

THIRTEENTH WORLD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In December 2007 the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) and St. Joseph's Home Care were deemed 'not eligible' in a 'competitive bidding' process to submit requests for proposals to provide home care services in the Hamilton area even though these two organizations are the largest not-for-profit agencies in the region and provide about 80 percent of the home care.

The Hamilton community responded to this travesty. Politicians were inundated with letters and finally heard the outcry. Mr. Smitherman intervened and halted the bidding process which will allow the VON and St. Joseph's to continue serving their clients.

It is unclear what will happen next, though. Mr. Smitherman stated in his announcement that he will review the controversial practice. The CCAC's were set up to force health care providers to bid on services in order to find the most efficient and cost effective provider. Is there any other area of health care open to the bidding process? Will companies losing out in the bidding process be around in nine years time when the contracts come up for renewal? VON lost out in the first step, the written step, of the bidding

process but the contract winner can subcontract services to VON. How is this cost efficient?

There is still a lingering uncertainty following the Health Ministers killing the contract bidding and freezing the process across the province. This is an area where we still have to be very vigilant. Continued monitoring of this issue is needed. This is something that may affect us sooner than later.

What does RTO/ERO do for you?

*Our motto: Here for you now, Here for your future.

*The official voice of and lead organization for retired teachers in the Province of Ontario.

*Provides a full range of programs and services for its members.

*Provides comprehensive, competitive and affordable health plans, owned and managed by its members.

*Committed to continuous quality improvement while providing outstanding service to its members.

*Advocates on a variety of political and social issues on behalf of its members and seniors in general.

*Stands for pension protection and support.

*Provides, through its District structure, social and networking opportunities for its members.

*A caring and compassionate organization that provides goodwill support to members, and philanthropic programs to benefit members and their families, and their communities.

Helen Szydłowski

Coming Events

March 26 Goodwill Meeting

April 1 Political Action Meeting

April 8 PAC Hamilton Mountain Riding Meeting

April 9 Art Workshop

April 11 Tour 2 Shaw Festival

April 16 Tea & Talk, Caledonia

April 29 Archives Tour

May 2 Table Officers' Meeting

May 2 Tour 3 Stratford

May 5 Executive Meeting

May 7 Vanished Hamilton Talk

May 8 RTO Spring Luncheon

May 12, 13, 14 Provincial Senate

June 3 Political Action Meeting

June 6 Big Bike Ride (Seats still available)

June 11 Tour 4 Ball Game

June 12 Golf Tournament

June 26 Tour 5 Sarnia

July 16 Rainbow Acres Tour

July 20 Cottonwood Mansion

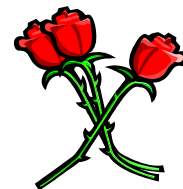
July 23 Tour 6 Soulpepper

August 20 Tour TBA

September 11 Golf tournament

September 25 Retirement Tea

September 26 Tour TBA



Art Workshop - Mark Making with Transfer Technique, April 9 (Note date change)

The transfer technique is a form of photo-based mono-printing or mark making. The instructor for this one day workshop is Claudette Losier. She will start by showing varied examples of her work and then give a demonstration of the various methods of working with this concept. The main focus will be on providing one-on-one assistance to participants throughout the work-

shop. *For a list of supplies see the January newsletter.*

If you have questions, please contact the instructor at: 905-388-7794.

To see examples of Claudette's transfer art, go to her website at www.claudettelosier.artshamilton.ca

Location: Blessed Sacrament School, 315 East 37th Street, Hamilton.

Time: 9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$40.00

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, March 26, 2008

Make cheques payable to Claudette Losier and mail to Jutta Busch
1964 Main St. West -Unit 701
Hamilton ON L8S 1J5

The application form is on page 11 in January's newsletter.

Caledonia: Tea, Talk and Tour, Wednesday, April 16

Cost \$10.00 There are still places available. For more details see January's newsletter or contact Jutta Busch at 905 529 5197.

Educational Archives and Heritage Centre of Hamilton Wentworth.

Enjoy a guided tour of the educational archives with John Aikman on **Tuesday, April 29 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

Cost: free. Registration deadline: Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Location: 155 Macassa Avenue, Hamilton (Vincent Massey School).

To RSVP so we know you are coming call Jutta Busch at 905 529 5197.

Vanished Hamilton- A talk by Margaret Houghton

Vanished Hamilton is a nostalgic look backwards at some of Hamilton's long lost treasures. From restaurants to department stores, film theatres to industries all no longer to be found in the city. These stories are taken from a best selling series of books edited by Margaraet Houghton (archivist, special collections, Hamilton Public Library). Vanished Hamilton I, Vanished Hamilton II and Vanished Hamilton III all tell a variety of stories of Hamilton in the past.

These books will be available for sale. Date: **Wednesday, May 7, 1:00 p.m.**

Location: Blessed Sacrament School , 315 East 37th Street, Hamilton. Registration deadline: May 2, 2008

Cost: free. To RSVP call Jutta Busch at 905 529 5197.

Rainbow Acres Daylily Farm

Enjoy a guided tour of the gardens featuring over 800 varieties of daylilies. Bring your camera/sketchpad! There are picnic tables in the shade; bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after the tour.

Date: **Wednesday, July 16, 2008.** Time: 11:00 a.m.

Cost: free. Registration deadline: Friday, July 11, 2008

Location: 1.5 km south of Mt.Hope on #6 Hwy, then east (1 km) on Whitechurch Rd. #8211 on south side - grey brick house

To RSVP call Jutta Busch at 905 529 5197.

Cottonwood Mansion-Craft Show and Beef on a Bun / Corn Roast

Cottonwood is a 6000 sq. ft. fifteen room Italianate brick mansion built about 1870. It is a Living Museum as well as a Genealogy Research Centre, concentrating on pioneer families in the Niagara Peninsula.

The outdoor craft show will feature 30-40 vendors and will run from

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The corn roast and beef on a bun will be available from 12:30 -3:00 p.m.

Location: 740 Haldimand Rd. #53 (Selkirk) If you need directions call Jutta at 905-529-5197.

Cost: \$12.00 (includes entrance fee and food) Make cheques payable to

Cottonwood Mansion and send to Jutta Busch, 701-1964 Main Street West, Hamilton, L8S 1J5

Date: **Sunday, July 20**

Registration Deadline: July 10.

Application form is on page 7.

Jutta Busch, Recreation Chair

Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Price \$29.00 per person

Marquis Gardens

1050 Rymal Road East, Hamilton
(South side of Rymal, Between Upper Gage
and Upper Ottawa, Free Parking)

Social Hour (Cash Bar) 11:30 a.m.
Business Meeting 12:00 noon
Luncheon 12:30 p.m.

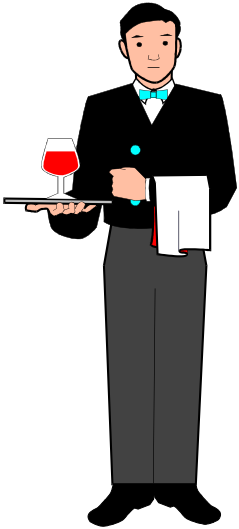
Guest Speaker: Dr. Malina Head,
Assistant Dean De Groote School of
Business
McMaster University

Topic: **Identity Theft**

Menu

European Rolls
Salad
Supreme Chicken topped
with lemon white wine sauce
Roasted Potatoes
Vegetable Medley
Apple Crumble Crisp with
ice cream
Tea and Coffee

*Special menus may be requested. Contact
Phyllis Doyle 905-632-8302 (evenings)*



Transportation: If you need travel assistance, please contact Phyllis Doyle who will do her best to accommodate you.
Reservations: To facilitate the correct ordering of meals, please complete the application form on page 7 in this issue of The Thirteenth World and mail along with your cheque by May 2 to:
Phyllis Doyle, 857 Condor Drive, Burlington, Ontario L7T 3A8
Please pick up your pre-printed name tag at the door. This will be your admission to the dining room.

Nominations

It's that time of year again when we look at structuring our District Executive and Table Officers for the next school year. As Chair of the Nominating Committee I welcome all members to examine the committees and executive positions we have in our governance structure. Please know that we are in need of new members for all committees and welcome those of you who might like to serve on the District Executive or as an Executive Officer.

Those who are interested in serving on a committee are encouraged to read the September 13th World for a listing of the committees or view it on our web site: www.rto-district13.org

Those interested in serving are asked to fill in the form below. Elections and appointments are made at the May annual meeting so I'm requesting that your expression of interest be sent to me by April 30, 2008. Please give serious thought to serving with us as an executive or committee member. We need your input and ideas.

I am interested in serving as a Committee member and/or Table Officer

Name: _____ Phone : _____

e-mail: _____

Please check one: position of interest: _____
I am willing to serve where needed _____

Please e-mail to: lnormandeau1@cogeco.ca or mail to: Leo Normandeau, 155 Main St. S., P.O.Box 1060,
Waterdown, ON LOR 2H0 or phone 905 689 9198.

Leo Normandeau (Chair)

Grass Roots Political Brainstorming

Our Political Action Committee (PAC) invites all members of the Hamilton Mountain Federal riding to a morning grassroots brainstorming session on federal issues and concerns. Breakfast supplied by District 13.

Date: **April 8, 2008**

Location: Blessed Sacrament School,
315 East 37th Street, Hamilton

Time: 9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Agenda

9:00 –9:30 Continental Breakfast

9:30-10:30

Presentations and discussions on the following issues:

- * Proportional Representation
- * Equality of Federal seats
- * Senior Pharmaceutical issues

10:30-11:15

Discussions (loose format) such topics as: Homecare, Pension Issues, Income

Splitting

11:15-11:30 Summary and Follow-up

Please notify us by **April 4th** of your desire to attend.

Contact: Leo Normandeau
905 689 9198

E-mail: lnormandeau1@cogeco.ca

RTO District 13, 21st Annual Spring Golf Tournament

The 21st Annual Golf Tournament will be held Thursday, June 12, 2008 at the Knollwood Golf Course in Ancaster. Tee-off times will begin at 7:30 a.m.

A cheque for \$35.00 should be mailed to Jim Wilson. An application form for this tournament is on page 7 of this newsletter.

The format is a best ball scramble. You do not need to be a low-handicap player to come out and enjoy the fun.

Golfers of all skill levels are welcome. While there will be a prize for the golfer making the longest drive, sinking the longest putt, getting closest to the hole, the object of the day is to enjoy the game and meet other golfers. You will also have a chance to win a lucky prize draw at the "nineteenth-hole party" after the golf.

Thank you to Richard Lawrence and Jane Murray who have organized the District 13 Golf Tournament for the

last two years. They volunteered to take on the job of running the golf for District 13 RTO and we, the golfers and executive, are indebted for their work.

The date for the District 13 fall golf tournament is Thursday, September 11, 2008. Mark your calendar now.



Jim Wilson

905 522 2569

Retirement Reception

RTO District 13 Retirement Tea for the newly retired teachers, principals and supervisory officers is slated for **September 25, 2008** at

10:00 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce, 555 Bay Street North.

If you know of anyone who is retiring and is looking for a dynamic or-

ganization fostering their needs, please let them know. For more information call Gordon Near at 905 385 6656.

Curling 2008

Advance Notice: Our Mixed Bonspiel will be held this year on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at the Dundas Golf and Curling Club. The event is sponsored by Teachers Credit Union and RTO District 13.

It's not too early to think about a team! We would like to have more women participate this year. Watch for registration details in the September issue of the Thirteenth World.

John Moyer 905 679 5494

Hamilton Men Teachers' Choir

Looking for fun and fellowship? Looking for an evening of singing and performing choral music in our community? Come join us. We are The Hamilton Men Teachers' Choir established in 1961 and we're looking for new members. Call: Bob Savelli at 905-628-3138.

Changed Address ????

If you have moved, please contact Provincial Office of RTO telephone 1-800-361-9888 or Email: www.rto-ero.org Let them know your new address to ensure you receive your copy of Renaissance (provincial magazine) and the Thirteenth World (newsletter and tours information). This will bring both the provincial and district mailing lists up-to-date with one contact.

MMI Eye Project to Barranquilla, Colombia

On Saturday January 12, 2008, twenty Americans and seventy Canadians arrived in the small South American city of Barranquilla, Colombia. We were part of the Medical Ministry International team who were to take part in an eye and dental project.

My wife Penny and I have been aware of MMI through our good friends Barbara and Rick Skinner (formerly of Skinner Opticians) who are members of our church, Ryerson United in Hamilton. Over the years, they have participated in 30+ missions to third world countries. After selling their business, they became full time workers for MMI, with Barb becoming Managing Director. Our son Tim, a secondary school teacher in Aylmer Ontario has taken part in ten projects in the last nine years. Last year, Tim and his fiancé Jennifer spent two weeks in Peru. It was time for mom and dad to experience what an MMI mission was all about. Penny and I sent in our application with a deposit to become a MMI volunteer. We made appointments with the Travel Clinic in Ancaster to discuss what shots we would need. On January 11th, arriving at the airport at 4:00 a.m., each of us picked up a large hockey bag filled with glasses or medical equipment that would be used on the project. We were responsible for the bag until we arrived in Barranquilla.

We set up the mission in a school in a rather poor area of Barranquilla. The school was closed for their summer vacation time. Three local churches supplied the translators and control personnel. The volunteers from North America were booked into a very nice

hotel about a forty minute drive through back streets from the school. Only the very rich can afford medical care in Barranquilla. The eye and dental care which we provided was not free. Even the poorest patient was expected to make a nominal payment for the service provided. This is a basic philosophy of MMI. By making the payment, they can now expect a certain quality of care.

People were lining up at 3 a.m. in the morning in order to get their eyes or teeth checked. Surgeries were conducted in a 'state of the art' private clinic owned by a Christian doctor and his doctor son. Penny had a very responsible job working with Doctor John Graham from Vernon, B.C. Picture a 'Mash' like hospital. The patient would lie on a camp cot. A lab stool with a cardboard box duct-taped to it and with a gooseneck lamp duct-taped to the box. A halogen lamp was used to illuminate the eye that was being operated on. Penny was responsible for sterilizing the equipment, placing all the instruments and syringes that Dr. Graham would need on a sterile cloth. Bob Guest (retired secondary teacher) and his wife Sheila were on their second mission having been to Colombia last year. Bob and I gave out reading glasses. Sheila did all the bookings for surgeries at the school. Ellen Francis operated the E block, a device used in the initial screening of the patients, and Ross Francis gave out prescription glasses. In the hockey bags, about 6000 pairs of used eye glasses had been checked, cleaned and the prescriptions read and entered into a computer at the MMI warehouse in Stoney Creek, Ontario by volunteers who meet the last Friday of the month. Three lap top computers were used to search the collection of glasses. Ross would then

find the pair of glasses that came closest to the prescription that the patient needed.

Margie Sweeney, daughter of the late Art Sweeney, worked as a nurse in the room at the private clinic.

In the nine and one half days that the team was in Barranquilla, we were able to serve 6 616 eye patients, 5 654 pairs of prescription glasses were dispensed, 249 surgeries performed: 173 cataracts, 29 strabismus, 150 pterygia, 32 other surgeries, 89 laser treatments and 25 artificial eyes fitted.

The dental team consisting of 2 dentists completed 329 restorations, 204 extractions, 41 cleanings and 13 fluoride treatments. Total number of patients seen 6 937.

Next January 15-31, another mission is planned for Barranquilla, Colombia. In February 14-28 there are tentative plans for a mission in Bolivia.

We found the mission to be an amazing experience! We plan to be back!

Medical Ministry Canada is located at PO box 56086, Stoney Creek, ON L8G 5C9 mmican@mmint.org
Medical Ministry International
www.mmint.org

Volunteers are needed for the missions as well as sorting and cataloguing glasses at the warehouse in Stoney Creek. For more information please feel free to contact any of the retired educators mentioned in the story above.

P.S. We did have one day off, the Saturday after the first week. Some of the team traveled to the historic city of Cartagena. But that is another story for another time.

Bruce Evenden 905 628 8662

Nova Scotia Teachers College, 50th Anniversary Reunion, August 15,16,17,2008

All former staff and students are invited to attend this annual reunion being held in Truro, Nova Scotia. This year we are highlighting all the years ending in eight. Special emphasis on the students who graduated in 1958. For more information please contact the Alumni at rwjordan@ca.inter.net or visit the website at www.nsteacherscollege.ca or write to Alumni Association of NSTC, PO Box 1252, Truro NS B2N5N2

Anna Marie Celi 905-389-1614. E-mail: am.celi@sourcecable.net

OUR PEOPLE



MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC

At age seven, **Jim Marino** started accordion lessons and the music has played on ever since. There's the man who jumped on his horse and rode off in all directions. That pretty well describes Jim's life with music; one project after another. In Hamilton's Delta Collegiate band he played saxophone. Soon he was teaching accordion at Viola School of Music and picking up performance 'gigs' playing and singing at the Continental Club in north end Hamilton.

Teachers' College led to 25 years teaching music for the Hamilton Public Board mostly in middle school. At Burkholder School (now closed), from which he retired in 2000, 'happenstance' launched a major music spinoff. The school planned a talent show in the mid- 1990s and Jim suggested the teachers should enter. Three on staff volunteered and Jim put together a singing quartet that made its debut at the talent show. After a successful repeat the next year, Jim suggested they continue in show 'biz'. So was born **Fourwarned**, Hamilton

teacher songsters Jane Longmate and Jim (both retired) and active teachers Rosemary Almas and Julie Warriner. They sing 'pop' tunes from the 20s, 30s, the rock era and on. **Fourwarned** practices once a week and has entertained at practically every retirement home in Hamilton, Oakville and Burlington as well as taking bookings for birthday parties, street dances etc. As Jim says "we're cheap, but good". **Fourwarned** sings songs with recognizable tunes and words from days not that long past - music that will get your toes tapping.

Jim does all the pre-work. Arranging one song takes him some three hours: he plays the music background on a keyboard, sets the key range, writes the harmonies and then records it. The recorded music backstops the singers. Ten CDs he has made are at the ready if needed.

While still teaching in 1994, Jim became a volunteer at CFMU-FM, McMaster's radio station. Soon he was invited to start a Saturday show. His **Freewheeling Folk Show** (folk, roots, blues and other that pushes the boundaries) airs from 10 to noon every Saturday all year. A disc jockey plays music, but Jim has expanded the role. He conducts interviews and has had guest artists from across Canada, the UK, Australia. Juno Award winner Francey Miles and east coast Celtic singer John Allan Cameron have visited his show. Teacher skills help. He studies the career of each guest before the interview. He often uses history connected with the music he plays, calling it "The Show That Dares You to Think While You're Listening". **Mind Massage** is the latest addition. Listeners phone in the answer to a mystery puzzle to re-

ceive a prize. DJ connection with artists and the music industry results in getting concert tickets, passes, gift certificates to give as prizes. Specials and themes (folk/rock, the Stelco 1946 strike, Mariposa) punctuate the flow from time to time. Benefits, which he does free, raise money for the station. Five years ago he expanded into the next hour (noon to 1p.m.) with his **Smokin' Bluegrass Show**. He plans his holidays so he can be on air 52 weeks a year; now that's commitment. Holidays may be more music; he's attended conferences in Toronto, Memphis and Nashville. **Penguin Eggs**, a Canadian quarterly magazine serving aficionados of folk, roots and world music will print a piece about his shows in its spring '08 issue.

Producing has entered the mix too. He helped produce the CD **Tears of a Thousand Years** which featured 20 songs by Canadian artists. The project raised about \$20,000 for New York relief after 9/11.

To keep off the streets but on the road, Jim works for Payne Music three days a week visiting schools from Niagara to Oakville for instrument repair, a job which earns him the lofty title of education consultant. He often saves schools money by advising teachers and pointing out things like oiling valves to cut down repair bills. For Jim Marino, life's a music-go-round!. *Hear Jim Marino on Mac's CFMU (FM93.3) any Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. To book the teacher singing group Fourwarned, call Rosemary Almas (905)528-5837.*

Iris Berryman
iberryman@sympatico.ca
905 383 4109

VICTORIAN TEA. Saturday 10 May. 1 to 4 p.m. St. John's Anglican Church, Wilson St., Ancaster. \$25.

Proceeds will support the **Canadian Cancer Society** through a donation to the **CCS Relay For Life** on 13 June. All money will be used in this community. Your ticket includes lunch, tea and one luminary candle to be lit in memory of a victim or survivor of cancer at the Relay for Life. Reserve tickets from the event chair, retired Hamilton teacher **Joyce Whittle** (905)385-6732 or Email: jwhittle@mountaincable.net.

HAMILTON'S RELAY FOR LIFE.

Friday 13 June. 7 p.m. and overnight. **Dofasco Park** (First Road East, Stoney Creek mountain). This unique annual community event to fight cancer raised \$300,000 last year. Teams of ten collect pledges for taking turns walking the track all night in a non-competitive relay. The Hamilton '08 event chair is retired Hamilton teacher **Joyce Whittle** who is a cancer survivor. Joyce will be pleased to answer your questions and would be honoured to accept your pledge and walk for you.

Application for RTO District 13 Spring Luncheon Thursday, May 8, 2008, Marquis Gardens.

Name as it should appear on your name tag: _____

Make cheques (\$29.00 per person) payable to RTO District 13.

Mail cheques to arrive by May 2, 2008 to:

Ms Phyllis Doyle, 857 Condor Drive, Burlington, Ontario L7T 3A8

Cottonwood Mansion Craft Show - Sunday, July 20, 2008 - Application Form

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Food 12:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Make cheque(\$12.00 per person) payable to **Cottonwood Mansion** and send to Jutta Busch, 701-1964 Main Street West, Hamilton, L8S 1J5

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

The 21th Annual Golf Tournament, Thursday, June 12, 2008 at Knollwood, in Ancaster.

Check the following: We will make up our own foursome.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

I would like to join a foursome _____. I would estimate my skill level as: Above average __ Average __ Duffer__. Any special request, use back if necessary, we'll try to accommodate.

Name _____ Phone No. _____ Postal Code _____

Address: _____ E-mail _____

Fee: (\$ 35.00 per person) Total fee submitted: _____.

Complete this form and mail with cheque payable to: Jim Wilson, 970 Danforth Ave., Burlington, Ontario, L7T 1S8. Prepayment is appreciated.

Please send ____ registration form(s) for the mixed scramble on September 11, 2008.

A 105 year old woman was interviewed. She was asked how she spent her days. She replied, "I'm seeing six gentlemen every day. In the morning Will Power helps me out of bed, then I go to see John. Later Charley Horse comes by. When he leaves, Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day and we go from joint to joint. I enjoy a brief session with Jack Daniels at dinner and after such a busy day, I'm glad to go to bed with Ben Gay".

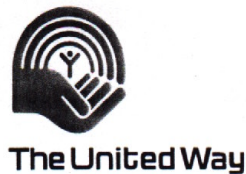
Rumors abound that the Academy Awards will be held in Washington, DC next year. They figure the best acting is done in Washington.



Remember: Be careful crossing the street - you may get that run-down feeling.

RTO District 13
c/o Gordon Near
21 King's Forest Drive
Hamilton, Ontario
L8T 4J4

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of BURLINGTON
HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

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Hamilton, Ontario L8R 1B9
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