

# ERT 34th STORY

District 34 - York Region

Vol. 29 No. 1 - Jan 2017



*Winter Grain (Image by Grant Dale)*

## For Your Calendar

### **Play Bridge**

Mondays  
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
McConaghy Senior  
Centre - Rm. 103

### **Hava Java**

Wed, Jan 11, 2017

### **Join Us for a Walk**

Jan 17, 2017

### **Lunch and Trivia at Chatters**

Mon, Jan 30, 2017

### **Hava Java**

Thurs, Feb 9, 2017

### **Real Estate Update**

Mon, Feb 13, 2017

### **Arsenic and Old Lace at MLT**

Wed, Feb 15, 2017

### **Join Us for a Walk**

Thur, Feb 16, 2017

### **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang**

Sat, Feb 25, 2017

### **Hava Java**

Wed, Mar 8, 2017

### **Join Us for a Walk**

Wed, Mar 22, 2017

### **13 the Musical**

Sat, Mar 25, 2017

### **Retirement Planning**

Wed, Mar 29, 2017

### **Singing in the Rain**

Wed, Mar 29, 2017

### **Old Love**

Apr 2, 2017

### **Hava Java**

Thurs, Apr 6, 2017

### **Little Mermaid**

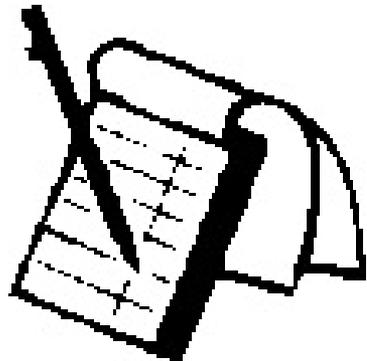
Apr 8,, 2017

### **Join Us for a Walk**

Thurs, Apr 20, 2017

### **Bedroom Farce at MLT**

Wed, Apr 26, 2017



## Contents

For Your Calendar .....	2
President's Message .....	4
Executive of District 34 and Committee Chairpersons 2016 - 2017 .....	5
Hava Java On Us.....	6
Lunch and Trivia at Chatters Cafe .....	7
Join Us for a Walk.....	8
Your Help is Needed .....	8
Your Executive at Senate (Photo) .....	9
Forging Into The New Millenium.....	10
Are You Missing Activities Because You Forget? .....	13
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.....	14
Bridge Club News.....	15
What is Project Service to Others? .....	16
Join Us for a Walk - Joker's Hill (Photo).....	17
Spires and Steeples Tour.....	18
Real Estate Update and Ideas on How to Maintain a Safe Home.....	19
Welcome New Members.....	20
In Memoriam .....	22
Markham Little Theatre Begins Year 51 .....	23
13 The Musical.....	25
The Little Mermaid .....	26
Chihuly Exhibition .....	27
Octoberfest at the Arch Brewery.....	27
The Chihuly Exhibition (Photo).....	27
Retirement Planning Workshop .....	28
Singin' in the Rain.....	29
Old Love .....	30
Registration for RTO District 34 York Region Events.....	31
Acknowledgement, Waiver and Release.....	32
Registration for RTO District 34 York Region Events.....	33
Find Us on The Web .....	34
Classified Advertising .....	35
Changing Your Name, Address or Phone.....	35



*Susan Phillips, President*

## President's Message

*By Susan Phillips*

**A**s the wind howls and the snow falls, we are tempted to hibernate, but please have a look through this issue of *The 34th Story* and be inspired to come out and participate in some of our District 34 events. If you have any ideas for activities that would be of interest and benefit the membership, please contact us.

RTO/ERO has been in existence for almost 50 years. We will be celebrating our bicentennial in 2018. We hope you are enjoying the historical information we are providing in each issue of *The 34th Story* leading up to our anniversary celebration. RTO/ERO is an

inclusive organization dedicated to supplying information and services to our members and advocating for all seniors.

There has been a small change to our procedure for people participating in bus trips to the theatre outside York Region. The Ontario Government has changed the legislation requiring us to organize events through a travel agency, so we are returning to our old policy of making your cheques payable to RTO/ERO District 34. You will still have to sign the waiver which we will provide in our newsletter, *The 34th Story*.

We have an opening for a position as E-mail Communications Representative. If anyone is interested in filling this position, please contact me. Also, if anyone would like to learn how to become a newsletter editor and web designer and then become our new Newsletter editor and webmaster, please contact Grant Dale.



**Executive of  
District 34 and  
Committee  
Chairpersons  
2016 - 2017**

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## Hava Java On Us

By Regine Baker

**H**ava Java is one of the most popular services that we offer our members.

Some members attend regularly each month while others choose to come now and then.

Check the dates listed in this article and put them on your calendar. Come out and have a catch-up with former colleagues and new friends.

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

Those members who usually go to the Richmond Hill venue will find that it has been switched to a new location in Maple. This is to better accommodate socializing, one of the main purposes of this activity. The time remains the same.

We look forward to seeing many of you there.



### Dates:

Wed, Jan 11, 2017

Thurs, Feb 9, 2017

Wed, Mar 8, 2017

Thurs, Apr 6, 2017

### Time:

10:00 am to 12:00 noon for

Markham and Maple

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm for

Newmarket

### Locations:

The Old Curiosity Tea Shop

91 Main Street, Markham

(Parking on Main Street, behind

the tea shop or in the lot on the

corner of Robinson and Main

Street)

Coffee Culture Café & Eatery

10037 Keele Street, Maple (east

side, north of Major Mackenzie

Drive)

(Parking in front and back)

Chatters Café

79 Davis Drive, Newmarket

(north side, just east of Yonge

Street)



## Lunch and Trivia at Chatters Cafe

By Elaine Adam

Join us for our fifth annual Lunch and Trivia, this time at Chatters Cafe, 12:30 pm on Monday, January 30, 2017. Chatters is located at 79 Davis Drive (north side, just east of Yonge) in Newmarket. Parking is in front.

To access the parking lot, you must be travelling west on Davis Drive. If you are travelling east on Davis Drive, make a u-turn at the first stop light and proceed west.

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. Space is limited to 40 people.

Cost is \$13 per person This includes lunch, taxes, tip and money for prizes.

Cheques are to be made out to **RTO/ERO District 34** and sent to:

Elaine Adam,  
183 Park Avenue,  
Newmarket, Ontario  
L3Y 1T9,

**before January 24, 2017**

Please choose from the luncheon list below:

- tuna salad sandwich and soup or salad,
- egg salad sandwich and soup or salad,
- peameal bacon sandwich and soup or salad,
- grilled vegetarian sandwich and salad.

In the first three choices, please indicate whether you want soup (chicken vegetable) or green salad.

Sandwiches will be on brown bread.

Coffee and tea will be provided.

It is licensed for beer and wine if you want to order a drink, and there is juice and pop for you to purchase too.

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**Continued on page 9.**

## Join Us for a Walk

By Ann Evans

The forecast for this winter is that it is going to be cold and snowy. That should not prevent us from enjoying our monthly walks and lively chats. Dress warmly and join us.

To avoid unfavourable walking conditions we will confine ourselves to the north and south trails of Fairy Lake as they are always well maintained.

### Dates:

Tuesday, January 17, 2017  
Thursday, February 16th, 2017  
Wednesday, March, 22nd, 2017

Parking is the main entrance of Fairy Lake, 500 Water Street, Newmarket. (just east of the south end of Main Street. Look for my car, a blue Juke.

The days vary but will always start at 10:00 am.

As usual, afterwards, we will warm up with a cup of steaming coffee.

Mark these future walk dates on your calendar

Thursday, 20th April, 2017  
Wednesday May, 17th, 2017  
Wednesday June 21st, 2017



## Your Help is Needed

By Grant Dale

No, we haven't found anyone who will take over editing *The 34th Story* or to manage the web page.

One or two people are needed to take over managing these two activities. One person is doing the job now but he needs a rest.

You will be tutored and supported if you take either of these activities. This is your chance to help out.

Contact any executive member.



Continued from page 7.

(You might want to circle your order selection and keep this page for your records.)

Be aware that the orders are given in at the deadline date of Tuesday, January 24 so you will not be reimbursed after that date if for some reason you are not able to attend. You are welcome to send someone in your place.

Please fill out the general

registration form on page 33 and return it with your cheque, made out to RTO District 34, to Elaine Adam (address above). Also, indicate whether you have a team or would like to be placed on a team.

Come and try out your grey matter at Chatters!



## **Your Executive at Senate**



*George McKelvy, Jose Fernandes and Paul Devlin taken by RTO/ERO staff*

## Forging Into The New Millennium

*By Paul Devlin*

As STO/ERO entered the fourth decade in 1998, there were 42,585 members, a new logo and a new name, RTO/ERO. Membership took a significant jump partially due to the reduction of the retirement factor from 90 to 85.

Membership fees were established at \$1.25 per \$1,000 of pension.

Over 21,000 member postcards were presented to the Mike Harris government in a campaign asking for direct participation of retired members in negotiations affecting the pension plan. In an April 1999 throne speech, the government stated it "... will also work to ensure that the voice of retired teachers is heard in decisions about the pension plan of which they are beneficiaries."

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on October 27, 1996 to officially open RTO/ERO's new home at 18 Spadina Road. Special guests included member

Lou Irvine and her husband Paul, who was born at 18 Spadina in the 1920s.

On January 1, 2000, RTO/ERO began offering a long-term care insurance program to members, to fill the gap between provincial coverage and the individual assets of members.

In 2000, the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) agreed to give RTO/ERO a permanent, voting position on its Pension Committee and Pension Negotiations Committee, thus allowing RTO/ERO to participate in matters to be taken to the pension partners before negotiations.

The provincial reorganization of political and electoral boundaries (Bill 160) meant that school board boundaries would no longer be congruent with RTO/ERO's District boundaries. The May Senate adopted three resolutions supporting active teachers: to oppose provincial testing and recertification of teachers; to support OTF and its affiliates in their opposition to the government's efforts

to require teachers to provide extracurricular activities as a condition of employment; to encourage all appropriate education partners to consider the issue of school closures in a democratic manner, with the first criterion being the total welfare of students.

In 2001 Executive member district liaisons were established in order to enhance communication between the Provincial Executive (PE) and the Districts. The OTPP achieved Canada Pension Plan (CPP) improvements, a permanent 85-factor for retirement and the implementation of the best five years of service as the means to calculate pension.

The Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) established its public register on the status of certified teachers. Inaccurate information and the status of retired teachers, no longer working, listed as “Suspended - Nonpayment of Fees” presented problems for RTO/ERO members. Senior staff met with OCT and the status was changed to “retired”. The 2002 spring Senate approved

revised membership categories and rights and privileges including 15 distinct associate membership categories and allowed associate members to serve on District Executives.

RTO/ERO made two submissions to the Romanow Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada and a formal submission to the Ontario Education Equality Task Force.

The Communications Committee established an online help forum to assist the exchange of ideas and information among District webmasters.

The Newsletter transitioned to a polished and professional magazine that was circulated to more than 50,000. Renaissance, was selected as the publication’s new name because it suggested a new spirit, a reaching out to new and younger members and a revitalizing of the existing membership.

A new slogan, “Here for you Now... Here for your Future” was

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coined by Information Officer Simon Leibovitz, and adopted by RTO/ERO.

The Audit Committee was established in 2003 to protect stakeholder interests and to demonstrate transparency of corporate governance and accountability.

RTO/ERO established a policy stating that it “supports the right to strike of teachers and support staff in Ontario schools, both as a basic condition of employment and a legitimate means to achieve collective agreements.”

RTO/ERO surpassed 50,000 members in the fall.2003-04 The first District Treasurers’ manual was distributed in the spring of 2004. The Canadian Association of Communicators in Education recognized Renaissance as one of the recipients of the 2003 BRAVO Award of Excellence.

District 44 region du Ciel Bleu, the first francophone district was formed in 2004. It had the same boundaries as District 43, Nipissing.

Members who reach 100 years

of age would now be reimbursed their membership fee, along with a personalized greeting from the Provincial President.

The Members’ Only section of the RTO/ERO website was launched and provided information such as fact sheets, tax tips and the provincial Constitution.

District 45 Esta Rio, the second francophone District was formed in 2005, with the same boundaries as District 32, Prescott-Russell.

The Executive Director, Harold Braithwaite’s 2006 spring Senate report included the following quote: “I was more than pleased when at the recent AGM of the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan on April, 7, 2006, Claude Lamoureux, President and CEO of the OTPP, twice confirmed that no changes can be made to the pensions and benefits of retirees.” The comments came as the pension plan’s funding shortfall continued to grow.

The Members’ Only section of the RTO/ERO website was launched and provided information such as fact sheets, tax tips, the District Updater, the provincial Constitution and Renaissance archives.

The Provincial Executive introduced the Distinguished Member Awards, designed to recognize outstanding member contributions provincially and at the district level. 2006-07

In 2007, the Health Services and Insurance Committee (HSIC) introduced changes to the claims appeals process to make it more fair and independent, and renamed it the Benefit Entitlement Review.

The federal government followed through with its promise to include pension income splitting in its March 2007 budget. RTO/ERO played a prominent role in ensuring that happened through the actions of the PAC, which monitored the issue and in 2005, initiated a pension income splitting petition campaign throughout the province.

The fall issue of Renaissance was sent to every publicly supported school in the province.

On March 14, 2008, RTO/ERO officially turned 40. Membership reached 60,000 and was growing rapidly.

The Senate approved membership category, and rights and privileges

changes to support associate membership, including allowing teachers eligible to join RTO/ERO upon retirement to do so while still actively teaching. The former District and Unit Health Representative newsletter, first published in February 2005, was redesigned in full colour and renamed Health Matters. President, Brian Kenny, was re-elected, a feat not seen since the first decade of RTO/ERO.



## Are You Missing Activities Because You Forget?

*By Shelagh Harris*

If you are missing out because you forget what's happening in your busy schedule, we have help for you.

Just send your email address to Shelagh Harris at: [shelagh\\_harris@hotmail.com](mailto:shelagh_harris@hotmail.com) and you'll receive email reminders for free.



# Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

*By Craig Lee*

The Unionville Theatre Company presents Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at the Flato Markham Theatre in February.

Caractacus Potts, a failed inventor, lives in a big house with his two children – Jemimay and Jeremy – and eccentric father. Potts takes a broken-down racing car and miraculously transforms the vehicle into a shiny new car named Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

While on a picnic with the children and Truly Scrumptious, Lord Scrumptious' beautiful daughter, Potts concocts a fantasy tale about the magical powers of the car, which can now float on water and fly. In the tale, Baron Bomburst wants the car for himself and kidnaps the automobile and the inventor. But Bomburst captures Grandpa by mistake along with the wrong car. So Potts, Truly, and the children have to enlist Chitty Chitty Bang Bang on a rescue mission to Bomburst's lair to save Grandpa.

Date:  
Day, February 25, 2017

Time:  
1:00 pm.

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:  
\$25.00 per person

Please place your order by  
January 20, 2016

Send your registration with a  
cheque made out to:  
RTO/ERO District 34 to:

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

Tickets may be picked up at  
the box office on the day of the  
performance.  
The registration form is found on  
page 33.



## Bridge Club News

By Joan Burrows

**O**ur bridge club members continue to meet and play some very successful contracts each week. Here are the latest winning bidders:

Marg Lawlor /Fran Wachna  
(6NT)

Bob & Doreen Bell (6H)

Marilyn Johnson/Bob Bell (6S)

Marg Lawlor/Joan Burrows bid  
6H made 7!

Margo Procyk/Peggy Paterson  
(6S)

Fran Wachna/Linda Karan (6S)

Wilma Inkpen/Linda Karan  
(6S)

Peggy Paterson/Marg Lawlor  
(7H)

Kay Valentine/Kathy Bunker  
(6H)

Mary Conte/Bob Bell bid 6S  
made 7!

All RTO/ERO members of  
District 34 are invited play  
bridge on a drop-in basis.

DATES/TIMES:

Mondays from 1:00-4:00 pm

COST:

\$2.00 when you play

LOCATION:

McConachy Centre  
(Dining Room # 103)  
10100 Yonge Street  
Richmond Hill

(West side of Yonge St. north of  
Major Mackenzie Dr. Parking in  
rear of the  
building.)



## What is Project Service to Others?

By Regine Baker

**P**roject Service to Others is a Provincial RTO/ERO programme that provides grants to districts that support the concept of “service to others”. The intent is to raise the profile of retired teachers by visibly demonstrating to active teachers and the public at large, that retired teachers care about their communities and about public education and are willing to do something to help those who need assistance.

These assisted projects could be in any form that supports the goals of Project Service to Others which are to:

- provide financial assistance to Education related and other community projects;
- facilitate member participation in education and/or community projects;
- promote district/unit participation in local, overseas educational/community projects;
- raise the profile of retired teachers of RTO/ERO;
- demonstrate to the general public that retired teachers continue to serve after retirement; and,
- demonstrate to potential RTO/ERO members that RTO/ERO is a dynamic organization to which they should consider belonging when they retire from active teaching.

Many types of projects may be considered such as:

- local heritage and culture projects;
- support for initiatives from First Nations’ communities;
- school day care for the children of single adolescent parents;
- special arts and education programmers for children;
- support for the disadvantaged, shut-ins or for crisis centres;
- support for initiatives in developing countries;
- support for medical and social programmes for the needy;
- ESL, literacy and numeracy programmes;
- and, school dropout programmes.

These are examples only and do not preclude other types of projects.

The forms that need to be completed are available for downloading at [www.rto.org](http://www.rto.org) or 1-800-3619888 until the end of February. An RTO/ERO District 34 member who is a participant in the group must sign the form.

Completed submissions must be received by the District 34 Executive by April 8, 2017.

They may be sent to Regine Baker, Project Service to Others Convenor at

[reginebaker@rogers.com](mailto:reginebaker@rogers.com) or 15 Groomsport Cres., Scarborough, Ont. M1T 2K8 or to Susan, Phillips, President, RTO/ERO District 34 at [susanphillips@gmail.com](mailto:susanphillips@gmail.com).

At a meeting of the District 34 Executive one submission will be selected to go forward for consideration at the provincial level.



## Join Us for a Walk - Joker's Hill



*Image by Nicole Gaudet*

## Spires and Steeples Tour

*By Craig Lee*

**N**orm McMullin, the head archivist, of St. Mary's Anglican Church in Richmond Hill welcomed our RTO group by opening the doors to the newly restored chapel and ringing the historic bell.

After admiring the chapel, we saw Canada's only indoor graveyard in which the members of the Arnold family are buried. Next door at the Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, Debbie Wallace Campbell told us about her life growing up in the manse as the young daughter of the minister William Wallace. She also went to school at the McConaghy Elementary School just north of the church. Debbie's husband, Don, guided us through the Richmond Hill Cemetery where we found the graves of many prominent citizens of the town.

Four soldiers from the War of 1812 are honoured there with historic plaques next to their grave stones.

At the Richmond Hill United Church, Donna Smith, an RTO

member, spoke of the rich history of this Methodist Church which later joined the newly formed United Church of Canada in 1925.

Included in this tour was a demonstration of the pipe organ. Several of our members also climbed to steps to the balcony where they rang the huge bell. In the past the bell was rung daily at 7:00 am, 1:00 pm. and 5:00 pm. It was also used to alert the members of the volunteer fire department of a fire.

These three churches were built in the Gothic Revival style, contain beautiful stained glass windows, pipe organs and decorative brick work. Our guides from these three churches were welcoming, informative and extremely proud of their respective churches which grace the Old Village of Richmond Hill from Major MacKenzie north to Centre Street.



## Real Estate Update and Ideas on How to Maintain a Safe Home

*BY Elaine Adam*

**J**oin Beverley Varcoe (Broker, Royal LePage Your Community Realty) for a seminar and handouts on **Monday, February 13, 2017.**

Beverley is a Senior Real Estate Specialist, focusing on the needs of the 50 plus and mature demographic.

The lecture will give a brief overview of the market and ideas on how to stay in a safe and organized home. Topics include how much your home is really costing you, how to make it accessible, the process of eliminating stuff, home repairs, home staging, reverse mortgages vs. line of credit, how to check your credit rating and how to protect yourself from mortgage fraud and title theft.

Beverley is a member of the Real Estate Institute of Canada, the Canadian Condominium Institute, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian

Federation of University Women, the Aurora Seniors Association, the Newmarket Seniors Meeting Place, CARP and the National Yacht Club.

This presentation has been given to Probus Club, Aurora Seniors Association and CARP.

The seminar will be held at **Chatters Café, 79 Davis Drive, Newmarket,** (north side of Davis Drive, east of Yonge) from 1:30 to 3 pm.

Registration is \$7.00 and cheques made out to:

**RTO/ERO District 34**

should be sent to:

**Elaine Adam,**

**183 Park Avenue,**

**Newmarket L3Y 1T9**

**by Thursday, February 9, 2017.**

Please complete the registration form on page 33 and return it with your cheque.



## Welcome New Members

By Evelyn Lawrence

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:**

Laure Abou-Jaoude

Peter Alfano

Esther Almog

Franca Angeloni

Filomena Avolio

Maris Berk

Lynn Borlack

Judith Brooks

David Bush

Dawn Chew

Rosa Chwang

Debra Conrad-Knight

Isabel Costa

Patricia Courneyea

Gregory Coutts

Susan Cresswell

Susan Currie

Rita D'Aguanno

Francine Daigle

Anita Daneman

Tina De Cicco

Maureen Drake

Janice Dyke

Elaine Feldman

Sandy Finder

Carmela Fiorino-Vieira

Adriana Fodorean

Mary Grace Fong

April Franklin

Christa Gamp

Dianne Gertsman

Janet Glass

Barbara Goldenberg

Barb Gorman

Susan Gould

Natalia Grichanik

Howard Gross

Amy Ha

Marilyn Hamum

Haia Hason

Michael Healy

Colleen Hedicam

Flora Jaskolka

Peter Jenkins

Patricia Juffs

Maret Kapp

Catherine Keating

Mary Kathleen Kerr  
 Naomi Kingston  
 Andrea Kirshenblatt  
 Joyce Klug  
 Brigit Kochlett  
 Giuseppina Lavallo  
 Carole Leclerc  
 Ermes Lena  
 Fred Liljelund  
 Maria Lingeman  
 Louise Litowitz  
 Deborah Locke  
 Renee Lwowski  
 Marty Malek  
 Sonya Mari  
 Mary Marum  
 Mary Mastragostino  
 Ann Matheson  
 Sergio Matulic  
 DuncanMcGregor  
 Patricia Meadows  
 Phyllis Melamed  
 Branko Mihaljevic  
 Janice Miles  
 Diana Moretto  
 Dorothy Mullen  
 Peter Nicholson  
 Tracy Norman  
 Catherine Norton  
 Barbara Ann Pannese  
 Pranitawatee Parsaud  
 Arthur Pietras  
 Vinnette Pamella Plummer  
 Karla Portengen  
 Joyce Quan  
 Susan Richard

Peter Rimmel  
 Maxine Ritche  
 Sally Rivers  
 Doris Rock  
 Isabel Roque Gomes  
 Ellen Rosenthal  
 Michael Rosettis  
 Renu Saxena  
 Susan Schiffer  
 Mary Segeren  
 Melissa Sherman  
 Ruth Simpson  
 Rina Singh  
 Graziella Spidalieri  
 Peggy Spurgeon  
 Cheryl Stoltz  
 David Szollosy  
 Norma Tenaglia  
 Keren Tohn  
 Chris Unitas  
 Janice Van Dyke  
 Lorraine Van Vlymen  
 Susan Venier  
 Jory Vernon  
 Benny Volpe  
 Nancy Watson  
 David Weir  
 Patricia Weismiller  
 Kathleen Wilson  
 Leonarda Wilson  
 Perry Zolis

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**Continued on the next page.**

WELCOME NEW ASSOCIATE  
MEMBERS

Maryann Bellissimo  
Sharon Belton  
Joanne Breen  
Corinne Burnett  
Nancy Cochi  
Erma Collins  
Micheal Collins  
Sandra Crone  
Leta Dayfoot  
Marsha Domb  
Rose Filosa  
Nancy Ho  
Patricia Hunter  
Insook Kim  
Jury Kopach  
Heather Lauria  
Denise Lennie  
Ralph Moyle  
Vincent Porretta  
Wenceslaus Rosario  
Norman Rumble

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS  
FROM OTHER DISTRICTS

Nicole Gaudet  
Steven Gillies  
Donna Goreski  
Zoey Heal  
Sheila Zitney



## In Memoriam

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

Mary Bernarde  
Gerrit Brouwer  
Margaret Coburn  
Dennis Connor  
Sharon Corey  
Robert Curtis  
Antonio Filosa  
Judy Fleming  
Owen Haythorne  
Pratibha Hira  
Sarah Jones  
Halyna Kopach  
Murray Major  
Isobel Nigh  
James Orser  
Anne Porretta  
Douglas Rowntree  
Barbara Rumble  
Raymond Schell  
Bruce Simpson  
Evelyn St. John  
Anne Storey  
Margaret Wallace

## Markham Little Theatre Begins Year 51

*By Angela Stewart*

**M**arkham Little Theatre is entering its 51<sup>st</sup> year of producing outstanding theatre and would like to offer RTO members, friends and family a special price for their February and April plays. For only \$14 per person (\$28 if you are seeing both plays) you will be treated to a world-class theatre experience. Not only that – we offer free parking!

**Date(s):**

Wednesday, February 15, 2017  
Wednesday, April 26, 2017

**Time:**

8:00 p.m.

**Cost:**

\$14.00 per person / per play

**Location:**

Flato Markham Theatre  
171 Town Centre Boulevard  
(corner of Hwy. #7 and Warden Ave.)  
Markham, ON

See Angela at the RTO table to

pick up your tickets the night of the play.

Registration must be received by:

**Wed, Jan 18, 2017**

for Arsenic and Old Lace

**Wed, March 22, 2016**

for Bedroom Farce

**Arsenic and Old Lace**

Written by Joseph Kesselring, this classic comedy introduces us to the Brewster sisters, Martha and Abby. These sweet old ladies pride themselves on their “charity work” which includes cheerfully offering lonely men elderberry wine laced with arsenic. Will their hobby be exposed when their nephew pays a visit?

Wed, Feb 15, 2017

Flato Markham Theatre 8:00pm

**Bedroom Farce**

Written by Alan Ayckbourn. With relationships ranging from solid to rocky, four couples spend one evening in three bedrooms. Sounds confusing? It is, and hilariously so! This

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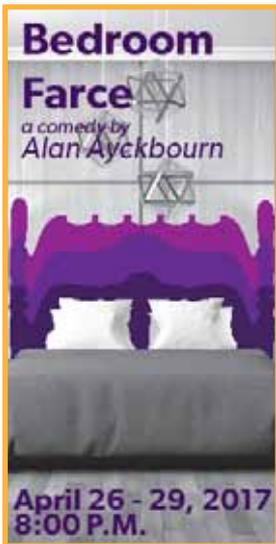
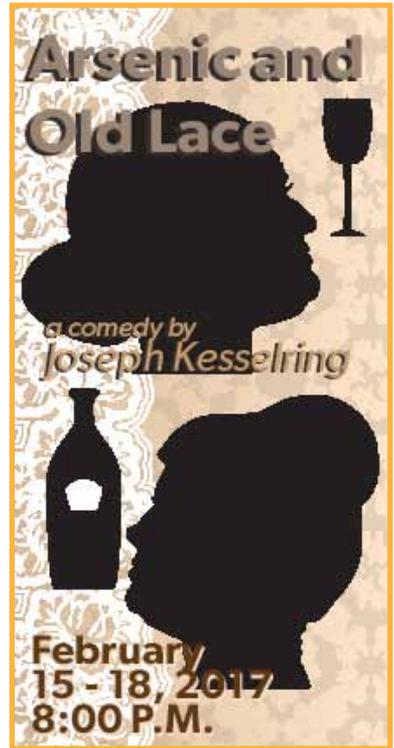
popular farce explores the many facets of the bewildering roller-coaster ride that we call marriage.

Wednesday, April 26, 2017  
Flato Markham Theatre 8:00 pm

Send your cheque made out to RTO/ERO District 34 to:  
Angela Stewart at:  
42 Schouten Cres.,  
Markham, Ontario  
L3P 7W7

**Wed, Jan 18, 2017  
for Arsenic and Old Lace**

**Wed, March 22, 2016  
for Bedroom Farce**



## 13 The Musical

*By Craig Lee*

**S**teppin' Out Theatrical Productions presents 13 The Musical in Richmond Hill this March. Featuring an unforgettable rock score by Tony Award-winning composer Jason Robert Brown, this high-energy musical will feature a cast made up of some of York Region's most talented teenagers.

**Plot Summary:** Evan Goldman is about to turn thirteen, and he can't wait. His life seems full of possibilities -- that is, until his parents get divorced, and he is forced to move with his mom from big-city New York to Podunk Appleton, Indiana.

If Evan can't get the coolest kids to come to his bar mitzvah, how is he going to survive the school year, not to mention, the rest of his life? As Evan navigates the world of cool kids and nerds, jocks and cheerleaders, first kisses and heartbreak, he comes to understand "What it Means to Be a Friend." With a bright, catchy pop score from Jason Robert Brown, equal doses of humor and pathos, and a cast of wildly

talented teens, "13" is irresistible to grown ups and almost-grown ups alike.

**Date:**

Saturday March 25, 2017

**Time:**

1:30 pm.

**Location:**

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

**Cost:**

\$25.00 per person

Please place your order by  
**Friday, March 3, 2017**

Send your registration with a cheque made out to:

**RTO/ERO District 34 to:**

**Craig Lee**

**21 Lippincott Court**

**Richmond Hill, ON L4C 7M5**

Tickets may be picked up at the box office on the day of the performance.

The registration form is found on page 33.



# The Little Mermaid

By Craig Lee

**M**arquee Theatrical Productions presents Disney's 'The Little Mermaid' at the Newmarket Theatre in April. Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories and the classic animated film, it is a captivatingly beautiful love story for all ages.

With music by eight-time Academy Award winner Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater, and a compelling book by Doug Wright, this fishy fable will capture your heart with its irresistible songs including "Under the Sea," "Kiss the Girl," and "Part of Your World."

**Date:**

Sunday April 8, 2017

**Time:**

1:00 pm.

**Location:**

The theatre is attached to Newmarket High School on the north side of Mulock Drive between Bayview and Leslie.

**Cost:**

\$25.00

Please place your order by Friday March 17, 2017

Send your registration with a cheque made out to: RTO/ERO District 34 to: Craig Lee  
21 Lippincott Court  
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 7M5

Tickets may be picked up at the box office on the day of the performance.

The registration form is found on page 33.



## Chihuly Exhibition

*By Ann Evans*

The visit to the Chihuly Exhibit at the Royal Ontario Museum in November fully met our expectations.

Dale Chihuly, is an American sculptor, who has mastered the translucent and transparent qualities of ice, water, glass and neon, to create works of art that transform the viewer experience. These forms created by sand, fire, and human breath, created brilliantly coloured works of art. It was a spectacular exhibition

with amazing glass explorations inspired by underwater ocean vegetation, tobacco baskets, flowers, trees. A visit to remember.



## Octoberfest at the Arch Brewery

*By Ann Evans*

In October we visited this micro brewery in Newmarket. It was a fun experience that included an explanation of the brewing process, a tour, tasting of select beers as well as a beer trivia contest. It was such a success we hosted it twice!



## The Chihuly Exhibition



*Image by Bill Wheeler*

# Retirement Planning Workshop

By John Pickett

(For All Educational Workers)

District 34 will host a Retirement Planning Workshop that is open to anyone retiring from a public or Catholic school board or from a university, college or private school who will be receiving a pension from the OTPP, OMERS or other, similar plans. This includes teachers, administrators, secretaries, caretakers, educational assistants and others.

Organized by the provincial body of RTO/ERO, this workshop is presented by experts in both pension and insurance matters. Participants will learn how to calculate and apply for their pensions and hear the benefits offered through RTO health insurance while they enjoy light refreshments.

Please share this information with anyone you know who is planning to retire in the next few years or who has already retired but not yet joined RTO/ERO.

## Date:

Wed, Mar 29, 2017

## Time:

4:00-4:30 pm – registration and light refreshments

4:30 7:00 pm – presentations and light refreshments

## Location:

Our Lady of the Annunciation, Church Hall,  
97 King Rd, Oak Ridges  
(Just west of Yonge St, on the south side of King Rd.)

To register for this workshop visit the following site:

<http://rto-ero.hs-sites.com/rpw-34-2017>

For further information contact:

John Pickett, workshop coordinator,  
rtorpw2017@gmail.com

or call 647-273-0790



## Singin' in the Rain

(at the St.Jacobs Country Playhouse)



By Susan Leppington

**H**ollywood in the 1920s is the setting for this zany, light-hearted romantic comedy about the early days of sound film, when a movie studio scrambles to salvage the career of its chipmunk-voiced silent picture star.

Hilarious situations, snappy dialogue, wonderful dance sequences and a hit-parade score including “Good Morning,” “Make ‘em Laugh,” and “Moses Supposes” make *Singin' in the Rain* a favourite for fans of the golden age of musical comedies.

### Date:

Wed, Mar 29, 2017

### Pickups:

9:15 am Newmarket,  
Upper Canada Mall,  
17600 Yonge St.,  
in front of former Target store

9:45 am Richmond Hill, Hillcrest Mall,

9350 Yonge St., in front of former Target store

### Approximate return:

6:45 pm Hillcrest Mall

7:15 pm Upper Canada Mall

Buffet Lunch at the Stone Crock Restaurant. Free time to wander in St. Jacobs before driving to the playhouse.

### Cost:

\$110.00 per person includes coach via Highway 407, lunch, theatre and gratuities

Make cheque payable to

**RTO/ETO District 34**

Registration, waiver form (pages 31 and 32) and cheque to be mailed to

**Susan Leppington,**

**162 Crossland Gate,**

**Newmarket On L3X 1A5**

**by February 17, 2017**



## Old Love

*By Craig Lee*

**O**ld Love, a Canadian Comedy, was written by Norm Foster.

The story has Bud working as a salesperson for a company owned by Molly's husband, Arthur. From their first encounter at a company party, Bud becomes infatuated with Molly, who seems amused, and occasionally annoyed, by his interest.

The play moves forward and back through their 25 years of sporadic encounters, mostly manufactured by Bud, with each character baring their heart and soul to the other and in poignant monologues. Some brilliant comedic moments are woven in along with a little dark humour at Arthur Graham's funeral.

In the second act, in a classic second-floor window scene, Bud and Molly not only make us laugh but remind us of how simple things can mean the most.

Date:  
Sunday April 2, 2017

Time:  
2:00 pm.

Location:  
150 Henderson Drive,  
Aurora  
(south end of Aurora west off  
Yonge St.)

Cost:  
\$20.00 per person

Please place your order by  
**March 14, 2017**

Send your registration with a  
cheque made out to:  
**RTO/ERO District 34 to:**  
**Craig Lee**  
**21 Lippincott Court**  
**Richmond Hill, ON L4C 7M5**

Tickets may be picked up at  
the box office on the day of  
the performance.

The registration form is found  
on page 33.



# Registration for RTO District 34 York Region Events

Please print.

Name of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Event: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost per person: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Deadline Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Participants' 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 for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ people at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each made out to:

## RTO/ERO District 34

Send your completed registration form with your payment to the address given in the event description.

**NOTE: If bus transportation is included in the price of the event, the signed waiver found on page 44 must be included with your registration.**

## 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
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Participant’s printed name	Signature	Date
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Participant’s printed name	Signature	Date
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Participant’s printed name	Signature	Date
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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Participants' 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 for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ people at \$\_\_\_\_\_ each made out to:

### RTO/ERO District 34

Send your completed registration form with your payment to the address given in the event description.

**NOTE: If bus transportation is included in the price of the event, the signed waiver found on page 44 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 web site.



## 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, Shelagh Harris, 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 Shelagh 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, contact Allianz Global Assistance within 48 hours of the emergency, or before medical attention is administered when the situation is non life-threatening. Contact with Allianz will ensure that your care is top priority and that the medical expenses for this unforeseen health condition are effectively monitored.

Johnson Insurance  
1-800-638-4041

Allianz Global Assistance  
1-800-249-6556



## 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](http://www.johnson.ca)

34th Story Website  
**Check our website at**  
**[www.34thstory.com](http://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 am to 4:30 pm  
Monday to Friday  
[www.rto-ero.org](http://www.rto-ero.org)

### DISTICT 34 MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Evelyn Lawrence  
905-642-5435 or  
[eplawrence@sympatico.ca](mailto:eplawrence@sympatico.ca).  
Questions regarding  
membership and newsletter  
mailings may be directed to  
Evelyn as well.

### DISTRICT 34 EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

[shelagh\\_harris@hotmail.com](mailto:shelagh_harris@hotmail.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?

**Write to tell us!**  
**c/o Grant Dale,**  
**49 Crystal Dr.,**  
**Richmond Hill, Ontario**  
**L4C 7Y5**  
**gdale@sympatico.ca**

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**  
November 15 for January  
February 15 for April  
July 15 for September

**RETURN UNDELIVERABLE  
CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:  
34th STORY, 7 Braid Bend  
Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1R7**

