

# Senior Talent Bank

## Association of Ontario

*Volunteer Action Network - Réseau Action Bénévole*

### Newsletter

Toronto, Ontario

Spring 1995

## President's Comments

Reorganization of staffing and the energy of the Board members augurs well for the STBAO. New Senior Talent Banks are being initiated in many communities while the Board of Directors is tackling some fundamental issues concerning the objectives, mandate and structure of the Association.

Ever since I became a member of the Board of Directors, the relationship between the Senior Talent Bank Association of Ontario and local Senior Talent Banks has troubled me. While we talk easily on the Association level about the local Senior Talent Banks as branches, no such constitutional arrangement exists. Local Talent Banks are independent organizations which may hold a membership in the STBAO. In that respect they are much like regular and supporting members of the Association. Each regular and supporting member has voting privileges and presumably **one vote** in general at the Annual General Meeting. **According to our constitution, each local Senior Talent Bank also has one vote.** This does not seem to be quite right. Individual and supporting members could easily outvote the Talent Banks at an Annual General Meeting or other general meetings.

To eliminate some of the ambiguities and incongruities, three remedies should be suggested:

First, the majority of the STBAO's Board of Directors should be representatives of the local

Talent Banks. In fact, each local Talent Bank should be represented on the Board. If the number of Talent Banks grow far beyond the current level, we may need to think of a two-tier form of governance, for example, some kind of Council or Federation structure.

Secondly, the relationship between the local Talent Banks and the Association needs to be redefined constitutionally.

And thirdly, the responsibilities, rights and obligations of the Association and local Talent Banks need to be spelled-out in greater detail.

The above steps would go a long way toward removing ambiguities and assuring that the growth of the local Senior Talent Banks and the Senior Talent Bank Association of Ontario would occur in a co-ordinated manner for the benefit of Ontario seniors.

*Karl Kinanen  
President*



*God put me on earth to accomplish a certain number of things. Right now I am so far behind, I will never die.*



# A Note from our Co-ordinator of Development



## National Volunteer Week



Volunteers are essential to our economy and the well-being of Canadian citizens. With the demographics of aging I believe that the most significant resource that we have for Canadian volunteerism is seniors.

How wonderful that we not only have a special week for celebrating volunteers but that STBAO is holding a special recognition luncheon for senior volunteers on June 2nd.

Canadian Heritage and the Canadian Association of Volunteer Bureaux have developed some wonderful information kits to help us be knowledgeable about the issues and facts regarding volunteerism in Canada. I would like to share the following information with you.

### The Economic Impact of Volunteerism

Thirteen Million Canadians are involved in volunteer work, either through an organization or on their own as "good neighbours". Some 5.3 million Canadians volunteer their time and skills to help others.

Canadians contribute over one billion hours annually to voluntary organizations - the equivalent of **617,000 full-time positions**. Translated into a 1995 dollar equivalent, the value of this volunteer time is **over \$16 billion** per year (based on the average wage in the service sector).

### Characteristics of Volunteers

- 55 percent of volunteers are women, although men who volunteer tend to put in more hours.
- "Baby boomers" between 34 and 44 years of age are the most likely to volunteer.

- The chances of someone volunteering increases with the level of education. For example, 46 per cent of those with an university degree do volunteer work, compared with 27 percent of the overall population.

- The average volunteer devotes 191 hours a year to volunteer work.

Canadian volunteer for a variety of reasons. The primary motivation for many people is a desire to help others or to support a cause they believe in. The opportunity to do something enjoyable and to feel a sense of accomplishment is an important factor. Volunteer work is also valued as a way to meet people, to find companionship, and to gain skills.

I would like to say my own special thank you to all senior volunteers but especially to the hundreds who are contributing not only to their communities but by helping with the development and administration of STB's. This can often seem like thankless work and doesn't always contain the same rewards as hands-on service.

Thank you to all.

*Pat Varley*  
*Co-ordinator of Development*

**A Volunteer  
Recognition Luncheon**  
is planned for  
June 2, 1995

Watch for more information in the near future.



# Talent Bank News



## A Historical Perspective - Senior Talent Bank for Richmond Hill

The volunteers who created Richmond Hill's Senior Talent Bank in 1984 and who built it into the thriving and successful Service organization it is today celebrated the first decade of their volunteering work at a well-attended dinner in October of last year. They have much to be proud of, but the real celebration was in their commitment and dedication to continue their community service work in the years to come.

It began in 1984. William Morton invited some friends to form a Senior Talent Bank to serve Richmond Hill. They surveyed the needs of local organizations and agencies for volunteer assistance which could be met by the members of their Talent Bank. A Board of Directors was elected, committees (to look after special tasks) were formed, and retired business people, homemakers, teachers and other professionals were recruited into membership.

In 1985, with people and an organization in place, the STB of Richmond Hill approached Service Clubs and Churches for funding assistance. The response was positive, and the Board applied for and received a New Horizons

Grant from the Federal Government. That money bought furniture, equipment and office supplies - "and we haven't looked back since", says Bill Morton.

The dinner at the Le Parc Hotel on 24 October 1994 was attended by our immediate past chairperson, Dr. Frank McInnis, and his newly elected successor, Howard McGowan. Five Past Chairpersons of our Talent Bank were present, as were Dr. Gordon Romans, Past President, and Dr. Karl Kinanen, the current President of the STB Association of Ontario.

We report with deep sorrow that Howard McGowan was the victim of a fatal heart attack on 10 November 1994, and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family and many friends. Dr. McInnis has temporarily re-assumed the duties of Chair.

All speakers linked our past achievements to our future commitment. Indeed, the Board has already accomplished one aim - our incorporation and registration as a charitable institution, giving us official standing and recognition.

"Volunteers are like yachts. No matter where they are, they arouse your curiosity. Who are they? Where do they come from? Why are they here?"

They could stay moored where it's safe and still justify their being, but they choose to cut through the rough waters, ride out storms and take chances. They have style. They are fiercely independent. If you have to ask them how much they cost, you can't afford them.

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect our nation's compassion, unselfishness, caring, patience and just plain loving one another. Their very presence transcends politics, religion, ethnic background and marital status.

It frightens me somehow, to imagine what the world would be like without them."

# Talent Banks at a Glance



## Oshawa Senior Talent Bank

Over the last several years a volunteer, Doris Paterson has knitted 21,000 finger puppets and her husband Alex helps to sew the faces onto each one. These puppets are then given to children who are staying in hospital or visiting a doctors office. Thanks Doris and Alex for your time and effort.

Upcoming events for the Oshawa Talent Bank:  
- Multiple Sclerosis Campaign  
- Carnation Campaign in May  
- Cancer Society's Daffodil Campaign - March

Oshawa Talent Bank Volunteers worked a total of 15,307 hours for 1994.



## Senior VIP's in Service (Petrolia):

Petrolia invited the Senior Talent Bank Association of Ontario to a Tea being held at the Victoria Hall on March 9th. It was an informal gathering to help people learn about the STBAO and to determine the feasibility of starting a new Talent Bank in the Petrolia area.

Three guests are now in the process of forming a Steering Committee to look at this possibility.



## Senior VIP Service (Sarnia):

### Senior V.I.P. in Sarnia Sponsoring Free Tax Clinics for Seniors

Senior V.I.P. in Sarnia, in co-operation with Revenue Canada, sponsored free tax clinics for seniors which were held on March 9 and 16 at the Lochiel Kiwanis Centre.

On February 9, 1995, 25 volunteers from the Talent Bank were trained by a Revenue Canada representative. These volunteers worked on completing tax returns for eligible seniors at the free tax clinics.

Eligible seniors had to be 65 years of age, with an annual income of \$25,000 or less.



## Retirees Talents' Unlimited: Windsor

The Volunteers of this Talent Bank are getting ready to help with the Heart & Stroke Foundation's Annual Soup Kitchen in March, being held at the Windsor Armouries. This is the Retirees Talents' 9th year helping with this worthwhile event.



## Rose City Senior Talent Bank:

For 4 years, in December, the Rose City Talent Bank has worked on a programme called "Koats-for-Kids". As well they have knit mitts and scarves and collected boots to go with each coat that is then given to a child who needs warm outer wear to get through the Winter.

This year the Rose City Talent Bank received a plaque from the United Way for volunteering to help out with this very important programme.

They are also involved with; Meals-on-Wheels, an on-going Soup Kitchen, helping with various jobs at the local hospital and helping the Cancer Campaign by putting together kits for them.



## Renfrew and Area STB:

The new Senior Talent Bank in Renfrew is still in its formative stages as part of the Volunteer Bureau of Renfrew and Area.

They already have seniors giving volunteer services in a variety of areas.

At the Renfrew and Area Seniors Home Support as well as other institutions, the STB volunteers are acting as drivers, friendly visitors,

# SENIOR TALENT BANK ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL



*STBAO is an incorporated Charitable Organization (#0637728-59-13) supported by senior volunteer fundraising projects, donations, with valued assistance from the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services.*

Senior Talent Bank Association of Ontario invites you to join or renew your support of our efforts to enable and encourage all seniors to remain vital and active in their communities through volunteer activities. The STBAO is your Association and it is your interest, participation, practical and financial assistance that will determine its future, just as it has been invaluable in its past. The next fiscal year for the Association should be one of growth in our work and in the services we provide, and with help, we will be able to reach our goals.

Thank You!

### CATEGORIES & DEFINITION

### ANNUAL DUES

#### 1. MEMBERS

\$15.00

Individual members of the Association shall be eligible for election to the Board and/or its Committees with voting privileges.

#### 2. SUPPORTING MEMBERS

DONATION

Individuals who demonstrate additional financial support to the Association shall be eligible for election to the Board and/or its Committees with voting privileges.

#### 3. PARTICIPATING SENIOR TALENT BANKS

\$40.00

Each Senior Talent Bank shall have one vote exercised by its designated representative or alternate.

#### 4. AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

\$20.00

Organizations having aims and objectives similar to those of the Association with regard to Seniors in the community become non-voting members of the Association and may send representation to the Annual General Meeting.

#### 5. CORPORATE MEMBERS

DONATION

Corporations or other business organizations, in agreement with the objectives of the Association, become non-voting members upon receipt of a donation.

*All membership categories will receive a copy of the quarterly Newsletter and will be invited to attend the Annual Meeting.*

**Members Fees due  
April 1st of each year**

A receipt for Income Tax purposes will be sent for all dues and donations.

Senior Talent Bank of Ontario  
55 Belmont Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5R 1R1  
(416) 967-3829 Fax: (416) 967-5532  
1-800-263-0223

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town / City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: home: \_\_\_\_\_ work: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_ New Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Please Circle 1 2 3 4 5

Yes! Please send me further information: \_\_\_\_\_



## Talent Banks at a Glance

cont'd from Page 4

### Renfrew and Area STB (cont'd)

fundraisers, letter-writers and assist with Income Tax Returns. At the Heritage, Renfrew's Archives, the volunteers help out with computer and reception work.

Other volunteers of this new Talent Bank work together with their local cable station to produce a monthly TV show called Senior Contact. It deals with local topics such as health services, history and heritage.



### Elliot Lake Talent Bank

Elliot Lake is now in the process of compiling all of the talents of its members.

Mr. Garry Romain, a gerontology student, has begun working on this project and it should take approximately 2 months. After compiling all of the talents of the Bank's members, Garry will enter them into the computer so they can become a working tool for their groups use.



### Le Club des Aînés L'étoile D'or

Le club des aînés de l'Étoile d'Or d'Elliot Lake, après avoir fini un sondage auprès de ses membres, passe maintenant à la deuxième étape de son projet, c'est à dire, la complilation de tout les talents de nos membres.

Monsieur Garry F. Romain, étudiant en gérontologie, travaille sur le projet, qui devra prendre environ deux mois. Après avoir relevé les talents de tous les membres, Garry devra les rentrés dans un ordinateur, qui deviendra, pour le club un outils de travail.



**Just for Today:** I will be happy

*What Abraham Lincoln said is true:  
"Most folks are as happy as they  
make up their minds to be."*

## COMMITTEE CORNER

### Senior Talent Banks' Committee

The STB Committee currently consists of 5 members: Yvonne Sinclair (Chair), Jean Borbey, Nelson Lamontagne, Ted Winch, and Pat Varley, Co-ordinator of Development. The mandate of this Committee is to help develop new Talent Banks and provide assistance and information to existing Talent Banks.

Since October Yvonne and Pat have visited a number of Talent Banks including: Sarnia, Welland, Renfrew, Hamilton, U of T, Richmond Hill and Petrolia. These visits have been very encouraging and enlightening about the value of having Senior Talent Banks in Ontario Communities. Once all of the STB's have been visited we will put together a booklet of ideas gleaned from these visits.

During these visits we have received many suggestions and recommendations which we bring to the STBAO Board. One of these recommendations is to change the name of the Senior Talent Bank Association of Ontario to a name that better represents what we do, namely volunteering. The Board has given the Senior Talent Banks' Committee the authority to explore this possibility so you will be hearing from us soon for your ideas.

The response from many communities to develop STB's has been very positive and we look forward to welcoming many new Banks to our Association in the future.

*Yvonne Sinclair  
Chair, Senior Talent Banks' Committee*



# The Pro-Activity of the STB Association

By Eyewitness

A year or so ago, a gerontology student at a Toronto-area community college was assigned to help prepare a course to be hosted by her institution for ELDERHOSTEL Canada. The course was to last a week, and it was called "Gardens in the City". Twenty-one years old and fresh from classes teaching her how to succour and support frail and stumbling "seniors", Grace didn't expect much from her assignment. Within a month, she had totally changed her mind about these 'seniors': they were planning and running their continuing education; travelling all over Canada, the U.S., to Europe, Australia, Asia and elsewhere to attend one-week to three-week courses; and generally acting and behaving in a wholly non-gerontological manner.

This story came to mind when, fly-on-the-wall-like, I was permitted to see the recently elected STBAO Board at work in its Board and Committee meetings. There was new energy in the office. And every Bank's Board planning sessions during the last few weeks just glowed with a sense of purpose, and of action.

If someone like Grace, with her well-meaning prejudiced attitude about seniors, had been in my place, she'd have fallen off the wall. These bright-eyed and bushy-tailed activists - seniors?

Your President has already told you, in your last Newsletter, about the new assignments in your Association's office which your Board set in motion. Of course, we all know that nothing happens unless people work, to make it happen. You've all met Pat Varley and Karl Kinanen. Judy Hemphill and Marguerite Dzialik are of the same mold, as are the chairs of your Working Committees. Seniors, and not-so-seniors, they see what needs doing, and work at getting it done.

- STBAO needs money.  
The Fundraising Committee plans and works on getting it.

- Forming new Talent Banks.  
STBAO emissaries have aroused interest in many new communities. We've responded because of the new staff organization and active encouragement by Board Members.
- Trickle-down effect.  
The new STBAO Office vitality has energized and helped re-organize the local Talent Banks.
- Official encouragement.  
We are experiencing a more positive relationship with our Ontario Ministry of Health.

What a difference.

## Bits and Bytes

Ontario Community Support Association is holding their 3rd Annual Conference "LEAD, UNITE...TAKE CHARGE", May 24-26, 1995 at the Delta Meadowvale Resort & Conference Centre, Mississauga, Ontario.

For more information, please call Shannon Chartrand at (416) 256-3010 or 1-800-267-6272.

### STBAO NEWSLETTER

ISSN No. 1188-2824 - Spring 1995  
Published by the Senior Talent Bank Assoc. of Ontario - 55 Belmont St., Toronto, Ont. M5R 1R1  
416-967-3829, 1-800-263-0223

Editorial Committee: Ann Poole and Rolf James

Permission to reprint material is given, with acknowledgement to STBAO, an Incorporated Charitable Organization (#0637728-59-13). STBAO is supported by volunteer fundraising projects and donations, with valued assistance from the Ontario Ministry of Health.

Please send us stories about your volunteers or your programs to be published in upcoming STBAO Newsletter. Your contributions for the Winter Issue should reach us by Aug. 15, 1995.