



# A Tradition of Excellence

## A Brief Glimpse AT OUR BEGINNINGS

by renée I.A. mercuri

“Yes, I would like to return to those days; so would we all, I suspect. That hapless wish has probably dogged all of us all the years of our lives. It is enough to be able to remember that we were involved in a mission to preserve and protect those of us who were incapacitated or without voice, to fight on their behalf. It is enough, perhaps, to know that we persevered, that we fought the good fight, and that we prevailed in many areas requiring our concerted attention. It is best, I think, to dwell on our accomplishments and not to ponder on the absence, now, of those whom we called dear.”

– Clare Perry  
(Secretary-Treasurer 1975 - 1984)  
remembering his tenure

It was perhaps said best in 1993, in the Book of Memories published to mark the 25th anniversary of the then Superannuated Teachers of Ontario (STO/ERO): “We have been amazed that thousands of retired teachers spread across our huge province could ever be organized and carry on so enthusiastically [for 25 years].”

It’s even more amazing when you realize it’s been going on for 40 years.

In each issue of *Renaissance* this year, we will mark 40 years of organized retired teachers in Ontario by spotlighting each of our four decades.

We can’t fit every historical tidbit in *Renaissance*, so at the end of the year you’ll see an expanded and thorough history posted on our web site.

Now take a look at our first decade, as well as the few years just before, as pensioners – as they were referred to then – got together, got organized and in the words of Clare Perry, Secretary-Treasurer of STO/ERO from 1975 to 1984, worked towards “the betterment of teacher pensions... with renewed retirement vigour.”

*Original STO/ERO Provincial Executive members Arthur McAdam and Marion Tyrrell are shown in 1964 when they were made Fellows of the Ontario Teachers Federation (OTF).*

