

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Happy Holidays everyone! It's that time of year where we try to give to others. We give cards to our members that are 85 years old and older. We used to send along a poinsettia plant but since Covid we instead include a donation to a worthy cause. This year a donation will be made to Food4Kids on behalf of RTOERO District 11.

Due to widespread hunger and lack of affordable and/or supportive housing, please consider dropping off some food items to your local Food Bank.

Recently, we had a very successful District 11 Luncheon at Golf's Steakhouse. We honoured the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery that won this year's Community Grant for \$4000. We matched the grant with District 11 funds, so we presented Denis Longchamps with an \$8000 cheque for the Gallery. Please check out their website for their many seniors' programs that are offered.

The golfers will know that this September was the last RTO District 11 Golf Tournament. Next week, each of our three hospitals (Cambridge Memorial, St. Mary's and Grand River) will receive a \$5000 cheque from the proceeds of the tournament. Over the last 25 years, our hospitals have received approximately \$240 000.

NEW Extra coverage for trip cancellation/interruption - As of September 2023, members can now add extra coverage for trip cancellation. You are covered for \$6000 per insured person, but now you can buy extra coverage up to \$12 000 per insured for a specific trip. You can choose single, couple or family coverage. For full details including the premiums and application, please go to the RTOERO website or call 1-877-406-9007. In addition, RTOERO has made a partnership with Telus. Starting in January 2024, Telus will offer members a special deal on buying phones and on phone packages. Again check the website for details.

As of January 2024, RTOERO members who have RTOERO insurance will not have to pay the RTOERO member fee. Those who do not have RTOERO insurance will still have to pay it. Again, check the RTOERO website for more details.

Please take time to fill out the Head Office's questionnaire on renaming RTOERO. The questions are totally out of the box, but they want out of the box suggestions!

Have a wonderful holiday season with friends and family and drive safely!

Cheers

Terry Hamilton

## ITEMS TO NOTE

### Post-Secondary Scholarships

RTOERO is awarding 20 scholarships valued at \$3000 each to post-secondary (college or university) students enrolled in programs that lead to careers in either seniors' health and wellbeing; education; environmental stewardship; or that reflect a strong commitment to diversity, equity and/or inclusion. The deadline to apply is January 12, 2024.

<https://rtoero.ca/giving-back/scholarships/>

## Award of Distinction

Each year, RTOERO Waterloo Region recognizes the contributions of one of our local, District 11 members with an Award of Distinction. The award of Distinction is presented to a member in good standing with RTOERO District 11 Waterloo Region who:

- Demonstrates an outstanding caring commitment to volunteer service in the community
- Participates actively in organizations where helping others is the prime directive, locally or abroad
- Contributes freely of time and talents to assist others
- Encourages or mentors others in an education/support/service setting

Click [here](#) to fill out an online version of the nomination form.

Click [here](#) to access a print version of the nomination form.

The deadline for applications is February 15, 2024.

CHECK OUT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS! Don't miss the Registration Forms included below:		
Event	Date	How To Register
Coffee and Conversation	Tuesday, December 12 9:30 a.m.	Registration is necessary each month. <a href="#">Register here</a> by December 5.
Fresh Air Friday	Friday, December 15 10:30 a.m.	<a href="#">Register here</a> for our December walk.
Book Club	Thursday, December 14 10:00 a.m.	<a href="#">Use this form</a> to find out more information and to register.
Stitching With Friends	Monday, December 18 1:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Register here</a> if you have not done so yet this year.
Kitchener Ranger Game Group Seats *limited seats, first 20 people registered will be notified	Sunday, January 14 2:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Register here.</a>
Advanced Care Planning Workshop with Patti Haskell	Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024 10:30 am	<a href="#">Register here.</a>

## **MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS**

District 11 will again offer activities monthly for you to meet with members, online and in-person. Some of our monthly activities include:

\* **Book Club** - Our meetings are generally on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the morning. We are doing a mixture of in person and zoom, depending on time of year, special out of town guests, etc. On December 14 we will be discussing **The Lions of Fifth Avenue** by Fiona Davis.

\* **Fresh Air Fridays** - Members enjoy the outdoors at different trails and parks in the region. This month we will be walking the Homer Watson Park Trail on Wabanaki Dr. in Kitchener.

\* **Coffee and Conversation** - A location is picked after you have registered so that we can be sure to choose a location that will accommodate everyone. After you have registered, you will receive an email regarding the location for our next get-together.

\* **Stitching with Friends** - Members meet online to enjoy crocheting, knitting, fabric arts and chatting. Please join us via Zoom on the third Monday of each month at 1:00 pm. Sign up once and you will receive the zoom link monthly. The link will be emailed a few days before the event.

\* **An afternoon with the Kitchener Rangers** - Get ready to lace up your skates and cheer on our favourite team because RTOERO District 11 is thrilled to announce a Rangers hockey game on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. This promises to be an unforgettable afternoon filled with action-packed moments, camaraderie and the thrill of live hockey. However, there's a catch – we have limited tickets available for this special event. Here's how you can secure your spot:

1. **Registration:** to join in on the excitement, you'll need to register for this event.
2. **Payment:** The first 20 registrants will receive a link to purchase their tickets by December 27th.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to support the Rangers and enjoy an afternoon of hockey. Whether you're a die-hard fan or a casual spectator, this event is sure to leave you on the edge of your seat.

\* **Advanced Care Planning** - District 11 has once again invited Patti Haskell (ACP Volunteer Ambassador) to offer an informative session, via Zoom, for our members and friends on January 24, 2024. Advanced Care Planning is a topic each family is encouraged to become more informed about. Advance Care Planning is a two-step approach about end of life wishes and health care choices. The first step is to appoint a Substitute Decision Maker to act on your behalf if you are unable and the second involves having conversations with that individual(s) to ensure they know, understand and will follow through on your wishes, if you are not capable of doing so yourself. Please join our Zoom webinar so you and your family are informed about discussions that need to happen to ensure your wishes are understood by those around you.

\* **Theatre News**- We are happy to announce that we have 60 tickets reserved for **Jersey Boys** on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 2 pm at the Hamilton Family Theatre. Check your email in January for an Eventbrite invitation to buy tickets. Think about buying your tickets quickly as I don't think they will remain unsold for long!

\* **News at 11**- Reflections is the theme of *News At 11* Spring 2024 newsletter. Your reflections might be about a health journey, or a travel journey, or a significant event in your life that was meaningful and gave you a new perspective. Perhaps there were lessons learned, or a mystery uncovered. There is so much to reflect on in life and we'd like to hear about it. Please send your stories of approximately 500-650 words, with photos, to Sylvia Ranson at [rtodistrict11newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rtodistrict11newsletter@gmail.com). Deadline for submission is February 1.

**Follow District 11 News and Events on Facebook and our Website:**

<https://www.facebook.com/RTOERODistrict11WaterlooRegion> / <https://district11.rtoero.ca/>