



District 3 RTOERO  
**Annual General Meeting Reports**  
2021 -- 2022

# Looking Back, Going Forward

## Kathy Greening

President, District 3 Algoma RTOERO



As my Presidency comes to an end, I too, am looking back and going forward. Although the past two years have been a challenge in so many ways, I have been so fortunate to work with an excellent Executive Board. Everyone works hard, meeting the challenges of their roles with a positive attitude and a “can do spirit”

Each member is a volunteer, who is committed to making District 3, the viable, energetic group, that projects that positive attitude throughout all our interactions with RTOERO.

Did you know that our Bernice Whalen was selected nationally as one of three members to be recognized for the Distinguished District Member Award for 2022?

Although Folgo, Bill Purnis and I worked with Carter Dorscht, to nominate the Kensington Conservancy for the \$10 000 Charity Grant, we were not successful this year. However, we will continue to support the Conservancy. If you have the opportunity to visit their website, and their properties in the Desbarats area, there are great walking trails and many opportunities to see birds, flora and fauna indigenous to Algoma. Our 50th Anniversary committee is working hard to plan a celebration in November on the actual date of our joining RTOERO and its predecessor organizations. We are hoping for a face-to-face meeting-how wonderful would that be! It has been so long since we were all able to be together.

During this past year, District 3 donated to The Piper Project \$1 per member (\$1 195) The Piper Project donates new books to infants born at Sault Area Hospital in memory the Hogan' s infant daughter, Piper Marie.

April is Volunteer Awareness month. District 3 members are enthusiastic volunteers within their communities. If you are interested in becoming involved with District 3 RTOERO please contact a member of our executive.

Looking back, going forward is certainly the experience of each of you, our members in District 3. I wish each of you the best as we begin our new normal life with its many changes and challenges. Take care and be safe.



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## **Past President's Report, AGM & Executive Election**

25-April-2022

Although some Covid-19 pandemic social restrictions have been lifted we still face the reality of an incredible sixth wave. As such the Algoma District 3 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held virtually on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate in a Zoom meeting. Stay tuned for more details.

A key element of the AGM is the election of officers on the executive for the next term and the responsibility of election procedures falls on the past president. The slate of officers for 2022-2023 is complete and confirmed for voting purposes and consists of the following:

<b>President</b>	<b>Christopher Rous</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	<b>Wayne Greco</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	<b>Richard Prophet</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Bruce Avery</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Barbara Perry</b>
<b>Past President*</b>	<b>Kathryn Greening</b>

The position of Past President is not a voting position and remains on the executive for a one-year term.

Any RTOERO District 3 member in good standing can put their name forward for any position on the executive. If two or more people run for any given position a virtual vote will take place by all participating members. A majority will determine the successful candidate. In the event of only one or no contestants the position will be declared as acclaimed or vacant.

There are several non-executive positions on the Board. These positions will be appointed by the new executive following the AGM. If you have an interest in becoming involved on the District 3 Board, please contact our current president Kathy Greening as soon as possible.

My one-year term as president of RTOERO Algoma District 3 was expected to take place at AGM on May 14, 2019. Unforeseen circumstances moved me as 1<sup>st</sup> vice into acting president in October 2018. Fast forward to the Covid-19 pandemic and I became past resident on October 14, 2020. And here we are in 2022 and I complete my fulfilling term as past president. It has been a challenging but rewarding journey.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your trust and support and for giving me the opportunity to be of service to all district members. You brought pride, joy and a sense of accomplishment to my entire experience on the Algoma District 3 Executive. I look forward to making more memories when we can safely gather together again over a lovely District 3 meeting and luncheon. In the meantime, stay safe, stay well and continue to make "lemonade".

If you have any questions, please contact me at cell 705-9493008 or by email at [folgo.dellavedova@gmail.com](mailto:folgo.dellavedova@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted: **Folgo DellaVedova**

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## **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Report: 2021-2022**

**Chris Rous**

It has been a pleasure being your Vice President with President Kathy Greening. Following is the report of community grants that we have applied for or completed.

The grant for large print books and audio books (RTOERO PSTO Grant) for the Ontario Finnish Rest Home in Sault Ste. Marie was completed in December 2021. The application was approved in 2020, but with COVID-19 in our community it was difficult to receive the various materials ordered and requested. The grant was headed up by Sandy (Sointu) Fulcher with a team of Linda Ruhanen, Merrilyn Webb, Carol Kirklan Boissineau, Rita Wagner, and Gerry Yeo; three were RTOERO members. The library is using totes; each tote has a library of large print books, audio books, and CD players. The items in this library will be moved to another location within the Finish Rest home complex every four months.

To celebrate our District 3, we made a donation to the Hogan's at one dollar for each RTOERO District 3 Algoma Member; a donation of \$1,195.00. Erica and Spencer Hogan along with their youngest daughter Emma James accepted a cheque from President Kathy Greening, Vice President Chris Rous, Secretary Barb Perry, Treasurer Bruce Avery, along with some members including Sherrell Dewar who suggested "The Piper Project" for a donation. With this generous donation The Piper Project will be able to purchase books from local authors and stores who sell new children's books so that every newborn baby at the Sault Area Hospital can go home with a book to spark the love of reading. The Piper Project would like to thank every member of RTOERO District 3 Algoma, along with everyone who has made a book

donation to the Project. The Project cannot believe how something as small as a book has grown and brought light to our community!

We did apply for a \$10,000 grant for the RTOERO charity donation. Folgo DellaVedova, Bill Purnis, and Kathy Greening have worked hard to develop the application that meets the requirements of the \$10,000 Charity Donation to The Kensington Conservancy. Carter Dorscht, the Executive Director of the Kensington Conservancy, produced a fabulous package on a very short timeline. The hardcopy and the electronic copy were sent early prior to the February 25 deadline. The grant was excellent, but we were not successful this year.

Community grants for 2022 are designed to encourage all RTOERO Districts to support and partner with local organizations to promote projects that will help our organization to meet our strategic goals of improving the lives of members and seniors; being the trusted voice for the broader education communities; and broadening our membership base. Since the inception of this grant 23 years ago, we've donated \$1.86 million for 576 projects.

This year RTOERO Districts were eligible to receive grants of up to \$4,000 for community projects that advance these strategic goals. Districts interested will serve as the project sponsor and will submit the application for a community grant either in partnership with a community organization or on behalf of the district. The application was completed online using the RTOERO website. This year we applied with the (organization to be announced). At the time of writing this report, we are awaiting the outcome of the committee's decision.

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## **RTOERO ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

This report is not encouraging. The statistics are unbelievably low. Without regular meetings, except for zoom executive-board ones, everything has been "on hold".

Statistics for September /21 and May /22 indicate this by the monthly reports:

	<u>New Members</u>	<u>Changes</u>	<u>Male Members</u>	<u>Female Members</u>	<u>Total.</u>
S:	1	!8	450	740	1190
M:	1	7	455	729	1184

During these months we tracked active members who transferred in (16) and out (20). It is commendable that, in spite of all the challenges we had to face, we completed our tasks, met our deadlines, became experienced at online meetings, and have hopefully succeeded!

We have been educated with many webinars and survival aids, and now are ready to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of District 3 Algoma in November.

We thank the outgoing executive for its positive and encouraging term during this pandemic, and wish the new board healing and success.

We are united and strong!

**Moyra O'Pallie**  
Membership/Recruitment

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## **Telephone Committee Report -- April/May 2022**

**Carmelina Spry**

Thank you to all members of this vital committee for their contribution in keeping RTOERO District 3 connected during this time. We hope to be able to meet in person in the Fall!

Our members:

Geraldine Yeo, Ruby Buck, Barbara Perry, Leslie McAuley, Marilyn Rouleau, Carmen Charsley, Sandy Fulcher, Raymond Jonusaitis, Leslie Hammond, Kim Carter, Patricia & George Pateman, Delmer Weber, Loretta McKay, Rosanne Lamon, Janet Morris, Michele Punch, Jocelyne Murray, Diane Marshall, Ann Blake, Bill Purnis & Florence MacLeod, Carol McFarlane, Carol Kirkland-Boissineau, Kathryn Greening, Merrilyn Webb, Maria LaTassa. Rita Wagner, Moyra O'Pallie, Rose-Marie Valade, Lois Mealey, Jill McPhee, Bernice Whalen, Maureen Gooderham, Rica Carella, Blair Sterling [Diane Bray, Carol Fortino, Lynda McNally, Sheila Nyman]. Laurian Montgomery, Rita Rawn, Jean Campbell, Kelly Cudmore, Carol J Rossetto, Judith Connell, Lynda Trivers, Barbara Jarvis, Judith Pratt, Bruce & Marion Avery, Corrine Jones.

Special thanks to members who have recently “retired” Sandra Gordon, Barbara Lawrence, Alice Ward and Marny Pollard for their many years of service.

Thank you and welcome to new members who are taking care of their list.

Carmelina Spry, Chair

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## **AGM Goodwill Report June 1<sup>st</sup> 2021-June 1<sup>st</sup> 2022**

**Bernice Whalen**

In 2020 -2021 292 Christmas cards were addressed and mailed out to District 3 members living outside of Ontario or on the peripheral area of Sault Ste. Marie. Marion Avery, Audrey Comeau, Joyce Nicolson, and Patricia Pateman keep doing their part to keep District 3 connected even though we have a large geographical area.

Locally in 2021 86 boxes of cookies and cards were delivered during December to those members in Sault Ste. Marie who were 85+. In 2021 during November-December 92 boxes were distributed. Thanks for the team work of the trusty elves that appeared at the doors: Kathy Greening, Marie and Folgo Della Vedova, Chris Rous, Wayne and Gina Greco, Barbara Perry, Carmelina and Rick Spry, Moyra O'Pallie, Page and Joyce Nicolson, Bruce and Marion Avery, Gary and Bonnie Wills, Bill Purnis and Florence McLeod, Gayle Manley, and yours truly with supportive husband Francis worked together to make this happen. Especially during a time of isolation during the pandemic this was so appreciated by our super seniors.

During 2021-2022 until June 1<sup>st</sup> three hundred forty-two birthday cards were sent to those 80+. The following members have worked with me to personalize a message, address cards and make this task less challenging: Barbara Perry, Cathy Pirrie, Rose Marie Valade, Patricia Pateman, Joanne Mancuso, and Eileen Mitchell. Many hands do make lighter work!

From June 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 until end of May 2022 fifty-four boxes of cookies and cards were delivered or sent on behalf of District 3 to those with medical challenges of whom we were made aware. Special thanks to Del Weber for assisting with some of these deliveries.

From June 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 until June 2022<sup>nd</sup> cards and /or donations to the Foundation (according to outlined procedures) were sent with empathy from District 3 in honour of the following:

Deepest sympathy to the following families: Kenneth Anstice (loss of stepmother Evelyn Anstice), Robert Bailey, William Bauer , Cathy Beaudette and Joanne Potvin (passing away of their mother, Anne Zeppa) Gladys Benson (loss of her mother-in-law) Ermanno Berlingeri (loss of brother Tony Berlingeri) , Dorothy Boville, William Cooksley, Mary Coulterman (loss of sister Orysia Woroniuk), Janice Crowle, May

Fournier, Diana Granger, Gerry Gray (bereavement of sister Peggy Gregorini) Loretta Harrison (loss of brother Hukezalie), Thomas Henry (loss of sister J. Marie Envoy), Susan Allen (loss of husband Stuart Graeme), Rhona McLarty, David Lawrence, Barbara Lamb, Eila Virene, Norah McGuire, Margaret Hele (passing away of sister Grace Nagy), Margaret Hill (loss of mother-in-law Susan Hill), John Hyndman, Anita Janveau and Robert Alexander (loss of their sister Sheila Dewar), Alma Lacrois-Richards, Shirley LaDouceur (loss of brother Joseph LaDouceur), Florence MacLeod (loss of brother Alexander), Judith Madigan (loss of husband William), Daniel Maloney, Anne Martin, Maureen Martin, Monika Marshall, Joyce McCrady Owen Neill, Alice Nenonen, Judy Pickering (loss of sister Dianne Thomas), Marie Purvis (loss of husband Morley), Ida Robbins (loss of mother Annette Delorme), Kevin Ross, Carole Shaule, Margaret Snider, Marty Dumanski, Fennell Hankinson, Kari Lustig (loss of his father Jaakko Olavi Lustig), Mary Madonna, Joyce Nicholls, Carol and Rob Robinson (loss of their daughter Lori Williamson), Ronald Tackaberry, Alexander Solomon, Cindy Spencer, Mary Walton, Jack Wheeler, Susan Allen (husband Stuart Graeme Allen), Carmen Dowhaniuk (loss of sister Linette Janveau), Sandra Gordon (loss of daughter Shirley-Lynne Kimbrough), Thomas Henry (loss of sister Marie Evoy), Brian Janveau and Margaret Janveau (loss of sister-in-law Linette Janveau), Sandra Parisotto (loss of mother Imelda Parisotto), Marisa Sdao and Claude Sdao (loss of mother Maisa Teresa Bozzo), Joyce Mertes and Elizabeth Kontschieder (upon bereavement of her Father Eduard Kontschieder).

Our hearts go out to all these families. We have had to say good-bye to too many valued members who have left us with precious memories.

Throughout the past years our caring membership have responded generously to the call for Christmas, birthday, thinking of you, get well and sympathy cards.

Special thanks as well to Judy Gooderham who has creatively provided cards that are needed. Our budget costs have been kept down because of the beautiful response from so many District 3 members.

As you can see from the report the success of Goodwill depends upon *team work*. Indeed, this aspect is so prevalent in District 3.

As you can see from the report the success of Goodwill depends upon *team work*. Indeed, this aspect is so prevalent in District 3. It can be best described as the “WE” team, not the “Me” team. It is an honour to work with you for our members.

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## **Foundation Report 2021-2022 -- Bernice Whalen**

Dr. Paula Rochon (Senior Scientist at the Women’s Age Lab ) continues to serve with passion and to inspire those dealing with geriatric medicine. Her recent focus has been upon understanding gender differences in aging.

Under the guidance of Dr. Rochon and her team significant contributions to research have been made across a vast range of areas-----including loneliness, social isolation, caregiving, and the critical long-term home situation in Canada.

Mentally Healthy Living After Social Distancing is the new project undertaken with a grant from the Foundation to the University of Alberta. The focus is on post-pandemic health and wellness. Data will be collected on mentally healthy strategies used by seniors during the pandemic. Data that is collected through an e-survey will be filtered back to RTOERO. The groundwork for a “mental health cookbook” is being laid.

Last year RTOERO Foundation celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. RTOERO as a senior organization are indeed proud that the Foundation continues to focus on providing resources to invest in programs, research and training to support healthy active aging.

On April 28<sup>th</sup> Dr. Rochon addressed the topic of Optimizing Medication Safety. On behalf of District 3 I am pleased to glean as much information as possible from this webinar. Another webinar is scheduled for May 31<sup>st</sup>

featuring Dr. Gutman who has served for 24 years as Director of Gerontology at the Research centre at Simon Fraser University. Informative webinars have been available throughout the past year and can be accessed at a later date by RTOERO members.

Through Goodwill since the beginning of June last year until the AGM of 2022 District 3 has contributed \$1,110 to the Foundation in honour of deceased members or members who have lost a parent, spouse or child.

*It is my intention to donate the full amount of \$500 associated with the Distinguished Member Award to the RTOERO Foundation as my charity of choice. Thus District 3 will have contributed \$1,600 to an area that services our membership----seniors. Hopefully the funds will positively affect the research, thus benefiting our District 3 members.*

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## **Political Advocacy, End of Year Report – June 2022**

**Marie Dellavedova**

The three issues identified by RTOERO for political advocacy continue to be : **A National Seniors Strategy, Environmental Stewardship, and Geriatric Healthcare.** District 3 has focused on long-term care and social isolation.

### **1. “Accent on Algoma” Newsletter Articles**

Newsletter articles highlighting long-term care and social isolation were published in Accent on Algoma newsletters.

September, 2021

***Two Federal Healthcare Priorities-*** In light of the federal election that had been called for October, this article highlighted RTOERO’s stand on two important federal issues, *“Canada needs a national plan for long-term care homes with national standards and processes for robust accountability.”* And *“Canada needs a national Pharmacare program that*

*ensures access to medications and treatments essential to well-being and health.”*

December, 2021

***Coping With Social Isolation*** This article was about various ways members can combat social isolation. Taking care of oneself is most important. It's also important to stay active and connect with others.

***Long-Term Care-Promises, Promises....*** In spite of the many records of neglect and abuse in long-term care homes and the promises of the Ontario government to rectify the appalling state of long-term care in Ontario, very little has changed. The promises remain promises....

April, 2022

***The Privatization of Ontario's Health Care-*** Ontario has been ramping up its privatization of health care as it extends new long-term care 30-year licenses to private corporations, many of which are the very companies considered responsible for the neglect and deaths of over 4,000 long-term care residents during the pandemic. Privatization has been further extended into home care, the provision of vaccinations and even into COVID testing. People sometimes pay up to \$400 for a CRP test formerly offered free through public health. There has even been talk of privatizing hospitals, calling them Independent Health Facilities. Privatization of public health services has been shown to create a lucrative revenue stream for private owners and operators at the expense of accessible, high-quality care for the rest of us, particularly the sick and vulnerable.

***A Staffing Catastrophe*** -The sixth wave of the pandemic has been accompanied by a severe staffing crisis in long-term care, hospital care and home care. These health care services have been crumbling due to critically low staffing levels that lead to inadequate patient care and overworked staff. That in turns further exacerbates the problem as sickness increases and exhausted staff leave their work environments. Solving the staffing crisis will require a huge investment of resources, people and ideas. Stable long-term funding is expensive but necessary. Otherwise, our health care system will collapse. Those who stand to benefit financially will insist that privatization is the answer. It isn't.

## **2. Letters**

Letters to the media included:

September 2021- Letter: Two Health Care Issues We Can't Afford to Forget

January, 2022 – Letter: A Full-Blown Catastrophe

March, 2022- Letter : The Privatization of Ontario's Health Care - Is that what we want?

May, 2022- Letter: Political No-Shows

### **3. Social Isolation**

To address social isolation -In addition to the newsletter article that provided social isolation supports, District 3 found additional ways to address social isolation.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, many members were feeling the effects of social isolation Our telephone committee was enacted to make social calls to individual members to enjoy conversation, share RTOERO information, chat about how each member was doing and any concerns they might have that District 3 could help with.

As well, under the direction of our Goodwill Chair and as is the District 3 custom, we continued the tradition of sending Happy Holiday cards, each with a personalized message to each District 3 member 85 years old and above. In December, a team of RTOERO District 3 Executive Board members made sure to personally call members 85 years old living in Sault Ste. Marie and follow up with the delivery of a holiday cookie tin, while making sure to follow Covid 19 safety precautions.

Throughout the year District 3 maintained contact with our members through the newsletter and website. Our most senior members also receive Birthday cards under the direction of the Goodwill Chair.

### **4. Elections:**

## **Federal Election: September 20, 2021**

A candidate questionnaire was sent to federal NDP, Conservative, Liberal, Green party and People's Party of Canada candidates of the SSM and the Algoma Manitoulin electoral districts.

The questionnaire contained questions related to RTOERO's three advocacy issues.

The only response was a completed questionnaire from Marie Morin-Strom the NDP candidate in Sault Ste. Marie. Both the questionnaire and the NDP candidate's response were posted on our website.

The federal election poster from national RTOERO was posted on our website. It was also published in the Sault Star. The ad was paid for by our national RTOERO.

An eblast was sent to District 3 members in September. It reminded them of RTOERO's three advocacy issues and encouraged them to keep these issues in mind when they voted on September 20, 2021. It also included links to the District and National websites where more information about the election could be found. The RTOERO election poster was included in the eBlast.

## **Provincial Election: June 2, 2021**

A Sault Ste. Marie Candidates Zoom meeting was planned for May 26, 2022. Invitations were sent to the candidates. With regret, District 3 RTOERO had to cancel the Candidates Meeting.

We had hoped to avail our members and community of an opportunity to hear the local provincial candidates answer pertinent questions around the issues of a Seniors Strategy, Geriatric Health Care and Environmental Stewardship.

We had arranged for assistance from the national RTOERO technology department to assist with the Zoom requirements. The NDP candidate accepted our invitation within two days. We were unable to contact the Liberal candidate. As of the third week of May he had still not been locally announced and no contact information was available. After several invitations sent over three weeks the Green Party candidate never did respond and the incumbent PC candidate finally declined our invitation. With regret we decided to cancel the Candidates meeting as only the NDP candidate was willing to attend.

The RTOERO election ad was submitted for publication in the Sault Star on May 28, 2022

**PAC Liaison Meetings-** On Wednesday March 23, 2022 District 3 and several other district PAC chairs attended a meeting with our Political Advocacy Committee liaison. The main purpose of this meeting was to share ideas for advocating locally on RTOERO's issues for the June Ontario provincial election.

As well, throughout the year the RTOERO PAC liaison made information from the PAC Committee meetings available to the districts.

#### **5. PAC on the District 3 website**

Pertinent political information including letters, articles and links to national RTOERO Political Advocacy Committee updates are posted on District 3 website.