



34th STORY

District 34 - York Region

Vol. 32 No. 1- January 2020

Copper Sunrise
by Bryan Buchan

*Meet District 34 Member
Bryan Buchan*

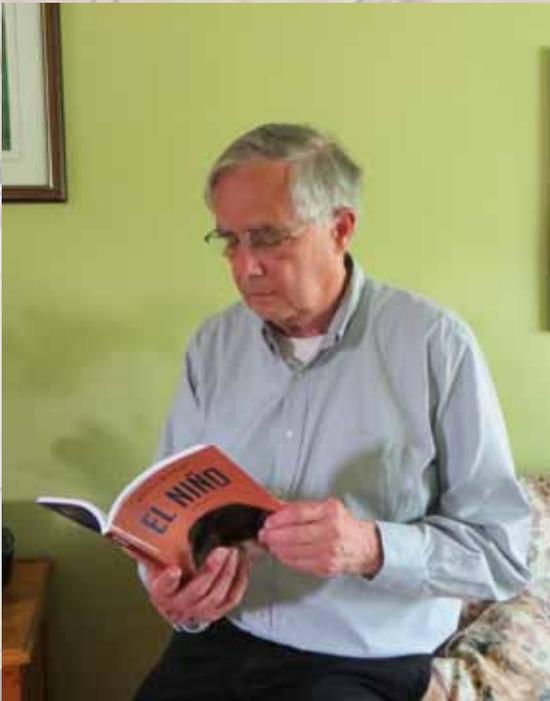


Photo and Cover by Chris Prefontaine

Join us on the Internet at www.34thstory.com

For Your Calendar

Play Bridge

Mondays
12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
McConaghy Senior
Centre - Rm. 103

Join Us For A Walk

Wed. Jan. 15, 2020

Hava Java

Thurs. Jan. 16, 2020
(south)
Thurs. Jan. 23, 2020
(north)

Les Liaisons Dangereuses

Fri. Jan. 24, 2020
or
Sun. Jan. 26, 2020

Lunch and Trivia

Tues. Jan. 28, 2020

Join Us For a Walk

Wed. Feb. 12, 2020

Romantic Melodies

Fri. Feb. 14, 2020

Broadway

Sat. Feb. 15, 2020

Hava Java

Tues. Feb. 18, 2020

Cinderella

Sun. Feb. 23, 2020

Join Us For A Walk

Thurs. Mar. 12, 2020

The Millionaire

Mar. 13 - 22, 2020

Hava Java

Thurs. Mar. 26, 2020

Gardening Seminar

Mon. Mar. 30, 2020

Hello Dolly

Wed. Apr. 1, 2020

Hava Java

Wed. Apr. 22, 2020

Arsenic and Old Lace

Fri. Apr. 24, 2020
or
Sun. Apr. 26, 2020

Join Us For a Walk

Tues. Apr. 28, 2020

Rocky Horror Show

Sun. May 3, 2020

Contents

For Your Calendar	2
District 34 York Region Executive and Committee Chairpersons 2019- 2020	4
RTO Letter to the Minister of Health.....	5
President’s Message	8
New Logo Unveiled.....	10
Hava Java on Us	10
Join Us for a Walk	11
Don’t Miss Out!	11
October Hava Java	12
Lunch and Trivia at Villa Risi.....	13
Technology for Learning.....	14
RTO ERO Project Service to Others.....	15
Bridge Club News.....	16
Les Liaisons Dangereuses.....	16
District 34 Distinguished Member Award	17
Romantic Melodies	18
Registration for RTO District 34 York Region Events.....	19
September Open House.....	20
Meet District 34 Member: Bryan Buchan.....	22
Broadway.....	28
Cinderella.....	29
The Millionaire: A Musical Murder Mystery.....	30
Gardening Seminar	31
Hello, Dolly.....	32
Welcome New Members.....	33
Arsenic and Old Lace.....	34
The Rocky Horror Show.....	35
District 34 Fall Luncheon	36
In Memoriam	38
Match the Logo Contest.....	38
Match the Logo Contest Entry Form	39
Acknowledgement, Waiver and Release.....	40
Registration for RTO District 34 York Region Events.....	41
Find Us on The Web	42
Classified Advertising	43
Changing Your Name, Address or Phone.....	43

**District 34 York
Region Executive
and Committee
Chairpersons
2019- 2020**

**PRESIDENT, CONSTITUTION CHAIR
AND ARCHIVIST**

Lynn Hitsman905-294-6717
lynn.hitsman@sympatico.ca

PAST PRESIDENT

Susan Phillips..... 905-859-4583
susancphillips@gmail.com

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Jose Fernandes.....905-989-1377
jose.fernandes@rogers.com

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

Bob Sandiford.....289-232-7300
Bob.sandiford@sympatico.ca

SECRETARY AND

EMAIL COMMUNICATION REP

Angela Stewart.....905-471-3706
34thstoryreminders@gmail.com

TREASURER

George McKelvey.....905-294-1935
mckelvey@rogers.com

MEMBERSHIP CO-CONVENOR

Evelyn Lawrence.....905-642-5435
eplawrence@sympatico.ca

MEMBERSHIP CO-CONVENOR

Lori MacDonald-Blundon.....
647-323-5125
District34Membership@outlook.
com

EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Ann Evans.....905-830-0407
annlesleyevans1945@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Craig Lee..... 905-884-4957
c.m.lee@sympatico.ca

BENEFITS REPRESENTATIVE

Susan Leppington905-235-4225
susanleppington@rogers.com

GOODWILL REPRESENTATIVE

Betty Tobin..... 905-884-8958
bettytobin75@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

John Pickett.....647-273-0790
john.pickett@rogers.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Chris Prefontaine.....905-471-4624
7chris.prefontaine@gmail.com

**POLITICAL ADVOCACY AND
FOUNDATION REP.**

Elaine Adam.....905-898-6050
feats@rogers.com

PROJECT SERVICE TO OTHERS REP

Regine Baker..... 416-293-3514
reginebaker@rogers.com

SOCIAL CONVENOR

Ernie Polsoni905-773-5814
ernpol@yahoo.ca

WEBMASTER

Grant Dale.....905-508-8164
gdale@sympatico.ca

RTO Letter to the Minister of Health



Toronto, October 22, 2019

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Elliott,

Re: Proposed changes to the Ontario health system.

RTO/ERO is a nationally recognized, bilingual, not-for-profit organization providing health insurance and other important services to over 80,000 retirees in the education community who worked in every capacity in the early years, the K-12 system and the post-secondary system.

We provide our members with a foundation of health, wellness, travel benefits and advocacy on social, political and economic issues so our members can explore their journeys with confidence. RTO/ERO is an organization dedicated to helping education sector retirees keep learning, keep connected, keep contributing and keep living their best lives as they move through their senior years.

On behalf of the members of RTO/ERO we want to express our deep concern with the proposal by the government to restructure, centralize, reduce and possibly privatize the health care services for all Ontarians and particularly how it will affect older adults.

It is unfortunate, at a time when the seniors proportion of the Ontario population is growing so rapidly, that the budget increase in 2019 did not keep pace with that growth. In fact, the budget did not even meet the increase in the CPI. The negative impact of this shortfall on service levels, which already struggle to meet the demand, is compounding the health care problem not working toward a positive remedy.

Minister, your government's proposed reduction in funding for the Ontario dementia strategy and the removal of positions at the Ontario Telemedicine Network are deeply concerning for our members. In the case of the Telemedicine Network, our many members who live in the rural and remote regions of Ontario are seeing the already stretched health service system in their areas being further eroded with potentially disastrous local impact.

RTO/ERO and the RTO/ERO Foundation have committed significant resources in developing a Chair in Geriatric Medicine at the University of Toronto. Our goals in that project are to increase the number of geriatric specialists and to deepen the research into healthy, active living for older adults. As well, our RTO/ERO Foundation annually contributes tens of thousands of dollars to fund much needed research into social isolation and ending elder abuse.

Our members contribute vast amounts of their time and effort to supporting the health and mental wellbeing of other members and seniors in their communities. That is why they are so deeply concerned with government reductions to a health plan that needs to be available for a growing population of seniors which now exceeds the number of children under 15 in Ontario.

In the September 2019 RTO/ERO all member survey, the following health priorities were identified by our 80,000 members:

- 94% - Rated provincial government health care as a priority
- 86% - Training professionals who provide care for older adults is absolutely essential

- 86% -Research on health aging and healthcare for older adults is essential
- 82% -Support initiatives to reduce social isolation among older adults
- 86% -National pharmacare support by the provinces
- 83% -Elder Abuse awareness efforts
- 82% -Amending the Long-Term Care Homes Act
- 79% -Training in geriatrics
- 75% -National senior's strategy
- 70% -Fostering age-friendly communities

Minister, as you can see by the preceding, our members are deeply committed to healthy, active and dignified living for older adults. Our concerns about the future of health care in Ontario are serious. So too are our commitments to assisting you in seeking and delivering the best possible solutions for Ontarians.

We respectfully request a meeting with you, at your earliest convenience, to explore strategies that can help build the health care system for the future to offer our assistance where possible, and focus on much needed services to our growing senior population.

Respectfully submitted.



Martha Foster

Chair of the Board



Jim Grieve

Chief Executive Officer

cc. The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Raymond Cho, Minister of Seniors Affairs and Accessibility



Lynn Hitsman, President

President's Message

Ours is an often changing organization.

In October, 2019 the following changes were introduced by Jim Grieve, CEO:

“As we welcome new members, from new places, with new needs, we’re finding we share the same values. The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree.

A bigger, better, healthier and happier retirement? Yes. We deserve to enjoy the fruits of our labours. For the two years, as part of our strategic planning process, we’ve engaged in an examination of our brand.

*You told us:
RTO/ERO is evolving. We’re finding new and better ways to benefit Canada’s Education community retirees.*

No matter how much we change, we need to stay connected to our past, to our heritage, to our history, to our legacy and to those enduring aspects of our organization we all care most about.”

We will now be known as **RTO ERO**. We have a new logo that represents the bonding together of the members within the organization. The Marketing Committee released this statement:

“We are a vital and energetic national organization and we needed a visual representation showing prospective members and current members how relevant, contemporary and modern we are.”

In 2020, we will be known as a national organization because we have districts, not only in Ontario, but British Columbia, the Prairies, Quebec and the Maritimes. All made up of retired people who were involved in educational activities.

It is very important at this time that I make two more points:

1. There will be NO changes to the availability or coverage of

Health Benefit Plans, Dental Plan or Travel Insurance, other than improvements for participants. There will be changes in cost related to demands. These will be all within the Annual Cost of Living as set by the Federal Government.

2. The costs of this rebranding will be covered by current budget monies held by the organization.

Membership Fee Changes

Membership fees will change, but this will not be to anyone's detriment. For some time, membership fees were calculated at \$1.25 per \$1000 of OTPP.

Many new retirees have earned significant salaries, many over \$100 000 per year. This makes their pensions much higher than most current retirees. There have been complaints from some of these people, many of whom did not want RTO ERO to know what their pensions actually were.

To address the issue, beginning in January 2020, all fees will be \$70 per year.

For those who do not have large enough pensions to support that amount, their fee will be held as is and increased only by the cost of living until it reaches \$70. This will take a long time for many of you.

For those with larger pension, there will be a reduction to \$70. All membership fees, will in 2021, be subject to an adjustment equal to the cost of living .

All of these changes, as well as the local work to be done on a new local governance model, previously known as a constitution and new budget keeping procedures instituted by the national organization have kept the Executive of District 34 busy and at times shaking our heads.

It is our intent at District 34, to continue to try to provide interesting and enjoyable activities for your social, intellectual and health needs in the upcoming year.

Best wishes from us all for a healthy, happy and peaceful year in 2020.

New Logo Unveiled

“Relevant, Contemporary and Modern”



Hava Java on Us

By Regine Baker

Members are invited to come out once a month to meet with each other and shoot the breeze while enjoying a cup of coffee or tea along with a donut, muffin, danish, scone, etc. compliments of District 34. Spouses and partners are also welcome.

Check the dates and locations listed below and put them on your calendar.

Since this is one of our costliest activities, we ask that members limit themselves to regular coffee or tea plus one treat. Those who want specialty coffees, more treats or breakfast are asked to pay for these items themselves.

We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Dates:

Thursday, January 16, 2020
(south and central)

Thursday, January 23, 2020
(north)

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Time: 10 a.m. to Noon at all locations.

Locations:

South:

The Old Curiosity Tea Shop

91 Main St., Markham
(Parking on Main St. - behind the tea shop or in the lot on the corner of Robinson and Main St.)

Central:

Coffee Culture Café & Eatery

10037 Keele St., Maple
(east side, north of Major Mackenzie Dr. - parking in front or back.)

North:

Longos, upstairs in The Loft

(January, February and March only) 650 Wellington St. East Aurora (west of Bayview Ave. - parking in front; elevator available.)

*For April the location for the north will be: **Commons Coffee** at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Parish Hall
32 Mosley St.

Aurora (the corner of Victoria and Mosley - 1 block south of Wellington St. and 1 block east of Yonge St. Enter off of Victoria St.)



This enterprise was our 2018 winner of RTO's Service to Others Award.

Join Us for a Walk

By Ann Evans

It seems winter weather has already begun, but this will not prevent us from enjoying our monthly walks and fun conversations. Dress warmly and join us. As in previous years for the winter months, we will confine ourselves to the North and South trails of Fairy Lake as they are always well maintained.

Dates:

Wednesday, January 15, 2020
Wednesday, February 12, 2020
Thursday, March 12, 2020
Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Parking is the main entrance of Fairy Lake, 500 Water Street.(just east of the south end of Main Street.)

The days vary but we will always begin at 10 a.m. and as usual, afterwards, we will warm up with a cup of steaming coffee.



Don't Miss Out!

By Angela Stewart

RTO – District 34 publishes a newsletter three times a year and it is full of many fun and interesting events.

We know that retirement is a busy time and it's hard to keep track of everything, so don't miss out on reminders, and special notices.

If you would like to keep informed of all the wonderful events that District 34 offers, in the form of a monthly email, please contact Angela at: 34thstoryreminders@gmail.com



October Hava Java

By Elaine Adam

On October 16, we enjoyed our Hava Java at Commons Coffee, the recipients of our 2018-2019 Service To Others Award.

Please read the September edition of *The 34th Story* to learn more about this amazing social enterprise, which trains people with intellectual disabilities to work in the food service industry.

There was a great turnout and many people expressed an interest in holding more Hava Javas there. So we will!

We will be back at Commons Coffee for the Aurora Hava Java on April 22 and hope to see you there. They are located at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Victoria and Mosley Streets in old Aurora and are open Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Lunch and Trivia at Villa Risi

By Elaine Adam

Join us for our eighth annual Lunch and Trivia, again at Villa Risi Ristorante in Newmarket.

Please choose from the two luncheon choices below:

1. Chicken with mushroom and onions in white wine sauce and a side dish of pasta
2. Eggplant Parmigiana with a side dish of pasta.

Coffee and tea will be provided and the restaurant has a fully licensed bar - juice and pop may also be purchased. Please be aware that the orders will be given at the end of the day on Thursday, January 23 so you will not be reimbursed after that date if you are not able to attend. You are welcome to send someone in your place.

There will be a Trivia contest après lunch, with teams of up to four members each. You are welcome to organize your own team or we can place you on a team.

Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Time: Noon

Location:

Villa Risi Ristorante
16995 Yonge St.

Newmarket. (It is on the east side of Yonge, south of Eagle. Yonge is now a divided highway so the parking lot is only accessible if you are driving north. If you are coming south, you may do a legal U-turn at the first lights south at William Roe Blvd. Parking is in front and you may park from the Midas shop to the north to the gas station to the south.)

Cost: \$20 includes lunch, taxes, and tip.

Make your cheque out to **RTO ERO District 34** and send with your registration form (pp. 19 or 41) to:
Elaine Adam
183 Park Avenue
Newmarket, ON L3Y 1T9.

Please register before January 23.
*Remember to indicate your choice of meal on the registration. Also, indicate whether you have a team or wish to be placed on one.

Come out and try your gray matter!

Technology for Learning

By June Elliot

It was exciting to learn that, with the support of District 34, my “Project Service to Others” proposal for 2019 was approved by Provincial RTO ERO. As a result, the Kuenzi Foundation received \$3,895.00 to support the purchase of some computers for Yanfouom College in Togo, Africa.

The cheque was presented to me at the Fall Luncheon and the money was sent directly to the principal of the school, Martine Sinandja, at the end of October.



Martine Sinandja

After I retired, I met Martine when I was a volunteer for a Rotary Club polio immunization project in Africa. She is an inspirational and visionary

principal who has been recognized by the United Nations for her work in education in Togo. Her exceptional school began with 37 students 20 years ago and now there are 1016 students, equally boys and girls.



High School 2019

Martine inspired me to create the Kuenzi Foundation in 2009, a scholarship program for girls. It has provided ongoing funding for the educational fees and supplies for a succession of girls from high school through university.



University Graduates 2019

Among the contributors to Kuenzi are individual members of District 34 and other districts.

In addition, RTO ERO “Service to Others” has contributed to the following special projects for Yanfouom College:

- the purchase of books for the library
- the local purchase and maintenance of bicycles for the use of students who live too far to walk to school
- the building of an infirmary, where students can receive both first aid, and information regarding health, and currently
- the purchase of six refurbished computers for students and one new one for the teacher.

When we visited in 2017, about eight students would be clustered around one computer.



Students with the old computers

This purchase of 6 more computers will make an impactful difference.

Martine is grateful to RTO. She says “Je pense toujours a vous. Je vous embrasse.” (I am always thinking of you; and her way of signing off with “hugs”).

RTO ERO Project Service to Others

By Regine Baker

Just a reminder that completed applications for the 2020 Service to Others grant must be submitted to the District 34 STO Rep, Regine Baker at reginebaker@rogers.com or to the President, Lynn Hitsman at lynn.hitsman@sympatico.ca by April 17, 2020.

Application forms are available at www.rto.org or 1-800-361-9888 until the end of February.

See page 44 and 45 of the September, 2019 issue of the *34th Story* for complete details or call Regine at 416-293-3514.



Bridge Club News

By Joan Burrows

Our afternoons of bridge playing are continuing for District 34 members and friends who would like to play a few hands at the McConachy Centre (Dining Room #103), 10100 Yonge St. in Richmond Hill each Monday from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Please note the new time!)

There is free parking at the rear of the building and cost is only \$2 for an afternoon of social bridge. The winter will not seem so long if you come out and meet new friends who share your passion and interest in the game!

Congrats to the following for their autumn bidding:

Lorraine Oyama & Linda Karan (6NT)

Kay Valentine & Tim Paterson (6S)

Kay Valentine & Wilma Inkpen (6H)

Bob Bell & Patricia Duke (6NT)



Les Liaisons Dangereuses

By Craig Lee

Theatre Aurora

The Marquise de Merteuil and the Vicomte de Valmont are rivals who use sex as a weapon of humiliation and degradation while enjoying their cruel games. Their targets are the virtuous (and married) Madame de Tourvel and Cecile de Volanges, a young girl who has fallen in love with her music tutor, the Chevalier Dancerny. In order to gain their trust, Merteuil and Valmont pretend to help the secret lovers so they can use them later in their own treacherous schemes.

****WARNING:** adult themes, not a show for children!

Date Choice # 1:

Friday, January 24, 2020

Time: 8 p.m.

Date Choice # 2:

Sunday, January 26, 2020

Time: 2 p.m.

Location:

Theatre Aurora

150 Henderson Drive, Aurora

(south end of Aurora west off Yonge St.)

Cost: \$20

Please place your order by January 6, 2020.

Make your cheque out to **RTO ERO District 34** and send with your registration form (pp. 19 or 41) to:

Craig Lee
21 Lippincott Court
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 7M5

Tickets may be picked up at the box office a week prior to the play or on the day of the performance. Acknowledgements will be emailed upon receiving the registration form.



District 34 Distinguished Member Award

By Bob Sandiford

This award is given to District 34 members, not currently serving on the District 34 executive, in recognition of their outstanding or long-term contributions to the work of RTO ERO at the District level.

Each year up to two winners of this award will be invited to attend the District 34 May Luncheon at District 34's expense to receive a plaque and be recognized by their colleagues.

To be eligible for this award a candidate must be nominated by a fellow member. The nominator will submit an outline of the candidate's contributions and the relevant information to the District 34 Second Vice President by the end of March. The Executive will exam all submissions and determine the winner(s).

For 2020, submissions may be sent to bob.sandiford@sympatico.ca

Romantic Melodies

By Mary-Lou Montgrain

Chorus York invites you to join them at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts on Friday, February 14, as they celebrate Valentine's Day with an evening of romantic melodies. You can enjoy appetizers (included in the ticket price) and cocktails from the cash bar, starting at 7 p.m. You will also have access to the silent auction items at this time.

The concert will begin at 8 p.m. In addition to love songs sung by the choir, you will be treated to performances by the professional duo, violinist, Natalie Wong, & classical guitarist, Drew Hendersen, returning after their debut last year, which received rave reviews from both choir & audience. The program will also include love poems read by our local published poet, Laura Ewing & other surprise guests.

The choir is under the artistic direction of Stéphane Potvin. The accompanist for the evening is Asal Iranmehr. This concert will be Chorus York's third annual fund-raising gala.

Date: Friday, February 14, 2020

Time: 7 p.m for cocktails, appetizers and silent auction. Concert begins at 8 p.m.

Location:

The Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts
10268 Yonge Street
Richmond Hill, ON

Cost: \$56.50 (with a \$20 tax receipt.)

Please place your orders by January 31, 2020.

Make your cheque out to Mary-Lou Montgrain and send with your registration form (pp. 19 or 41) to:
Mary-Lou Montgrain
31 Rathfon Crescent
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 5B6

Acknowledgements will be emailed upon receiving the registration form. Tickets may be picked up on the night of the performance at the RTO table. Tax receipts will be mailed.

Enjoy an evening of love songs in a cabaret style.

chorusyork.ca

Registration for RTO District 34 York Region Events

Please print.

Name of Event: _____

Date of Event: _____ Cost per person: _____

Registration Deadline Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Bus Pick-up: (if included in the price of the event); (check only one):

Newmarket Location

Richmond Hill Location

Meal choice (if applicable): _____

Enclosed is a cheque made out to **RTO ERO District 34** for

\$_____ for _____ person/people at \$_____ each.

Send your completed registration form with your payment to the address given in the event description. Please use a separate registration form and cheque for each event request.

NOTE: If bus transportation is included in the price of the event, the signed waiver found on page 40 must be included with your registration.

September Open House

Open House





*Photo of Grant Dale
By Helen Smolkin*



The Meet District 34 Member section of *The 34th Story* will contain a series of articles designed to introduce local members of RTO ERO who have made significant contributions of artistic merit, service to others or any achievement which may be of interest to our group. Please consider nominating someone you know. Email Chris Prefontaine at 7chris.prefontaine@gmail.com.

Meet District 34 Member: Bryan Buchan

By Chris Prefontaine



The Background:

On April 30, 1975, Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam fell to communist forces from the north. As a result, many people from Vietnam decided to flee the country; some on foot, some by helicopter, and many by boat.

To further heighten political tension and fear, in 1978, an armed conflict broke out between Vietnam and Cambodia. This meant an extended outpouring of more Vietnamese families. Many parents, not being able to afford to get the entire family to safety, chose to send just their children. Over the ensuing decade, one million people departed Vietnam in unseaworthy vessels, hoping to reach international waters and be rescued.

These people became refugees and camps had to be set up in various countries to accommodate them. A few weeks after the fall of South Vietnam, Canada announced that we would be willing to accept refugees from Vietnam. Between '75 and '76, 6,500 “political refugees” were accepted. In 1976, a new immigration act came into force which provided for new categories of eligibility for immigrants; one of which involved the innovative policy of allowing for the private sponsorship of refugees.

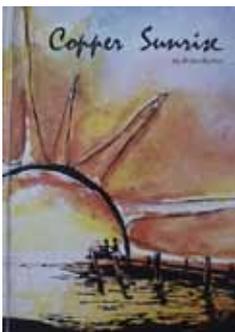
([https://www.](https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/canadian-response-to-boat-people-refugee-crisis)

[thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/canadian-response-to-boat-people-refugee-crisis](https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/canadian-response-to-boat-people-refugee-crisis))

The Teacher:

In comes RTO member, Bryan Buchan. They were looking for teachers in 1968 and Bryan had five school boards apply to him. He chose Walter Scott Public School in the then, Richmond Hill School Board— conveniently within walking distance from his home and the same school that he had attended as a child. Shirley Bowles, his former teacher, became his colleague when she returned to Walter Scott.

Having enjoyed writing as a kid, Bryan decided to model the writing process for his students. He had a few ideas kicking around for novels and the students would give him feedback on his ideas. In the end, Scholastic published Bryan's three novels for children; the first in '72, *The Forgotten World of ULOC*, then *Dragon Children* and finally *Copper Sunrise*.



Many of you may remember the last title as it was historical fiction and used in many of our class rooms. (Copper Sunrise, by the way, just went out of print, giving it a 47 year run!)

The Connection:

Bryan had heard of what was being called the “Boat People Refugee Crisis” in the late 70’s and wondered how he could help. The UN flagged families and kids as suitable candidates for immigration to the west. He started out by working with Refugee Sponsorship in the late 70’s and was part of the committee involved in settling a number of families in Richmond Hill when word came out “that there were literally tens of thousands of unaccompanied kids” in the refugee camps.

The Clark government arranged for fast tracking of admission for these children if there were families willing to take them, so Bryan said, “OK, I can take one”. That was in '79. It took about a year for the application to go through all of the stages of the process and the home study to be done. Bryan learned that his application for adoption had been

approved and in May of 1980, Citizenship and Immigration (CIC) brought him not just one child, but the three siblings; his only daughter, then 11 years old with her two older brothers, 14 and 16 years old. Wow, talk about instant family and there were no adoption or paternity leaves in those days so the children, who spoke only a little bit of English, went off to school with their new dad the next day.

Two months later, CIC contacted Bryan and asked him to take another child; a 12 year old boy who knew the original three children from their village in Vietnam. Now that makes a family of five – but CIC wasn't done and so the family grew again four months later with the arrival of two more refugee children - seven and 10 year old brothers.

One single dad and six kids – but that wasn't even the end of it. Eighteen months later, CAS (who had done the original home study) brought Bryan a seventh child, a young boy who was the cousin of Bryan's first three children.

"I've got to tell you." Bryan said, "Adopting seven kids, takes you off the marriage market pretty quickly." He went on to articulate an anecdote about a visit to a Vietnamese cultural event down in Toronto when the kids were young.

While standing watching the kids doing their own thing, an attractive lady came over to chat with Bryan. He started to think to himself, "She sounds like she may be interested." That's when one of the kids came over and to ask for some money. Bryan turned and said OK. "By the time the fourth kid had come asking for something, I turned around to resume the conversation and she had vanished! But, I have no regrets," he added.



Bryan with the kids in 1982

Since the oldest boy was in grade 11, it wasn't as though Brian needed daycare and they were all old enough to help around the house. With seven of them, they each took a turn making dinner for the family. Each child was given a specific day of the week where they had to plan the menu, prepare the food and then clean up afterwards.

One day, the youngest boy, who always made spaghetti for the family, deliberately dropped a plate while doing the dishes after the meal. "Ya know Dad, I'm not very good at this job", he said. "Maybe, I shouldn't do it any more".

That's OK, his dad told him. "You just need some more practice; so maybe you should do the dishes every night." Another plate was never dropped.

Bryan's oldest boy once told him, "Seven days of the week and you adopted seven of us. I know why." (But no mention was ever made about all of the lunches Bryan made on a daily basis.)

Bryan's children are all very successful. Three of them went to

university and all the rest went to college. Those that have married have given him 15 grand-children all of whom he adores! (Two are in Ottawa but all the rest are close.)



After 30 years in elementary, Bryan decided to retire but in 1999, there was a shortage of supply teachers and Bryan received a call from a friend who was a department head at Bayview Secondary. She was in desperate need of someone to take on an LTO. So Bryan started out in his new teaching career at his Alma Mater – where he started as a student when the school first opened and was part of the Bayview's second graduating class.

Bryan was reluctant at first but he loved teaching English and working with the students at the secondary level "one thing led to another and I ended up staying; one of the best things that ever happened to me."

Bryan speaks very highly of Peter Tse who was principal at Bayview at that time. Calling him a “true model of what an administrator should be”.

Bryan retired for the second time in 2011, but even then, he didn’t really retire, heading to Sri Lanka as a volunteer, to teach teachers. In 2012, Peter Tse got him involved with a group which sent demonstration teachers to China where Bryan worked with teachers at Beichuan Secondary School north of Chengdu; a school with 10,000 students that in 2008 had undergone a terrible earthquake.

The school was rebuilt and became a model high school. Bryan was there to expose visiting Chinese teachers to more progressive teaching methodologies. At one point, the teachers that Bryan was teaching said “this is all great, we love it” They loved the way kids could get engaged but thought that while Bryan’s methods might work fabulously in Canada, they certainly would not work in their schools where classes contained 90 students and their curriculum mandated which lessons were to

be taught on any particular day.

At that time, Bryan had been working with an assistant named Fan who was actually teaching at that school and she invited the other teachers to come to her class the next day to observe her teach. Fan grouped the students and circulated among them as they worked. The kids were all on task but laughing and enjoying what they were doing. The next morning, when the visiting teachers were back in Bryan’s class they said, “Teach us how to do that.”

Bryan also spent time in Korea, teaching as Pukyeong National University. Throughout all of his experiences, Bryan maintains that his greatest love is being with the kids and now that he really is, finally, completely retired that means being with his own youngsters.



Bryan with five of his grandchildren at his first retirement



The Family in 2011

Bryan has told his grand-kids that each one is allowed to choose a destination anywhere in the world that they would like to visit and he will take them there. So far, they have “taken him” to Morocco, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Spain and Portugal as well as Vietnam, Korea, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Costa Rica and Japan. Besides spending lots of time travelling, Bryan enjoys gardening and says, “I have a huge family and that takes a lot of time – and I love it!”

Bryan has also returned to continue his career as a writer, publishing his first book for adults called *El Niño* (available through Amazon).



Bryan sees the genre as being speculative fiction – a “what if” novel that explores what the future would be like if, instead of being a disaster like many dystopian novels suggest, that it might hold the solution to the problems we now face. “What would that look like and how would people react to it.”

Bryan has received the Richmond Hill Citizen of the Year award, recognition by the Rotary Club, and in '99 the Educator of the Year award from ETFO.

The Post Script:

In 1986, to honour, Canada's humanitarian efforts to help alleviate difficult situations for refugees around the world, the UN presented "The people of Canada" with the UNHCR's Nansen Refugee Award. The first time this award was ever given to an entire nation!

When nominated for this award, "The strongest candidates are those who have gone beyond the call of duty, who have demonstrated perseverance and courage, and who have personally, directly and significantly helped forcibly displaced people." (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nansen_Refugee_Award)

Bryan Buchan definitely went beyond the call of duty and played a big part among all of those Canadians whose efforts to help the Southeast Asian Refugees in the late 70's and early 80's made us proud and served to make Canada deserving of this distinction!



Broadway

By Craig Lee



Join Canada's Leading Ladies of Theatre, Jazz, and Cabaret – BROADSWAY – on the stage with the RHPO, as the orchestra explores the exquisite, comedic, and always musical compositions of the Great White Way!

From the theatre mainstays of Irving Berlin and Cole Porter to modern mash-up of Stephen Sondheim and Jonathon Larson, these ladies do it all, delivering the material with incredible vocal power, brilliant stage presence, and just the right dose of humour.

The clever, original arrangements and scores from Juno and Emmy-nominated singers and orchestrators, Heather Bambrick, Julie Michels, and Dianne Leah, Broadway is entertainment at its finest and a great way to escape the February blahs.

Date:

Saturday, February 15, 2020

Time: 8 p.m.

Location:

Richmond Hill Centre for the
Performing Arts
10268 Yonge St.
Richmond Hill, ON

Cost: \$15

Please place your order by
Monday, January 13, 2020.

Make your cheque out to
RTO ERO District 34 and
send with your registration form
(pp. 19 or 41) to:
Craig Lee
21 Lippincott Court
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 7M5

Tickets may be picked up at
the box office a week prior to
the concert or on the day of the
performance. Acknowledgements
will be emailed upon receiving
the registration form.

Cinderella

By Craig Lee

The Unionville Theatre
Company presents the
new Broadway adaptation
of the classic musical. This
contemporary take on the
classic tale features Rodgers &
Hammerstein's most beloved
songs, including "In My Own

Little Corner," "Impossible/
It's Possible" and "Ten Minutes
Ago," alongside a hilarious and
romantic libretto by Tony Award
nominee Douglas Carter Beane
as well as some new characters,
and surprising twists. Your
grandchildren will love this
musical.

Date:

Sunday, February 23, 2020

Time: 1 p.m.**Location:**

Flato Markham Theatre
171 Town Centre Blvd. (North-
West corner of Hwy 7 and
Warden Ave. The theatre is
attached to Unionville High
School.)

Cost: \$25 Please place your order
by February 6, 2020.

Make your cheque out to
RTO ERO District 34 and
send with your registration form
(pp. 19 or 41) to:
Craig Lee
21 Lippincott Court
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 7M5
Tickets may be picked up at
the box office a week prior to
the musical or on the day of the
performance.

The Millionaire: A Musical Murder Mystery

By Jane Reynolds

The Millionaire is an exciting and original musical murder mystery performed by the North Toronto Players. The story opens at the home of the recently deceased millionaire, Jacques Reynard, where his family, friends, business partners and hangers-on have arrived for an after-funeral reception and reading of the will.

Be prepared for many startling revelations as events unfold with music by Arthur Sullivan, Beethoven, Bach, Orff and others.

The North Toronto Players are known for their innovative stagings of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas such as the Starship Pinafore, the Western Mikado, last year's The Gondoliers (or The King of Rock and Roll) and the original offerings, Chelsea Moore Castle and Lear Incorporated.

For more information on the group visit northtorontoplayers.com.

Available Dates and Times:

(All dates are in March)

Friday the 13th, Saturday the 14th, Friday the 20th, or Saturday the 21st

Time: 8 p.m.

Sunday the 15th, Saturday the 21st, or Sunday the 22nd

Time: 2 p.m.

Cost: \$25

(children under 14 admitted free of charge)

Location:

The Papermill Theatre at Todmorden Mills
67 Pottery Rd.

Toronto, ON

(Exit the Don Valley Parkway South at the Bloor cut-off veering right for Bayview North and turning right on to Pottery Road.)

Make your cheque out to

RTO ERO District 34 and

send with your registration form (pp. 19 or 41) to:

Jane Reynolds

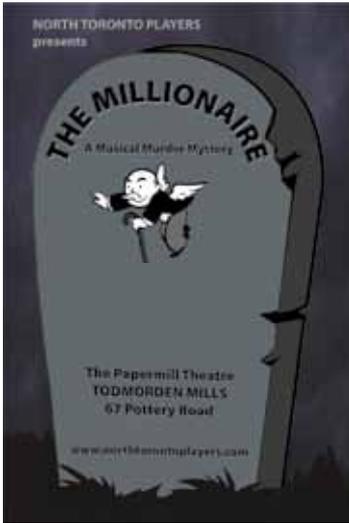
76 Harrison Avenue

Aurora, ON L4G 1E3

Acknowledgement will be

emailed upon receipt of payment

and your registration form. Tickets may be picked up at the box office on the day of the performance.



Gardening Seminar

By Susan Phillips

A gardening workshop will be presented by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority for our members on Sustainable Balcony Gardening. Learn about the inspiring beauty and practical benefits of gardening on your balcony or deck with a focus on native plants and edibles. You will leave with the know-how to

bring your small outdoor space to life. Participants will receive a seed packet to get started on their beautiful, bountiful gardens.

Date:

Monday, March 30, 2020

Time: 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location:

Meadowbrook Golf Club
11939 Warden Avenue
Gormley, ON L0H 1G0 (south of
Stouffville Road, on east side of
Warden.)

Light refreshments will be served.

Cost: \$5

Make your cheque out to
RTO ERO District 34 and
send with your registration form
(pp. 19 or 41) to:
Susan Phillips
26 Sheardown Dr.
Nobleton ON L0G 1N0

Please register by
March 15, 2020.



Hello, Dolly

By Susan Leppington

Princess of Wales Theatre

Hello, Dolly, one of the most enduring musical comedy hits, follows the story of Dolly Levi, a strong-willed meddlesome matchmaker.

Set in New York in the 1890's, Dolly travels to Yonkers to find a match for the grouchy and miserly "well-known unmarried half-a-millionaire" Horace Vandergelder. Boisterous fun from beginning to end.

Price includes coach and dress-circle seating. Lunch will be responsibility of the theater goers. There is a wide selection of restaurants surrounding the Princess of Wales or pack your own. The theatre is fully accessible and offers elevators that service all levels of the theatre.



Date: Wednesday April 1, 2020

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Pick up locations/times: 10 a.m. Newmarket Upper Canada Mall in front of Urban Planet NW corner of Yonge and Davis.

10:30 a.m. Richmond Hill Hillcrest Mall
9350 Yonge Street in front of the Marshalls store.

Return time is approximately 6 p.m.

Cost: \$120

Make your cheque out to **RTO ERO District 34 - dated March 2, 2020**. Send it along with your registration form (pp. 19 or 41) and waiver (p. 40) to:

Susan Leppington
162 Crossland Gate
Newmarket, ON L3X 1A5

Deadline for submissions:
March 6, 2020.

Please note: If we are over subscribed, a lottery may be held to accommodate newsletter delivery dates.

Welcome New Members

By Lori MacDonald-Blundin

Since our last newsletter was printed, the provincial office has informed us that the following have become members of RTO ERO and have indicated their wish to be affiliated with *District 34 – York Region*. Information which is received after we go to print will be included in the next newsletter.



On behalf of the Executive and all of the members of RTO ERO District 34, I extend a warm welcome to these new Members within our ranks:

Bernadette Bourgeois

Kim Cooper

Mira Giovenazzo

Julie Ham

Cheryl Kessel

Monica Marinaro

Carolyn Miland

James Poole

Margaret Rudnitski

Vasiliki Schulz

Tali Shaft

Gerald Snape

Maha Sroujian

Lawrence Tavalacci

Angela Ventrice

Connalyn Willoughby

Susan Worrall

Maria Antonucci

Anna Buccioni

Melanie Duckett-Wilson

Karen Friedman

Jean Hatch

Jacqueline Heptinstall

Anselm Lui

Gregory MacIsaac

Tami MacLeod

Debbie McLoughlin

Sharon Mein

Helen Thorne

Hanna Vaturi

Audrey Allan

Cindy Gibbs

Dawn Horstead

Antoine Kheir

Laila Massaad

Susan Ray

Almas Vadsaria

Arcangelo Visconti

Our apologies to Robin Schecter and Rosemary Polak whose names were misspelled in the last issue.

Arsenic and Old Lace

By Craig Lee

Theatre Aurora

Arsenic and Old Lace is a dark comedy by American playwright Joseph Kesselring. The plot centers on the Brewster family, a once elite American bloodline that has now descended into homicidal insanity. This play explores several themes including family loyalty, nature vs. nurture, and whether we can ever truly break away from our family's influence.

Praised for its dark, screwball comedic tone, Arsenic and Old Lace holds its grasp on being a killer comedy.

Date - Choice #1

Friday, April 24, 2020

Time: 8 p.m.

Date - Choice #2

Sunday, April 26

Time: 2 p.m.

Location:

Theatre Aurora
150 Henderson Drive
Aurora, ON

Cost: \$20

Please place your order by
Monday March 23, 2020.

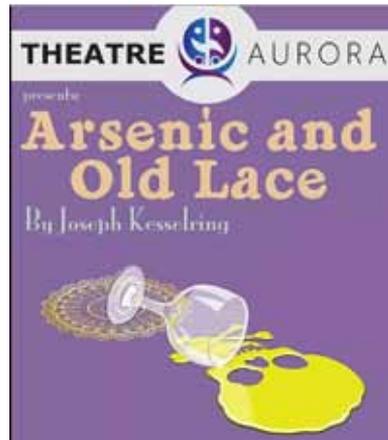
Make your cheque out to
RTO ERO District 34 and
send with your registration form
(pp. 19 or 41) to:

Craig Lee

21 Lippincott Court

Richmond Hill, ON L4C 7M5

Tickets may be picked up at
the box office a week prior to
the play or on the day of the
performance. Acknowledgements
will be emailed upon receiving
the registration form.



The Rocky Horror Show

By Craig Lee

Marquee Theatrical Productions

Sweethearts Brad and Janet, stuck with a flat tire during a storm, discover the eerie mansion of Dr. Frank-N-Furter, a transvestite scientist. As their innocence is lost, Brad and Janet meet a houseful of wild characters, including a rocking biker and a creepy butler. Through elaborate dances and rock songs, Frank-N-Furter unveils his latest creation: a muscular man named “Rocky.” Featuring songs “Time Warp”, “Sweet Transvestite” and much more!

All in fun....DRESS UP for the show. Prizes to be won for those who come in costume.

****WARNING: adult themes, not a show for children.**

Date: Sunday May 3, 2020

Time: 2 p.m.

Location:

Newmarket Theatre
505 Pickering Cres.

Newmarket, ON L3Y 8H1
(The theatre is attached to Newmarket High School on the north side of Mulock Drive between Bayview and Leslie.)

Cost: \$25

Please place your order by Monday, April 6, 2020.

Make your cheque out to **RTO ERO District 34** and send with your registration form (pp. 19 or 41)to:
Craig Lee
21 Lippincott Court
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 7M5

Tickets may be picked up at the box office a week prior to the musical or on the day of the performance. Acknowledgements will be emailed upon receiving the registration form.



District 34 Fall Luncheon

Photos By Grant Dale





In Memoriam

With sorrow we have learned of the passing of the following members of District 34. To their families we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

Joseph Casey
 Florence Closs
 Solette Gelberg
 Michael Heptinstall
 Tom Jean
 Zavina Kheir
 Christine Lindsay
 Margaret MacIver
 Dalton Mercer
 Rosanne Perreault
 Willem Roth
 George Smith



Match the Logo Contest

By Craig Lee

Want to win two tickets to our fall 2020 luncheon?

Look through this edition of *The 34th Story* and find the events which correspond to each logo on the next page. Write the page number where each activity can be found next to the letters to the left of the image.

The winner's name will be drawn at the Spring Luncheon on May 21, 2020. Deadline for entering this contest is May 9, 2020.

You may submit your answers in one of two ways:

1. Copy your answers into an email (or scan/snap a photo of page 39 and attach) and send to: 7chris.prefontaine@gmail.com

OR

2. Write your answers and mail page 39 to:
 Chris Prefontaine
 194 Fincham Ave.
 Markham, ON L3P 4B5

Match the Logo Contest Entry Form

Write the page number of the event next to the letter on the left of the matching logo. Mail or email this form to the address on page 38.

RTO ERO member name: _____

a. _____



b. _____



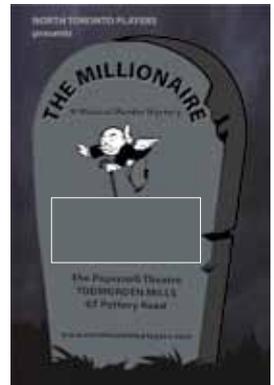
c. _____



d. _____



e. _____



f. _____



Acknowledgement, Waiver and Release

The participants in _____ (the “Event”) acknowledge and agree that RTO ERO, including District 34, will not be responsible for any loss, injury or damage of any nature, including death, howsoever arising in connection with this trip/ excursion/event. Participants in the Event are therefore hereby advised to carry their own insurance in connection therewith.

By signing below and in consideration of the participant’s attendance at the Event, the participant hereby releases and forever discharges RTO ERO, District 34 and their respective directors, officers, members, agents, employees and volunteers (collectively, the “Releasees”) from any and all actions, causes of action, claims and demands (collectively, the “Claims”) from any loss, injury or damage of any nature, including death, which has arisen or may arise from the participant’s attendance at the Event, unless such loss, injury or damage has arisen as a result of the sole negligence of one or more of the Releasees.

Any Claim arising out of the participant’s attendance at the Event will be governed by the laws of Ontario, Canada and the participant consents to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of Ontario, Canada in any such action.

Participant’s printed name	Signature	Date
----------------------------	-----------	------

Participant’s printed name	Signature	Date
----------------------------	-----------	------

Participant’s printed name	Signature	Date
----------------------------	-----------	------

Participant’s printed name	Signature	Date
----------------------------	-----------	------

Additional copies of this form may be downloaded from our web site.

Registration for RTO District 34 York Region Events

Please print.

Name of Event: _____

Date of Event: _____ Cost per person: _____

Registration Deadline Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Bus Pick-up: (if included in the price of the event); (check only one):

Newmarket Location

Richmond Hill Location

Meal choice (if applicable): _____

Enclosed is a cheque made out to **RTO ERO District 34** for

\$ _____ for _____ person/people at \$ _____ each.

Send your completed registration form with your payment to the address given in the event description. Please use a separate registration form and cheque for each event request.

If registering for the event electronically, please follow the instructions in the event description.

NOTE: If bus transportation is included in the price of the event, the signed waiver found on page 40 must be included with your registration.

Find Us on The Web

Use the QR Code reader on your smart phone to find our website. Scan the code below to get to our website.



Advertising Events in *The 34th Story*

By Evelyn Lawrence

The only events that are advertised in *The 34th Story* or via email communications are those that have been authorized by the executive. From time to time, our Email Communications Representative receives a request from a member to advertise an event that has not been sent to the executive for approval. Please do not send these to Angela Stewart as it is not her job to alert the executive of these requests made by other members. Please contact the president or one of the vice-presidents, if you believe that you have an event that would be of general interest to members or would supply some benefit that would be in the best interest of our District 34 members.

PLANNING A TRIP

Before planning a trip out of the province or outside of Canada, it is wise to call Johnson Insurance to check on your RTO ERO health insurance coverage.

Changes in your health or in your prescriptions may alter your travel coverage. If an emergency should arise while you are away (after January 1, 2020), contact Global Excel Management Inc. within 48 hours of the emergency, or before medical attention is administered when the situation is non life-threatening. Contact with GEM will ensure that your care is top priority and that the medical expenses for this unforeseen health condition are effectively monitored.

Toll free in Canada/USA:
1-877-346-1467

Toll free in Mexico:
01-800-062-4728

Worldwide Collect Call:
819-780-0647

Classified Advertising

Classified ads are for the information of our members and do not imply endorsement by RTO ERO District 34.



Johnson Inc.
RTO ERO Health Benefit
Plan Administrator
Service 1-877-406-9007
416-920-7248
Claims 1-800-638-4753
905-764-4888
Website
www.johnson.ca

34th Story Website
Check our website at
www.34thstory.com

- for District 34 news,
- for additional photographs of events,
- for links to interesting websites,
- for information about your committees,
- for the District 34 constitution and policies

Changing Your Name, Address or Phone

The District 34 membership information comes from the Provincial Office. Please contact them about any changes.

RTO ERO PROVINCIAL OFFICE

416-962-9463
1-800-361-9888
FAX 416-962-1061
Office Hours
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday to Friday
www.rto-ero.org

DISTRICT 34 MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Lori MacDonald-Blundon
District34Membership@outlook.com
Questions regarding membership and newsletter mailings may be directed to Lori as well.

DISTRICT 34 EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

34thstoryreminders@gmail.com
For change of email address only, NOT residence address changes.

Newsletter Submissions

Articles are required for consideration for inclusion in future issues. Please keep articles to 500 words or less. A picture is a nice touch.

Do you have:

- a memorable teaching experience,
- special memories of a colleague or student,
- a good book to recommend,
- an account of an unusual holiday,
- an important question,
- suggestions for the editor,
- suggestions for district trips or social activities,
- information you would like to see in the newsletter or
- an issue you would like to raise?

Email the editor -
Chris Prefontaine
7chris.prefontaine@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

November 10 for January

February 10 for April

July 10 for September

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE
CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:
432 Cunningham Dr.
Maple, ON L6A 2G6

