

# The Grapevine



The Newsletter of District 14 - Niagara

SRING/SUMMER 2021

### Special Points of Interest:

- Retirement Planning Workshops continue virtually - see pg. 3
- Honouring two new Centenarians - see pg. 5
- Important Vaccine Information - see pg. 6
- Consider Sharing Your Home - see pg. 7
- Announcing the winners of our Winter Contest! - see pg. 8

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.rtoero-district14.org](http://www.rtoero-district14.org)

 Find us on Facebook

### In This Issue:

District 14 Contact Numbers	2
In Memoriam	3
Charitable Foundation	3
Goodwill	4
Francophone Liaison	4
Political Advocacy	7
New Members	7

## The President's Message



A year has crept by while learning to live with COVID-19. Some lucky ones have already received their vaccinations to keep them safe while others wait patiently. Until the time comes when all those who want the vaccination have had that wish fulfilled, it is unlikely that we will be having any in-person gatherings for RTOERO District 14. That does not mean that as an organization we are sitting idly by.

Research has shown that one of the factors influencing mental health negatively is isolation. My involvement with Elder Abuse has taught me that isolation is also linked to elder abuse. I hope you are keeping in touch through phone calls and video chats with family and friends. Some are looking to Facebook and reaching out to friends they haven't seen or spoken to in years. Our own Goodwill Committee continues to send cards to members reaching milestones birthdays. At their last meeting via Zoom the committee decided to widen their mandate by sending out cards to a larger segment of our membership.

The Board and Executive and Committees have been holding regular meetings by Zoom. Bonnie Bryan has been hosting most of those meetings and deserves our thanks and gratitude. Two corporate members, Bill Doyle and myself and two observers, Bob Grand and Brian Carty are looking forward to our second National AGM held via Zoom in May. Meetings to get ready are already starting in March.

For many years, a focus of District 14 PAC, has been to advocate for better conditions in long term care homes in this province. Covid-19 has unmasked many of the problems that we had previously identified. Locally we continue to write letters to the Premier, the Minister of Long Term Care and local MPP's. Hopefully, each of you has read what Vibrant Voices, <https://rtoero.ca/vibrant-voices/>, has to say on this issue to better understand what your organization is advocating for on behalf of our members and seniors across the country.

Most of you are aware of the \$400 for glasses every 2 years provided in our RTOERO Extended Health Benefits package. As we age, many of us also need eye tests that are not covered by OHIP. Please note that we are covered for 80% reimbursement for eye examinations to a maximum of \$150 per insured person in any two consecutive calendar years for you and your eligible spouse, and in each calendar year for eligible dependent children. You can see all your vision benefits on page 20 of your Extended Health Plan Booklet.

Chereen Osborne



**RTOERO District 14**  
**Niagara Peninsula**  
**District Executive Board**

Chereen Osborne	President	905-646-2640
Diane Conklin	Past President	289-303-7103
Bill Doyle	1st Vice President	289-668-2721
Marilyn Malton	2nd Vice President	289-397-0637
Brian Carty	Secretary	905-468-7129
Bob Grand	Treasurer	289-821-4052
John Carruthers	Archives	905-356-9620
Bonnie Bryan	Communications	905-562-7773
Diane Conklin	Events	289-303-7103
Don Gray	Charitable Foundation	905-646-9967
Margot Smith	Goodwill	905-892-1891
Marilyn Malton	Health Services	289-397-0637
Bill Doyle	Membership	289-668-2721
Janice Taylor	Pension Issues	905-834-9577
Diane Conklin	Political Advocacy	289-303-7103
Bonnie Bryan	Grapevine Editor	905-562-7773
John Carruthers	Webmaster	905-356-9620
Donna Van Nest	Data Base	905-359-1644
Luba Beange	Bereavement Co-ord.	905-262-4685
Margaret Tilbert	Francophone Liaison	289-479-6188

<b>RTOERO</b>	<b>1-800-361-9888</b>
<b>Johnson's Insurance</b>	<b>1-877-406-9007</b>
<b>Best Doctors</b>	<b>1-877-419-2378</b>
<b>Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan</b>	<b>1-800-668-0105</b>
<b>Seniors' Safety Line</b>	<b>1-866-299-1011</b>

**Area Representatives**

**Fort Erie, Ridgeway, Stevensville,**  
**Crystal Beach, Sherkston**

Nina McCutcheon 289-320-9343

**Niagara Falls**

Linda L. Dueck 905-358-6931

**Niagara-on-the-Lake, Virgil, Queenston, St. David's**

Brian Carty 905-468-7129

**Welland, Port Robinson**

Joan Sisler-Wells 289-820-5959

**Port Colborne**

Jan Taylor 905-834-9577

**St. Catharines**

Charleen Avedesian 905-934-2704

Mary Wright 905-321-0074

**Thorold**

Jane Michaud 905-227-1961

**Wainfleet, Wellandport, Lowbanks, St. Ann's,**  
**Smithville, Caistor Center**

Marion Woodcock (acting) 905-562-7935

**Grimsby, Beamsville, Lincoln, Jordan Station,**

**Jordan/Vineland Station, Vineland**

Mary Jane Tanner 905-562-7667

Marion Woodcock 905-562-7935

**Fonthill, Fenwick, Ridgeville, North Pelham**

Wilma McNall 905-892-6834

Margot Fraser 905-892-2408

**NOTE: Additional Reps are needed for Niagara Falls; Wainfleet, Wellandport, Lowbanks, St. Ann's, Smithville; Grimsby; and The St. Catharines areas. If you are interested, please call Margot Smith at 905-892-1891.**

**RTOERO DISTRICT 14 NEEDS YOU!**

***We are always in need of interested volunteers to fill Executive Board positions and Committees. We would also like to offer opportunities for interested members to mentor with Executive Board Members in all positions to prepare for future openings. Please contact Past President Diane Conklin if you are interested.***

***We also have openings for Goodwill Reps in the many Areas, especially Grimsby, Niagara Falls and Wainfleet/West Lincoln. If you are interested in this role which involves passing information along about illnesses, birthdays, or other significant life events that need recognition, please contact Margot Smith at 905-892-1891.***



## GOODWILL

While writing this column it is still too early to see if that ground hog was right and if spring really will be happening early. However, "hope springs eternal in the human heart" and particularly in the hearts of the Goodwill Committee members, as well as the other members of the Board of District 14. We are so hopeful that maybe, just maybe, by the end of the year when everyone is vaccinated and venues are open once more, we shall be hosting one big birthday party luncheon for those special members who will turn 80 years old together with those who will be 90 and over in 2021. While the birthday cards are being written to those with birthdays 80,85, and 90 and over, the envelopes are being addressed by the Area Representatives in anticipation. We also have kept a list of those interested folks who turned 80 in 2020 and missed out. They will be re-invited.

So far there have been two of our members who reached 100 years old this 2021 and we hope you enjoy reading about Howard Daw and Marguerita Brand in this issue. And should that big party happen perhaps we can all meet James Moore in person, should he be able to attend, whose 100<sup>th</sup> birthday was in 2020!

As well as the Goodwill Committee Chair and the Area Representatives, others on the team continue to help out. We are thankful for the services of French liaison, Margaret Tilbert who contacts any Francophone members. Luba Beange still works to inform families of any deceased members of the donations made in memory of their loved ones. However, we are always in need of additions to the team. Marion Woodcock has been looking after 2 areas: the Grimsby portion of Lincoln and that of West Lincoln. It is always ideal that the member resides in the area. Is there anyone who lives in Caistor Centre, St. Ann's, Grassie, Smithville, Wainfleet or Wellandport, interested in writing a few birthday and Christmas cards a year and keeping in touch with members in need of support in your very spread-out area? Please contact me or any member of the Board of District 14.

So many of our members are living with isolation during this pandemic. Many are in "lock-down restrictions in retirement or nursing homes. You may know of such a member in need of encouragement. Do know of anyone who is ill, or sad or even has reasons to celebrate? Could they use a note, phone call, or email? Then we need you to contact your Area Representative and let them know.

*Margot Smith*  
Chair, Goodwill Committee



## ATTENTION À TOUS LES MEMBRES FRANCOPHONES!

Le secteur francophone travaille de très proche avec Margot Smith, la coordonnatrice pour la bienfaisance. Notre but est de communiquer avec les membres le plus possible. A notre prochaine réunion, nous allons communiquer avec chaque petite région pour tout ce qui vous concerne dans le district 14.

Le président de l'Association Franco-Ontarien, Carol Jolin vient de saluer la signature finale de l'entente fédéral-Ontario pour la mise en place de l'Université de l'Ontario français à Toronto. Vraiment, c'est une entente historique et tenez-vous au courant des nouvelles pour vos petits. N'oubliez pas que si nous avons au moins nos 2 langues officielles, nous avons plus de chance de réussir.

N'oubliez pas de me contacter à **289 479 6188** ou par courriel à [mtilbert@hotmail.com](mailto:mtilbert@hotmail.com). Je suis à votre disposition.

*Margaret Tilbert*  
Liaison francophone du district 14 du Niagara

## FREE MEMBERSHIP WHILE ACTIVELY EMPLOYED!

We are excited to extend our offer of free membership to anyone in the education community for the duration of the individual's active employment. We encourage members of the education community to begin enjoying the benefits of RTOERO membership as soon as possible. Membership benefits include access to all of our award-winning publications, and notifications of upcoming events like Retirement Planning Workshops, and access to customized travel adventures at special rates. Our Health Benefit coverage is also now open to any members 50 years and older who do not have benefits through their employer. This coverage includes medical and cancellation travel insurance at no additional cost. Please tell all of your friends who are still working in the education sector that they can find more information about these benefits, and how to join RTOERO by visiting the Provincial Website at:

<https://rtoero.ca>



## ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED!

We are looking for members who are interested in getting more involved with District 14, but are unsure about how their skills can be used to help us. We invite all our members to observe any of our District Board Meetings, or Committee Meetings. The Board meets five times a year in January, April, June, September, and November. Most Committees meet monthly. If you are interested, please contact any member of the Executive Board (see the Contact List on Page 2).



## HONOURING MARGUERITA BRAND, ONE OF OUR NEW CENTENARIANS!

Marguerita is currently living in Hamilton in a long-term care facility. The following article is based on the answers to questions written by her daughter, who, as she wrote, - "without being able to tap into her memory." Marguerita's daughter also wanted us to know the following: "Thank you for this opportunity to honour my mom in this special year of reaching 100 years of age." You, her fellow members, would also be honouring Marguerita, by reading her story.



In about 1938, after graduating from *Normal School* in Ottawa, Marguerita began her teaching career at approximately 17 years of age in Domville, Ontario in Prince Edward County. She lived with her grandmother and walked to the one-roomed school with Grades 1-8. And "yes," in winter she had a little stove to keep burning. She has told a story of walking in a snowstorm and needing to be rescued. She would go home to her parents' farm on the weekends, making this journey by horse and cutter in winter. One of the benefits of this first year was not the salary, which she would say with a laugh - "Not very much." She did develop wonderful memories of her grandmother in that one year. Wanting to live in a warmer area, Marguerita moved to Niagara, accepting a teaching position in Smithville. After doing some post war office work in Toronto in 1944, her next placement in 1945, was at Always School on Ridge Road in Grimsby.



Always School Ridge Road Grimsby 1945  
Marguerita standing at left

After marrying and having a family she was asked to come back to teaching in 1967 at Central Public School in Grimsby. She was particularly happy there, liking her Grade 4 class, the larger school, the other teachers that she befriended there and a principal she respected. Marguerita did have to adjust to the new metric system and binary math, but when having a Bachelor of Arts became necessary- it was time for her to retire. Now she had more time to pursue her love of gardening, reading, crossword puzzles and the freedom to participate in groups such as church activities and the Canadian Club. Now too, she could do volunteer work at West Lincoln Hospital and Albright Nursing home.

What would Marguerita want to say to any beginning teachers nowadays? "Know that you make an influence on your students and they are the future. Enjoy and Listen."

## HONOURING HOWARD DAW, ANOTHER ONE OF OUR NEW CENTENARIANS

One good reason we, the members of RTOERO District 14, can hope 2021 will be a far better year for all of us, is that Howard Daw turned 100 years old in January! He emailed me his responses to my questionnaire and this write-up is based on what he shared. Howard has also given his permission to use some of his background information that appeared in an article in the January 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Voice of Pelham. (Margot Smith, Goodwill Chair)



Howard was born in Thornloe Ontario, but the Great Fire of 1921 in that area destroyed the family home, business and most of their belongings. The Daw family then relocated to Fenwick, where, up until recently, he has lived ever since. Despite of being "plagued while young with ear and hearing troubles," Howard became a tradesman and through his life "taught a number of beginning apprentices in their work ethics." He became well known locally running several plumbing, heating and construction businesses. Howard also designed and owned two golf courses, Westbrook on River Road (which is now Waterpark) and Steeplechase Par 3 on Balfour Street in Fenwick. In the intervening years, he was able to "get along with hearing aids and ear operations OK" until he was 80. Then his hearing "gave up altogether" and Howard was left "completely deaf with severe imbalance" and now uses a walker to get around. In 1979 Howard and his first wife Helen, who he describes as a "renowned teacher of the Pelham Board" retired to live on the Steeplechase property. It is through her that Howard became one of our members, when sadly, later that year, while still in her 50's, Helen died from breast cancer.

When Howard remarried, he and his present wife, Barbara, lived for many years on the Fenwick property and now live independently in their condo in Welland. It is to Barbara that Howard credits his being able to survive. Because of her efforts and those of "doctors, hospitals and the fine health care workers, I have survived and keep getting patched up from falls." He says he feels "fine and still manages to get around in our condo."

We sincerely say, "Howard, keep on getting around that condo!" In closing Howard wanted me to pass on the following to you all: "Will you please pass on to the members of RTO-ERO, District 14 my sincere thanks for the lovely floral arrangement they sent me on the occasion of my 100th birthday. They are absolutely beautiful and I am enjoying them so much. They contributed greatly to the enjoyment of my celebration. Thanks again." Howard Daw



### **POLITICAL ADVOCACY COMMITTEE – 2021**

The members of the Political Advisory Committee for 2021 are as follows:

- Diane Conklin – Chairperson
- Louise Leyland – Recording Secretary
- Bonnie Bryan – Zoom Coordinator
- Chereen Osborne
- Don Gray
- Sue Hotte
- Bob Grand
- Bill Doyle
- Rick Kent
- Wilma MNall
- Marg Newby
- Janice Taylor – Pension Concerns

RTOERO has put together three main objectives for all of the Districts to focus on in setting their own goals and projects for the coming year. The District 14 PAC members continue to make Health and Wellness our top priorities. At our meetings, we receive reports from Sue Hotte who is a member of the Niagara Health Coalition. Bill Doyle monitors the Niagara Health Board Meetings and shares the action items of the Board for this region. Janice Taylor is new to the committee and she will keep us informed as to what issues will impact on our pension plan. We are also following the developments of the AGE-FRIENDLY NIAGARA NETWORK as they put together more resources for all of our seniors in order to facilitate access in physical settings, contacts for health services and various other projects that will promote a safe senior life. If you wish to follow their work, here is a link to their website – [info@agefriendlyniagara.com](mailto:info@agefriendlyniagara.com).

We welcome all members to join the PAC group and we encourage your input and ideas for promoting SENIOR issues. Contact any of the members for more information and/or volunteer to serve on the committee. **We are all VIBRANT VOICES!**  
*Diane Conklin, Chair*

### **WHEN YOU NEED HELP**



With the extra pressures and isolation brought on by the Pandemic, many people are struggling emotionally to get through each day. Getting help is essential if you or a loved one is going through a crisis or needs emotional support. **Crisis Services Canada** provides a list of crisis and listening centers across the country (including local grief and bereavement support groups). These centers are there to respond to people who ask for help. You can contact the national crisis line at 1-833-456-4566, or you can contact one of these local numbers:

- St. Catharines, Niagara Falls & Area Crisis Line: (905) 688-3711
- Port Colborne, Wainfleet & Area Crisis Line: (905) 734-1212
- Fort Erie & Area Crisis Line: (905) 382-0689
- Grimsby & West Lincoln Crisis Line: (905) 563-6674

### **COST OF THE GRAPEVINE**

Our Fall 2020 Grapevine, was very expensive for the District to distribute by Canada Post. Part of this cost was created by the need to distribute our Annual Report due to the COVID Pandemic. But, even in ordinary times, printing and distributing hard copies of our newsletter is costly.



The cost for distributing the Print Version of the Fall Grapevine to 1,276 members was **\$5,024.38 before H.S.T.** The cost of distributing the digital edition of the same document to our registered email members (1,805) was only **\$ 259.92.**

Thanks to all those who did make the switch! We urge all members who are still receiving their Grapevine by mailed hard copy to switch to the digital version which is always posted on our District Website ([rtoero-district14.org](http://rtoero-district14.org)) to read and reference at any time. You will also find a lot of other information and updates about our activities not found in the Grapevine. To make this switch, contact the Communications Committee Chair, Bonnie Bryan, at [bonjim1915@gmail.com](mailto:bonjim1915@gmail.com).



### **VACCINE FACTS**



There are many rumours and mixed information about the COVID-19 vaccines which are now available for all of us.

First of all, they are safe. Early reports of severe reactions to the vaccine have proved to be very rare (including the AstraZeneca blood clotting). Most people who have received it (including many of our friends who live in retirement communities and long term care facilities) have experienced mild or no side effects at all. Side effects are the result of your immune system building protection (this is a good thing!). It will not hurt you, but **WILL** help you fight off this deadly disease! **And be sure to get your second shot on time if you receive one of the two-dose vaccines!**

While all of the vaccines which have received approval here in Canada have different effectiveness rates, they **all have been proven to prevent hospitalization and death.** For the sake of your own health and all of those around you, **please get the vaccine!** The Niagara Region Public Health Department has all the information you need to know about when and how to get your vaccination. On the computer go to:

[niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/vaccination.aspx](http://niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/vaccination.aspx)

or

telephone [905-980-6000](tel:905-980-6000).

If you are unable to leave your home to get a vaccination, contact your Health Care Provider or Niagara Region Health to arrange a visit from a Mobile Vaccination Team. The Niagara Region Public Health website has much more useful information about COVID 19. You can also visit the Ontario Ministry of Health and Health Canada websites for more excellent facts about vaccines and the other things you can do to protect yourself and all those around you!

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Virginia Adam  
 Diana (Deedee) Alexandre  
 Rebecca Belliveau  
 Jacqueline Breton  
 Judith Chappell  
 Dorothy Clancy  
 Judith Delahunt  
 Sandra Denis  
 Elisabetta DiGaetano  
 Linda Dobrin  
 Kevin Dover  
 Monica Forbom  
 Jocelyn Geoghegan  
 Sandy Gerolimon  
 Jane Helleiner  
 Ann Huffman  
 Carole Jones  
 Janet Kessler  
 Wendy Kuenzel  
 Renée Lavigne



Patricia Leece  
 Phillip Lewis  
 David MacDonald  
 Erik Madsen  
 Anthony Mattei  
 Robin McBurney  
 Margaret Metcalfe  
 Frank Novelli  
 Tricia O'Connor  
 Manon Paquet  
 David Redekop  
 Rose Robinson  
 Terrence Sharkey  
 Joyce Slater  
 Joanne Spiessmann  
 Bernard St Francois  
 Zoltan Szenasi  
 Angela Thompson  
 Sheila Welsh  
 Elizabeth Woodward

***We hope you will come out and enjoy the full benefits and camaraderie of being a member of RTOERO District 14 Niagara!***

### ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER FOR SOCIAL ISOLATION:

#### Sharing Your Home To Remain There As You Grow Older

*Excerpted from the May 5, 2021 McMaster Optimal Aging Blog "Sharing your home to remain there as you grow older"*

Most older adults want to stay in their home for as long as possible. However, aging can bring its share of challenges: decreased mobility, new health conditions, reduced income and social support. All of these can ultimately limit someone's ability to live safely and independently in their home. **Home sharing** is an innovative approach to housing, which allows older adults to continue living in their homes, while obtaining additional income, companionship and support.

Since the 1980s, many organizations in Canada have been acting as intermediaries between older adults who have a vacant room and those interested in renting it out and helping out. One example is the "Symbiosis" program at McMaster University, which connects students in need of affordable housing with older adults who have a spare room and who could benefit from support and company. Such innovative home-sharing programs are being tested around the world, and can be particularly appealing given the housing crisis in many Canadian cities. Here's what research tells us:

- **The benefits:** By renting a room in their home, older adults benefit from companionship, which reduces anxiety and loneliness, and increases feelings of security and motivation to leave the home to participate in activities. They also receive help with daily activities and household chores. All of these contribute to increased well-being and a better quality of life.
- **The challenges:** Loss of privacy, difficulty adjusting to someone else's presence, incompatible lifestyles, and sometimes unrealistic expectations about time that should be spent together constitute challenges. In addition, some older adults may be uncomfortable when it comes to enforcing home rules or asking tenants to do chores that were agreed upon. Some prefer to maintain the status quo in order to avoid conflict and thus remain in an uncomfortable situation. There are also concerns about the possible risks of abuse in home-sharing arrangements, particularly among vulnerable older adults.
- **Intergenerational exchanges:** Research revealed an increase in the frequency of intergenerational contacts through home-sharing programs. Students who have cohabited with an older adult now view older adults more positively, while older adults are more inclined to participate in activities with younger people. Older adults were also motivated to take part in home-sharing programs as a way to help younger generations.
- **The key role of an intermediary organization:** The experiences of older adults are more positive when an organization is involved in matching people and offering mediation if problems occur. In the majority of cases, older adults who choose to do connect with an intermediary organization do so because they trust that the organization will have their best interests at heart.

*For more information about this topic and other valuable research-based articles about healthy aging go to the McMaster Optimal Aging Portal at [mcmasteroptimalaging.org](http://mcmasteroptimalaging.org).*





## DISTRICT 14 NIAGARA CONTEST 2021

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

The fourteen members who completed  
the following statement in 25 words or less...



***I like the RTOERO District 14 Niagara newsletter, the Grapevine and website because ....***

In the Winter Grapevine we invited all of you to submit your completion for this sentence. There were numerous entries and very positive responses. We were so impressed that we decided to award them all prizes. Here is the list of winners:

- ... because they are very informative and they keep up with the most current information; e.g. In Memoriam, charities that RTO sponsors, New Members, stories of peoples' travels and just general information. **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!! Louise Rogalski, Niagara-on-the-Lake**
- ... because over the years you lose touch with many of your fellow teachers and this paper keeps us informed as to who has passed away. **Margie Enns, Virgil**
- ... because it keeps up me to date with my RTO community. **Wanda Braukman, St. Catharines**
- ... because as a one who had such a gratifying career in teaching, the newsletter helps great to maintain contact. **Robert Corsini, Stoney Creek**
- ... because it is a great source of information, easy to read and well laid out. It keeps me in touch and informed with updated news about our benefits, services and community involvement. **Nicole Ferland, Niagara Falls**
- ...because it is so pleasant to read the news when you are isolated from others. The Grapevine fills the need! **Karla Hanns, Welland**
- ... because it makes retired life better. Post retirement is a real challenge/ So keeping in touch reduces the cringe/ Much needed information is contained in it still/ Found out Margot Smith is in charge of Goodwill/ This is past the limit of the posted word/Keep up the good work for 3083 grateful horde. P.S. good ploy for getting more e-addresses. **Robert and Elizabeth Mandzuk, St. Catharines**
- ... because with so much missing in my life from Covid, RTO District 14 communications makes me feel less alone knowing I'm a member of something great. **Carole Parker, St. Catharines**
- ... because it keeps me connected to my local educational community. I am updated on local events and other news, including new members and members who have passed away. I love the colorful graphics and layout – very reader appealing! Keep up the great work. **Phyllis McIntosh, St. Catharines**
- ... because I'm a newcomer from Simcoe County. These resources are a wealth of good information. Thanks for providing all of the activities and links. Wonderful! **Hugh Lundy, Niagara-on-the-Lake**
- ...because even though it's more expensive to produce (being tech challenged) I enjoy having paper in my hand to read and I love getting mail: great info. **Marg McLeod, St. Catharines**
- ...because I lived and taught in the area for forty years. Each issue supplies me with important names and phone numbers of support contacts. It offers up to date, relative information on current issues and events and keeps me CONNECTED. Here's to small and mighty! Especially at this time of isolation. **Emily Skradski, Burlington**
- ...because it communicates RTO updates and educational and political issues while encouraging members involvement in community and personal improvement in technology skills. I look forward to each publication. Kudos to those involved in the publication. **Sandy McDermott, Fort Erie**
- ... because they connect me with my teaching career and remind me that we retired teachers are a force for good and a source of good times. **Ann McLaughlin, Ridgeway**

With the assistance of Bill Doyle, our 1st Vice President, we were able to personally deliver all of the goodie bags worth \$50 each. The lucky winners received a water bottle, a toque and mittens, and a pen and pin all displaying the RTOERO logo. We congratulate all of our District 14 Niagara participants! We hope to bring you more fun contests in the future so that we can all stay CONNECTED in these challenging times.

**Diane Conklin**  
Events Coordinator  
District 14 Niagara

### FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

Remember to visit our District 14 Niagara Website regularly for the most current Information. New, important events sometimes come up between Newsletters, but are announced on the Website. Go to [www.rtoero-district14.org](http://www.rtoero-district14.org) for the latest information!

**The deadline for submitting material for the Fall Grapevine is July 15, 2021**

**Editor's Note:** The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of RTOERO District 14 Niagara. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Grapevine Editor & Communications Chair, Bonnie Bryan, at 905-562-7773.