



**RTO
ERO**

District 11

Waterloo Region January, 2024

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Happy New Year to all! I hope that you enjoyed some festive activities with family and friends. Keep a watch on your eNews as we are planning lots of interesting things to do in this New Year.

I know that you read in the last Enews that RTOERO members who have RTOERO insurance will not have to pay the RTOERO annual membership fee. That will be paid with our National RTOERO surplus. However, if you do not have RTOERO insurance, you will have to pay the RTOERO fee. For 2024, members will pay no more than \$76.50 for their annual membership fee. Current members whose 2023 fee was less than \$73 will see an inflationary increase of 4.8% - which is equivalent to the annual inflation increase for pensions in 2024. RTOERO will continue to offer free membership for those still working and this will hold until they retire. If you have any questions about the 2024 fee, you can look at the membership fee page on the national website or direct them to the office by email (membership@rtoero.ca) or by phone (1-800-361-9888)

If any of you are interested in joining the Board of District 11 or attending a Board meeting please contact me at president11@districts.rtoero.ca

Terry Hamilton

CHECK OUT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS! Don't miss the Registration Forms included below:		
Event	Date	How To Register
Coffee and Conversation	Tuesday, January 9, 2024 9:30 a.m.	Registration is necessary each month. Register here by January 5.
Fresh Air Friday	Friday, January 19, 2024 10:30 a.m.	Register here for our walk at Bechtel Park.
Book Club	Thursday, January 18, 2024 10:00 a.m.	Use this form to find out more information and to register.
Stitching With Friends	Monday, January 15, 2024 1:00 p.m.	Register here if you have not done so yet this year.
Advanced Care Planning Workshop - Patti Haskell	Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024 10:30 am	Register here.

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.

* **Fresh Air Fridays** - members enjoy the outdoors at different trails and parks in the region.

Bechtel Park Trail Loop

185 Bridge St W, Waterloo, ON N2K 1K9

This 2.3-km loop trail is considered an easy route, it takes an average of 36 min to complete. This popular trail for birding, hiking, and mountain biking is a lovely trail with a creek running through it, access to meadows, forest trails, and even some nice picnic areas. Because of winter conditions, keep an eye on the weather; cleats and walking sticks might be useful. Dogs are welcome, but must be on a leash.

* **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.

New Events Coming Up

Stay tuned for a few more activities during the winter and early spring season. We are still working on the details, but District 11 is planning a series of "Beer and Billiards", "Sip and Snooker", "Pop and Pool" (choose your own title according to your preferred beverage) afternoons between February and May. We hope to have a relaxed and friendly pool-playing atmosphere in the three main areas of our District - Waterloo, Kitchener, and Cambridge. Come to one or come to all! Subscribe to our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/RTOERODistrict11WaterlooRegion>) to get more information when it becomes available. Of course, you can also look in next month's eNews.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for June 12th--Stay tuned for an exciting new event!

News At 11 - Message from the Managing Editor

As you head into this new year, you will reflect on the past year and years past and wonder what this new year will bring. As you do that, consider writing a story for our spring edition of News At 11 under our theme, "Reflections" and tell us who or what made a difference in your life, what event changed the trajectory of your life, what glorious things stirred your passion, or what simple pleasures fill your days. Tell us *your* story.

Please send your story idea to Sylvia Ranson at rtodistrict11newsletter@gmail.com. A one-page story is approximately 500 words with photos. We accept half-page, one page, and one and one-half page stories. Deadline for submission is January 31.

Advance Care Planning - January 24th 2024 @ 10:30 - 11:30

District 11 has once again invited Patti Haskell (ACP Volunteer Ambassador) to offer an informative session, via Zoom, for our members and friends. Advanced Care Planning is a topic each family is encouraged to become more informed about. Please join us in January 2024.

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 consider joining our Zoom so you and your family are informed about discussions that need to happen to ensure your wishes are understood by those around you.

Retirement Planning Workshop - Wednesday, May 1, 2024 - details coming later

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

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