

D39 2024 *Peelings* Newsletter

President's Report

Stevan Kraguljac



I hope this Peelings Newsletter finds you in good health and high spirits as we embrace a brand-new year! Each New Year is a special time for reflection, allowing us to appreciate the brightness that people bring into our lives.

I want to welcome Jeremy Cox to his new position as the First Vice-President and Anne Horton as a new Executive Member in the position of the Second Vice-President.

On February 12, we held a luncheon at the Mandarin Restaurant and had 105 members attend. Everyone had a great time catching up with old friends and making new ones. We plan to hold more luncheons in the coming months.

Our next event is a Johnny Cash tribute at Casino Niagara on March 21. This event was fully booked within 4 hours of sending out the notice. Please stay tuned for other

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upcoming events. If you are interested please register as soon as possible once the notice is sent out. Registrations are only accepted via the link on the flyer. In future once you have completed the registration, payments can be made electronically via e-transfer.

Please continue to visit D39 Social Media sites for the most up to date information on things happening in our district. Website <https://district39.rtoero.ca/>
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/RTOERODistrict39Peel>

President's March update will be available on the District 39 website.

Steve Kraguljac, **President**, RTOERO District 39 Peel
D39peelpresident@gmail.com



NOEL LIM & JANE LINDSAY



MEET YOUR D39 EXECUTIVE

2nd Vice-President Anne Horton



Thank you for your trust in me as Second Vice-President of RTOERO District 39. I hope to be able to assist you and to be a valuable asset to your current excellent executive, board and volunteers.

Volunteerism has always been important to me and, during my lifetime, I have worked with a number of community organizations including securing a nine year position on the Board of Directors of Peel Children's Centre. I feel that by giving back where and when we can, it helps to create a better society.

During my careers, I worked as both a marketing manager and as an elementary teacher of all grades, K-8, including as teacher-librarian. After quite a few years volunteering in various positions within the Dufferin-Peel Elementary unit of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, I was elected as the first Vice-President. I held that full-time position for the next five years. In this role I was responsible for assisting teachers with health and personal/professional issues, workshop presentations, and in contract negotiations. Near the end of my career, I was seconded to the Provincial organization of OECTA where I was able to work in the Professional Development Department with amazing leaders from across the province. From these experiences, I hope to bring skills that will benefit our membership.

Following in the footsteps of the previous Second Vice-President, Jeremy Cox, will be a difficult task but fortunately I will have him there as First Vice-President to guide me, as well as the support of the other members of the executive. Please contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns.

MEET YOUR D39 EXECUTIVE

Treasurer Larry Holseth



“My gift to myself upon retiring was the purchase of a “Yamaha 650 Motorcycle.” The enjoyment of winding through the Caledon Hills instead of at the front of a class is a distant memory but a wonderful memory I will never forget. After retiring our travels took us to Australia, New Zealand, China, Portugal, Hawaii, Egypt, Transatlantic, Caribbean and Baltic Cruises etc. Our very memorable RV journeys took us around the United States and coast to coast in Canada.”

In my memorable 34 years of teaching, I was involved for many years in our Federation on various Committees and Executive positions, starting with OPSMTF, then OPSTF then ETFO and currently RTOERO. It has been and continues to be a rewarding journey. My teaching career started in Nipigon, Ontario and after 3 years moved south to join the Chinguacousy School Board and then the Peel District School Board.

My teaching was mainly at the Grade 8 level which partly included organizing graduations, bus trips around the province and memorable camp weeks around Ontario, etc. I organized the Bramalea Teachers Bowling League which ran every Wednesday after school. About 75 teachers from the Bramalea area met for coffee, conversation and bowling every week. This continued from the late sixties till Covid. And when I retired I started the RTOERO Bowling League which ran for about 20 years till Covid arrived. My life has always been partly in the gutter. My Secondary School teaching included the Driver Education component (rumours say this results in increased “Hair Loss” ... I agree). My teaching at Night School and Summer School seems to be a distant memory now but was a most enjoyable one.

My van (like myself) turns 45 years old this year. If friends spotted the van they knew I was around. That actually happened in New Brunswick one year when a colleague was visiting the province at the same time and by chance we met inside a plaza. Their comment was “I knew you were in here somewhere, I saw the van.” The van runs a little slower these days and has faded a bit but don’t we all at the age of 45. Time for a new paint job.

My experience with RTOERO Provincial has been on Audit and Nominating Committees for over 12 years. We audited the Finances of RTOERO and reviewed the applications of all members wanting to join Provincial Committees. I represented RTOERO District 39 at Senate (now Forum) as a Senator and now as a Corporate Member. This gave me much insight and knowledge on the workings of RTOERO.

I enjoyed the rewarding task of being part of the Provincial Team that developed the Treasurers' Manual for all 51 Districts of RTOERO. My role as Treasurer in District 39 allows me to network with all committees and contribute to help build a stronger and more effective District. Over the years with RTOERO District 39, I have been part of a few committees, Social (26 years), Membership and Newsletter (mainly as a photographer). For many years my photographs on general meetings and various events could be found throughout our Newsletters — a passion I have enjoyed for decades.

I have coordinated the General Meetings for District 39 Peel which included booking entertainment, setting up the sound system, ensuring morning refreshments/goodies were available, as well as appropriate door prizes, tasty lunches, room set up and other logistics were all ready for our attending members.

Representing RTOERO District 39 Peel over the years has been a pleasure and a chance to boast about the great work we do ... on the Executive, on Committees, on trips, on General Meetings and on all our Events and Activities. I am looking forward to the years ahead, helping to keep RTOERO District 39 Peel ... healthy, active and enjoyable for our members.



SPEAKER FROM ANIMAL SERVICES



MEET YOUR D39 EXECUTIVE

Secretary Lynn Shire

I worked for Peel District School Board for 30 years in 6 different schools and at the District 19 OSSTF office. I taught math, science, and music in three different schools before I became the Joint Staffing Committee chair, which is a position appointed by OSSTF but overseen by PDSB. After four years there, I became Head of Student Success and eventually a Vice-Principal in two different secondary schools in Peel. As a retiree, I occasionally do some supply VP work in Peel, and have done some mentoring of VPs, especially in timetable construction.



“It was a tough transition to retirement because so many things were out of my control.

I broke my elbow in August of 2019 soon after retiring, so I had some limited mobility in my right elbow and I’m right handed!

Since becoming secretary, I have digitized all current agendas, reports, and minutes, making the information easily accessible to our board members. I keep the calendar for the executive, board, social committee and trips up-to-date. Our board is very hard working, and although I haven’t been able to join any of the trips or many of the special events due to conflicts with other events, I am proud to be a part of an organization that provides low-cost social and travel opportunities for retirees.

I am responsible for all documentation related to the executive and board meetings from the time they are created to the time they are approved and archived. A typical month includes: 1) Creating the minutes for the Executive. Our president creates the agenda. The Executive plans the meetings for the full board ahead of time and deals with any items between board meetings that may arise. 2) Creating the agenda for the full board based on a template and input from the executive meeting. 3) I also reach out to each of the committee chairs asking for reports which are included in the agenda for the board. This allows the board members to read the reports ahead of time and come prepared to discuss the agenda.

I use the Google platform for agendas, minutes, reports and calendar items. It is free, and quite easy to use once one gets used to it. I have had the opportunity to train a couple different boards I work with in how to use the software with great results!

I am currently looking for an understudy or co-secretary. I took on the role to fill the gap when Sue stepped down, but I really don't have the time to do the job properly. I would be happy to mentor anyone who is interested but I would remain on the board as the Benefits Representative because I enjoy that role immensely.

I don't usually communicate directly with members, although I have an email address benefitsd39peel@gmail.com that allows members to contact me with questions or concerns. This email address isn't monitored daily, but it does send an auto-reply with FAQs that answer most questions that members have.

I do a lot of volunteering. The opportunities are diverse and include:

- ◆ Being a regular volunteer at the Velodrome in Milton since the test events for the Pan Am and Parapan games. My husband and I love working at National and International events.
- ◆ My family and I volunteer at other athletic events as well. Last summer, we volunteered at the Canada Summer Games in Niagara (cycling of course!) as well as some local mountain biking events.
- ◆ My church, including hosting events such as guest speakers and musical presentations. For the last four years, I have been the secretary of our church council. During COVID, I provided technical ensured that our live services on Zoom ran smoothly.
- ◆ Marking the University of Waterloo math contests twice a year.
- ◆ I belong to CFUW which is an organization that provides opportunities for women to do advocacy work and learn about the community with guest speakers. It also includes working with others to bring *Truth and Reconciliation* awareness to members.
- ◆ I volunteer at local events when possible, including Milton Transitional Housing and the Canada Volunteer Income Tax Program

I have so much fun meeting people and learning something new every time I volunteer. If you don't know if you can do something long term, then volunteer for a special event. Communities always have events like Canada Day, parades, that need a lot of volunteers. Sometimes they need help wrangling the teenage volunteers which many of us are well-equipped to do. Sometimes it is as easy as managing a registration table. If you live in/near Peel, check out this website: <https://www.volunteermbc.org/> it is run by an organization that facilitates recruitment of volunteers and matching the volunteers with roles they will enjoy.

My current priority however, is to get back to the retirement I had originally planned. I like to hike, cycle, and join fitness classes as often as I can. I also have a great husband who allows me to drag him on my hare-brained adventures. I have at least four big trips in the works. Keep watching *Peelings* because I will be reporting on at least one of them! I also am focused on maintaining my good health, and not breaking any more bones.

MEET YOUR D39 CHAIR

Membership Chair, Ed Bergey

I have been in this position since 2012 after serving as secretary from 2007-2011. I retired in 2001 after a career that began in 1967 at Bramalea Secondary School as a math teacher. I spent 1969-1972 teaching abroad in Nigeria, then was part of the inaugural staff of IndEC (now Peel Alternative School) from 1975-1987. From 1987 to 1989 I was Chief Negotiator for OSSTF District 10. I was appointed a Secondary VP in 1990 and worked in that role in several schools before retiring.



Each month the Membership chair receives an update of current membership totals, and changes. The chair will also update the Memoriam list, based on information received from the National Office, and forward this information to the Goodwill Chair for condolence cards. The Chair then forwards changes to the person maintaining the Peelings Hard Copy list (currently Racquel Carlow) and prepares the Membership Report for the coming edition of *Peelings*.

New members to D39 automatically receive a welcome email from the district, with the Membership Chair is the point of contact. As required, I provide membership Information to the District Executive Board in event planning, retirement workshops, new retiree events, general meeting, General Meetings and special mailings.

My typical tasks per week as Membership Chair include working with the National Membership Team verifying that information on file is accurate so that D39 members can stay connected. This involves responding to Member queries, referring them to another member of the DEB, or to the National Office if the matter does not involve our district.

Twice a year, I work with the Treasurer in organizing the Registration Table for General Meetings. This involves production of Name Tags and related information for members who attend — usually between 150 and 200 members.

Working with the leadership team to provide timely, appropriate information to District 39 members is most satisfactory. Most of my working life has been in Involved with keeping things organized!

In 2024 I plan to pass the mantle of Membership Chair to someone who has skills and a vision that will take the role into the future. My office currently uses Microsoft Office software, Word and Excel, and communication is maintained by monitoring two email addresses: rtod39@gmail.com and md39peelmembership@gmail.com

Membership Report, March 2024

By Ed Bergey

D39 Peel membership as of Feb 1, 2024:

Retired Members Total 4,178: Females: 2,820, Males: 1,358

Working Members: 234

Total Membership, Retired + Active at Work: 4412

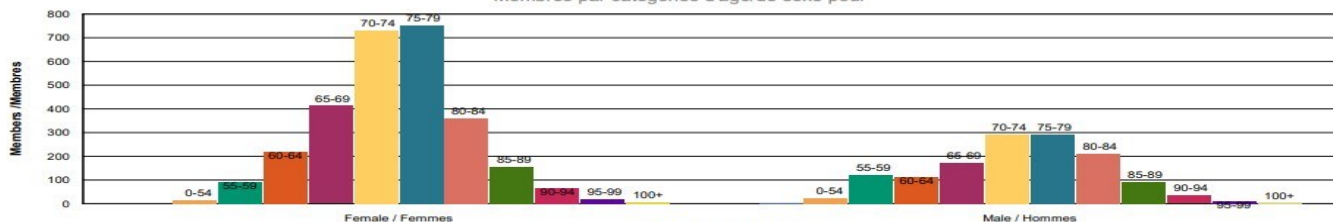


2/1/2024

Age Banding Report for Peel

Membership by Age/Gender

Membres par catégories d'âge/de sexe pour



@Gender & @Categories

	Female / Femmes	Male / Hommes	Total
	0	1	1
0-54	13	22	35
55-59	90	122	212
60-64	219	112	331
65-69	413	172	585
70-74	730	291	1,021
75-79	751	290	1,041
80-84	360	211	571
85-89	156	92	248
90-94	65	34	99
95-99	18	9	27
100+	5	2	7
Total	2,820	1,358	4,178

Retired in 2022 and after?

Did you respond to your special invitation to our New Retirees event in May?

Keep connected with RTOERO!

Member information changes **must be reported** directly to the National Office of RTO-ERO. We update our D39 email files at the beginning of each month based on data received from the National Office, so there is a delay between the time you submit changes and D39 has them.

Members must contact the Office as Follows:

Email: membership@rtoero.ca

Phone Toll Free: 1-800-361-9888 and ask for the Membership Dept.

Be sure you have your RTOERO Membership number included in your call or email.

You can find it on your Health Card.

In Memorium, as of February 1, 2024

Condolences

Patricia Antolin
Susan Belluz
Andris Buivids
Melvin Donnelly
Barbara Fraser
Joseph Gombocz
Victoria Goodison
Ronald Harper

Wycliffe Henry
Emil Jursa
Anna Jushkevich
Rosalind M Peters
Rose Powers
Larry Reid
Ronald Ross

Goodwill Committee Report, February 2024

By Linda Kenny

In January, six sympathy cards and 20 birthday cards were mailed to members. We had eight 80-yr olds, one 85-yr old and eleven 90+ yr olds celebrating their birthdays.

In February, we mailed nine sympathy cards and 31 birthday cards. There were 20 octogenarians in total: 14 celebrated their 80th and 6 their 85th. Eleven altogether celebrated their 90+ birthdays. We have already compiled the birthday list for March and there will be 37 cards sent.

We received three lovely thank you notes in January from birthday card recipients.

← →

Social Committee *upcoming event* ...

Guest Speaker: Historian, Author & Speaker

Ms Barbara Dickson <https://www.barbaradickson.ca>

When: Thursday, April 11, 2024

Time: 10 am-noon

Address: Ausburg Lutheran Church, 137 Mill St. S., Brampton

Come on out and join us!

The Editor's Reflections

By Hazel O'Loughlin-Vidal



It's almost Spring with the long-awaited gardening time ahead. I look forward with joy to see the latest fruit of my labour — my new collection of colourful Spring bulbs that I planted in the late Fall.

On retiring I made the deliberate decision to live up to the flower-city identity of Brampton, the place I've called home for almost 27 years. And it seems to be catching on in my neighbourhood. I have never before seen so many varieties and colourful displays of hanging baskets, front gardens and walkways as recently. Maybe it's just that I was too busy commuting back and forth to Toronto to work and therefore had no time to smell the roses. Or maybe it's otherwise, hmmm!

I can hardly wait to transfer my more than 40 plants outside where they belong. Sharing space with my hibiscuses and other tropical plants in the winter is no picnic. Last winter, my first experience at cultivating tropical plants indoors en masse was worth the effort as I got a continuous set of blooms. This winter, even though they occupied a southern exposure room with the biggest window in the house coupled with some newly acquired "grow lights," I did not get a single bloom. At different intervals, as if to tease me, several promising buds gave me false hope.

Life is like that — we naturally bloom where we belong. We may appear to thrive for a while on making certain choices and decisions, but is it long-lasting? I can truly say, however, that my decision to join RTOERO on retirement and later signing up to volunteer has proved to be a continuous joy in my life. Starting off as a member-at-large to first get a fit to see where I belong proved what I suspected all along — that I am a fun-loving, passionate, audacious and creative human being who has captured the joie-de-vivre in this season of retirement and planning to hold on to it.

Continue to enjoy the new column, *Meet your d39 Executive* which will transition to *your d39 Chairs* over the next few issues. Check out the pictorial centre-spread to see if you can identify who's who. Don't forget to support your local community cultural shows, *Carassauga*, *Caledon Canada Day and Strawberry Festival* and *Carabram*.

Thank you for all your contributions. The duties of the editorial board exist:

- (i) to review and approve submissions to *Peelings*;
- (ii) to edit submissions for length and clarity;
- (iii) to ensure that content reflects the aims and objectives of RTOERO

Guess Who! Do you know



Identify your President



How your Volunteers?



nt... and others



VOLUNTEER VOICES

An ongoing column by Jo Anne Jennings



In my introductory column on this topic I shared some of my personal volunteer experiences with you and promised to elaborate on some of them. Before doing this, I want to make clear one concern I discovered with this type of work. If you have a busy social life or appointments to keep, you should consider looking for a position that does not tie you down with regular dates and times. Volunteering should be looked on as a commitment and, unless there is an emergency, you will be counted on to show up.

This was the lesson I learned in my very first volunteer job which was in the kitchen of my local SENIOR'S CENTRE. I only went two days a week for the mornings but found even then I was tied down so had to miss social events I loved to keep. I also was a snowbird for 4 months which also left them in a lurch. I did remain in the job for several years but found my irregular attendance was not fair to those who worked so hard to make the café run smoothly.

I then moved on to working to sort books for the MISSISSAUGA SYMPHONY BOOK SALE. I went for several hours on Tuesday and Thursday and worked with several other keen volunteers to sort and price donated books. These then were boxed and labelled and ready to sell at a September sale in the Sheridan Mall. This sale had been ongoing for many years and has raised large amounts of money for the Symphony. You may want to donate your old books to the sale or even attend it in the spring or fall of each year. You can find information at the following website.

<https://www.mississaugasymphony.ca/book-sale/>

Finally, one of my most satisfactory experiences in this job was working with students from surrounding high schools that were recruited to work the sale just to get community credits. It was great fun working with young people again even if it was for only a couple of days.

I have three more columns on this topic but would love to add a few more with your help. Please get in touch with me at jjenn@rogers.com if you have volunteer experiences you would like to share.

In the world of Historical Interpreters around the Greater Toronto Area

By Tammielynn Head

“Joining the world of historical interpretation was an easy leap for me. Before I retired my hobbies were weaving and nineteenth century sewing and cooking. So the logical step as a history major was to find a part-time job to blend education with history.”

Historical Interpreters dive into the time machine of the past, whisking visitors through the social tapestry of yesteryear. Their role is to interactively and creatively tell many diverse, unique, and creative stories of the past, and connect them to the present. Historical Interpreters use performance, education, and community engagement skills to create the best possible experiences for the public to learn about our past. The story of each historical site across the GTA is captivating and communicates a unique period of Canadian history.



Tammie L. Head, front parlor Bradley Museum sharing weaving and spinning in the 1830s

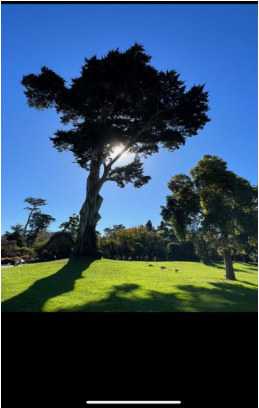
By blending dramatic flair and passion, interpreters emphasize the significance of conserving history and cultural heritage. A typical day for an interpreter involves delivering talks or tours, taking part in historical re-enactments, or authentically portraying daily life in a historical context. Vital skills include researching and crafting historical characters based on factual sources like historical records, books, and letters to bring the past alive. To achieve this, interpreters learn and research various trades or heritage skills, ranging from blacksmithing and operating a printing press to historical cooking and sewing. Often historical interpreters find positions that they have related to their own personal hobbies and interests.

There are many museums and parks that offer historical interpretive programs to the public within GTA and the Region of Peel. After Canada's 100th birthday celebrations in 1967, the introduction of Centenary Museums grants in Ontario offered numerous small and private museums the chance to showcase the early days of Upper Canada.

One local example is the Museums of Mississauga where they share early settler life at Bradley museum in the 1830s and at the Benares Museum, we can explore a Gentlemen Farmers Georgian home in the 1910s. The Bradley Museum focuses on the social life of early settlers on the farm, while the Benares Museum showcases the family history of four generations, depicting the highs and lows of high society living. The daily job of the historical interpreter is to blend the artistry of an educator with the enchantment of an actor to bring Canadian history alive.

Thank you for your service...

By Neena Bowden



At the end of last year, I had the opportunity to travel to California. I can still imagine the palm trees, sandy beaches, and bright sunshine, as I bundle up under sweaters and scarves here in the great Canadian north.

As a tourist I did my share of enjoying California's cuisine and basking in the sights and sounds of the west coast. I also shopped with determination. And despite the dismal exchange rate I bought souvenirs and stuff, "I just had to have."

I have many memories of my visit, but the one that stands out occurred when I was in a well-known jewelry store, admiring a lovely array of fine gemstones. Jewelry is my great temptation, as chocolate, designer shoes, sports cars, and John Grisham novels are to others. I rarely leave these shops without my credit card having a vigorous workout, but on this day, as I was standing fixated on the beautiful display of gold, silver, diamonds and pearls, a conversation struck up that surprised me.

The sales lady, who was a young woman in her early twenties, and her associate, also in her twenties, asked me, "what do you do for a living?" Perhaps the question was out of politeness or in an effort to keep me focused on the jewelry, but nonetheless I responded with, "I'm a teacher." In unison they looked at me with sincerity and said, "Thank you for your service." At that point I snapped out of my gem-induced hypnotic trance and stared at them in shock. "Thank you for your service," really, is that what they said? "Thank you for your service," I thought to myself, isn't that what Americans say to people who serve in the military, or ER doctors and nurses? Wow, I'm not putting my life on the line, defending my country in battle or saving lives but "Wow." I smiled, and said, "You're welcome."

Not knowing what else to say, I then gibbered on about being from Canada, the cold temperatures, the dark good looks of our young prime minister and that poutine was indeed as calorific as it looked. A truly embarrassing display, but that comment sat with me for a very long time and still sits with me now. "Thank you for your service, Thank you for your service." No one has ever said this to me in all my years of teaching and I have to say, it was a heartwarming feeling of recognition.

We teachers enter this profession for various reasons, but "service" has rarely been in the lexicon of words to describe what we do. Depending on the government in power, public perception, the economic climate, our existence has always been under some kind of existential threat. We have had to fight for appreciation and a fair living wage. Many of us have endured long days of picketing to push back against bureaucratic demands, additional work responsibilities, pressure to take on extra-curriculars and new technology of every faucet. What gets lost is why we chose to be teachers in the first place, from the love of our subject area to sharing knowledge, helping students, or "this was my dream job since I was nine."

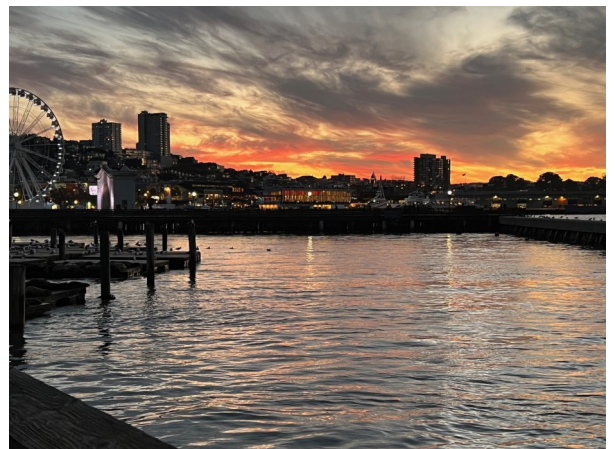
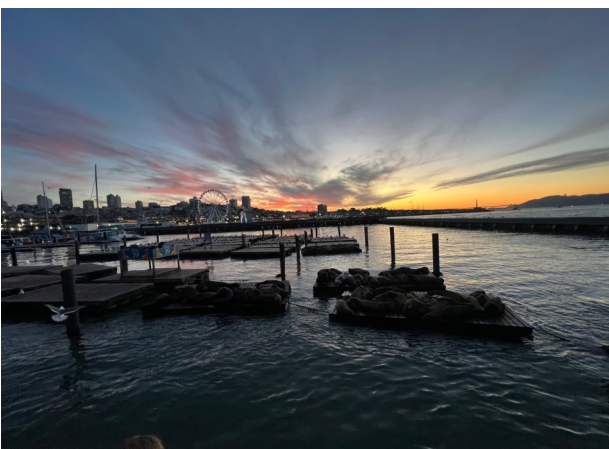
We all know why we landed in this profession, but for years, many of my *colleagues were reluctant to proudly say that they were teachers. I have heard teachers say “I don’t tell many people what I do. I’m often met with negative comments about summers off, leaving work when the bell rings, or the credit going to the Ministry of Education for all the tests, assignments and material I’ve created.”* These disparaging comments have caused the most amazing teachers to wither in the shadows.

The pandemic, however, shifted the entire narrative. For the first time, students were learning at home with their teachers online and their parents having to support them. Parents and society at large witnessed what teachers have been doing, in keeping their young charges engaged, creating challenging online content, supporting parents with a child’s disability, mental health and personal issues. Parents saw first-hand how demanding the job of teaching was. They also became aware of the challenges teachers faced navigating the digital classroom and the important sidebar conversations with teachers that were removed. The socialization necessary for child development with peers through classroom discussions and extra-curricular activities were also lost during this time.

I can honestly say that if it wasn’t for my math, art, history and English teachers, their eccentricities, funny, kind and amusing personalities, I doubt I would be where I am today. Teachers are the foundation of our schools, not the bricks or sneaker marked floors. They are the ones who meet each student where they are at. Every single individual in a school matters in keeping a young person there to learn and grow. With a genuine smile, a good morning, a get to class, a how are you? and many, many other interactions, we let them know they matter, and they let us know we matter. Years ago, I stopped paying attention to what the world said about teachers and focused on every student in front of me. My colleagues inspired me with their ingenuity, tenacity and determination.

The pandemic created a new dynamic. The public came to recognize the hard work and dedication required to be a teacher. Not just anyone could take up this calling. Hence, I suspect it was because of this monumental event in recent history that led those two young people in California to speak their appreciation to me.

And so I send it back to you, members of RTOERO D39, *“Thank you for your service.”*



Where will you be on Monday, April 8, 2024?

By Peter & Racquel Carlow

(D39 Members since 2015)

On this day, a total eclipse of the sun will be experienced in Canada for the first time since 1979. Although the path of totality (i.e., where the moon appears to block off the sun's disk completely) will only be over eastern Canada, every part of Canada will see a partial eclipse. Totality will occur at different times in Canada between 3:12 pm EDT and 5:16 pm NDT. For exact times and locations, check out the eclipse maps in the list of references. For example, in Hamilton, totality will occur at 3:18 pm EDT and last 1 min and 30 sec. During totality, the surrounding landscape will plunge into darkness (although to what extent will depend on many factors), the temperature will drop a few degrees, other celestial objects will become visible, animals (both wild and domesticated) will act in a peculiar manner, and of course you will have the most stunning view of the sun's corona (the area of plasma surrounding a star).

If you have never experienced a total solar eclipse, then mark the date and make every effort to see it. Peel region will only experience 99% totality. This may sound pretty impressive and you may ask, should I bother to travel to where it is 100% totality? However, the sun is so bright that even with only 1% showing, it still gives about 10,000 times the light of the full moon. You will not see a completely dark sky nor the corona. You may see Baily's beads (which are like 'diamond ring' flashes caused by sunlight passing through the canyons around the limb of the moon). The horizon will appear like at sunset. It should start getting dark at around 2pm. Shadows will become sharper and more detailed. All, of course, predicated on it not being overcast that day!

If you do plan to take yourself and/or others (like grandchildren!) to witness this rare astronomical alignment, you need to be safe. Never look directly at the sun. *"Staring at the sun uninterrupted for 90 sec will cause permanent damage."* (Ralph Chou, ophthalmologist and a member of the Royal Astronomical Society) The easiest way to protect one's eyes is to use specially designed filters made for eclipse-viewing. This also applies to cameras; do not take pictures of the solar eclipse unless using special camera filters. **Warning: UV sunglasses will NOT provide protection. The only time it is safe to view the sun without protection is during totality.**

"A total solar eclipse happens twice every year, but since Earth is 75% water and most of the land is uninhabited, it's very rare that people are in a position to see it." (Ilana MacDonald, astrophysicist and head of Ontario's Eclipse Task Force). The next such event visible over eastern Canada will be in 2079. Hence, the April 8th total solar eclipse affords a dramatic and unique teachable opportunity to explore geometry



(e.g., sun-moon-Earth distances), astronomy (e.g., solar vs lunar eclipse), and the history associated with how eclipses were viewed in the past without the benefit of accurate scientific information (e.g., folklores and myths).

Be one of the hundreds of millions of people who may experience this amazing phenomenon. Even if it turns out to be cloudy at your location, it will get dark, the temperature will drop, the animals will exhibit changes in behaviour. And don't fail to notice the spontaneous human reactions to this rare but ageless wonder.

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SENIOR CITIZENS, PLEASE BE MORE TALKATIVE

Generally, senior citizens are more talkative. But Doctors say, it's good. See a report below -

Doctors say so. Retirees (senior citizens) should talk more because there is currently no way to prevent memory loss. The only way is to talk more. There are at least three benefits for senior citizens if they talk more .

FIRST: Speaking activates the brain and keeps the brain active, because language & thought communicate with each other, especially when speaking quickly, which naturally results in faster thinking reflection and also enhances memory. Senior citizens who do not speak, are more likely to lose memory.

SECOND: Speaking relieves a lot of stress, avoids mental illness and reduces stress. We often say nothing, but we bury it in our hearts and suffocate ourselves. It's true , so it would be nice to give seniors a chance to talk .

THIRD: Speaking activates the facial muscles & at the same time, exercises the throat & also increases the capacity of the lungs, at the same time, it reduces the risk of eyes & ears deterioration and reduces latent risks such as dizziness and deafness.

IN SHORT: retirees, (senior citizens) the only way to prevent Alzheimer's is to talk as much as possible and communicate actively with people.

iaa

**Please forward this to as many Senior
Citizens as possible.**



RTOERO District 39 Peel



Spring General Meeting and Luncheon

Capitol Banquet Centre, 6435 Dixie Rd., Mississauga

*The Executive of RTO District 39 Peel
extends a warm invitation to all its members
and
their guests to attend this SGM and Luncheon.*

Monday, May 6, 2024

At **\$36.00** per person ... **By Reservation Only**
(cheques may be post dated to April 21, 2024)

9:30-10:00 a.m. - Registration and Refreshments

10:00 a.m. - Meeting

11:15 a.m. – Entertainment

St. Roch Secondary School Choir

12:30 p.m. - Lunch

COMPLIMENTARY LUNCHEON for MEMBERS

RTO District 39 Peel will hold on to all SGM Luncheon cheques until May 6, 2024
At that time we will shred all the member cheques that we have unless you do not show up to the SGM.
If you are a NO SHOW your cheque will be cashed
There will be NO - "Pay at the Door" option. All cheques **MUST** be received by **April 21, 2024.**

➡ **PLEASE use separate cheques for Non-Members. All Non Member's cheques will be cashed** ⬅

Registration Deadline - Sunday, April 21, 2024

Use this form or go to district39.rtoero.ca and download this form

Please cut here and remit the Reservation Form Below with your cheque or E transfer info

RTO Spring General Meeting - Monday May 6, 2024

RTO District 39 c/o Larry Holseth, 6 Tullamore Rd., Brampton, ON L6W 1J7

Meeting Only _____ Meeting and Meal _____ Date Today _____

Enclose a cheque for **\$36.00 per meal** payable to: **RTO District 39 Peel**

\$ _____ for _____ luncheons (non-refundable) (Return By April 21, 2024)

Choice of: Beef: _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____ Salmon _____ (check your choice)

My Name _____ Retirement Year _____ Phone _____

E Mail _____

Guest Name (1 only) _____ Retirement Year _____ (if a member)

Payment – Mail cheque or E transfer your \$\$\$ to the following

rto39treas@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities!

Our district runs on volunteers – and we’re looking for your help. RTOERO members are known for volunteering with family, friends, work and the community. But did you know your help is welcome within RTOERO, too? We have a range of volunteer opportunities.

Benefits of volunteering

Volunteering as a member of our district executive has a lot to offer, including making new friends, sharing your knowledge and interests, learning new skills – and having fun! Learn more.

Marketing and outreach coordinator

Are you an enthusiastic brand ambassador for RTOERO and our district? Consider joining our executive as our district marketing and outreach coordinator, connecting with future members!

Member at large

Are you passionate about RTOERO and our district and interested in becoming more involved – but not sure where your talents and experience might best fit? Volunteering as a member-at-large could be for you!

Events coordinator

Are you a party planner extraordinaire? Turn your knack for creating fun and memorable events into an important role on our district executive, helping to engage our members.

Foundation advocate

Do you believe in a society in which all seniors live with dignity and respect? Volunteer as our RTOERO Foundation advocate and be part of a unique and impactful philanthropic effort.

Political advocacy coordinator

Do you have a lifelong passion for politics and political issues? Have you been actively involved in the political process (campaigning, letter writing, etc.) in the past? Consider contributing your enthusiasm for democracy and civic engagement as our district’s political advocacy coordinator!

Contact our district president

Stevan Kraguljac

d39peelpresident@gmail.com

to learn more and find out if any of these volunteer roles is for you.



President
Stevan Kraguliac



Past-President
John Livingstone



1st Vice-President
Jeremy Cox



2nd Vice-President
Anne Horton



Treasurer
Larry Holseth



Secretary/Benefits
Lynn Shire

Social Chair
Vacant

Foundations Chair
Vacant



Recruitment
Nancy Perrin



Member Asst./Goodwill
Linda Kenny



Membership
Ed Bergey



Political Advocacy
Jeremy Cox



Website Co-ordinator
Racquel Carlow



Peelings Editor
Hazel O'Loughlin-Vidal



Travel & Trips
Janice Balesic



Member-at-Large
Neena Bowden

RTOERO District 39 Peel

President

Steve Kraguljac

Past President

John Livingstone

1st Vice-President

Jeremy Cox

2nd Vice-President

Anne Horton

Treasurer

Larry Holseth

Secretary

Lynn Shire

Archivist

John Livingstone

Benefits

Lynn Shire & Steve Kragulac

Membership

Ed Bergey

Goodwill

Linda Kenny

Political Advocacy

Jeremy Cox

Recruitment

Nancy Perrin

Foundations

Vacant

Social Committee

Vacant

Website Co-ordinator

Racquel Carlow
peeld39peelings@gmail.com

Peelings Editor

Hazel O'Loughlin-Vidal
d39peelingscchair@gmail.com

Travel & Trips

Janice Balesic

Book Club

Hazel O'Loughlin-Vidal &
Neena Bowden
d39bookclub@gmail.com

General**Information:**

rtod39@gmail.com

RTOERO Group Benefit Plan
(Johnson Inc)
1-800-638-4753

Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan
416-226-2700
1-800-668-0150

RTOERO National Office
416-962-9463
1-800-361-9888
www.rto-ero.org

How to Donate to the Foundation
You may use the National Web-
site:
[Donate - RTOERO](#)
Click on it and fill out the form or
Call the National Office at
416-962-9463

RTOERO District 39
PO Box 39516 Lakeshore/Cawthra
Mississauga, ON L5G 4S6

District 39 Peel Website:
<https://district39.rtoero.ca/>

Facebook:
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