



Les enseignant(e)s à la retraite  
des comtés de  
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry  
Retired Teachers of Ontario  
District 25

## SPRING 2009 PRINTEMPS

### Exécutif District 25 Executive

#### President

Jean (John) Roy (613) 938-2026

#### Past President

Barbara Menard (613) 347-2522

#### First Vice-President

Jim Shaw (613) 989-5240

#### Second Vice-President

Jackie Houde (613) 933-6065

#### Secretary

Carl Rines (613) 347-3482

#### Treasurer

Albert O'Connell (613) 525-5281

#### Pension

Gerry Morrell (613) 925-5570

#### Health - Insurance

Jackie Houde (613) 933-6065

#### Stormont Representatives

Beth Short (613) 984-2254

Elaine Hutchinson (613) 346-5728

#### Dundas Representatives

Lorna Holmes (613) 774-2100

Gerry Morrell (613) 925-5570

#### Glengarry Representatives

Albert O'Connell (613) 525-5281

Paulette Hébert (613) 347-2674

#### Cornwall Representatives

Jackie Houde (613) 933-6065

Ariane Carriere (613) 938-9480

#### Political Action Committee

Gerry Morrell (613) 925-5570

#### Membership

Paulette Hébert (613) 347-2674

#### Web Master

Ariane Carriere (613) 938-9480

#### Newsletter Editor

Jean (John) Roy (613) 938-2026

#### Newsletter Editorial Assistant

Monique Sauvé Roy jroy14@cogeco.ca

## President's Message / Jean (John) Roy Message du président



It's the first day of Spring as I'm sitting in my solarium pondering over what to write in my first message of 2009. I just can't seem to clear my mind of what I just witnessed on the news telecast – economic recession, job losses, mortgage foreclosures, banking collapses, wars, terrorism, scandals and abuses of all sorts. It all sounds so negative that it reminds me of Charles Dickens' opening line in a *Tale of Two Cities* except that the emphasis is on the second part, which is "the worst of times". However, just before I sink into a depressing mood, I look outside and I see a bright sunny day; I hear the noise of the Canada geese flying high above in the skies of blue and I catch a glimpse of my first robin of the season pecking away on my lawn which is already turning green. And as Louis Armstrong would sing it "I think to myself, what a wonderful world!!" That's it! I've made up my mind; I'm going to write about optimism and hope. Enough with the doldrums of winter despair and depressing news. This is Spring, a time to celebrate the rebirth of nature and the forecast of better days ahead.

In the year of 2008, RTO-ERO celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. From a modest beginning with a membership file of 9,176 members, the organization has grown and prospered in a thriving enterprise that will likely top 62,000 members by the end of 2009. Forty (40) years of growth, of reaching out servicing and caring for the needs of the retired teachers of Ontario. Now that's a good story, one of success, of hope and of optimism. It's definitely something to cheer about as we enjoy, despite the present bleak economic outlook, the benefits of one of the most secure, better organized and most respected pension plans of the world.

As we dwell on this amazing story, I can't help but wonder about its beginnings in 1968. What was it like back then as Arthur McAdam, the very first RTO-ERO President, was preparing to write his first message? Let's go down memory lane and check out 1968. 'Mrs. Robinson' (by Simon & Garfunkel) was the song of the year, while the top T.V. series were 'Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In', 'Get Smart', 'Mission Impossible', 'The Ed Sullivan Show' and 'Bonanza'. Hair, the first major rock musical was opening on Broadway. It was the beginning of the era of Trudeaumania in Canadian politics and the 'hippy flower children' of the 60's were still singing for free love. Waterbeds and Jacuzzi whirlpool baths were introduced. Gasoline was selling at 55 cents a gallon (yes! You read it right a gallon, not a litre), and I was flipping burgers at a Harvey's in Montreal trying to raise enough money for my entry into Teachers' College. It was a good time indeed and there is no reason not to believe and hope that we will again enjoy such times. Let's be patient and careful in these tough times and we will surely rebound. Keep in mind that the tradition of excellence of the RTO-ERO since 1968 will continue to serve us well.

Come and join me at our Spring Luncheon on May 20<sup>th</sup> in Alexandria as we celebrate Spring and welcome better times ahead.