

# Cambridge Branch



**April 2014**

**Newsletter #2**

Cambridge R.W.T.O. Executive

**2012-2013**

President: Terry Hamilton 622-2298  
Past President: Sheila Wittie 745-1884  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Terry Hamilton 622-2298  
Secretary/Archivist: Mary Jane Novak 622-0415  
Treasurer: Barb Welfred 653-7393  
Lunch Co-ordinator: Mary Latham 653 3097  
Goodwill Convenor: Helen Darby 632-8819  
Insurance Convenor: Sheila Wittie

**2014-2015 Changes in Executive:**

**Callers:** 2012-2013  
Marilyn Armstrong 653-2117  
Anne Borchart 624-8261  
Terry Bowers 623-6925  
Sue Brethauer 658-2716  
Pat Connell 632-5274  
Sheila Langdown 621-1737  
Sue Meighan 621-9356  
Carol Stinson 752-7123

**If you need a ride to meetings, call one of us!**

**Membership Fees** of \$40.00 for the 2014-2015 year are due **before** September 30<sup>th</sup>. Please pay your fees to Barb Welfred, Treasurer, anytime (over the summer is fine).

Make cheques out to: **RWTO Cambridge Branch**  
The fee for a member who retired on or before Aug. 31, 1980 is \$15.00

Meetings will be held at the **Galt Golf and Country Club**, on Coronation Blvd, next to the hospital. An elevator is available in the lobby.

Meetings follow this format:

Charity item drop off: please place items in the bins in the country club lobby.

Mix and Mingle: 11:30 am

Business Meeting: 12:10

Lunch served: 12:30 (**All meals cost \$25.00**)

Guest Speaker(s) 1:30-2:30

**Special Note!**

***Meals that you order must be paid for by our RWTO Cambridge Branch. If for any reason you cannot attend after reserving your place, send your \$25.00 cheque payable to our Treasurer, Barb Welfred, asap. Her address is 99 Pioneer Tower Road, Kitchener, N2P 2H4***  
**You may also pre-pay for luncheons, contact Barb to do so.**

Thank you to retiring caller Jeanie Moore for her three years of service.



# Cambridge Branch

## 2014-2015 Schedule of Events

**Tuesday April 15, 2014**

Luncheon: Chicken taco, cheesecake  
Speaker: Renate Donovan  
Donation: Socks for the Bridges clients

**Tuesday June 17, 2013**

Garden Party 1:00-3:00  
Home of Helen Darby, RR1, Drumbo



### Caring and Sharing



Please call **Helen**

**Darby**, our Goodwill contact at 519 632 8819 if you know of a member who is ill, injured, in hospital or experiencing the loss of a loved one and she will be sent a card on behalf of the group. Helen recently sent cards to Terry Bowers, Margaret Christy and Pat Connell.

**Looking Ahead to 2015:** Members are encouraged to bring an item such as a craft you made, home baking or preserves, books or new items of interest on which you have placed a minimum bid to the Silent Auction. Our February 2014 auction raised over \$650 for Haven House, the Bridges and Grand Valley Women's Prison programs.



## Club News:

**BOOK CLUB 1:** Congratulations, the club is celebrating its tenth anniversary in May.



They meet the third Thursday of the month.

**April:** *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

**May:** *Whistling Past the Graveyard* by Susan Crandall

**June:** any *Maisie Dobbs* mystery by Jaqueline Winspear

**BOOK CLUB 2:**



Meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month:

**April:** *Loving Frank* at Ruth Guglielmi's

**May:** *The 100 Year Old Man ...* at Mostly Thai Restaurant, Ainslie St, Cambridge

**June:** TBA

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**Hiking Club:** Meets on **Thursday morning** at 9:00 in the spring and fall and summer, at pre-determined locations. At press time the first hike is planned for East Galt on Apr. 10. The severe winter and debris from the ice storm which hasn't been cleared from the trails has meant delays. Please contact Mary Jane for more

information,  
622-0415 or  
221 2462.

Current  
members will

be contacted by email with a list of the upcoming hikes for May and June. New hikers and suggestions for hikes are always welcomed. Along the trail to Pioneer Tower on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> we found a "Free Little Library".



**Trips: May 7** excursion to the Donkey Sanctuary, lunch at the Aberfoyle Mill. Call Mary Latham (653-3097) if interested.

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The following article appeared several years ago in the RTO "News at 11". It was available at her memorial service in February, and read by Bonnie at our meeting in February:

### Frances Brown

By Bonnie Fach

Imagine a writing assignment about your grade four teacher when you are seventy years of age yourself! I approached this important task feeling like an eight year old child hoping to do a special job for this brief story about Frances Brown, RTO Waterloo's Most Senior Senior now retired for 47 years. What a wonderful morning I had chatting with her in her beautiful suite at

Fairview Mennonite Home in Cambridge where she lives surrounded by family photos and lovely paintings created by Mabel Carter and Marion Rook, women who taught in Galt many years ago. As we chatted about her early life she demonstrated a remarkable capacity to recall details about places, people and incidents that were delightful to listen to often with a twinkle in her eyes.

Miss Frances Durward attended Hamilton Teachers' College after completing grade thirteen at Galt Collegiate Institute and Vocational School. Following graduation it was a difficult time to get a teaching job, but she managed to do so at Littles' Corners School instructing grades 1 through 4. She lived by the Grand River on Water Street in Galt and walked over three miles to get to the school out in the country on Highway 8. Sometimes she might be lucky to get a ride from a farmer but walked in all kinds of weather when that didn't happen. Some of the children had to walk as far as she did to get to school, a feat which still amazes her today. She said that she always worried about the children seated closest to the pot-bellied stove in the middle of the classroom because it could get pretty hot. Stoking that stove was part of her job description and her salary for this teaching job remained at \$500 for each of the four years she taught there.

Frances moved on to teach 40 children in a grade 3 & 4 class for Mr. "Pop" Collins at Dickson Public School. Sports were a big part of the extra curricular activities in public school and Frances enjoyed coaching softball. I recalled seeing numerous photos of her with young teams at Dickson and Tait Street school reunions. Huge school family picnics in Victoria Park, exciting skating races in the Galt Arena

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Gardens and wonderful parades to Dickson Park bandstand were special remembrances. She chatted about the occasion when each school marched behind its own band from Market Square to the park at the time of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation. Bill McFadyen and Bill Lethbridge taught all the songs in the schools then pulled the children together in the bandstand to sing rousing patriotic tunes in celebration. On cue hundreds of children displayed special cards set out for them to form a giant Union Jack. Audience members applauded in surprised delight! Anyone who participated in that event and others similar each year recall those evenings fondly as the community came together. What a wonderful time it was and Frances reminisced about those events with joy!

Other teaching assignments followed at Central and Tait Street Schools, then two years before her retirement she married Colonel Henry Brown of the American Air Force in Basil, Switzerland much to the displeasure of her superintendent who reminded her that she was hired as Miss Frances Durward, not Mrs. Frances Brown. Her romance with Henry, whom she called Brownie, began many years before when a woman in her mother's circle of friends thought they should go on a date. With this friend of her mother's ensconced as their chaperone in the rumble seat of a roadster, Frances and Henry went on their first date. Throughout the years they kept in touch but women didn't marry and keep teaching in those times. When they finally married, Henry was stationed in Germany so Frances remained living with her parents and visited her new husband on holidays and summer vacations. When he transferred to Madison, Wisconsin, every third weekend she would hop on a plane to Chicago

then on to Madison and return to teach school on Monday morning. With thirty years of teaching behind her, she and Henry began a marvellous time of golf and travel, Florida in the winters and Galt in the summers. When he died in 1985 she continued to enjoy winters in Satellite Beach Florida, but in 2000 she returned to live in Cambridge permanently.

After a nasty car accident in November of 2010, she has come back strongly. I asked her what she might like to add herself to this brief article and she said that she loves it when former pupils come up and speak with her sharing remembrances of school and what's happening today in their lives. With a mischievous grin she said that she might not always recognize their faces but enjoys those conversations very much. Don't we all? What a delightful woman!



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