

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 2021

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

By Penny Kutlik and Charmaine Huculak

Committee Members:

Chairpersons: Charmaine Huculak and Penny Kutlik

Members: Robin Helgesen, Edith Hoekstra, Kirk Mark, Johan Wilkinson

This is a super group of volunteers who have made our presentations possible! The Social Committee hopes to continue to present entertaining events that provide RTO social connections and learning opportunities within the Covid-19 restrictions set out by RTO's Head Office.

We will continue to include, in District 28's Monthly Newsletter, some information about online courses, presentations and activity groups for Seniors provided by Local libraries and Senior's Groups. We want you to be aware of the many opportunities available should you wish to access them. We want to thank Dennis Bayley whose wife Patricia is an RTO member, for providing suggestions for presenters. His help has been invaluable.

Prior to Covid-19 restrictions and the RTO Guidance that shut down face-to-face meetings, we had planned and had booked venues and caterers for several activities/events; for example:

- Murder Mystery and dinner at Kedron Dells
- Golf Tournament and Luncheon – Sunnybrae Golf Club, Port Perry
- No Bell Luncheon
- Wine and Cheese/travel displays at Woodview Hall in Oshawa
- We were in the planning stages for several other activities, as well

With Covid 19 restrictions remaining, and the return to in-person meetings becoming less likely, we eventually moved to Zoom presentations.

Presentations 2021:

- **January** - **Dr. Amy Barron** - Archeology, Agatha Christie and Alzheimer's
- **February** - **Constable Daryll** - Phone and Online Scams and Senior Safety
- **March** - **Durham Master Gardeners**
- **April** - **Geoff Carpentier** - Galapagos Islands
- **May** - **Lucy Black** – Presentation by author of **Eleanor Courtown**
- **June** - **Angie Littlefield** – Author of **Tom Thompson: A Fine Kettle of Friends** June 24th at 7:00 p.m. (her books will be available at a discount, plus shipping).

Around 70 to 75 people sign up for presentations and around 60 do attend. Our May attendance was slightly down. We record and post these presentations, and from 100 to 130 people access them online through the link sent by email.

There is a **Book Club** (@ 15 members) and a **Poetry Sharing Group** (@ 10 to 12 members). Both are very enthusiastic groups. We will be adding a Poetry Corner to our newsletter submissions with poems written by members.

NOTE:

SIGNING UP FOR ZOOM PRESENTATIONS: An email is sent to all members for whom we have email addresses, with a large Contact button at the bottom. This is a link to the Host, who will send you the actual zoom link by email at least two days before. It is not the zoom link itself. If you do not get a Zoom Link by two days before, please contact the person hosting the event (their email address is on the original invitation email), and they will send it to you.

Presentations for the fall: We are working on this at present!

- October – Bev Foster (Room 217 Music Care) **Dementia and Alzheimer's Music Therapy.**
- Tentative for November – Presentation on a **Northern Ontario School** supported by Taunton Mills Retirement Home
- Tentative for December – **Circle Enrichment Group** (Daniel Aoso – Legend of the White Christmas)

- Tentative for January - Angie Littlefield: Her newest book on the Wives of the Group of Seven.
- September - Sue Nieuwenburg and Paige Stirling-Fox - Card Making Craft Group 10 to 15 Members – approximate cost \$20. We could add another session if the level of interest warrants it.

Also, in the works - Cultural Soirees:

You will shortly be receiving an invitation to discuss and help plan our next big endeavour, a series, hopefully monthly, of gatherings hosted by one or two individuals who have a special interest in or affinity with specific countries, regions or cultures, and who want to share experiences, memories, insights, photos, and even some travel recommendations. We hope to build a section on our Website which will be a repository for photos, as well as a shareable Recipe Book, each chapter representing a culture, country, or region. This will hopefully be an organic process of sharing and socializing, very much like those back-to-work sessions we used to have when we heard everything about our colleagues' adventures, with the added cachet of including colleagues from the entire board, not just our own friends and schools. I can think of two people I am going to personally invite but without putting anyone on the spot I will just say Mt. Kilimanjaro and Orchids and Archeology in Belize.

WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO THE TIME WHEN WE CAN BE TOGETHER
“LIVE” FOR PRESENTATIONS, LUNCHEONS, GOLF AND OTHER GROUP
ACTIVITIES.

We realize, however, that in addition to live events, we will need to continue to arrange, host, and record presentations and post them to make them accessible to those who cannot travel or may not feel comfortable meeting in large groups.

You don't have to do the work. Sometimes your curiosity and support are all it takes, so, if you have ideas for presenters, presentation topics, and possible online activities (including but certainly not limited to games or crafts), please let us know and we will do our best to provide what you are looking for in the most social manner possible. And remember, Family Members are always welcomed to join our Zoom presentations.

Contact pennykutlik1@gmail.com Or charmainehuculak@gmail.com Or write directly to any Board member.