



THE RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO
LES ENSEIGNANTES ET ENSEIGNANTS
RETRAITÉS DE L'ONTARIO

**THE ISLAND
CONNECTION
DISTRICT 47
VANCOUVER ISLAND**

SUMMER 2015

**RTO District 47
President's Report
Summer 2015**

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McDonald**

Hello, my name is Gloria Humphrey, and it is my honour to serve as RTO District 47 President for the next 2 years. I am following a very hard act. Darrell Grande, our new Past President, did a superb job in his role as District 47 President. Darrell, thank goodness you are here to give advice and guidance.

My husband Harvey and I arrived in Victoria in August, 1998. I simply cannot believe we have been here 17 years. I joined RTO Victoria Unit shortly after, and have really enjoyed continuing to be with fellow educators, to "talk shop".

Prior to moving to Victoria, I was an educator in Toronto (Etobicoke), Winnipeg, North Vancouver and back to Toronto. In all, I enjoyed 37 years in education, serving as a classroom teacher, reading consultant, special education consultant, Principal and supervising Principal (K-12) for curriculum and programs.

I taught evenings at U of T (Faculty of Ed.) and York University (Faculty of Ed.) for 24 years. Three (3) of these years were as a Director with the new 1 year teacher education program at York University. I was seconded into this position in 1990-91. It is hard to remember that during the early 90's, we were desperate for teachers, and begged York to start the 1-year program. If you were breathing, we were imploring you to teach by applying to the Ministry for a Letter of Permission. This meant that there used to be unqualified people teaching in our classrooms. How time has changed so quickly. Now, one can linger in a "sub" position for years. Looking back, we probably had the best of times.

On a different note, I attended the RTO Senate Meetings in May 2015, and will be attending the Fall Senate, as well. The Spring Senate basically consisted of housekeeping items relating to the constitution and who is and is not on the Provincial Executive, and who is eligible to vote, etc. A new Executive Director was announced. His name is James Grieve, and he will replace Harold Braithwaite in the early fall. At the Fall Senate, a new Provincial Executive will be elected. The politicking has already begun.

I wish to thank the Victoria and Mid-upper Island executives for all their help, support, and dedication. Our Volunteers are indispensable. And now I would like to invite you to be more active in our District. New faces and perspectives are needed and always welcome.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy summer.

Gloria

Message from the President, RTO Victoria Unit

It hardly seems possible but it is two years since I was elected President of the Victoria Unit! My term of office ends at the AGM scheduled for September 9, 2015. At that time we will be renewing the Executive by electing a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Gloria Humphrey, Past President, is the Chair of the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving as an elected member of the Victoria Executive, please contact Gloria at humphreysidney@shaw.ca.

There are a number of positions on the Executive Council that may interest you. They include:

Goodwill Committee: To perform any Goodwill services required at the Unit level. To communicate with members who are ill, bereaved, or celebrating special days and to serve as liaison with the District and/or Provincial Office.

Pension and Retirement Concerns Committee: To keep members informed about significant issues and developments that affect retired teachers and the community at large and liaise with the District pension representatives.

Political Advocacy Committee: To spearhead political advocacy on behalf of seniors and retired educators, in particular, in anticipation of Federal and British Columbia Provincial government initiatives. To liaise with other organizations which express an interest in pursuing political action at the provincial and federal levels for seniors and retired educators.

Social Committee: To arrange Unit membership meetings and other social and recreational events in cooperation with the District Social Committees.

Phone Committee: To maintain contact with members who agree to be on the Phoners' List to announce activities and inform relevant committees about any members in need.

Registrar: To receive registration forms and payments for events.

For more information on how you can become involved in the Victoria Unit, please contact me at bill.huzar@utoronto.ca.

Bill Huzar

**Your Executive Members are Volunteers...Volunteers are unpaid, not because they are worthless...but because they are priceless!
Show your worth...Volunteer.**

District Executive 2015-2017

President:

Gloria Humphrey
(250-658-0725)

Past President:

Darrell Grande
(250-760-0201)

Vice-President:

Bill Huzar
(250-995-3154)

Treasurer:

Rex Sharman
(250-294-6304)

Secretary:

Jim Ross
(250-756-4794)

Mid/Upper Island President's Designate:

Doreen Hall

Victoria Unit President's Designate:

Barbara Strachan

Mid/Upper Island Unit Representative:

Phil Little

Mid/Upper Island Unit Representative:

Penny-Stowell Smith

Victoria Unit Representative:

Brenda Morgan

Social Events Calendar

1. Tues. Sept. 8: To Hell with the Bell Luncheon, Eaglecrest Golf Club, Qualicum Beach

2. Wed. Sept. 9: Victoria Unit AGM & To Hell with the Bell Luncheon, Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Victoria

3. Thurs. Oct. 15: Luncheon, Riso Bistro, Lantzville

4. Wed. Nov. 25: Christmas Luncheon, Qualicum Inn, Qualicum Beach

Hava Java: Every Last Monday of the month, Haz Beans, Nanaimo

Clip and Save

Remember, all members are welcome to attend any event hosted by either unit of our District.

Support your Social Committees and the efforts they put forward on your behalf by attending as many events as you can. You can also help by suggesting outings that you think might be of interest to members.

In order to make events more affordable many events are subsidized.

Tear-off coupons for upcoming events are on page 7.

HEALTH REPORT

On June 7th and 8th Val Alcock-Carter, Susan Clough, and I, attended the annual Health Workshop in Toronto.

We were treated to an excellent presentation by Dr. Sharon Straus, who spoke about caring for older people with Chronic Complex disease. She spoke about how the system works or doesn't, and what needs to happen when there is more than one issue. Depending on the community one lives in, there are not always the required multi-disciplinary agencies available, which can influence the outcome for the patient.

On Monday we listened to a video about eldercare, and then had a question and answer time with the various pension and Johnson representatives. This is always an interesting session and the representatives are always knowledgeable and informative.

The rest of the day was spent listening to very interesting presentations on a few topics. These included: foot care and it's importance, as well as a very thought provoking presentation called ALIVE INSIDE. I would recommend that members check out this by googling "Alive Inside".

I thoroughly enjoyed all of the sessions involved in this workshop. If any members have any questions please feel free to contact either Penny, Val, or Sue.

Penny Stowell-Smith

Mid/Upper Island President's Message

Partway through my term of office as President of the Mid/Upper Island Unit, I am sitting here thinking about the past and contemplating what may lie ahead. Perhaps this is because I recently celebrated a birthday. I hope you will allow me the liberty of not writing the usual President's message where I recount all our recent events and make an appeal for new members to join the executive. Instead I will pen some personal thoughts. If this offends you, I apologize in advance. You need read no further.

What a wonderful day! I got to celebrate another birthday. So I'm another year older. Some of you may think, big deal! But, think about it. How many people don't get to celebrate their birthday any more? How many people die 'before their time?' Birthdays should be celebrated because of what they represent—the passing of time! Time, which is so precious is the most valuable commodity we have. Think of it as the biggest and best gift you'll ever receive—more valuable than any possessions or money you may own. Think of it as your currency. It's the one thing everyone has a chance to spend as they desire. Don't squander it. With each passing birthday time increases in value, so cherish it. So, that's why I'm happy to be celebrating my 39th birthday for the 30th time. This year I think I appreciate the opportunity more than ever! Enjoy your summer and invest your time wisely as you look forward to your next birthday, as I will.

Jim Ross

To Hell with the Bell

The date has been set, Tues. Sept. 8, (first day of classes in Ontario), the venue has been booked, and a menu has been chosen.

Mediterranean Buffet: Starter: pita bread with tatziki and hummus. Salads: mixed garden greens and Greek pasta salad. Hot Entrees: stuffed chicken breast, rice pilaf, roasted Greek potatoes, spanakopita. Dessert: chef's selection, tea and coffee

Get together and socialize any time after ten. We hope to entice you with a fine selection of teas and coffees.

Our guest speaker will be formally introduced at 10:45 by our very special guest, Mma Ramotswa the famous detective from Botswana and The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency. She loves her Bush Tea and is quite concerned about the impact pods are having on our environment. Ken Crause, from neighbouring Zimbabwe (and now Parksville) will be talking about a solution to the pollution.

We will break at 11:15 and go into our annual meeting mode. Lunch will be served at 12:00.

All this for a mere \$20 (subsidized of course).

Venue: Eaglecrest Golf Club, in Qualicum Beach.

Mid/Upper Island Lunch at Riso Bistro

7217 Lantzville Road, Lantzville.

Thursday, October 15, @ noon.

Website for menu: www.RisoFoodsInc.com

Wheelchair accessible

Join us for good food, friends, and a lovely setting.

If you're attending, phone or email Bonnie McGlynn by Oct. 7.

"Choosing Wisely Canada (CWC) is a campaign to help physicians and patients engage in conversations about unnecessary tests, treatments and procedures, and to help physicians and patients make smart and effective choices to ensure high-quality care.

Unnecessary tests, treatments and procedures do not add value to care. In fact, they take away from care by potentially exposing patients to harm, leading to more testing to investigate false positives and contributing to stress for patients. And of course unnecessary tests, treatments and procedures put increased strain on the resources of our health care system."

to review the numerous areas of concern for patients regarding excessive testing or treatment go to:

<http://www.choosingwiselycanada.org/materials/>

Submitted by **Phil Little**

Mid/Upper Island Christmas Luncheon

Qualicum Beach Inn,

2690 Island Highway West, Qualicum Beach.

Website: www.qualicumbeachinn.com/restaurant

Wednesday, November 25, 2015

11:00- 11:45 - social time; buffet at 11:45

Buffet: Christmas punch (social time), Green mixed salad and rolls, Mashed potatoes, Mixed vegetables, Turkey and all the trimmings, Cedar plank salmon, Dessert platter, Coffee/tea, Bar service

Wheelchair accessible, easy parking

For inquiries, phone, or email Bonnie McGlynn.

Phone: 250-751-0235/email: bonnseam@shaw.ca

Cost is \$20.00 per person. A big thank-you to our unit for subsidizing this Christmas event.

Register by Fri. Nov. 19, 2015. See tear-off coupon on page 7.

Puns for those with a higher IQ?

1. Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine.
2. Dijon vu-the same mustard as before.
3. Shotgun wedding-a case of wife or death.
4. A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
5. Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
6. When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
7. Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

Victoria Unit Christmas Party Wed. December 2, 2015 at The Beach House, Victoria @ 11:30 a.m.

Please detach and **return by Nov. 20, 2015** to:

Margot Lods

608-105 Gorge Rd. E.

Victoria, V9A 6Z3 250-920-3893

Make cheques only, payable to **RTO Victoria Unit**

Name(s): _____

Phone or email: _____

Cost: _____ @ \$25.00 = \$ _____

To Hell with the Bell Tues. Sept. 8, Eaglecrest Golf Club

Name(s): _____

Cost \$20.00 pp X _____ = \$ _____ (cheque enclosed)

Phone: _____ or email: _____

Remit to: **RTO District 47, Mid/Upper Island Unit by Mon. Sept. 1, 2015**

Willie Odendaal
1163 Ormonde Rd
Qualicum Beach, B.C.
V9K 2S7

enquiries: odendaal@telus.net or 250 752 4350

-----tear off coupon-----

Make Sure You Register Now for the AGM & To Hell with the Bell

Registration Form: AGM & To Hell with the Bell **Wed. Sept. 9, 2015**

Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Victoria

Deadline: Mon. Aug. 24, 2015

Name(s) to appear on nametag: _____

Phone: _____ OR email: _____

Make Cheque payable to **RTO Victoria Unit**

Cost \$25.00 pp X _____ = \$ _____ (cheque enclosed)

Send to: Margot Lods
608-105 Gorge Rd. E.
Victoria, BC V9A 6Z3

-----tear off coupon-----

Christmas Luncheon: Wed. November 25, 2015

Qualicum Beach Inn, Qualicum Beach

Deadline: Fri. Nov. 19, 2015

Name(s): _____

Phone or email: _____

Make cheque payable to: **RTO District 47, Mid/Upper Island Unit**

Cost: \$20.00 pp X _____ = \$ _____ (cheque enclosed)

Send to: Rick Clough
2294 Seabank Rd.
Courtenay, B.C.
Y9J 1Y1

-----tear off coupon-----



Margaret Irene McDonald was born June 15, 1917, in Ghost Pine Creek, Alberta. Those who know her can attest to her continued mental and spiritual vigour, her compassion and practicality, and her more than sixty jubilant years of service to her community, her profession, her country and her church.

Part of her community work has been with The Canadian Club of Victoria where she has served on the executive and been President on two occasions. She is an Honorary Life Member of the Women's Canadian Club of Victoria and continues her involvement as President Emeritus. She was a member of the committee that initiated the Canadian Club bursary at Camosun College for a single parent student who is returning to further his/her education in any program of the college.

She is also an Honorary Life Member of The Canadian Cancer Society. She was National Fundraising Chair for the Society and established the first door-to-door campaign in Greater Victoria. She also developed and delivered cancer awareness, lifestyle choices for prevention, and smoking harm awareness programme for use in Greater Victoria schools. She worked along with the Capital Regional District Medical Health Officer, and the Clean Air Society, to have no-smoking bylaws introduced and implemented effectively throughout the region. Irene says about fundraising: "Fundraising is largely an educational activity. It's about reaching out to people to explain why you need their money. I often had to address meetings and explain the causes of cancer, and I always said you should never look into someone's pocket to decide how much they should give. Instead, you should look into their understanding of the reason to give."

Irene was also involved with the B.C. Council of the Family. There she volunteered working with the parents of children who had been taken from them by court order and were in foster care. A quote from her on this work with her 'friends with damaged lives': "The community always sympathizes

with the children, but the Council wanted someone to talk with the parents, along with a social worker as a background resource, and support them in their efforts to regain custody of their children. I gave this quite a bit of thought before I said yes, but again, I felt compelled to help parents repair their damaged lives.”

For twenty-five years she acted as chair of the Braefoot Strata Council, only retiring from this volunteer role in 2011.

Earlier in her life she was a C.G.I.T. leader for several groups of young women in this uniquely Canadian programme, while living and teaching in Alberta. She aimed to emphasize the joy of active participation and volunteering in community, healthy life styles, civic duty and the responsibility of the vote.

Irene has had an influential career in teaching. Together with Dr. Florence Dunlop and two other teachers they introduced and delivered the first special education programme in Ontario for gifted students in Ottawa. She was Provincial President of the special Education Branch of the Ontario Education Association in 1961 and 1962. She served as a Member of the Board of Governors of the International Council for Exceptional Children. In 1955 she was Secretary for the Federation of Women Teachers’ Associations of Ontario.

As a teacher in Calgary she helped develop and deliver the programme for teaching teachers to teach English as a practicum course for B.Ed. graduates in the inaugural programmes of the University of Calgary, Faculty of Education between 1966-68.

Together with Dr. Patriarche, she designed, introduced, and delivered the first Family Life Education curriculum for sex education in School District #61, in 1970 and then taught this programme for several years at all the schools in the Greater Victoria area. This programme was introduced province-wide after its success in Victoria.

For the past few years, Irene has contributed her expertise and wise counsel to the Executive of RTO/ERO District 47 and the Victoria unit.

During World War II, Irene served with the RCAF (WD) as Flight Sergeant, Code and Ciphers-Intelligence, 1943-45. She was part of the Enigma ultra-secret team, trained at Camp X and elsewhere. Most of her work came by way of Air Ministry Whitehall in England. She flew into the far north to receive secret messages, decode, and memorize them. Irene ended up in Edmonton as part of Northwest Air Command, where the Japanese war became part of her secret messaging. Due to the secrecy of her work and her skill in accomplishing it, she was retained there after her marriage, in March 1945 (women were normally honourably discharged upon marriage). She supported her husband in his diplomatic posting with the RCAF to Canadian Joint Staff, London, 1951-54.

Despite all these accomplishments, Irene has always had time to be an active member of the United Church of Canada and is presently a member of the congregation at First Metropolitan United Church, Victoria. She has participated on various committees to bring the Metropolitan United and First United congregations together as one. She has been President of the United Church Women, First Metropolitan United Church. She supported the Youth sport and education programmes of the congregation and led UCW members in providing hospitality for all funerals and memorial services held at the church. Whenever there was an occasion to provide refreshments for 40 or 400 people, Irene organized the hospitality, setting it up in whatever manner the family wished. When there was a tragic death of a sex trade worker who had no known family locally, Irene arranged hospitality of the same level of courtesy and quality for her friends and acquaintances.

Irene has some advice for the next generation. “My advice to the next generation is to live every moment to the best of your ability. Don’t go through life half-heartedly. Give it your best, so when you’re finished you can say. ‘I gave it my best shot.’ I guess I’m a perfectionist in that regard I don’t like to iron my linen half-

heartedly. I have one other piece of advice: don't stop learning. I'm still growing and learning at age 98. I like to take courses and keep up with current affairs. It's important to be conversant with the new technology regardless of your age. If you stop challenging your mind, you've in effect died. Keep your mind active and stop whining about the weather or the state of your body! I hope I'll continue to keep growing and learning."

*from Stories United—Harvesting Elders' Wisdom—United Church of Canada

This is why Irene McDonald was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal. Irene continues to serve and learn and is an example to us all. She continues to volunteer and actively recruits others to do likewise.

Renaissance-call for submissions: Winter 2015-Creative Minds

According to Albert Einstein, "The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination." How are you inspired by your imagination or creativity? Do you spend your days thinking about the next poem or novel that you are going to write or are you busy working on another masterpiece on your canvas? Maybe your creative juices are stimulated by music, theatre, sculptures or drawing. We want to hear about how your creative mind works and see what you have created.

Perspectives to consider: How does your creativity effect your life? Why is using your imagination and being creative important to you? **Proposal deadline:**

August 17, 2015

Remember:

If you are travelling and have an emergency, you must contact Allianz Global Assistance at the number on the back of your RTO/ERO Johnson Inc. ID card before you seek treatment or, if not possible, within 48 hours or coverage will be limited to \$2000.

Members are proud of our health care plans. Most members would like to see the maximum payouts for specific items increased. We all would like to see the premiums reduced. Since increasing payouts means increasing premiums, the committee governing the plan must balance the needs with the cost of changes.

District Website

Check out our District 47 Website at [District 47.rto-ero.org](http://District47.rto-ero.org). Thanks to Bill Huzar for maintaining our website.

This Publication is distributed to all members of RTO/ERO District 47 British Columbia.

Editor: Jim Ross

Articles of interest or letters to the editor are most welcome. Insertion of articles will be at the discretion of the Editor and/or District Executive.

Submission Standards: Electronic TXT file preferred, (or Word DOC file)

emailed to the editor at **wjross2001@shaw.ca**

Typed or hand-printed submissions are accepted. Send snail mail to:

W. J. Ross, 5812 Ralston Dr., Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6C5

Moving?

Update your mailing and email address with the membership department at membership@rto-ero.org or by calling 1-800-361-9888.