

From: Paul Devlin
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 7:54 PM
To: Regional Clerk
Subject: RTO/ERO 50th Anniversary

Good evening.

I am writing to you to inform you that The Retired Teachers of Ontario will be celebrating 50 years of existence in 2018.

District 34 - York Region is celebrating this momentous occasion with a variety of special events during 2018. Our major celebration is a massive 50th Birthday Party to be held on March 22.

WHEN: Thursday, March 22, 2018

TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Meadowbrook Golf & Country Club

11939 Warden Avenue

Gormley, Ontario

L0H 1G0

905-887-5801

I am hoping that York Regional Council would declare March 22, 2018 as RTO/ERO Day in York Region in recognition of the many contributions teachers and educational workers have and continue to make in the region.

Paul Devlin
1st Vice-President
RTO/ERO District 34 - York Region

<DISTRICT 34 HISTORY 1985 - 2018.docx>

District 34

York Region

1985 - 2018

When RTO/ERO began in 1968, York Region was in District (Area) 8, which comprised a vast area surrounding Toronto. On December 3, 1969, under the chairmanship of Murdoch McIver, representing the Provincial Executive of the Superannuated Teachers' Organization, the Region of York was organized as District (Area) 12, effective January 1970. Mr. J. H. Knowles was the first president and Mr. N. F. Johnson was the first secretary-treasurer.

On April 26, 1973, due to a restructuring of STO districts, York Region and Simcoe County were united to form the new District 17. Each retained its own identity as a separate Unit within District 17.

In 1984, the York Region Unit took the initiative to request becoming a separate and distinct STO district. The rationale used was that the large area made for poor attendance at District meetings, expensive communications and the fact that York Region had over 400 members. At the May 1985 Senate, John Kippen took the lead and made a motion to divide District 17. In November 1985, the Senate gave unanimous consent to the motion and District 34 was formed.

District 34 encompasses all of York Region, and stretches from Lake Simcoe in the north to Steeles Avenue in the south, and from Highway 50 in the west to the York/Durham Townline in the east.

We are best known for the outstanding service to our members and member participation. Our goal is to see all membership fees returned to the membership on a yearly basis by financially supporting numerous special events, theatre trips, awards, bridge tournaments, golf tournaments, nature walks, First Aid + AED certification and luncheons.

We are very proud of our newsletter, “**The 34th Story**”, which serves as an outstanding communication tool for our members. It is a full colour bound booklet that features profiles of members, current events, health updates and issues of concern to seniors.

The 34th Story, our district newsletter, began to be published in 1988. It has proven to be an excellent communication tool for all members. Initially, The 34th Story was published twice a year, and by 1996 it had become a 16-page magazine. The format was so popular that by 2001 it was published three times a year. In 2009, The 34th Story became a full colour magazine. It continues to link our members to District 34 and provincial activities, as well as providing registration for numerous district functions and articles that profile our members.

The first Project Service to Others Award for District 34 was given to our President, Doug Ford in 2001-2002.

His project was called, “The Children’s Literacy Project.” He applied for a grant to purchase copies of a book about Seniors that was written for primary-aged children to help them understand older people. Doug sent word out to the local elementary schools asking if they would like to have a District 34 member come to the school to read the book to the children and then donate the book to the school library. The response from the schools was overwhelming.

We continue to support yearly PSTO initiatives both locally and globally

In 2002, Reg Pembleton headed a committee that organized the first Hava Java. Hava Java is held monthly in various locations throughout York Region and provides members an opportunity to come together and share coffee/tea and great conversation. This has proven to be one of the most popular events in District 34.

The Bruce Shiga Memorial Volunteer Award was created in 2011. This award was given annually until 2016, to a member(s) who embodied the volunteer spirit of our former president who was very active in the community during his retirement.

DISTRICT 34 – YORK REGION PRESIDENTS

1985-1986 –John Kippen
1986-1989 – Ron Mercer
1989-1990 –Barbara Rowe
1990-1991 –Helen Grant
1991-1992 –Larry Dobson
1992-1993 –Colleen McCutcheon
1993-1995 –Cliff Grant
1995-1996 –Lillian Markovich
1996-1997 –John Kippen
1997-1998 –Beth Gallagher
1998-1999 – Gladys Spiller
1999-2000 – Gerry Fisher
2000-2001 –Evelyn Lawrence
2001-2002 –Doug Ford
2002-2003 –Gerry Blake
2003-2004 –Reg Pembleton
2004-2005 –Ernie Polsoni
2005-2006 –Bruce Shiga
2006-2007 –Elizabeth Marriott
2007-2008 –Glenys MacKillop
2008-2009 –Wendy Van Straten
2009-2010 –Janice Pisani
2010-2012 –Chris Van Straten
2012-2014 –Lynn Hitsman
2014-2016 –Regine Baker
2016-2018 – Susan Philips

RTO/ERO FOUNDING MEMBER AWARD RECIPIENTS

1991 –John Kippen

RTO/ERO DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD RECIPIENTS

2010 –Irvine Deane

2014 –Dick Duffin

RTO/ERO PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2008-2011 –Dick Duffin (Communications)

2015-2018 –Paul Devlin (Health Services and Insurance)

2016-2018 –Paul Devlin (50th Anniversary)