



EXPERIENT²⁴

Issue 15 | Spring 2022

Experient (*adj*) having experience; having knowledge or skill from observation or participation. Synonyms: experienced

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Photo—Sherry Freund

Retirement does not mean leaving—Keep this link strong

Schedule of District 24 ARM Meetings for 2022

Until further notice all ARM meetings will be virtual. Meetings are open to all District 24 ARM members. They will take place at 9:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. If in doubt, check the website or contact Rich Clausi.

June 7 — BBQ?

September — check the website for updates

President's Update



ARM Chapter 24, Waterloo

I trust that this newsletter finds you well and happy.

ARM has met monthly and virtually using ZOOM throughout this COVID pandemic. We have featured speakers who are addressing items of concern to our members. We look forward to a time when we can meet in 3-D rather than just 2-D.

Our June meeting, just after the provincial election day, could be a BBQ but until we know the status of COVID, we are leaving this open. Please let us know how comfortable you are with an event at our District 24 headquarters. Our fallback plan, of course, is to conduct the meeting via ZOOM.

Here are two important points of interest:

We continue to support the Waterloo Region Health Coalition.

WRHC is doing excellent advocacy in an area that falls within our mandate—Senior's Health. We, again, unanimously approved a donation to their cause. That donation was used to fund radio ads. We appreciate the "heavy-lifting" done by the coalition on behalf of our aging demographic.

Our PAC committee is currently organizing mail outs to our membership. We are encouraging our members to research candidates, to volunteer and to donate to candidates who reflect their values and, most important, to get out and vote, either at an Advance Poll or on Election Day, June 2.

We hope that those approaching retirement will continue their association with OSSTF via an ARM membership. We encourage our members to hand out the membership cards that are available at our website: <https://c24arm.weebly.com>

Cheers and Best Wishes,
Yours in Education,
Richard Clausi, ARM Chapter 24, Waterloo

Submit Articles to YOUR Newsletter!

We are looking for reader submissions for the following regular features:

Viewpoint/Point of view

An opinion piece on a topic that concerns you personally.

After-School Activities

An update on individual activities or groups that you have joined since retiring from your job in the education sector.

Photo Captions

An interesting or entertaining photo that could be used for a caption contest. Please include the location and necessary background information.

Around the World

A report on interesting places or people you have met while travelling. Include pictures when relevant.

Book/ Movie/ Podcast etc. Reports

Tell us about what interesting things you've been viewing, following etc..

Whatcha Doin'?

Tell us what you've been doing during this Covid year in a paragraph or two.

All members are invited to submit items of interest for current and future retirees.

Articles need to be proof-read and **not exceed 500 words.**

Provide the name of the photographer and identify the people or places in the photo.

Note: All articles will be edited for clarity and space limitations.

Send submissions to:

raclausi@rogers.com



Submitted by John Ryrie

Across the province, active and retired OSSTF members are gearing up to bring in a new government in June that is deeply supportive of publically-funded schools and school staffs in our province. Quite obviously, to achieve this change OSSTF members will need to get out and vote in their riding. In addition, our federation is hoping that a number of our retired members will approach a local election office and offer to help an education-friendly candidate. Even a few hours a week can make a difference, whether stuffing envelopes, running off posters, answering a phone, or knocking on doors in neighbourhoods.

The five local ridings in our Region look as follows (**incumbents are bolded**):

Riding	Conservative	Green	Liberal	NDP
Cambridge	Belinda Karahalios (no longer a PC)	Carla Johnson	Sureka Shenoy	Marjorie Knight
Kitchener Centre	Jim Schmidt	Wayne Mak	Kelly Steiss	Laura Mae Lindo
Kitchener South - Hespeler	Amy Fee (not running for re-election)	David Weber	Ismail Mohamed	Joanne Weston
Kitchener-Conestoga	Mike Harris	Nasir Abdulle	Melanie Van Alphen	Karen Meissner
Waterloo	Andrew Aitken	Shefaza Esmail	Rami Said	Catherine Fife

Our local active District 24 Executive and our provincial organization have endorsed Laura Mae Lindo and Catherine Fife for re-election. Many other candidates in many other ridings have also been endorse. You can find the detailed list at this OSSTF website:

<https://www.osstf.on.ca/en-CA/public-education/toward-2022-and-beyond.aspx>

Lastly, every candidate needs money to run a campaign, so we are hoping that OSSTF members will contribute to a local campaign or to a major provincial party. Even small contributions (\$20 - \$50) are helpful (and tax deductible).

We urge members to be as active as they can and vote for a local candidate who is strongly supportive of our publically-funded schools.



SURVIVAL TIP:

If you get lost
in the woods
start talking
about politics
and someone
will show up
to argue with
you.



What is a Reverse Mortgage?

By: Gene P. Heesaker

Since the Pandemic became a reality in March of 2020 I have basically “ducked for cover” in the relative safety of my home and as a result I have watched WAY too much T.V. Every time I turn on the set, I am subjected to another advertisement by celebrities urging me to take out a reverse mortgage. The American channels have Tom Selleck while the Canadian channels have Kurt Browning. Both pitchmen are affable as they extol the virtues of the reverse mortgage. They both make a reverse mortgage sound like it’s the best thing since sliced bread. But is it? And what is it, exactly? After some serious research, I may have some answers.

Essentially, a reverse mortgage (RM) is a loan secured against your home which allows the home owner to borrow money against the equity they have accumulated without having to sell their beloved home. There are unique rules in Canada that govern RM’s. You must be 55 years of age, own your own home, and you can borrow up to 55% of your home’s current appraised value (after deducting any mortgage obligations). The money is tax free cash and this influx of new money does not affect the old age security or guaranteed income supplement benefits you may be receiving. (Double check this with the CRA and Service Canada before making any decision.)

Many older Canadians seek out a RM because they do not want to sell their home and no longer have a substantial steady income from work to qualify for a regular mortgage or a Home Equity Line of Credit. (HELOC) However, when you do decide to sell your home you will have to pay back the RM, and not surprisingly the longer you go without making monthly payments on the loan, the more interest will accrue. The result is less equity in your home over the time period you access the RM.

A RM allows you to spend money on anything you want, such as paying for home improvements, helping with monthly bills, using the money for investment purposes, covering health care costs not covered by the provincial government, helping out the kids, or simply repaying debts. Interest is only charged when you begin to withdraw the funds from the RM. Sounds great....right?

But....before you run out and sign up for a RM you

may want to compare the pros and cons of some of the alternatives to a RM. Such as:

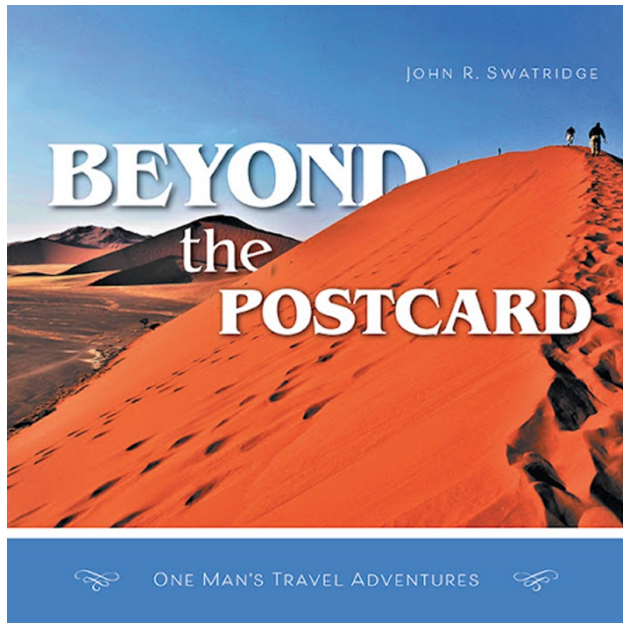
- ♦ Securing another type of loan, like a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) Your bank or credit union can discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this financial tool.
- ♦ Selling your home and moving into a rental property such as an apartment building or a retirement home. (Just remember that some retirement homes can be very expensive and as such out of the question for many retirees.)
- ♦ Downsizing to a smaller home. The question always is...just how small? (A friend of mine once told me that one should never buy or rent any piece of property that is too small to escape from your loving significant other! My wife whole heartedly agrees with this sage advice.)

There are a few things to watch out for when applying for a RM. A RM usually has higher interest rates than a traditional mortgage or HELOC. There may be substantial administrative fees to set up the RM, and your home equity goes down and therefore so does your net worth. If you are leaving your home to your family members, you will need to consider the fact that your estate, after you pass away, will have to repay the RM with interest before the remaining assets can be distributed to your beneficiaries.

The advantages and disadvantages of a RM must be considered very carefully. Don’t just believe the original Thomas Magnum or a World Champion Figure Skater. These guys are NOT just giving away free money. A RM is intended to make the lender a tidy profit even if these celebrities don’t point this out during their professional presentation. Do your own due diligence. Explore your own options and crunch all of the numbers....and most importantly, talk to a trusted financial advisor about how a RM will impact your overall financial future.

- ♦ **Age 60 might be the new 40 but 9 pm is the new midnight.**
- ♦ **It’s the start of a brand new day and I am off like a herd of turtles.**
- ♦ **I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.**
- ♦ **When I say "the other day" I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.**

Book Review



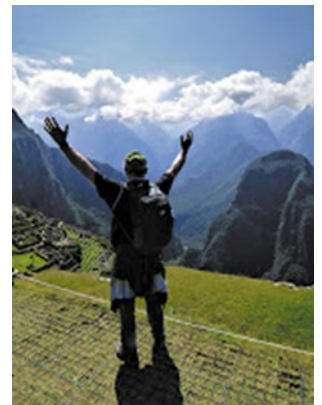
Beyond the Postcard One Man's Travel Adventures by John R. Swatridge

Beyond the Postcard is a collection of one man's world-spanning travel stories. From the humorous to the heart-warming, these tales each show how travel, despite the inevitable surprises, is rewarding in so many ways. It stirs emotions that reinforce and affect what we know about the world, about each other, and even about ourselves.

Travel is one of the best safeguards against war, racism, and indifference to the less fortunate. Through quotes, stories, short philosophical comments, and his own pictures, Swatridge sketches a rich landscape that anybody with a sense of adventure will enjoy. Whether you love to travel or have never left your own backyard, you can experience the joy, challenge, and adventure of a life on the road through these stories.

John R. Swatridge has made travel his life. As a licensed travel agent, he regularly sets up tour itineraries to South America, North America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. He also personally guides those tours! Through work and privately, he has traveled extensively. As a Geographer, Swatridge taught a tourism course at the high school level for many years, and regularly enjoys speaking about his experiences to interested groups at libraries, travel clubs, schools, and other organizations.

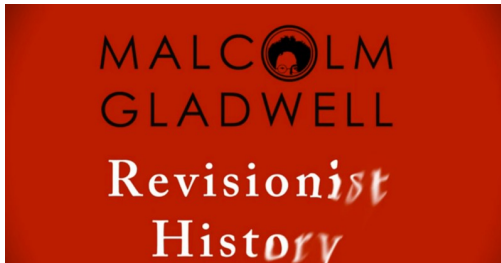
Swatridge lives in Kitchener, Ontario, with his wife Pamela. He has two children, Karli and Brendan, who he has had the joy of taking on several exotic trips, instilling in them an intense desire to travel and explore the world. When he is not traveling he is usually still in motion, whether that be playing ice hockey, pickleball, tennis, biking, golfing or tending to his beloved tomatoes. If he does sit still, it is usually on a piano bench or reading books at his cottage on Lake Superior. His passionate hope is that all readers of this book are motivated to explore the most fascinating and mind-blowing place of all---the EARTH!



John is a member of ARM District 24 and has provided enjoyable presentations on his many travel experiences at ARM meetings.—ED.

What are you listening to?

So, still find ourselves listening to podcasts over lunch. Now that my husband is retired I think this might become a permanent habit! I've got a couple more podcast finds to share but would really love to get some input from others (there is some selfish motivation here folks—I need new content too!) Please help us out for the next issue. **Michele Altermann**



We just started listening to the Revisionist History series—there are several so we are good for a few months! Always interesting to get a very Canadian perspective on American society and politics.

Malcolm Gladwell is the author of five New York Times bestsellers — *The Tipping Point*, *Blink*, *Outliers*, *What the Dog Saw*, and *David and Goliath*. He is also the co-founder of Pushkin Industries, an audio content company that produces the podcasts *Revisionist History*, which reconsiders things both overlooked and misunderstood. Gladwell has been included in the TIME 100 Most Influential People list and touted as one of Foreign Policy's Top Global Thinkers.



Another well written podcast that covers a fascinating story about someone who decides to change the course of his life and make amends for poor choices and ends up on everyone's hit list. A little slow at times but the overall content is awesome.

Deep Cover is a show about people who lead double lives, how far they're willing to go in pursuit of a greater cause, and how sometimes, seemingly small decisions can change the course of history. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jake Halpern reveals webs of deception and dark underworlds, through interviews with federal agents and convicted criminals. Season two, *Mob Land*, is about a high-rolling lawyer who joins forces with the feds to try to bring down one of the most powerful criminal syndicates in the country.

Changes at RTIP

At a recent ARM council meeting there was a request to send a copy of the new RTIP guide to all Chapter Presidents. The link below takes you to the PDF guide as well as to the online version.

<https://www.otip.com/OTIP/media/OtipRacoMedia/RTIP/EN/RTIP-Guide.pdf>

ARM 2021-2022 Executive

President	Rich Clausi
Vice-President	Joe Amatruda
Treasurer	Isobel Cayenne
Secretary	Rennie Ladden
Political Action	John Ryrie
Webmaster	Chuck Stemmler
Newsletter Editor	Michele Altermann



Photo—Sherry Freund

Helpful Websites

District 24 OSSTF

<http://www.d24.osstf.ca>

District 24 OSSTF– ARM

<http://c24arm.weebly.com>

ARM Council

<http://www.armcouncil.osstf.ca>

Edvantage

<http://www.edvantage.ca>

OMERS

<http://omers.com>

Ontario Teacher Pension Plan

<http://otpp.com>

OTIP

<http://otip.com>

OTIP's Carepath Program

<http://otip.carepath.ca>