

The THIRTY-FIFTH ESTATE

RTO/ERO DISTRICT 35

NEWSLETTER
May 2019

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Welcome!



NEW MEMBERS
to RTO/ERO *District 35:*

Sherry Ambridge

Marcel Arsenault

Barbi Baker

Jo-Anne Bridgewater

Grazia Cianci

Judi Greene

Deanna Koval

Deborah Liedtke

Sylvia McFee

Vera McMaster

Lisa Salonen

Heather Semeniuk

Laura Sfreddo

Wendy Smit-Fisher

Dian Webb

Edward White

District 35 Membership encompasses teachers and support staff from:
Dryden, Vermilion Bay, Waldhof, Eagle River, Minnitaki, Oxdrift, Wabigoon, Hudson, Sioux Lookout,
Igance. Unit 2: Red Lake, Balmertown, Cochenour, Madsen, Ear Falls.

**RTO/ERO DISTRICT 35
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY 2019**

POSITION	NAME	CONTACT
President	Jackie Neall	Phone: 807-227-5564 Presdry76@bell.net
1 st Vice-President		
2 nd Vice-President		
Past President	Peter Andrusco	Phone: 807-223-4500 peterandrusco@gmail.com
Benefits Rep	Rick Wilcox	Phone: 807-216-9126 rwilcox@drytel.net
Luncheon Convenor	Carol Gardam	Phone: 807-221-8459 cbgardam@shaw.ca
Luncheon Convenor (Assistant)	Judith Hamilton	Phone: 807-223-5690 Cell: 807-221-9351 mrshdryden@hotmail.com
Goodwill Rep	Geraldine Savian	Phone: 807-223-3482 geraldinesavian@hotmail.com
Member Services Rep	LeeAnn Benson	807-221-9392 Labenson60@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Patsy Norman	Phone: 807-223-2511 nanapatn@shaw.ca
Pension/Retirement Concerns Rep	Betty Lyle	Phone: 807-223-5957 bettylyle@shaw.ca
Political Advocacy Rep	Thea McMonagle	Phone: 807-223-4799 rto35.ca@gmail.com
Secretary	Patsy Norman	Phone: 807-223-2511 nanapatn@shaw.ca
Treasurer	Patsy Norman	Phone: 807-223-2511 nanapatn@shaw.ca
Treasurer	Brian Davidson	Phone: 807-937-5407 jbdavidson@drytel.net
WebMaster/Communications Rep	Thea McMonagle	Phone: 807-223-4799 rto35.ca@gmail.com
Executive Member	Sue O'Grady	807-223-4384 skogradys@shaw.ca
Executive Member	Marilyn Tinkess	Phone: 807-323-4360 matinkess@shaw.ca
Executive Member	Lynne Pateman	Phone: 807-221-9342 lynnepateman@shaw.ca

**RTO/ERO DISTRICT 35
UNIT 2 (RED LAKE) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY 2019**

POSITION	NAME	CONTACT
President Unit 2	Dennis Gushulak	Phone: 807-222-3459 dennisgushulak@shaw.ca
Vice-President Unit 2		
Secretary	Susan Cullen	Phone: 807-222-3384 cullen@tbaytel.net
Treasurer	Roger Cormier	Phone: Rogcorm62@gmail.com
Goodwill and Member Services Rep	Donna Gushulak	Phone: 807-222-3459 dqushulak@gmail.com
Benefits Rep	Dennis Gushulak	Phone: 807-222-3459 dennisgushulak@shaw.ca
Pension/Retirement Concerns Rep	Dennis Gushulak	Phone: 807-222-3459 dennisgushulak@shaw.ca

DISTRICT 35 PRESIDENT

As of September, I will have served 3 years as your President and 2 years as Vice President. It has been an enjoyable and exciting 5 years. The Organization has and is moving forward into a new era. There is still work to be done to ensure that the local District is up to date with the constitution and is following the legal requirements of these changes. I would like to see this work completed so hope to stand as President for one more year. However, there is the necessity for the positions of First Vice and Second Vice to be filled in order that there is continuity in knowledge and leadership. **We need people to step up into the following positions: - First Vice President – Second Vice President- Secretary.**

Looking to the future, the Organization promises to be an even more vocal advocate for all seniors. Research through The Foundation, lobbying all levels of Government to meet the retirement needs of seniors, and of course the provision of a viable affordable insurance program is still the main focus of our Organization.

The Board through surveys and focus groups, among members, has embarked on a re-branding, renaming exercise. Expect some exciting news in the future that will recognize the past history and excellent work done through RTO/ERO and will show a more inclusive, more modern organization that will be recognized as a leader in life opportunities for retired seniors.

Little has changed at the District level. Our luncheons and concern for local Members through Goodwill remains a priority. Applications for Project Service to Others and scholarships still exist. The opportunity for local Members to be on Provincial Committees is available. All of our Executive Members work very hard to meet the needs of local Members.

Change does not come easily but change is inevitable! If we don't move with the times we go backwards. Help your Executive move into the future with a strong, vibrant voice and a resolve to do the very best for Members.

Get involved.

- Jackie Neall

"The Thirty-Fifth Estate" **(District 35's Newsletter)**

"The Thirty-Fifth Estate" is produced twice a year, Spring and Fall.

Contributions by members are always welcome. If you have something to share please send it to me at nanapatn@shaw.ca.

An electronic version of "The Fifth Estate" can be viewed by visiting our website <http://district35.rto-ero.org>. If you would prefer to read the newsletter on the website, or perhaps you no longer wish to receive a copy, please contact me and your name will be removed from our mailing list.

- Patsy Norman,
Editor

TREASURERS REPORT**Statement of Income and Expenses
January 1 to December 31, 2018**

	Income	Expenditures	Balance
mAnnual Grant	\$13,978	*\$1,853	\$12,125
Retirement Planning Wksp	1,026	2,073	(1,046)
Luncheons	7,176	10,354	(3,178)
District Meetings	0	727	(727)
Travel	0	1,885	(1,885)
Provincial Senate	0	0	0
Administration	0	454	(454)
Goodwill	0	1,128	(1,128)
Newsletter	0	1,841	(1,841)
Charitable Foundation	929	929	0
Share a Book	197	187	10
Food Bank	322	257	65
**Project Service to Others	0	4,000	(4,000)
50 th Anniversary	2,000	2,000	0
Income - Expenditures			(\$2,130)
Opening Balance Jan 1/18			\$4,360
BANK BALANCE as of Dec 31/2019			\$2,230

* \$1,853 is Unit 2, Red Lake share of the Provincial Grant.

** Project Services to Others (Grant to Library)--funding was received in 2017 and presented to the Library in 2018.

- *Patsy Norman*
- *Brian Davidson*

People value shiny stones and lucky charms, but they forget that the most powerful talismans of all are the stories what we tell ourselves and to others.

RTO/ERO District 35
SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDRAISING
2013 to December 31, 2018

YEAR	CHARITABLE FOUNDATION	FOOD BANK	BOOK SALES	TOTAL
2018	\$928.50	\$322.00	\$197.00	\$1,447.50
2017	\$829.00	\$415.00	\$185.00	\$1,429.00
2016	\$820.00	\$224.00	\$125.00	\$1,169.00
2015	\$754.00	\$293.00		\$1,047.00
2014	\$654.00	\$383.00		\$1,037.00
2013	\$1,031.00	\$404.00		\$1,435.00
TOTAL	\$5,016.50	\$2,041.00	\$507.00	\$7,564.50

“Without experiencing darkness we could not appreciate the stars!”

DISTRICT 35–UNIT 2 (RED LAKE) PRESIDENT

The May Newsletter once again reminds us of the various retirement opportunities that we were able to take part in – whether spending time with family and friends, relaxing, new hobbies, or spending time in warmer locations away from the winter cold. We have many opportunities to occupy our retirement days.

The Red Lake Unit recently welcomed Barbi Baker, retired teacher from Ear Falls Public School. As well, we also welcomed future retirees Deb Liedtke, Sylvia McFee and Grazia Cianci as Unit Members. These Members will be provided with updated Communication from the Unit, District and Provincial Office. I am sure they are looking forward to their retirement in the future.

An appreciated “Thank You” is extended to Roger Cormier, our Unit Treasurer, who completed the Year-end Financial Statement and it was incorporated into Dryden District 35’s Financial Statement. We had a Year-end Bank Balance of \$464.55 as of December 31, 2018. A tentative Proposed Budget for 2019 was approved with minor adjustments to be completed, once the Unit Grant was received.

Members have been updated and provided with information in regards to the proposed membership fee structure and rebranding of RTO/ERO, which will be discussed further at the May RTO/ERO Annual Meeting, as well as material from Meeting Minutes provided by Secretary Susan Cullen.

An “In Memoriam” donation was sent to the Nashwaaksis Lions Club “In Memory of Jim Aucoin”, husband of Linda Aucoin. Sympathies and condolences were extended to Linda and family for their loss. Janet was recognized in March with a “Special Milestone Gift”. Donna Gushulak, Goodwill and Membership, continues to ensure all Members are remembered on their “special day”, sometimes the cards come earlier than expected. We continue to do as much as possible for our Members, an important asset to our Organization.

Continue to make the most out of your well-deserved retirement.

- Dennis Gushulak



Our condolences go to the family and friends of

Pansy Howell

Harry McMaster

Mary Mennell

Georgina Woitowicz

We remember them with great fondness

Political Advocacy

In anticipation of the fall federal election, a number of issues are starting to surface. Pharmacare is one topic that is likely to interest many of our members. Pharmacare means filling medical prescriptions without opening your wallet. Those who are unable to afford medication go without or end up hospitalized. The thinking is that the federal government could negotiate better rates for medication with drug companies.

In the fall of 2018, Provincial RTO/ERO distributed a survey to RTO/ERO members inviting us to share our input in response to a discussion paper on Pharmacare from the federal government.

Provincial office received a tremendous response to the survey - the results have a 99% confidence rate, with a 3% margin of error. Clearly, improving the affordability and accessibility of prescription drugs is an issue that matters to RTO/ERO members.

The responses from our members must be understood in the context of RTO/ERO's stated position as an organization in support of the implementation of a universal single-payer pharmacare program accessible to all Canadians.

The survey results have been compiled into a response document which will be shared with the Federal Advisory Council on the implementation of National Pharmacare. We will also share our members' responses with stakeholder organizations and other interested groups.

RTO/ERO believes that pharmacare would cut costs, allow for better monitoring of medications, lead to a healthier population, and reduce the burden on other treatments.

As part of the Federal election focus, we will continue to encourage our members and future retirees to vote, know their candidates and to ask questions. We hope to suggest questions that future retirees can ask candidates that promote our issues around: community access, pharmacare, elder abuse, pension issues and geriatric care.

- Thea McMonagle

Communications

The Provincial RTO/ERO is planning a renewal of the appearance of its website. It will require an updating to each district's website as the Provincial RTO/ERO changes to a new version of Drupal 8, the software used to create our websites. So, look for some changes probably in the fall.

As you know, viewing the website on your various devices (laptop or computer, iPad, tablet, and cell phone) can be surprising. It looks different on these various platforms. Provincial RTO/ERO informs us that there will be a new 'app' to facilitate viewing on mobile devices.

Meanwhile, a few reminders might be helpful. If you find the font size too small for your viewing, try enlarging the font on your device. You can use the two keys simultaneously: CTRL, and the + sign for Windows computers, for Apple computers, try Command and +; similarly, use the - key to reduce the size. Zooming always works well on cell phones.

- Thea McMonagle

“I don't see kindness as a weakness. If you want a beautiful day, do something for someone else.” (Nathan Fillion)

PENSION AND RETIREMENT CONCERNS

The mandate for the P & RC Committee is:

To monitor external organizations and issues related to retirees and pensions, to identify relevant information and initiatives for RTO/ERO.

To be knowledgeable about the provisions of all pension plans represented throughout our current and prospective membership, and provide advice regarding the communication of relevant pension information.

To provide advice on the development and implementation of a federal advocacy campaign related to Bill C27, and support for defined benefit pensions in general, in advance of a 2019 Federal election.

To provide advice on the creation and implementation of communication strategies regarding important issues for seniors.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding pension and retirement issues, you can check out the RTO/ERO website or contact me.

- Betty Lyle

BENEFITS

See the 'insert' for the 2019 Benefits Comparison. This page should be placed in your Benefits Booklet for future reference.

There have been instances when a member has received reimbursement for a claim that should have been issued to another person. If this happens, inform Johnson as quickly as possible.

Note: Sharing antibiotics is becoming an issue. Medications should be used only by the person they were prescribed to.

If you have any concerns regarding Benefits contact Rick Wilcox.

- Rick Wilcox

GOODWILL REPORT

Get well wishes were sent to Jim Boone, Sharon Klassen, Susan Kobelka, Lynne Pateman, Gale Rettie, Mario Savian, Susan Schultz, Rick Wilcox, and Hal Wilmering.

Condolences were sent in memory of loved ones to:

- ❖ Shirley Cole in memory of her mother Genevieve Barabash;
- ❖ Elaine Morris in memory of her mother Agatha Daly;
- ❖ Judith Hamilton in memory of her father Ian Matthews;
- ❖ The family of Pansy Howell;
- ❖ Yvette Lafleche in memory of her husband Lionel Lafleche;
- ❖ Kathy McConnachie in memory of her father-in-law Bill McConnachie;
- ❖ The family of Harry McMaster;
- ❖ Gerry Powell in memory of her two infant granddaughters;
- ❖ The family of Georgina Woitowicz;
- ❖ Doreen Wrolstad in memory of her mother-in-law Marguerite Wrolstad;

We have thirty-eight members who have reached the milestone of 80+. Cards were sent celebrating their birthdays.

A Birthday Party to celebrate November/December birthdays for seniors and members residing at Patricia Gardens was hosted by District 35. A big 'Thank You' goes out to all who helped. The participants (it was a full house) greatly appreciated our endeavour, they said they hadn't had a Birthday Party in quite a while.

I would once again like to extend a special thank you to Linda-Joy Smith for her help keeping us up-to-date with our members in Sioux Lookout.

If you know of a member who has been hospitalized or suffered a bereavement, please contact me at geraldinesavian@hotmail.com or (807) 223-3482 or you can contact any member of the Executive.

- Geraldine Savian

MEMBERSHIP

As of April 1st, 2019, District 35 combined **membership is 269**, of which 184 are female and 85 are male. Included in the total is Red Lake's membership of 36. We are no longer designated as full or associate members. A member is a member with full rights and privileges. Our membership continues to grow and many new member were welcomed to District 35 over the past six months.

This fall District 35 will host a Retirement Planning Workshop. There will be change in the air as we will move to a new venue at the Best Western. The workshop will be held on **Saturday, September 28th** and a new approach will be taken. It will have the same purpose but there will be more involvement from our Provincial office. There will be more co-ordination between the manager of the venue and the Provincial office as part of a new vision to ensure uniformity and a change in funding.

A note again to acknowledge that membership fees will be waived by RTO/ERO for the first year of membership in 2019.

We are proud that we have thirteen members reaching the 25-year mark this year. One of our members has reached the 35-year milestone. We are rich in history as we look enthusiastically to our future with many new members.

- LeeAnn Benson

DISTRICT 35 MEMBERSHIP BY AGE/GENDER

AGE	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
0-54	2	1	3
55-59	12	9	21
60-64	26	6	32
65-69	59	11	70
70-74	42	19	61
76-79	20	22	42
80-84	15	12	27
85-89	4	4	8
90-94	2	1	3
95-99	2	0	2
TOTAL	184	85	269

If you think you are beaten, you are.

If you think you dare not, you won't.

Success begins with your own will..It's all in your state of mind.

Life' battles are not always won by those who are stronger or faster;

Sooner or later the person who wins is the person who thinks he can.

LUNCHEON CONVENORS REPORT

Our monthly luncheons provide an excellent opportunity for a social get together with former colleagues, plus new and old friends. Our provincial office has been promoting ways to prevent Senior social isolation, and these luncheons are a perfect way to stay connected. If you are aware of a member who hasn't been able to get out and about, please consider making a personal contact with them and bring them along to our luncheons.

A big thank you to our phoners who contact our members with the information about our luncheons. We need to give numbers to our venues 1 week prior, so thank you very much to everybody for responding to your phoners in a timely manner. Thank you to Velma Neill, Robyn Kunza, Carolyn Stratford, Dave Roberts, Lee Ann Benson, Elaine Morris, Sue O'Grady, Ross Bolton, Fatima Davidson, Roberta Grebstad, Mary Case, Trish Cooke, Mary Bortolot,(Sioux Lookout) and Dennis Gushulak,(Red Lake) for all your time and efforts in contacting our members! Thank you to Janice Radburn for arranging for guest speakers at some of our luncheon as well! We thank our other Executive members who help us too!

At our luncheons, we collect food or cash for the Dryden Food Bank, donations at the book table go towards our "Books for Babies" born at our hospital, and the 50-50 draws proceeds go to the provincial RTO Charitable Foundation, which promotes Senior Friendly Programs. Thank you to Shirley Cole and Trish Cooke for taking care of the 50-50 draws!

Our luncheons and social gatherings will start up again in the Fall:

- Monday September 9 @ Wabigoon Hall
- Monday October 7 @ Oxdrift Hall
- Monday November 4 @ Legion Hall
- Monday December 9 @ The Centre

Hope you're able to join us!

*** If you are not getting contacted for our luncheons, please phone/text 807-221-8459, or email cbgardam@shaw.ca

Thank you for all your support!

*- Carol Gardam
- Judith Hamilton*

THE CAR RIDE

(This is a very good lesson! We will all be there one day)

I arrived at an address and honked the horn, after waiting a few minutes I walked to the door and knocked. "Just a minute," answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor.

After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 90's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940's movie.

By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb.

She kept thanking me for my kindness. "It's nothing," I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother to be treated." "Oh, you're such a good boy," she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address and then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?" "It's not the shortest way." I answered quickly

"Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice." I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. "I don't have any family left," she continued in a soft voice. "The doctor says I don't have very long." I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. "What route would you like me to take?" I asked.

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighbourhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture store warehouse that had once been a

Continued

Ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now."

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her.

I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair. "How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse. "Nothing," I said. "You have to make a living," she answered. "There are other passengers," I responded.

Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you." I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?

On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life.

We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware, beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance!

“My father used to say there are two kinds of people in the world, the givers and the takers. The takers sometimes eat better, but the givers always sleep better.” (Louise A. Barile)

“CONGRATULATIONS”

On 35 Years of Happy Retirement:

Lydia Carlbom (Sioux Lookout)

On 25 Years of Happy Retirement:

Ellen Bernier (Hudson)

Robert Clark (Lindsay)

Brian Davidson (Dryden)

Fithel Dodd (Red Lake)

Bernice Ferguson (Dryden)

Jean Hancher (Toronto)

Rudolph Hulina (Qgance)

Arlene Hyslop (Thunder Bay)

Diane Mason (Dryden)

Hugh McCallum (Dryden)

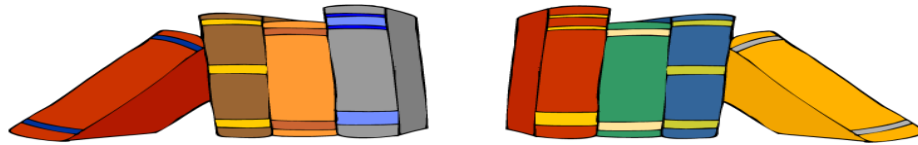
Sharon McGregor (Dryden)

Ray Nielsen (Dryden)

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've travelled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

'SHARE A BOOK'

SHARE A BOOK is a District 35 'Service to Others' project. Members are asked to donate books which are displayed on a book table set up at luncheons. Everyone is encouraged to take a look and if they wish they can take a book(s) for whatever amount they wish to donate. **All donations will be given to the 'Books for Baby's' program (Dryden Regional Health Centre Auxiliary).** Over the past three years we have raised over \$500 for this project to give newborns their very first book. If you have books to donate, please bring them to a luncheon or they can be dropped off at 154 Wilde Street.



To-do List for the First Day of Spring

- Shovel walk;
- Scrape windshield;
- Break iceicles off gutters;
- Shovel snow off roof;
- Defrost water pipes;
- Replace broken shovel;
- Reschedule cancelled airline reservations;
- Chip ice off car door;
- Scrap ice off windshield;
- Tow frozen car to garage to defrost radiator;
- Put groundhog in oven with BBQ sauce;
- Replace broken shovel.....

RTO/ERO Provincial Office

Address: 18 Spadina Road, Suite 300,
Toronto, Ontario. M5R 2S7

Phone: 1-800-361-9888
1-416-962-9463

Web: www.rto-ero.org

RTO/ERO Provincial Board of Directors May 2018 to May 2019

Chair:	Martha Foster
Vice-Chair:	Rich Prophet
Directors:	Jacqueline Aird
	Richard Goodbrand
	Louise Gu�erin
	Martin Higgs
	William Huzar
	David Kendall
	Gayle Manley

