

WELCOME to all our District 15 members and visitors to this site. In our district, we provide for the local needs of almost 2900 members through a range of programs, services, and through our two publications, our monthly E-newsletter *Rapport* and our magazine, *Halton Herald*, which is distributed three times a year, January, April, and September.

District 15 is back in the swing of the fall season! The members of the Executive and the Board, as a whole, anticipate a busy fall ahead! Here are some of the highlights.

The fall issue of the *Halton Herald* should have arrived by post or, if you have chosen to receive the electronic version, then by email, and there is much to inform and entertain you in this issue. Thanks to Peter Gnish, Nanci Wakeman, and all the individuals that assist with this District 15 publication. Consider contributing an article or submit some favourite photos for Peter's contest and see your work shared with others in our very next issue!

We had a grand turnout for the celebration for new members and retirees at the To Hell with the Bell! breakfast on September 5. Marilyn MacLennan guided us through the agenda with breaks for prizes and all the enthusiastic participants departed well contented with the food and the information we shared. Congratulations once again to all those embarking on their new journey of retirement!

With the upcoming Federal Election on October 21, Moira Plexman is gathering information that will prepare our members to attend the All Candidates meetings in our varied communities and ensure that political issues relating to our members' welfare are raised and answers provided. Watch for more information on the District 15 website and in our October issue of *Rapport*.

Our Program Committee, in collaboration with our First Vice-President and Chair, Jerry Powidajko, and with our Benefits Chair, Colton Roberts, has planned our dynamic October 22 Meeting and Luncheon focusing on Wellness. Have you registered for this great social event plus learning experience? Committee members are also currently exploring the prospect of various speakers, entertainers, and venues for the Winter and Spring Luncheons.

Our Benefits Team attended the Provincial Workshop in June and will be sharing information on topics such as Choosing Wisely, Medical Cannabis, and Long Term Care Planning gleaned from that session in our E-letter, *Rapport*, throughout the coming months. Our local RTO-ERO Health Seminar, organized jointly with Hamilton District 13, will be held on October 17 at the Polish Hall in Burlington.

In early September, Toni Pizzingrilli attended the Goodwill Provincial Workshop, as Marina Lloyd, our Committee Chair, was vacationing in Italy (bringing back lots of photos, we hope!). Carol Pashkievich will be participating in the Treasurer's Workshop (the first in many years) and will carry back to District 15 some new procedures and a

new Chromebook with required templates. The Provincial Office is moving to ensure coherence between and amongst all RTO/ERO Districts to support unified financial accountability. In early October, Brad Fisher, our Second Vice President, and Jeannie Woodcroft, our Webmaster, will be acquiring new learnings at the Communications Workshop, which will encompass updates on the topics of newsletters, web design, and maintenance, and social media. We are indebted to Brad for assuming leadership on our E- newsletter and to Jeannie for her continuing work on our thriving website.

The issue of social isolation is being championed by the RTO/ERO Foundation. The Foundation is a registered charity investing in innovative community initiatives that promote social connections and engagement among older adults. Moira Plexman, our Foundation representative, is committed to furthering a range of initiatives within District 15, to support this mission. We have already embarked on making an annual donation to this Foundation in honour of our deceased members.

Claudia Stewart, in conjunction with her Social Committee, continues to plan and execute an enticing variety of informative and entertaining social events for District 15. Again check the website and *Rapport* for current information on excursions, theatre events, and trips that might appeal to you.

District 15 has a great team of people working on your behalf. I am so proud of the dedicated individuals who make up our Executive and Board and who commit their volunteer time to improving the welfare of all our members. We look forward to the coming year with great excitement and anticipation!

We extend a warm invitation to you, our members, to come out and join your fellow retired educators at various events and activities throughout the year. We also welcome all individuals who wish to engage their leadership skills with one of our Committees or with our Board.

Hope to welcome you personally very soon!

Micki Clemens

President, District 15 Halton