

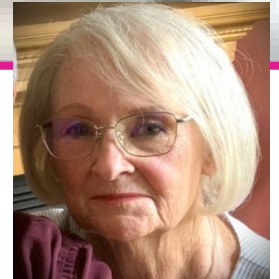


BRANT DISTRICT 40



**A better future, together
Ensemble pour un avenir meilleur**

Summer 2023



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is upon us. Alleluia! I love the Spring and Summer Seasons.

Lots of gardening, outdoor activities, entertaining on the patio or at the cottage, communing with nature, travelling around our own part of the world and beyond. Life is grand! The challenge is to live healthy, vibrant lives discovering parts of our country not visited yet; and to make a difference for people along our path. Enjoy the journey!

RTOERO is an important part of our retirement journey. Keith and I recently returned from our National Annual Meeting and Forum. It is an opportunity for us to participate, on your behalf, in the governance of our organization and to renew our commitment to what it is able to do for RTOERO members and seniors across Canada.

The Three Pillars of Our Strategic Plan, which is in place until 2025 are for RTOERO to:

- ◇ Be the trusted voice for the broader education community,
- ◇ Improve the lives of members and seniors and
- ◇ Broaden the membership base.

Toward that end, we are the bilingual trusted voice on healthy, active living in the retirement journey for the broader education community. With more than 83,500 members in 51 districts across Canada, we are the largest national provider of non-profit group health benefits for education retirees. We welcome members who work in or are retired from the early years, schools and school boards, post-secondary and any other capacity in education. We believe in a better future together! 3,233 new members joined RTOERO in 2022. Of our 83,500 + members, 100,410 lives are insured under our benefits plan.

Volunteerism: Many of you completed a survey in the past year reporting 64% of members are active volunteers in some capacity completing an average of 20 hours/month. Your Executive is part of that 64%. Be sure to extend your appreciation to them for their role on your behalf as well.

Report from the Annual Meeting And Forum

In 2022 there were 22 community based grants donated for a total of \$87,471. Brant received \$4000 of that for the Men's Shed research to determine if such an organization would be of benefit to Brantford-Brant. As a result of that study a group of local senior men are in the process of trying to start up such a project locally. Watch for more information to come on this initiative. *(Continued on pg. 8)*

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District Forty website

Check out the District 40 Website at

<https://rtoero.ca/>

For Events, Newsletters, Trips & Tours,
Opportunities to Volunteer, and more.

'Like' our District 40 Facebook Page

<https://m.facebook.com/RTOERODistrict40Brant/>.

Great page to keep up-to-date with items of social interest.

Want to promote a community event?
Email Barb Rogelstad, Webmaster

rogieba@rogers.com

Cathy Dailey, Social Media

cathmd26@gmail.com



Change of address or personal info?

Please make sure to let RTO know!

RTOERO office: 1-800-361-9888

or RTOERO website

<http://www.rtoero.ca/>



Pres. ~ Betty Anne Whitney - president40@districts.rtoero.ca

Past Pres ~ Keith Gloster - keithgloster1@rogers.com

First Vice ~ open

Second Vice ~ open

Governance ~ Dave Haylock - david.haylock@hotmail.com

Sec. ~ Janet Rubas - rubasjl@gmail.com

Treas. ~ Mieke Schroeder - schroederhbj@gmail.com

Goodwill ~ Margaret Gillan - mlgillan@gmail.com

~ Shirley Latulippe - shirleylatulippe@rogers.com

Tours ~ Lori Chisholm - lorichisholm@rogers.com

Newsletter ~ Jane Goldspink - gingergoldspink@gmail.com

Webmaster ~ Barb Rogelstad - rogieba@rogers.com

Social Media ~ Cathy Dailey - cathmd26@gmail.com

Health ~ Dave Haylock - david.haylock@hotmail.com

Membership ~ Lynn Haylock - rtobrant40membership@gmail.com

Breakfast/Luncheons ~ Christine Hazell - rtobrant40events@gmail.com

Political Advocacy ~ open

Members at Large ~ Gerry Fuss - jgfuss@hotmail.com

~ Jim Harder - jimharder@hotmail.ca

Please consider joining the executive team! We have openings in the above categories, or you might want to be a Member at Large, or even an "ad hoc" member sharing a specific skill. Contact any executive member!



Saturday, March 4th, at the Brant Curling Club marked the end of the 10-year ***Gord Osmond Trivia Challenge*** journey.

I know that I had an enjoyable evening and it is definitely best to end on a high note.

10 years ago when the idea of a Trivia Challenge germinated, June Szeman and Gord Osmond were fellow members of the Brant 40 Executive. A lot of water has passed under the bridge since then, and I don't know what I was thinking.

First Gord passed away, then June passed away. They were huge supporters of my idea and initial attempts. We began at the Sonnenhoff, then the Dunsdon Legion, then Zoom, and finally in the Brant Curling Club lounge.

After Gord left us, and after marking ALL the answers from ALL the teams that first year, I decided to name the Challenge after him. A couple of years ago, I proposed a Zoom version of short 15 minute games, and then the full Challenge also on Zoom. NOW, what was I thinking? It was obvious that the series of 4 ***Just4fun Practice games*** would be named after June.

The first year there were a few teams, and everything was 100 short verbal questions. On March 4, the 100 PowerPoint questions consisted of: 371 slides; more than 500 graphics files; more than 80 video files; more than 200 audio files; a bunch of other files; a computer, expansion drive, projector, screen and speakers. And, oh, yes, 7 determined teams, and 1 Quizmaster.

For the first time in our history, there was a tie – for third place. It took 7 questions before the eventual winners were determined: “The Know-it-all” Dave and Lynne H, and Brenda and Doug M., each took home a box of *Smarties*.

The second place team “Meghan’s Marvels,” Meghan C, Jan T, Randy J, and Michele D, each took home a paltry cash prize.

The “50 Shades of Grey Matter” team, winners of a meagre cash prize, plus the always-sought-after keeper trophies, were John P, Corrie P, Nikki M, and Mark F.

That ended my run at fun!

I have to thank all those who have helped over the years, whether by helping out, by offering advice or criticism, by participating, by donating, or in any other way. I cannot underline further my thanks for the confidence the District 40 Executive has had in this. Although last, certainly not least, I thank my wife, Margaret.

This year’s event sent more than \$300 to the RTO Foundation, which spends its donations on Gerontology research projects.

Noel Beach



A sincere THANK YOU to Noel for all he has done as the Trivia Quizmaster for us over the years. We look forward to his continued involvement in Brant District 40 events.

Things to Celebrate

June is 'Seniors' Month and 'National Indigenous' Month

June 15 — World Elder Abuse Day

June 21 — Fathers' Day

July 1 — Canada Day

August 7 — Civic Holiday



At the Annual Meeting Brant, District 40 was asked to provide the In Memoriam for those RTORO members who had passed away during the last year. Here is what we submitted:



Throughout their lives, those who have worked in education touched the lives of so many. The same is true of RTOERO members who have passed. Each has left a mark and we will never know what that impact has meant. Let us remember the difference they each made in the lives of others. This applies doubly to those members of Brant 40 who have passed.

Living a life that matters is matter of choice. Choosing education is choosing to live a life that matters.

I am always with you
When I am gone, release me, let me go.
I have so many things to see and do,
You mustn't tie yourself to me with too many tears,
But be thankful we had so many good years.
I gave you my love, and you can only guess
How much you've given me in happiness.
I thank you for the love that you have shown,
But now it is time I traveled on alone.
So grieve for me a while, if grieve you must
Then let your grief be comforted by trust
That it is only for a while that we must part,
So treasure the memories within your heart.
I won't be far away for life goes on.
And if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I will be near
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear
All my love around you soft and clear
And then, when you come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and a "Welcome Home".

<https://elegantmemorials.com/in-loving-memory-poems>

Retirement Planning Workshops

Do you know someone who will be retiring soon? RTO-ERO is hosting **Virtual Retirement Planning Workshops!**

To register go to: <https://rtoero.ca/events/retirement-planning-workshops/>

The comprehensive session covers what you need to know to prepare for retirement.

- ◆ Benefits of activating your free RTOERO membership while you are still employed
- ◆ Planning for your financial future
- ◆ Your pension
- ◆ Health benefit for retirees, including the advantages of group insurance
- ◆ How RTOERO benefit plans can help secure your future
- ◆ Retirement insights from your peers



Our session is for everyone from the education community whether you are retiring this year or considering retirement in the next few years.

- ◆ Private schools, First Nations, public/Catholic schools and school boards
- ◆ Early years of staff
- ◆ Post-secondary faculty and staff
- ◆ Ministries of Education, education associations, student transportation

And an **In - Person RPW** is coming to Brant in the Fall. Tell your friends who will be retiring in the next 5 years to watch for news about that. Everyone considering retirement from the education field should attend a Retirement Planning Workshop to help plan for that special day!

RTO BRANT 40 GIVES

Each year, RTO Brant 40 gives a \$300 scholarship at each of the high schools in Brantford/Brant. Members have volunteered to represent Brant District 40 at the graduation by presenting the scholarship in person.

Thank you to those members who have volunteered to represent us at the various schools. As you can see we still need a few members to step forward to do a few schools. Please contact Mieke (schroederhbj@gmail.com) if you can take on that task.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| ◆ North Park - Penny MacKenzie | ◆ Assumption - |
| ◆ Brantford Collegiate - Barb Rogelstad | ◆ St. John's - Mary Jane Cochran |
| ◆ Pauline Johnson - Edie Lewis | ◆ GELA - |
| ◆ Tollgate - Brian Quistberg | |



This is an E-Newsletter only.



Please share with any members who do not have e-mail or choose not to share it with us. Encourage them to share. This would save printing and mailing costs **and would help the environment too!**

Lori's recommendations for some local travel and some travel further afield.

Head to the Tasty Road Trips web-site with Spicy Jan. We've done two of her tours in District 40 and everyone was really pleased with our wee jaunts around the county. She has tons of exciting – but relaxing – options with a focus on supporting local. She's currently teasing a scavenger hunt in collaboration with the Arlington Hotel in Paris. She certainly has piqued my interest with that hint. I love everything she does! <https://www.tastyroadtrips.com>

RTO has a partnership with Merit Travel with discount specials for RTO members. These include discounts on Sunquest Vacations and Exotik Tours, shipboard credits, long stays. They'll even do long stays for RTO District groups! The dedicated # for RTOERO is 1-877-872-3826.

If you are a foodie like I am, try travel and cooking. Yetunde and Chef Eric run cooking weeks in Seville, Paris and Uzès, France. I did the latter in September 2021 and thought it was fantastic value – it's pricey, yes, but truly worth every penny. I'm about to sign up for their Seville week in November, 2024.

Yetunde and Eric should have their free on-line cooking workshops up and running again soon. I survived Covid boredom with these great classes. <https://letseattheworld.com/>

Consider putting together a group of friends – couples, buddies, clubs, it doesn't matter – and requesting a small-group tour from your favourite travel agent. A group of 8,10 or 12 can often get better prices than a pair traveling alone. Contact me for some advice if you'd like. lorichisholm@rogers.com

I am booking an e-biking tour with Road Scholar in 2024. This is a not-for-profit travel company for over-50 lifelong learners. They have something for everyone – all over the world. Visit their web-site for a look-see: <https://www.roadscholar.org/>

Enjoy!



GOLF IS BACK!

After a long absence, our RTO members enjoyed nine holes of golf at the Walter Gretzky Municipal course on Wednesday, May 17th. Despite cool temperatures, the sun shone brightly for a fine afternoon. Golfers gathered afterwards in the new clubhouse for food, beverages and prizes.

- Winners:**
- Closest to the pin - Doug Voss and Jill Leedham.
 - Longest drive—Sharon Boyd and Jim Timms.
 - Putting contest Lynn Haylock, Dave Haylock and Cathy Mills Dailey.
 - All the participants were winners!



Our thanks to Mary Jane Cochrane, Lori Chisholm, Jim Harder, Keith Gloster and Betty Anne Whitney for their help before and during the day. Hopefully, Golf will continue to be a yearly event enjoyed by many of our members.



Shirley Latulippe, - Golf Convenor

Scholarships: In the past year, 20 students received \$60,000 in scholarships as they attended post-secondary program in education and health care. Be sure your children and grandchildren consider applying at: <https://rtoero.ca/giving-back/scholarships/>

VIBRANT VOICES (vibrantvoices.ca) is the primary tool used by RTOERO to carry the message to our membership and to the municipal, provincial and federal politicians of Canada:

- To share common messages during election campaigns.
- For Webinars that build common language and understanding.
- To expand our reach with elected officials.

Our key advocacy issues include:

- Geriatric Health Care - By 2030, one in four Canadians will be seniors. Our Health care systems needs to change to serve this population.
- Seniors strategy – A coordinated National Seniors Strategy and policies with dedicated funding and accountability is mandatory.
- Environmental Stewardship - Responsible use of resources, conservation, protecting our air, land and water are all critical to a sustainable future.

Membership: Members of all 51 districts along with nine members of the Board of Directors, 1 CEO, 31 staff members, more than 15 partnership organizations and 51 local Executives work collaboratively to achieve our Strategic Plan Goals.

Partnerships: RTOERO partners with like-minded organizations, who share issues of concern across Canada, to strengthen our impact and enhance services for our members and all seniors. In addition, Brant District 40 shares information with many local organizations. This past year, I have shared information with you from CARP Canadian Association of Retired Persons, CFUW Canadian Federation of University Women, GRCOA Grand River Council on Aging to name a few.

RTOERO Foundation

The Foundation's work is inspired by RTOERO's long history of giving back. We engage RTOERO members and our community of generous donors and work with researchers and community partners to create a more age-friendly future for all of us.

- 11% increase in revenue from monthly donors
- 38% increase in annual revenue
- 24 projects funded since 2011.

Watch the Newsletter, the Brant 40 website and Facebook, the county of Brant and city of Brantford websites and Facebook pages for local activities that may interest you over the summer and Fall season. Join us whenever you can. Call me or other members of the Executive with any ideas for membership activities or any related issues you may encounter.

May the Goddess of Summer shine on you always.

Betty Anne



Thanks to our members for their continued support of Goodwill. We appreciate your communication. Please keep us informed of passings and significant occasions or illness in the lives of our members. A donation to the RTOERO Foundation is given in memory of our members who have passed.

Shirley Latulippe (shirleylatulippe@rogers.com)

Margaret Gillan (mkgillan@gmail.com)



Issues regarding Bill 60

On May 8 the Ford government passed Bill 60. Below are some critical issues with Bill 60 and rationale as to why they are significant for us.



1. There are provisions in the Bill that will enable the government to appoint persons or corporations who are **not employees of the Ministry of Health** who will be allowed new powers to create new private clinics, expand privatization to new classes of public clinics and services, expand private clinics, oversee transfer of licenses, and plan where and how many services will be provided.
Rationale: This person or persons will **not be subject to** conflicts of interest, financial disclosures, freedom of information and reporting regulations which currently cover public servants.
2. **Deregulation** of the definitions of a wide range of health care staff.
Rationale: Restrictions on who can perform surgeries, be Medical Directors in long term care homes, assess patients and residents, bill OHIP, dispense narcotics, operate x-ray machines **will be deregulated** and placed under different regulations not disclosed to the public.
3. Providing licenses to private clinics which are required to describe uninsured services and charges for them without providing any standards regarding the listed items and **allowing 'upselling'** which can include medically unnecessary procedures and tests.
Rationale: Private clinics will continue to **conflate medically necessary and unnecessary services** which manipulates patients into paying for thousands of dollars for medically unnecessary services.
4. Information collected in relation to an application for license is to be **kept confidential** and will not be available for public scrutiny under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
Rationale: The public will be **unable to challenge** a license based on history of behaviour. (Cont. on Pg 12)

Learning Management System (LMS)

The Learning Management System on the RTOERO website was created to meet the educational needs of our volunteers and members and has four main sections thus far: Governance, Technology, Volunteer, and Webinars. The LMS currently covers topics such as Word, Excel, social media, Zoom and Outlook training etc., and additional resources and training materials will be updated and added. Also check out RTOERO Vibrant Voices. **Volunteers and members can login with their name and membership number.**

Brant District 40 Spring Membership Meeting and Social

The Spring Membership Meeting was a resounding success. There were approximately 70 members in attendance at the Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course. By the sounds of chatter in the room, everyone seemed to enjoy the social and charcuterie snacks that followed. Perhaps we will try that format another time. If you weren't there, we missed you and you missed a good time.

Summer Social
Join us at Mohawk Park for a casual get-together

July 20, 1:00—3:00 ish
Bring Lawn Chairs, snacks & drinks
If you are interested please let Betty Anne know
—president40@districts.RTOERO.ca
Details to follow by e-mail

**Brant District 40****“To Hell with the Bell” Breakfast**

Please join us on Tuesday, September 5th, 9:00 a.m.



Bethel Community Hall (please note new location)

154 Bethel Rd (south of 403 and west of 24)

MENU

Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, Sausages, Bacon, Home Fries
Fruit Salad, Toast & Pastries
Tea/Coffee/Juice

\$15 for members and \$20 for non-members

Please register by Wednesday, August 23rd.

(All District 40 events are subsidized in part by Brant District 40 RTO)

Registration/Payment information on page 11.

MEMBERSHIP GATHERINGS (cont.)



General Meeting and Fall Luncheon

November 1st, 2023

11:00 Meeting, 12:00

Luncheon We are returning to
the **Walter Gretzky Municipal
Golf Course**

for our fall meeting and full meal luncheon

Cost: members \$ 25.00, non-members \$30.00.

(Price increase reflects current additional costs)

(All District 40 events are subsidized in part by Brant District 40 RTO)

Registrations must be received by Oct. 25 to confirm numbers with the caterer.

(see Registration and Payment information below)

Registration and Payment Options for ALL EVENTS:

- **Register** by email rtobrant40events@gmail.com or call Christine at 519-865-9463
- **We prefer that you pay in advance, if possible. There are several ways:**
 - *Cheque or Cash* - Cheques should be made out to RTO District 40.
 - Mail or deliver to Lynn Haylock, 17 Chestnut Ave., Brantford, ON N3T 4B9.
 - *Credit Card* - go to the District 40 website, <https://district40.rtoero.ca/>. Scroll to the bottom of the page. Under Site Map, click on **Pay online for District 40 event or activity**. Complete the form and Submit Payment. You will receive a receipt by email. We will also receive proof of payment.
 - You may pay cash at the door (**as long as you have registered**).
- **Registrations must be received by dates listed with the event so that we can confirm numbers with the caterer. If you register and you must cancel, please do so by the date that registrations are due!**
- **Please remember that if you register, meals/ refreshments are being ordered on your behalf!**
- **Hope to see you at all of our events!**



The Public cry is:

THAT the Government of Ontario STAND DOWN on Bill 60. For-profit privatization of healthcare institutions and services is a threat to Public Medicare and will undermine the quality of healthcare in Ontario.

That the Government of Ontario RE-INVEST in the current healthcare system

and return it to its full capacity in order to deal with our healthcare crisis. Lift the cap on wages, fund hospitals to open beds and operating rooms and stop dismantling 100 years of Ontario Public Hospitals, clinics and healthcare systems.

Here's what you can do to fight back:

Take action online & tell your MPP to keep health care public!

Vote NO to privatization in the Ontario Health Coalition's province-wide referendum:

Join a rally near you on June 3rd to say loud and clear, "Enough is Enough!":

Keep our Healthcare Public



Return Address:

ATT. RTO,

17 Chestnut Ave.

Brantford, ON

N3T 4B9