for these ants were nocturnal creatures) and at one end was a small opening in the cloth. It resembled an igloo. What followed was dead silence while the wait commenced. After no more than five minutes, large white ants began to emerge from the opening in the cloth. In a short while hundreds of ants started marching out. It looked like a river of white ants. To my greatest consternation, the students went berserk. They grabbed bunches of ants and ate them alive. The ants were running all over their smiling faces, on their shirts, in their pants but they continued to eat with wild abandon. The ants kept pouring out in greater numbers and the students did not seem to have had enough of them. After my initial shock at this spectacle, I thought that I would bravely catch one ant and determine for myself whether there was something special about their taste. “Nothing ventured,
nothing gained”, I thought. Of course, I ruthlessly cut of the head and legs of an ant closest to me with little or no sense of remorse. I placed the body on my tongue much to the genuine delight of the students. The taste resembled nothing I had ever tasted, but it was not unpleasant. I later learned from one of the elders in the village that this was a good source of protein which was sorely lacking in their diet. Fortunately, none of my students were absent from School the following Monday. All the students passed the test. It must have been the protein.

After the Revolution in Uganda in 1966, precipitated by the succession of King Mutessa the Second of Buganda Kingdom, I promptly left for Canada, though I felt most tempted to stay on having been offered the position of Principal of the Indian Secondary School in Kampala. However, after experiencing the shooting of innocent Bagandans and their corpses strewn along the hedge outside my lodgings, I thought it would be safer for me and my family to move out of Uganda to a safer place.

My first stop was Sudbury, Ontario. I was appointed Principal of Allen and Bigwood Public School in the French River District. The school was located in a tourist area and serviced the children of resort owners and their helpers. A large number of Canadian Indian students were also bussed to school from the Dokis Reservation. The School Board was made up of representatives from the tourist industry who themselves did not have much of an education but were hard working, astute businessmen. District School Boards, as we know them today, were not in existence at that time. The School, itself, had a very poor reputation for its poor discipline and past teachers and Principals did not last long in this environment. I knew that I had a job cut out for me. On my first day at School, my School Superintendent walked through the main gate to the School and was greeted by the students with some of the choicest words in the English language. When he entered my office and introduced himself, he had an expression as though he had been watching a corpse come to life at a wake. He told me about his first impressions and they were not very encouraging.

I immediately rang the bell and directed all the students into the largest class in the School. I then introduced myself and declared that I was going to make only a few rules which I thought would be easy to follow. The first rule was that when I spoke there was to be no talking at all. The second rule was that there was going to be no swearing and that if I heard anyone indulging in this behaviour, they would be suspended immediately. There was to be no fighting. If there was a problem, we were going to solve it democratically and not by throwing fists around. I then opened the drawer and displayed a "strap" which I hesitate to say was the best “damn-o-cratic" tool in existence at that time. In those days the strap was a permissible tool to equal the scales. I assured the students that I would not hesitate to use it if any infraction was serious enough to deserve its use. Finally, I told them that if a teacher sent a student to me for misbehaving in class, the student would be suspended from school for two days (or more) depending on the infraction. Students would not be students if they did not put the Principal on trial. During the first two weeks of School, I have to admit that the strap was used quite frequently. After a month, it would seem that the students got the message and the entire culture of the school changed dramatically. What I had succeeded in establishing was School Order and not Real Discipline. The School Superintendent visited the school a month later and he wanted to know what I had
done to “civilize” the students. I just managed a grin and we went about our business. A few years later, the strap was banned from use as a disciplinary tool. I sometimes wonder what would have been my fate if this rule was in vogue at the time I was given the stewardship of Allen and Bigwood Public School. I spent two years as Principal but since I always yearned to become actively involved in teaching students, I transferred to the French River District Secondary School and was to experience the “two solitudes” that typified the relationship between the French and the English Canadians. In fact, the French River District epitomized the political tug-of-war that existed in Quebec between the English and the French. It might have been an advantage had I acquired some French, for without the language we would always be considered outsiders. It was bad enough that we were immigrants and would always be considered so because we were so “visible”. Fortunately, we had a couple of friends who spoke both French and English and they made life bearable for us.

Teaching in the French River District Secondary School was a real treat. The students were very receptive and most of them were achievers. This attitude in itself made teaching very easy and pleasurable. The class sizes were perhaps the envy of Schools around the world.

After three years of teaching at the French River District Secondary School, I decided to transfer to Toronto. I got a foot in the door at Britannia Secondary School in Mississauga, teaching Special Education to students with learning disabilities. I had applied to close to eighty schools in the Province but in spite of my teaching experience and “impressive qualifications”, I received rejection after rejection at a time when teachers were very much in short supply around the Province. This had a very disconcerting effect on my sense of self worth. At Britannia Secondary School, the students had almost all the kinds of intellectual disabilities that needed to be addressed. Above all, most of these students suffered from low self esteem (very much like their teacher) through years of neglect at home and in school, and this expressed itself in some obtuse exhibited behaviour. This meant that before they became teachable, their poor self esteem needed to be addressed by a heavy dose of positive reinforcement and behaviour modification programs. It was quite revealing how these students blossomed academically soon after they felt good about themselves. I was also reminded by some teachers that it would be better for my career as a teacher to transfer to a “regular” (meaning “academic”) school. There was a belief that teachers in a vocational school were not as “good” as those in an academic School. If this caste system did exist, I certainly did not subscribe to it, for each day of teaching in a vocational school gave me a profound sense of achievement and self realization.

Part 2 of this article will appear in the Winter 2012 issue of Peelings.
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