



# 34th STORY

District 34 - York Region

Vol. 36 No. 1- January 2024

## *Park-O-Meter* An Oil Painting by George Keltika

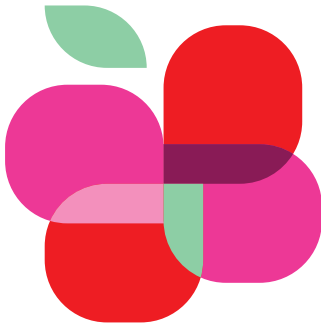


Join us online at [District34.rtoero.ca](http://District34.rtoero.ca)

## Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| District 34 York Region Executive 2023 - 2024 .....         | 4  |
| For Your 2024 Calendar .....                                | 5  |
| President’s Message .....                                   | 6  |
| Don’t Miss Out! .....                                       | 7  |
| Free Zoom Yoga.....   | 8  |
| Hava Java on Us.....  | 8  |
| Art Group .....   | 9  |
| Holocaust Museum September Tour.....                        | 10 |
| Join Us For a Walk.....                                     | 11 |
| Pristine - Antarctica.....                                  | 12 |
| Registration for RTOERO District 34 York Region Events..... | 13 |
| 2024 RTOERO Post-Secondary Scholarship.....                 | 14 |
| 2024 Distinguished Member Award .....                       | 15 |
| Murder On The Orient Express.....                           | 16 |
| To Hell With The Bell .....                                 | 16 |
| Community Grant Awarded .....                               | 17 |
| Olive Oil Tasting.....                                      | 18 |
| York Simcoe Nature Club .....                               | 18 |
| Supplemental Travel Insurance.....                          | 20 |
| Good Friends Are Like Snowflakes.....                       | 21 |
| Kindness Is Like Snow.....                                  | 21 |
| Fall Chocolate Tasting .....                                | 22 |
| Deathtrap.....  | 22 |
| Chocolate Tasting Revisited .....                           | 23 |
| Night Watch .....   | 24 |
| The Long Weekend .....                                      | 24 |
| Pharmacare Town Hall.....                                   | 25 |
| Blithe Spirit.....  | 28 |
| Political Advocacy Committee .....                          | 28 |
| Chelsea Moor Castle (or The Contract To Marry).....         | 30 |
| Retirement The Smart™ Way.....                              | 31 |
| Fun At The Fall Luncheon .....                              | 32 |
| Richmond Hill Philharmonic Orchestra .....                  | 34 |
| Sandra Bullock.....   | 35 |
| Elvis Presley.....  | 36 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Remembrance Day.....  | 36 |
| Community Grant Award.....                                  | 38 |
| Meet George Keltika.....                                    | 39 |
| Welcome New Members .....                                   | 43 |
| Pugwash.....  | 44 |
| Hallelujah Girls.....                                       | 44 |
| What Is the 2S In 2SLGBTQIA+.....                           | 45 |
| In Memoriam .....   | 46 |
| Bienvenue Oh Trout Lake.....                                | 47 |
| Beware of Buy And Sell Scams on Facebook .....              | 48 |
| Little Mermaid .....  | 49 |
| District 34 Continues to Place Benches in York Region.....  | 50 |
| Let's Play Ball.....  | 50 |
| District 34 Donates to Area Food Banks.....                 | 51 |
| Acknowledgement/Waiver/Release.....                         | 52 |
| Registration for RTOERO District 34 York Region Events..... | 53 |
| Find Us on The Web .....                                    | 54 |
| Advertising Events.....                                     | 54 |
| Changing Your Name, Address or Phone .....                  | 55 |



**RTO  
ERO**

**District 34 York Region  
Executive and  
Committee Chair  
Persons  
2023 - 2024**

**PRESIDENT**

Bob Sandiford.....289-231-7300  
bob.sandiford@sympatico.ca

**PAST PRESIDENT AND BENEFITS**

**CO-REP.**

Jose Fernandes.....416-818-8869  
jose.fernandes@rogers.com

**FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT AND  
POLITICAL ADVOCACY REP.**

Dave Szollosy.....905-722-1088  
daveszol@rogers.com

**SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT**

Paul Devlin.....416-949-6810  
11pdevlin@gmail.com

**PROJECT SERVICE TO OTHERS REP.**

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

**SECRETARY AND**

**EMAIL COMMUNICATION REP.**

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

**TREASURER**

Dan Reynolds  
treasurer34@districts.rtoero.ca

**MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR**

(Position Vacant)

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

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

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

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

**GOODWILL REP.**

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

**HEALTH BENEFITS CO-REP.**

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

**RECRUITMENT CONVENOR**

Cindy Ranieri.....905-889-7305  
cindy\_ranieri@hotmail.com

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR AND  
WEBMASTER**

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

**FOUNDATION REP.**

Richard Maurice  
(.maurice@teksavvy.com)

**SOCIAL CO-CONVENOR**

Ernie Polsoni.....905-773-5814  
ernpol@yahoo.ca

**SOCIAL CO-CONVENOR**

Susan Phillips..... 647-270-0471  
susancphillips@gmail.com

**EVENT PHOTOGRAPHER**

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

## For Your 2024 Calendar

### Zoom Yoga

Tuesday, January 9  
 Wednesday, February 7  
 Wednesday, March 6  
 Wednesday, April 3  
 Wednesday, May 1  
 Wednesday, June 5

### Join Us For a Walk

Wednesday, January 10  
 Wednesday, February 21  
 Thursday, March 21

### Hava Java

Wednesday, January 17  
 Thursday, February 15  
 Wednesday, March 13  
 Thursday, April 18  
 Wednesday, May 15  
 Thursday, June 13

### Murder on The Orient Express

Sunday, January 14  
 Friday, January 19

### Olive Oil Tasting

Monday, January 15

### Deathtrap

Wednesday, January 31

### Chocolate Tasting

Tuesday, February 6

### Night Watch

February 14 to 17

### The Long Weekend

Sunday, February 11  
 Saturday, February 17

### Blythe Spirit

Saturday, March 2  
 Friday, March 8

### Chelsea Moor Castle

Friday, March 8  
 Saturday, March 9  
 Friday, March 15  
 Saturday, March 16

### Richmond Hill

**Philharmonic Orchestra**  
 Sunday, March 10

### Pugwash

Wednesday, April 3

### Hallelujah Girls

Saturday, April 13  
 Thursday, April 18

**Bienvenue on Trout Lake**  
 April 24 to 27

### Little Mermaid

Saturday, April 27

### Let's Play Ball

Tuesday, June 4



***Bob Sandiford, President***

### President's Message

**H**appy New Year and welcome to 2024! Another spin around the sun has come to an end and another one begins. I hope everyone has enjoyed their holidays and been able to visit with friends, loved ones and family. Please take time to read through our latest copy of the *34th Story* so you don't miss out on any of our events over the next three months.

I welcome you to visit our district's website at [district34.rtoero.ca](http://district34.rtoero.ca) where you will find information on insurance questions, back issues of *The 34th Story*, our newsletter, and other interesting links to members benefits.

Remember if you want to receive our email updates on monthly activities, some changes of times or dates on events, or announcements for new events, please email us and we will add you to our distribution list. Contact Angela Stewart at [34thstoryreminders@gmail.com](mailto:34thstoryreminders@gmail.com).

The National office of RTOERO has recently informed us that for the next three years, fees for members who use the Entente Group Insurance Program will be zero. In addition, your partners will be able to join RTOERO shortly. However, those who do join, but acquire their health insurance from other carriers will be charged the regular annual membership fees.

If you are thinking of booking a big trip this winter, Johnson is now offering additional trip cancellation insurance for an added cost. Currently our trip cancellation covers up to \$6,000 per person; with this new option you can double your coverage to \$12,000 per person (cost posted online, for example: Single \$42.32/couples, \$84.64/family \$93.10).

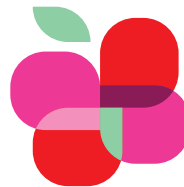
*MemberPerks*® is included with our membership and is one more reason to join RTOERO today, even if you're not ready to retire. *MemberPerks*® provides discounts on a wide range of products and services for health and wellness (i.e. GoodLife Fitness), travel, entertainment, and apparel including access to thousands of discounts from leading brands and local businesses across Canada.

Download the easy-to-use mobile app that puts the discounts and deals at your fingertips. On average, our members save more than \$200 per year. As of January first, we will have access to exclusive discounts on Telus products and services. Need help? Get direct assistance from our dedicated EPP program specialist or redeem online (Contact [amber.evans@telus.com](mailto:amber.evans@telus.com)) Accessing the program is easy by logging into Venngo - *MemberPerks*, search Telus, and register to access program.

I would like to thank our executive for all the work they put into the activities throughout the year. Once again please take the time to read our latest *34th Story*.

If you have comments, questions or ideas for new activities please contact me - [president34@districts.rtoero.ca](mailto:president34@districts.rtoero.ca).

On behalf of the executive, I wish you good health, happiness, and a thriving year ahead.



## Don't Miss Out!

*By Angela Stewart*

**D**istrict 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, and we don't want you to miss out on reminders, last minute events, and special notices.

If you would like to keep informed of all the wonderful events that District 34 has to offer, in the form of a monthly email, please contact Angela at:

[34thstoryreminders@gmail.com](mailto:34thstoryreminders@gmail.com)

## Free Zoom Yoga

By Angela Stewart



Enjoy a free yoga class in the comfort of your home. Our instructor offers a class for all levels and all abilities. For more information, feel free to visit her website at [rootedtrewellnessstudio.com](http://rootedtrewellnessstudio.com)

The sessions will take place the first Wednesday of the month, running from January to June at 6:30 p.m., with the exception of the January class which will start on a Tuesday at 7 p.m.

### Dates:

Tuesday, January 9th @ 7:00 p.m.  
(note, this is the second Tuesday of the month)

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Use the following link to sign up for one or more classes:  
[calendly.com/christinadefranco/rto-yoga](https://calendly.com/christinadefranco/rto-yoga)

## Hava Java on Us

By Regine Baker



District 34 members are invited each month to come out and enjoy a complimentary coffee or tea and a muffin, donut or other bakery treat. The agenda is simple – just relax and have a chin-wag or catch-up with former colleagues and new friends. Come alone or bring a non-member guest. Dates, times and locations are listed below.

Since this is one of our costliest activities, we ask that members limit themselves to coffee or tea plus one treat. Those who want



more treats or breakfast are asked to pay for these items themselves.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**Dates:**

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Thursday, June 13, 2024

**Times:**

10 a.m. to noon at all locations.

You are no longer required to contact Grant Dale to reserve a time for the central location.

**Locations:**

**South:**

The Old Curiosity Tea Shop  
91 Main Street

Markham, ON (Parking on Main Street, behind the tea shop or in the lot on the corner of Robinson and Main Street)

**Central:**

Cream and Sugar Café  
8910 Yonge Street

Richmond Hill, ON (west side of Yonge Street at Beresford Drive, parking in front)

**North:**

Tim Horton's  
Corner of Yonge and Millard Streets, Newmarket, ON

**Farther North:**

Black River Coffee  
126 High Street  
Sutton, ON (parking on street)



## Art Group

*By Ann Evans*

**W**e have several ideas in the works for future springtime activities.

For the moment, I would like to suggest gathering to share our ideas and endeavors. So far, there have been several interesting conversations!

I am looking for a new venue for future gatherings so if you have any thoughts, please let me know. Dates and locations are set up at each get together so please keep in touch.

## Holocaust Museum September Tour

By *Cindy Ranieri*

**O**n September 13, 2023, approximately 30 RTOERO members, along with their friends and family visited the Holocaust Museum in Toronto. It is quite close to York Region - south of Finch Avenue on the west side of Bathurst Street. (The cost is \$12 and space is limited so if you are planning a visit, it is probably best to purchase your tickets ahead of time.)

Our group was given a short introduction, followed by a video presentation. Then, we browsed the collection at our own pace. There were people inside the museum to answer our questions. Based on my prior knowledge and experience, I did find it a bit emotional but that was OK. History can be like that! Everybody is different and everyone's background is also different.

Inside the museum, you can move at your own pace but you can also return to the posters, story boards, videos and first-hand accounts as you need. I found the

first-hand reports of what people went through during the war to be the most compelling. The audio is very user-friendly and I was able to replay it as needed.

Check out their website - [torontoholocaustmuseum.org](http://torontoholocaustmuseum.org) as there are many groups who qualify for free admission which is granted to the general public (after 3 p.m.) on the third Wednesday of every month. Some members stayed and enjoyed a coffee and chit chat with others.



## Join Us For a Walk

By Ann Evans

**W**inter weather will soon be upon us but it is no time to stay cooped up.

During our walks, we always seem to have plenty to talk about and afterwards we can look forward to a hot coffee or chocolate at a nearby coffee shop.

As in previous years, we will confine ourselves to the north and south trails of Fairy Lake as they are always well maintained.

### Dates:

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Thursday, March 21, 2024

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

**Time:** 10 a.m.

Dress warmly and join us.

Thank you to Mark and Heather Cannata for sending these pictures of the October 18th walk at Sheppard's Bush!



# Pristine - Antarctica

*An 11" X 14" Acrylic Painting by Becky Cheung*



## Registration for RTOERO District 34 York Region Events

Please print this form. Note that your picture may be taken at this event and used in *The 34th Story* newsletter.

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

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

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone of Primary Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

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 ***RTOERO 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.**

## 2024 RTOERO Post-Secondary Scholarship

By Paul Devlin

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

This year RTOERO is awarding 20 scholarships valued at \$3,000 each to post-secondary (college or university) students enrolled in programs that lead to careers in either seniors' health and well-being; education; environmental stewardship; or that reflect a strong commitment to diversity, equity and/or inclusion.

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

Over the past 18 years, RTOERO has awarded scholarships totalling over \$600,000.

Eligibility:

- The applicant must be studying in a college or university program that leads to a career in either seniors' health and well-being; education; environmental stewardship; or that reflect a strong commitment to diversity, equity and/or inclusion.
- This includes fields such as: Health sciences; medicine; nursing; personal care; geriatric health care; research into healthy active living for seniors; architects, designers of age-friendly spaces, critical race studies and teaching careers in education.
- Students must be enrolled in their programs at the time of the application deadline (January 12, 2024).
- In addition to the completed application, the applicant must provide official Confirmation of Enrollment issued by the registrar from their post-secondary institution, in PDF format.

**This must be an official document issued by the college or university's registrar which demonstrates that the student is enrolled in their program at the time of submitting their application.**

PLEASE NOTE: Letters of acceptance to a program or unofficial documents such as a copy of a timetable, student account or transcript will not suffice.

- The applicant must be recommended by an RTOERO member.
- Successful applicants may be awarded the RTOERO scholarship only once
- RTOERO members themselves are ineligible to be awarded the scholarship
- Students are to fill out the application themselves, not the RTOERO member.

Please note that applications can be accessed via the "apply" button at [rtoero.ca/giving-back/scholarships/](http://rtoero.ca/giving-back/scholarships/).

**Note that the deadline to apply is January 12, 2024 at midnight. For more information contact [scholarship@rtoero.ca](mailto:scholarship@rtoero.ca).**

## 2024 Distinguished Member Award

*By Paul Devlin*

The District 34 Distinguished Member Award is given to a district member not currently serving on the District 34 Executive Council, in recognition of their outstanding and/or long-term contributions to the work of RTOERO at the District level.

Each year up to two members will be honoured with this award and be invited to attend the District 34 May Luncheon at no personal expense and receive a plaque and recognition by their colleagues.

To be eligible for this award a member must be nominated by a fellow district member. The nominator will submit an outline of the nominee's contributions to District 34 Second Vice-President, Paul Devlin, by March 31, 2024. The District 34 Executive Council will evaluate all nominations and determine the award recipient(s).

Send all nominations to [11pdevlin@gmail.com](mailto:11pdevlin@gmail.com).

## Murder On The Orient Express

By *Craig Lee*

### Theatre Aurora

**C**limb aboard the legendary Orient Express for an unforgettable journey of mystery and suspense. Adapted from Agatha Christie's classic novel, this thrilling production follows the world-famous detective, Hercule Poirot, as he races against time to solve a chilling murder before the killer strikes again.

### Dates and Times:

Sunday, January 14, 2024 at  
2 p.m. or

Friday, January 19, 2024 at  
8 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15

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

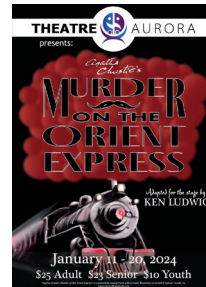
Please place your order by  
Tuesday January 2, 2024.

Make your cheque out to  
*RTOERO District 34* and send  
it along with your completed

registration form (pp. 13 and 53)  
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. Acknowledgements  
will be emailed upon receiving  
the registration form.



## To Hell With The Bell

By *Angela Stewart*

**H**ow do you celebrate  
the first day of school,  
knowing that you don't  
have to be there?

Here is a photo of some very  
happy retired educators who  
gather yearly on the first day of  
school (next page).

They meet at 10 a.m. at a coffee  
shop close to the school they  
retired from – because they can.



You may notice some of them are sporting a polo shirt with the BWC (because we can) logo. After a fun and entertaining catch-up, they head out to the parking lot to ring their bells.

Another group of educators, who are at their cottages, go out on to their decks and ring their bells. I think that would be a lot of fun.

How do you celebrate? We'd love to share your first day of school tradition in an upcoming *34th Story*. Please email me at [34thstoryreminders@gmail.com](mailto:34thstoryreminders@gmail.com). If you have a photo to share, be sure to have permission from everyone allowing us to publish it.



## Community Grant Awarded

*By Regine Baker*

In mid-October 2023, District 34 was thrilled to learn that RTOERO had approved our submission for the Community Grant. This proposal involving *Markham Little Theatre* was submitted by District 34 member Angela Stewart who has been involved with this organization for a number of years

The \$4,000 received will be used to improve the lighting in the theatre company's rehearsal hall. This involves installing an overhead structure on the stage to support the new lights.

Enhancements will also be made to the lighting in the audience area. The better lighting will enable the company to hold more productions, particularly matinees which are popular with seniors. Construction will begin in the near future and should be completed within a few months.

Congratulations to Angela Stewart and our best wishes for the success of the project.

## Olive Oil Tasting

By Ann Evans



The olive oil tasting in September was so greatly enjoyed by participants that it seems a good idea to set another date. Once again, we will learn about the many balsamic vinegars and oils. That there are so many may be an interesting surprise to you. I was amazed by variety of flavours of both vinegar and olive oils.

Participants will be guided through the tasting experience of the olive oils and vinegars by the capable staff. Following the tasting, we will enjoy a salad, fruit, and dessert to discover the pairings and flavour layers.

This event is limited to 20 people so please book early and please be sure of your commitment.

**Date:** Monday, January 15, 2024

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Cost:** \$15

### Location:

The Olive Oil Co.  
190 Main Street South  
Newmarket, ON, L3Y 3ZP  
Parking lots are behind both sides of Main Street. Sometimes parking can be an issue so carpooling may be a good idea.

Please register by January 9, 2024. Make your cheque out to *RTOERO District 34* and send it along with your completed registration form (pp. 13 and 53) to:

Ann Evans  
285 Eagle Street,  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 1J9

There are many restaurants on Main Street if you like the idea of lunch after the event. This event is partially subsidized by District 34.

## York Simcoe Nature Club

By Helene van Houten

Are you interested in nature? Do you want to learn more about the natural world? About local environmental and conservation issues? Do you want to be

involved in conservation activities?

York Simcoe Nature Club offers monthly guest speakers who share their expertise and passion for different aspects of nature and environmental and conservation issues. As stewards of Cawthra Mulock Nature Reserve, our members are involved in regular trail maintenance and monitoring, as well as conservation activities at the reserve.

Our members enjoy monthly nature walks, led by members of the club where we explore local forests and reserves.



*Club walk at Happy Valley on  
October 13, 2023*

We also provide a newsletter to members three times a year with interesting articles about nature, current environmental and conservation issues, club news and photos of nature sightings submitted by members.

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month from September to June at St. James the Apostle Anglican Church Hall at 18794 Leslie Street, Sharon. Our meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

Annual membership fees are: \$40 for a single and \$45 for a family.

For more information about the club, visit us on Facebook - YorkSimcoeNatureClub, or visit our website at [ysnatureclub.com](http://ysnatureclub.com).

You can also contact us by email at [yorksimcoenatureclub@gmail.com](mailto:yorksimcoenatureclub@gmail.com).

Guests are welcome for one free visit!

Our January speaker will be Laura Bowman from Ecojustice who will be speaking on “Pesticides: The Harbinger of the Coming Toxic Crisis”.

This meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 9, 2024.



## Supplemental Travel Insurance

By *RTOERO*

### Trip Cancellation and Interruption Coverage For Extra Coverage

The RTOERO travel plan provided with the Entente extended health care plan includes coverage for up to \$6,000 per insured, per trip for eligible expenses when you cancel, interrupt, or delay your trip due to one of the covered reasons.

You can now supplement your existing coverage when your trip value exceeds \$6,000 per insured as follows:

- purchase the supplemental trip cancellation and trip interruption plan for a specific trip to get coverage of up to \$12,000 per insured for that specific trip,
- choose single, couple or family coverage,

Read the Entente Insurance Program booklet for full details, as coverage is subject to the same terms and conditions as the Trip Cancellation and Trip Interruption Insurance Plan Certificate of Insurance of the RTOERO travel plan of your booklet – [rtoero.ca/resources/communicate-insurance-plan-updates](http://rtoero.ca/resources/communicate-insurance-plan-updates).

### Supplemental Travel Plan For Extra Days

The extended health care plan provides coverage for up to 93 days per insured person, per trip. If you're travelling for longer than 93 days outside your province or territory of residence, you can easily add coverage for extra days. It is customizable based on your needs and you can add five more days of coverage to extend trips up to 98 days, or extend your coverage in 15 day blocks.

Staying even longer? You can extend coverage while you're already on vacation. Coming home early? Downgrade if needed, and you'll receive a partial refund. Premiums are added to your regular monthly payment and deducted in equal monthly installments.

### Learn More

- For full details, including the premiums and application form, go to [rtoero.ca/insurance/supplemental-travel](http://rtoero.ca/insurance/supplemental-travel).
- Purchase the coverage or get your questions answered by a licensed Johnson Insurance representative by calling 1-877-406-9007.

Trip cancellation and trip interruption coverage for RTOERO members who are not in the extended health care plan is also available. To learn more, go to [rtoero.ca/insurance/trip-cancellation-interruption](http://rtoero.ca/insurance/trip-cancellation-interruption).

## Good Friends Are Like Snowflakes, All Different and Beautiful - *Anonymous*

*A Watercolour Painting By Ann Evans*



## Kindness Is Like Snow. It Beautifies Everything It Covers - *Kahil Gibran*

*A Watercolour Painting By Ann Evans*



## Fall Chocolate Tasting

By Angela Stewart

During the month of October RTOERO members were treated to a delicious chocolate tasting at *Cocoa 40* in Newmarket. The event sold out so quickly that a second date was added, and there are even more events being planned for February.

Participants were seated at tables with a glass of water, a chocolate tasting wheel, and a flight of chocolates. The glass of water came in handy because we had to cleanse our palates between chocolates. The tasting wheel was used to help us figure out all the complex flavours, and there were some interesting ones, i.e. petroleum refinery, burnt cigarette and lactic sour milk.

Thankfully those were only listed on the wheel, and not part of our samples. The generous flight of chocolates ranged from white (yes, white chocolate is actually chocolate) to strongly flavoured. My best advice is to take a small bite of each chocolate while it is being discussed, make some

notes on the paper provided, then bring the rest home to savour later.

If you can't attend an RTOERO sponsored class, arrange one with a group of friends, or drop by to shop their selection of dairy-free, gluten-free, vegan, nut-safe and soy-free options. It's worth a visit to see their seasonal displays and taste their gelato made from all natural ingredients.



## Death Trap

By Craig Lee

### A Curtain Club Production

Sidney Bruhl hasn't written a hit play for 18 years when he receives a script from a former student that's a guaranteed success... a chance to rise to the top once again. Is it a shot he'd be willing to kill for? This is a sharply funny thriller full of twists and turns to keep you guessing!

**Date:**

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

**Time:** 8 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15

**Location:**

Curtain Club Theatre  
400 Newkirk Rd.  
Richmond Hill (corner of  
Newkirk Rd. and Elgin Mill Rd.  
E.)

Please place your order by  
Wednesday January 17, 2024.  
Make your cheque out to  
*RTOERO District 34* and send  
it along with your completed  
registration form  
(pp. 13 and 53) to:  
Craig Lee  
21 Lippincott Court  
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 7M5

Tickets may be picked up on the  
night of the performance at the  
RTO table in the lobby at  
7:15 p.m. Acknowledgements will  
be emailed upon receiving the  
registration form.



## Chocolate Tasting Revisited

By Ann Evans

**A**s you read on the previous page, the chocolate tasting experience was so successful, we have decided to host another date!

**Date:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Cost:** \$25

(This event has been partially subsidized by District 34.)

**Location:**

Cocoa 40  
184 Main Street South  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 3Z2

Please register by February 1, 2024. Make your cheques out to *RTOERO District 34* and send it along with the completed registration form (pp. 13 and 53) to:  
Ann Evans  
285 Eagle Street  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 1J9

Seating is limited to ten participants but another date may be scheduled if there is enough interest.

## Night Watch

By Angela Stewart

A Markham Little Theatre  
Production - A menacing and  
suspenseful thriller by  
Lucille Fletcher

Unable to sleep, Elaine gazes out the window of her Manhattan townhouse and sees a dead man in the building across the way! Or does she? With twists and turns and ulterior motives galore, this psychological thrill ride will keep audiences guessing until the final curtain.

**Dates:** February 14 to 17, 2024

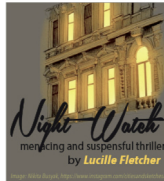
**Time:** 8 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15 each

**Location:**

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

Please note that District 34 is subsidizing this event. In order to get your discounted price, email Angela Stewart at [34thstoryreminders@gmail.com](mailto:34thstoryreminders@gmail.com).



## The Long Weekend

By Craig Lee

A Comedy by Norm Foster  
Newmarket Stage Company



When Max and Wynn invite their friends Roger and Abby up for a weekend at their country home, the true nature of their relationships comes to the surface. The truth and lies of a friendship come to the surface during a weekend visit between two couples. There are plenty of surprises along the way in this comedy of manners.

**Date:**

Sunday, February 11, 2024  
Saturday, February 17, 2024

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15

**NEW Location:**

Old Town Hall  
460 Botsford St.  
Newmarket (near Main St.S.)



Please place your order by January 30, 2024. Make your cheque out to *RTOERO District 34* and send it along with your completed registration form (pp. 13 and 53) to:  
 Craig Lee  
 21 Lippincott Court  
 Richmond Hill, ON L4C 7M5

Acknowledgements will be emailed upon receiving the registration form. Tickets may be picked up on the afternoon of the performance at the box office.

## Pharmacare Town Hall

By *Paul Devlin*

**O**n Monday, October 2, 2023 District 34, in conjunction with the Council of Canadians, hosted a Pharmacare Now Town Hall. People came together at the Aurora Community Centre to listen to and ask questions to panelists advocating for the implementation of a single-payer national pharmacare program.

Participants were treated to an easy to follow, but nevertheless, detailed history of the need for

pharmacare by Dr. Joel Lexchin who is a retired emergency physician from the University Health Network, an associate professor at the University of Toronto and professor emeritus from York University.



He was followed by Erin Little who gave a firsthand account of what it is like to raise a child who needs life-saving medications. Erin's thoughtful and emotional story touched people deeply and served as a reality check for all who may have been just exploring the need for pharmacare.

Dr. Lexchin pointed out that the need for pharmacare is not a new idea. He called it the unfinished business of Canada's public health system. In fact, it was first discussed in the 1965 Hall Report that eventually led to the introduction of Medicare in Canada. Pharmacare has been part of the national political

discussion constantly leading to the Liberal government promising to introduce legislation in 2019.

The three guiding principles of pharmacare are: equity, financial savings, and improved prescription policy. Dr. Lexchin provided polling results that showed that 86% of Canadians support pharmacare. This support comes from across the political and social spectrum of Canadian citizens.

The polling also revealed that people choose to go without prescription drugs because of the cost, or try to make a prescription last longer. People are suffering and dying because cost is limiting their access to necessary medications. Women and young workers are less likely to have the coverage they need. Even those with drug plans are paying ever-increasing co-payments and deductibles.

The Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare, in its 2019 report, found that one in five Canadians had either no drug coverage, or coverage inadequate to meet their needs. This council was chaired

by former Ontario health minister Dr. Eric Hoskins who states that now is not only the best chance to act on this issue, it may be the only chance for the foreseeable future.

Canada is the only developed country in the world with a universal health care program that does not include a universal prescription drug plan.

Dr. Lexchin also addressed the concern that pharmacare will cost too much. Total current spending on medications in Canada is \$28.5 billion per year. The parliamentary budget office estimates that a national pharmacare program will save \$8.1 billion per year. In fact, Canada spends more per capita on drugs than almost any other country. Canadian brand-name drug prices are higher than almost any other country.

The higher cost is attributed to a lack of government coordinated buying power. Pharmaceutical and private insurance companies can charge higher prices for drugs because they sell to so many buyers. Private insurance companies benefit by charging

employers, unions and employees to administer private drug insurance plans. A national single-payer program will reduce the overall cost of drugs.

Erin Little made all the data and statistics presented by Dr. Lexchin very real as she described caring for her 13 year-old daughter Olivia. Erin is a mother turned patient advocate for her daughter Olivia. She is the founder of “Liv-A-Little Foundation” and is fighting for pharmaceutical transparency and affordable rare disease drugs. Erin is committed to advocating for drugs that are safe, effective and affordable.

Olivia lives with the uncommon disease Cystinosis, a rare genetic condition that causes an amino acid called cystine to accumulate in her cells and form crystals that cause problems in her kidneys and eyes. Erin shocked the audience when she produced a table-top full of drugs that her daughter is required to take every month and explained that she spends hours searching for agencies that can help cover the cost of the medications.

Sky-high drug prices are taking billions from our hospitals, at a time when we need to massively re-invest to save public health care. While front-line health care workers have seen their workloads increase while their pay is capped, the cost of drugs has been rising by 7.1% per year since 2000, making it one of the fastest growing costs in the health care system.

Canadians pay some of the highest drug prices in the world, currently spending as much on prescription drugs as we do on doctors.

Our existing system is really a patchwork of programs and a “fill the gaps” federal pharmacare program would erode over time amid high administrative costs and inefficient infrastructure. Canadians can wield stronger bargaining power and enhance our bulk-purchasing ability by instituting a single-payer system at the federal level. A public, single-payer drug insurance plan, would bring Canada in line with every other country with a developed public health care system.

## Blithe Spirit

By Craig Lee

### Theatre Aurora

Prepare for a night of laughter and witty repartee with Noël Coward's timeless comedy. When a novelist's séance goes awry, he finds himself haunted by the mischievous ghost of his first wife, leading to a series of hilarious and unexpected consequences.

### Dates and Times:

Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 2 p.m.

or

Friday, March 8, 2024 at 8 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15

### Location:

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

Please place your order by Friday February 16, 2024. Make your cheque out to *RTOERO District 34* and send it along with your completed registration form (pp. 13 and 53) 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. Acknowledgements will be emailed upon receiving the registration form.



## Political Advocacy Committee

By Dave Szollosy

District 34 has been very active in establishing and maintaining relationships with our elected representatives and promoting RTOERO priorities.

Following the last municipal elections, the district reached out to the mayors and chairs of each of the 9 municipalities and Region and school boards.

In reaching out, we identified critical issues of importance for Canada's aging population and the generations of Canadians coming after us. These issues are:

- a coordinated seniors strategy, including income security, addressing social isolation, support for friend and family caregivers, options for aging at home and rights for seniors,
- availability of geriatric health care, including geriatric training for medical students, coordinated strategies to address the complex health needs of older adults, and acting to prevent and address elder abuse, and
- ongoing environmental stewardship for the survival of current and future generations, including the responsible use of resources, conservation and protection of air, land and water.

Many of the mayors responded by inviting members of the D34 Executive to a meeting where we discussed how Councils' decisions significantly impact the day-to-day lives of residents in relation to these priorities. For example, transportation is a factor in environmental stewardship and supporting the social inclusion of residents of all ages, efforts to ensure older adults stay politically and civically engaged help to address ageism and social

inclusion and councils' planning and stewardship of land and water are critical to future generations.

Continuing with this initiative the D34 Executive is meeting with York Region staff to discuss the proposed 2023 to 2027 York Region Plan to Support Seniors and the growing and diverse needs of seniors living in York Region, prior to the proposed Plan being brought forward to York Regional Council for consideration in early 2024. More on this will be reported in a subsequent issue of 34th Story.

In continuing our communication with federal Members of Parliament, Political Advocacy has written each of the 10 MPs representing ridings in York Region, encouraging them to sign the open letter regarding the violence in Israel/Palestine, already signed by more than 30 MPs calling for the following:

- the release of all hostages,
- an immediate ceasefire. Canada must act before more innocent children are killed,
- for Canada to do all in its power to facilitate the opening of a humanitarian corridor so that badly needed

humanitarian aid supplies can reach the innocent Palestinian people, and

- that Canada strongly stand up for international law. International law is clear that innocent civilians and all those not taking part in the fighting must on no account be attacked and must be spared and protected. Canada must remind all parties to this conflict of their responsibilities in this regard.

We also commended the MP who had already signed.

## Chelsea Moor Castle (or The Contract To Marry)

*By Jane Reynolds*

Chelsea Moor Castle is an original play by Michael Harms and Barb Scheffler with musical score from 10 of the Gilbert and Sullivan musicals.

At a grand estate somewhere in England, servants prepare to greet the new Earl of Chelsea Moor. The former earl had fallen to his death off the parapet, as had all the cursed earls before him.

The formidable Lady Bilkington schemes to have her daughter, Millicent, marry the new earl. Millicent is secretly in love with another. The castle ghosts are very interested in the unfolding proceedings.

The North Toronto Players arrive to entertain and agree to perform a play of true love and betrayal, written by Millicent's secret love. Will his play expose the Duchess' plotting? Will the new earl survive the castle curse? Will the ghosts be happy? Will the North Toronto Players have another theatrical triumph?

### **Evening Dates:**

Friday, March 8, 2024  
 Saturday, March 9, 2024  
 Friday, March. 15, 2024  
 Saturday, March 16, 2024

**Time:** 8 p.m.

### **Afternoon Dates:**

Sunday, March 10, 2024  
 Saturday, March. 16, 2024  
 Sunday, March 17, 2024

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Cost:** \$20 (children under 14 admitted free)

**Location:**

The Papermill Theatre  
 Todmorden Mills  
 67 Pottery Rd.  
 Toronto  
 (Exit the Don Valley Parkway S.  
 at the Bloor cut-off, veering right  
 for Bayview N. and turning right  
 on to Pottery Rd.)

Please place your order by  
 February 8, 2024. Make your  
 cheque payable to *RTOERO*  
*District 34* and send it along with  
 your completed registration form  
 (pp. 13 and 53) to:  
 Jane Reynolds  
 76 Harrison Avenue  
 Aurora, ON L4G 1E3

Tickets may be picked up on  
 the day of the performance  
 at the theatre box office. An  
 acknowledgement will be emailed  
 upon receipt of registration form.



## Retirement The Smart™ Way

By Dave Szollosy

**R**etirement the SMART™ Way (Stress Management and Resiliency Techniques) for Retired Educators is a one hour workshop based on our evidence-based program designed to address the needs of retired educators. This workshop helps participants learn tools to better manage life's transitions and cultivate emotional balance.

The one hour sessions consist of a short presentation, group discussions, movement, and experiential practices in mindfulness. The workshop is highly participatory, engaging, and interactive.



### ABOUT MINDFULNESS EVERYDAY:

Mindfulness Everyday is a Toronto based charitable organization that has assembled a







# Richmond Hill Philharmonic Orchestra

By Craig Lee

## Soundtracks

The influence of music on human behaviour has been studied since the dawn of time. Soundtracks across the ages have not only enhanced the movies we watch, but much of the music has become its own entity, for listeners to enjoy any time.

Soundtracks presents a mélange of music across the ages in film, with something for everyone that will make our hearts resonate.

**Date:** Sunday, March 10, 2024

**Time:** 8 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15

### Location:

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

Please place your order by  
Wednesday February 28 2024

Make your cheque out to  
*RTOERO District 34* and send  
it along with your completed  
registration form  
(pp. 13 and 53) to:

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

Tickets may be picked up at the  
box office a week before the  
concert (for box office hours  
contact 905-787-8811) or on the  
day of the performance.

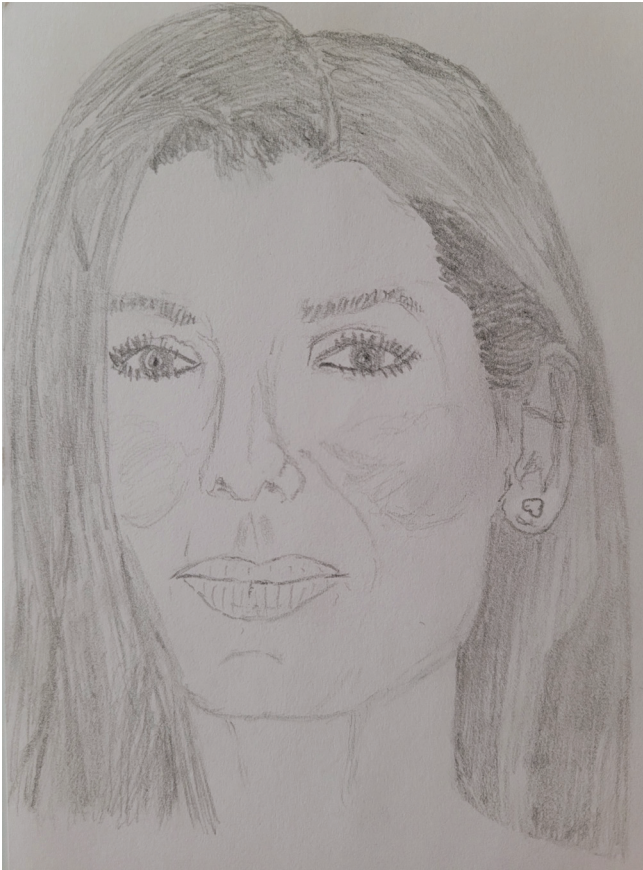
Ask for your tickets using your  
surname. Acknowledgements will  
be emailed upon receiving the  
registration form.

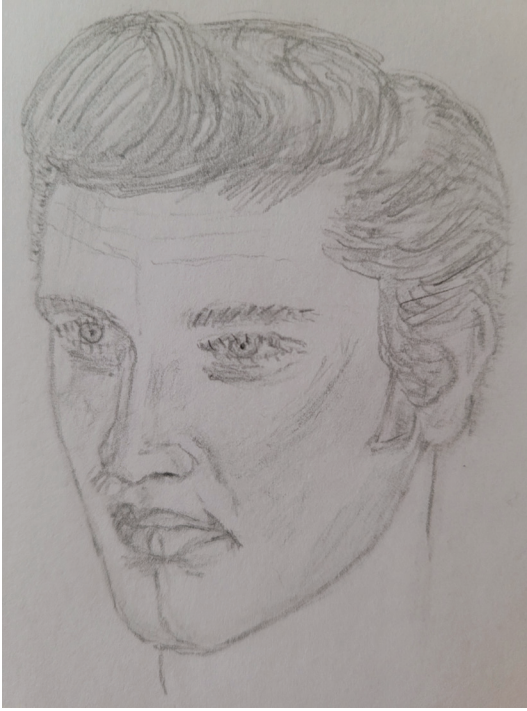


## Sandra Bullock and Elvis Presley

*6" x 8" Acrylic Drawings by Jeff Feldman*

Jeff began doing these drawings (of athletes first and now entertainers) at the beginning of the pandemic because he felt that doing something that he enjoyed while staying busy would help him maintain a positive attitude and good mental health. He uses a regular HB pencil.





## Remembrance Day

*By Cindy Ranieri*

**O**n Saturday November 11, some RTOERO members along with their families and friends met at the Richmond Hill Cenotaph to remember those who fought for our freedom. I am no longer in a York Region high school so I no longer have the privilege of watching the absolutely amazing Remembrance Day performances put on by our teens. So, with the current world events, I thought it even more important to attend a Remembrance Day ceremony this year.

The parade started at 10:30 a.m. and ended at the cenotaph. The poem “In Flander’s Fields” and the last post were performed. Mayor David West gave a short address followed by many York Region groups laying a wreath at the cenotaph. “Flights In”, a poem by Kanina Dawson about flying over the Gulf of Oman was heart-wrenching. Women in war is not new but women in combat is relatively new! Kanina Dawson spent 10 months in Afghanistan as a Canadian soldier. It is worth a read in its entirety. Freedom is not free.



## Community Grant Award

*By Regine Baker*

Each year RTOERO awards several grants of up to \$4,000.00 for community projects that benefit seniors in general and/or RTOERO members in particular. Each RTOERO District may submit only one application for this money.

District 34 members who are involved with a local charity or community group that is planning a project to begin within the next year are invited to send a brief outline (about 150 words) to be considered for submission by our local executive board. It should state the what, how, who, costs and time lines of the project and will be assessed on the basis of feasibility and practicality as well as merit.

The RTOERO application will be available online in February so that members may know what information they will be asked should their brief be chosen by the local Executive Board.

Briefs should be sent to [reginebaker@rogers.com](mailto:reginebaker@rogers.com) by April 25, 2024 so they may be considered at the May District 34 executive board meeting.

All applicants will be notified of the decision. The successful applicant will submit the completed Community Grant Application Form to RTOERO by May 21, 2024. The RTOERO Community Grant Committee will meet in September to consider all of the Districts' submissions.

It should be understood that this grant is NOT simply a donation to the work that is regularly conducted by the charity or group. It is for a particular project that is being undertaken outside of the usual. Examples of successful applicants are available at the RTOERO Community Grant website.

Any members with a question about his/her brief may contact Regine Baker at [reginebaker@rogers.com](mailto:reginebaker@rogers.com).

## Meet George Keltika

*By George Keltika and Chris Prefontaine*

**R**TOERO member George Keltika is another one of District 34's artists extraordinaire.



George retired as Head of Arts at Pickering College in Newmarket where he worked as a teacher for 25 years. While at Pickering College, he not only taught visual arts and art history but also instructed students in film making, music, drama, digital photography, Photoshop, animation and 3D modelling.

Originally from Windsor Ontario, George graduated with a B.F.A. in 1979 and then a B.Ed. in 83'. His diverse background includes working as a pictorial artist for an advertisement company, instructing life drawing at St. Clair College (Windsor), to teaching at a northern Ontario First Nations reserve (Sandy Lake). After university, he helped found Windsor's first and only artist run gallery "Artcite" that is still thriving after 38 years.

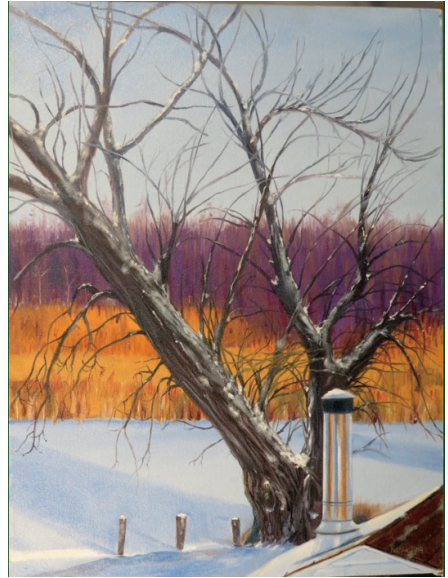
*Raking Light - Manitoulin  
Island*



Although George has been exhibiting his paintings for the past 40 years, retirement has again afforded him new opportunities to immerse himself back with his art and by extension, a community of artists.



*Junk Truck*



*My Favourite View*

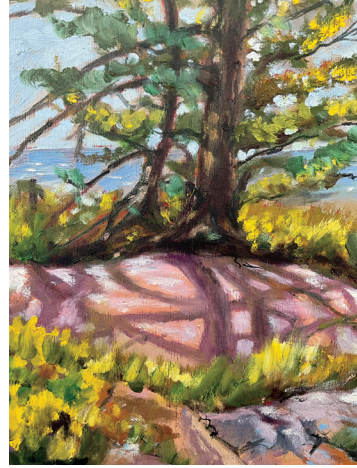
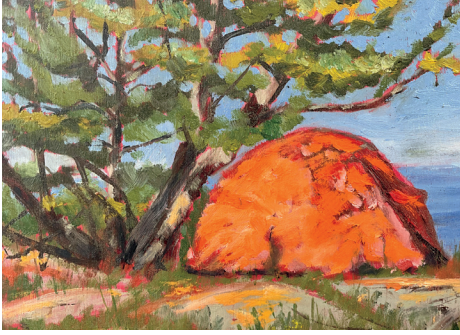
The colder months find George at his easel painting unconventional interpretations of his local environment. During this time, he relies exclusively on photos as his reference and can complete his larger pieces in studio. His winter paintings are his most experimental. His favourite medium is working with oils with very little solvents.

*Windy Cold Winter Day*





In the summer, George dabbles in traditional plein air sketches during canoe camping trips. During these sessions he is able to complete two paintings per day and they are the ones that sell the most.



Paintings emerge from George's studio on an ongoing basis. He has amassed a large body of work. Many of his pieces have sold and are in private collections.



*Spring Thaw*



*Precarious Ice*

George is a member of The East Gwilimbury Group of Artists, the Mount Albert Group of Artists and the Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA). Some of his past shows are “The Fall Equinox Art Exhibit” which is the annual SOYRA art exhibit. His work could also be seen at “Small Works” for the Christmas show and sale which ran from December 1 to December 15 in the Skylight Gallery, Aurora Town Hall.

Another Winter Solstice exhibit is coming-up in January, 2024 in the East Gwilimbury Civic Centre.

Currently, George has a website ([georgekeltika.com](http://georgekeltika.com)) that provides a catalogue of the paintings for sale. His Facebook page (The Art of George Keltika) also provides examples of his paintings. Besides painting or taking photographs, George also loves to canoe and cycle.

## Welcome New Members

By Lori MacDonald-Blundon

Since our last newsletter was printed, the national office has informed us that the following have become members of RTOERO 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 RTOERO District 34, I extend a warm welcome to these new Members within our ranks:

Jean Abreo  
Lori Baskin  
Heinrich Bebie  
Beryl Booth  
Gianna Brentel-Di Iorio  
John Carlaw  
Richard Christian  
Tony Conte  
Tracy Cullen (Trotter)  
Ginette Denomme  
Carolyn Dewulf  
Franca DiLorenzo  
Deborah Kassoy  
Wing Tim Kwok

Malcolm Leslie  
Maria Meffe  
Reginald Myler  
Nella Quintieri  
Bruce Richard  
Wolfgang Richter  
Perminder Sandhu  
Sukhjinder Sandhu  
Susan Silverberg  
Heather Slapack  
Laurie Thomas  
Jerry Walker



## Pugwash

By Craig Lee

### A Curtain Club Production

It's 1957. In an effort to understand the devastating effects of radiation, leading scientists and academics are invited to a conference in the small town of Pugwash, Nova Scotia. Based on this event, Pugwash is an intelligent and thoughtful play that is relevant in many ways to today's political climate, while shedding light on an intriguing local story.

**Date:**

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

**Time:** 8 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15

**Location:**

Curtain Club Theatre  
400 Newkirk Rd.  
Richmond Hill (corner of  
Newkirk Rd. and Elgin Mill Rd.  
E.)

Please place your order by March 13, 2024.

Make your cheque out to:  
*RTOERO District 34* and send it along with your completed registration form (pp. 13 and 53) to:

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

Tickets may be picked up on the night of the performance at RTO table in the lobby from 7:15 on. Acknowledgements will be emailed upon receiving the registration form.



## Hallelujah Girls

By Craig Lee

### Newmarket Stage Company

In Eden Falls, Georgia, five best gal-pals set out to start a new life by renovating an old church into their dream beauty parlor – the SPA-DEE-DAH!

When their arch-rival announces she will stop at nothing to shut them down, the ladies band together to keep their dream alive. Mix in the arrival of a sexy

ex-boyfriend, an unexpected marriage proposal, and an unwelcome demolition crew, and you've got a side-splitting, joyful comedy that will make you laugh out loud and shout "Hallelujah!"

**Dates:**

Saturday April 13, 2024 or  
Thursday April 18, 2024

**Time:** 2 p.m.



**Cost:** \$15

**Location:**

Old Town Hall  
460 Botsford St., Newmarket  
(near Main St.S)

Please place your order by March 28, 2024. Make your cheque out to: *RTOERO District 34* and send it along with your completed registration form (pp. 13 and 53) to:

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

Acknowledgements will be emailed upon receiving the registration form. Tickets may be picked up on the afternoon of the performance at the box office.

## What Is the 2S In 2SLGBTQIA+

*Written for RTOERO by Shaneeka Forrester, Cree artist, mother and advocate from Brunswick House First Nation, planting roots in Simcoe County, Ontario.*

Many of us are now familiar with the acronym 2SLGBTQIA but may still have some questions as to what the 2S portion stands for. 2S refers to a group of Indigenous individuals who identify as “two-spirited,” which is seen as a third gender in many communities.

Two-spirit describes individuals who are able to identify with many gender roles, even those that are not typically practiced by their birth-assigned gender. Two-spirited individuals have the ability to exist beyond Eurocentric understandings of gender and can exist in many roles that are traditionally assigned to one gender.

Traditionally, two-spirited individuals were held in high regard by their community for their unique ability to see the world through more than

one lens. Many Indigenous communities revered two-spirited individuals as people of high value for their gift.

Prior to 1990, there was not a unified term used to describe these unique individuals across Turtle Island. The term two-spirit was the result of a conference that took place in Winnipeg in 1990. Attendees at the Third Annual Inter-Tribal Native American, First Nations, Gay and Lesbian American Conference discussed the term over a span of five days. Since the development of the term, it has undergone scrutiny but has gained more and more popularity among Indigenous individuals who identify with its meaning.

Many Indigenous communities have a term in their language to describe gender-variant members of their community and may not welcome the use of the term two-spirit. Like all knowledge shared about Indigenous communities, it is best to respectfully ask questions to ensure you are using the appropriate terminology.

## 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.**

Yin Fong Au  
 Barbara Beatty  
 Kenneth Beck  
 Douglas Booth  
 Richard Burnett  
 Carole Carlaw  
 Linda Caskie  
 Beverley Christian  
 Patricia A Daley  
 George Easey  
 Cathy Forza  
 Jocelyn Gauthier-Kennedy  
 Adair Gilmour  
 Terry Gluck  
 Muriel Hackett  
 Wayne Harris  
 Catherine Hughes  
 Shirley Hutchison  
 Darshan Jhawar  
 Werner Jurgeneit  
 Beverly Long  
 Joseph Lovsin  
 Doris Mabson  
 Margaret Masterson  
 Daphne McLellan  
 William Oliver  
 Bettyanne Pajot

Marilyn Rushton  
 Jean Stewart  
 Mildred Stone  
 Cynthia Wheeler



## Bienvenue Oh Trout Lake

*By Angela Stewart*

A Markham Little Theatre  
 Production - A midlife crisis  
 comedy by Neil Marr

**M**ax, Keith, and Stan decide to celebrate their fiftieth birthdays up at the lake. They hope for a little golf, a little music, and a lot of reminiscing. But when Stan brings his new wife along for the weekend, their plans don't go quite as expected. Pull up a deck chair and join the group of friends in this entertaining comedy.

**Dates:** April 24 to 27, 2024

**Time:** 8 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15

**Location:**

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

Please note that District 34 is subsidizing this event. In order to get your discounted price, email Angela Stewart at [34thstoryreminders@gmail.com](mailto:34thstoryreminders@gmail.com).



## Beware of Buy And Sell Scams on Facebook

By RTOERO

Facebook Marketplace and other buy-and-sell sites can be great places to get a deal, but sadly, there's also the risk of scams. Scams on Facebook Marketplace include:

**Phishing** – Phishing are scams that get you to provide personal information without realizing it. It happens through links to fake websites, messages, or emails asking you to provide verification codes or account information.

**Buyer scam** – Someone claiming they didn't receive the item from you, not paying, or reporting the transaction as fraud after they received the item.

**Seller scam** – Someone tries to sell items without delivering the item. This can include asking you to send a deposit for a high-value item.

**Listing scam** – a listing is fake or dishonest or lures the buyer off Facebook to complete the transaction.

Scams on buy-and-sell sites could happen to anyone. There are some general tips you can follow to avoid falling victim:

- if something seems too good to be true, it likely is,
- review the seller's profile and Facebook account to assess whether they're real. See other things they're selling and ratings they've received,
- if you aren't sure if it might be a scam, ask someone else for another opinion or avoid the transaction,
- if selling an item, don't let them leave with the item before funds are received,
- don't share your financial information, and
- don't send deposits before verifying the item. Go see it. For high value items, such as a luxury handbag, you can also ask for proof of purchase or certificate of authenticity.

If you feel something may be a scam, you can report it to Facebook. If you are scammed, you can also report it Facebook.



## Little Mermaid

By Craig Lee

**M**arquee Theatrical Productions presents the family favourite musical “Disney’s The Little Mermaid”. Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen’s most beloved stories and the classic animated film, Disney’s The Little Mermaid is a hauntingly beautiful love story for the ages. This fishy fable will capture your heart with its irresistible songs, including “Under the Sea”, “Kiss the Girl” and “Part of Your World”.

**Date:** Saturday, April 27, 2024

**Time:** 1 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15

**Location:**

New Roads Performing Arts Centre (formerly Newmarket Theatre) 8505 Pickering Cres. Newmarket (south off Mulock Drive)

Please place your order by Thursday, April 5, 2024.

Make your cheque out to *RTOERO District 34* and send it along with your completed registration form (pp. 13 and 53) to:

Craig Lee

21 Lippincott Court

Richmond Hill, ON L4C 7M5

Acknowledgements will be emailed upon receiving the registration form.



# District 34 Continues to Place Benches in York Region



*Shepards Bush In Aurora*



*Keswick Bench in Watson Park*

## Let's Play Ball

*By Paul Devlin*

Come out to the renovated Rogers Centre and join us for our annual RTOERO District 34 "Night at the Ball Park".

**Date:** Tuesday, June 4, 2024 (Loonie Dog Night)

**Time:** 7:05 p.m.

**Cost:** \$35

**Location:** Rogers Centre



More details to follow in the April newsletter.

Contact [11pdevlin@gmail.com](mailto:11pdevlin@gmail.com) or 416-949-6810 for more information.

# District 34 Donates to Area Food Banks



*Markham Foodbank*



*Aurora Food Pantry*



*Richmond Hill Community Food Bank*



*Kind Township Food Bank*



*Whitchurch/Stouffville Food Bank*



*York Region Food Bank*



*East Gwillimbury Food Bank*

## Acknowledgement/Waiver/Release

This form is only required for bus trips.

The participants in \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_ (the “Event”) acknowledge and agree that RTOERO, 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 RTOERO 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 |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|

**Please print participants’ names and dates. Send along with the registration form to the event organizer.**

# Registration for RTOERO District 34 York Region Events

Please print this form. Note that your picture may be taken at this event and used in *The 34th Story* newsletter.

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

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

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone of Primary Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Bus Pick-up: (if included in the price of the event); (check only one): |   |
| Newmarket Location <input type="checkbox"/>                             | Richmond Hill Location <input type="checkbox"/> |

Meal choice (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a cheque made out to **RTOERO 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.**

## 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*

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 RTOERO 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 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

Johnson Inc.  
RTOERO Health Benefit  
Plan Administrator

**Service** 1-877-406-9007  
416-920-7248

**Claims** 1-800-638-4753  
905-764-4888

**Website**  
johnson.ca



*34th Story* Website

**Check our website at  
District34.rtoero.ca**

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

## Changing Your Name, Address or Phone

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

### RTOERO NATIONAL 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  
rtoero.ca/

### DISTRICT 34 Temporary MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Chris Prefontaine  
7chris.prefontaine@gmail.com  
Questions regarding membership and newsletter mailings may be directed to Chris 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 Drive  
Maple, ON L6A 2G6**

