



**RTO
ERO** A better future,
together
Ensemble pour
un avenir meilleur

District 28
Region of Durham

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 2021

POLITICAL ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

by Don Farquharson

We have two active campaigns that we have been concentrating on over the past 18 months. RTOERO has a new set of documents called "**Vibrant Voices**" (<https://rtoero.ca/?s=vibrant+voices>) in which we stress our commitment to the "Seniors Health and Care, a Seniors Strategy," and "Environmental Stewardship." Here in Durham, we have taken on two items to work on: 1). Environmental Stewardship and 2). Long Term Care.

Environmental Stewardship:

RTOERO was among the many who spoke up against the destruction of the Duffins Creek wetlands through signing letters, petitions, and protests. I am happy to report that plans to build a warehouse facility on provincially significant wetlands in Pickering have been abandoned. Pickering City Council voted unanimously to ask the provincial government to revoke the Ministerial Zoning Order that would have opened the door to the destruction of the wetland, without appeal. We are also working on Environmental Signage for the Nonquon Provincial Wildlife Area.

Long Term Care:

Our Committee has received the government's LTC Committee Report and are attempting to complete our analysis of it. At the same time, the Scugog area has received permission to build a large, new Long Term Care complex of 224 beds. This will be the first complex in Durham to be approved after the new report has been tabled. Our Committee is trying to make sure that it will be planned, designed, built, and run under a new set of rules, and will not be a large warehouse for seniors. We are actively writing to the appropriate authorities to try and ensure this and have appeared at Durham Regional Council and Scugog Council meetings to press our ideas and suggestions.

Don Farquharson