



RETIREMENT MATTERS



President's Message



Hard to believe that two years have gone by so quickly and that my time as President is almost over. I have had the best time and have enjoyed every minute! I look forward to sitting in the audience with all of you and having some time to chat.

“Caring, Sharing and Having Fun” has always been the focus of Burlington Branch. Our contributions to charities including our Christmas donations to Burlington Salvation Army, hats and mitts to Burlington schools, and feminine products for Tampon Tuesday showed our “Caring and Sharing” and touched the lives of many in our community. The knitting club continued knitting dollies and have now added “ fiddle muffs” for dementia patients at Long Term Care facilities. “Passing the Hat” continued throughout the year and we celebrated many personal acts of kindness towards one another. Several of our members also volunteered to serve “Breakfast at the Bistro” at the Seniors’ Centre. The camaraderie that exists in our Branch demonstrates that “Having Fun” is also reality!

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who make up your Executive. They are truly a wonderful group of ladies who work diligently to make this Branch as successful as it is and have agreed to remain in their posts for another year. A special thank you to Virginia McKee and Pam MacDonald who send cards, visit and telephone our members who are unable to attend our events.

I also want to mention all the behind-the scenes ladies- our many greeters at the front door at every luncheon who make us feel welcome, Brook and Gay who continue the tradition of giving out the name tags. Let us also remember Joanne Tregunno, Charlotte McLean and Rose Knight who write about our luncheons and special events for the newsletter.

The Executive participated in a provincial survey to study future Conventions. We hope to see the results of this survey at Convention if not sooner. We will share those results with you when we receive them. We have collated the results of our own survey from the January meeting and also from our February event. We will use this and also the comments on the note pads on the tables to assist us in planning for you next year.

For the past 2 years, Edith DeQuetteville has served as Area 12 Director for RWTO Provincial. We have been very fortunate because Edith, an Oakville member, is also one of our associate members. Edith is leaving her post this year as her term is over. We thank Edith for her commitment to the role of Area 12 director and for all the help she has given our Branch for the past 2 years. Thank you, Edith.

Peel North was unable to find a candidate to replace Edith in her role. As per the provincial Constitution, Burlington was then asked to find a suitable candidate. I am pleased to announce that Moira Plexman has accepted the position of Area 12 Director for the next 2 years and will be inducted at the Annual Convention in June in Ajax, Ontario. Congratulations, Moira!

I look forward to serving as your past president. Thank you for your support and encouragement during my term. It has been a very rewarding personal experience. As I pass the gavel to your incoming President, Nancy Parkhill, I am confident that this Branch will continue to thrive in our motto of **“Sharing, Caring and Having Fun!”**

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The Christmas Luncheon

by Joanne Tregunno



The Christmas season was off to a festive start at the Burlington Golf and Country Club with our December RWTO luncheon. Members and guests were welcomed as they entered by greeters Norma Diell, Kay Smoke and Rose Knight. RWTO friends came together to celebrate the season. As everyone mingled before lunch, wonderful Christmas music was enjoyed by all with special thanks to Ruth Ferguson. The hats, mitts, socks and scarves spread in abundance by the Christmas tree, displaying again the generosity and caring of our membership, would be transported to ten local schools by member elves.

President Cecile Leach introduced Peggy Stock, Provincial President of

RWTO, who responded with a brief outline of her personal history and concluded with a humorous letter to Santa by a mother and also a reworked teacher's poem "T'was the Week Before Christmas". Lynne McCulloch passed the "Feather in your Hat" to a very deserving Flo Gray. Lynne shared many of the ways that Flo has quietly helped her, others and RWTO throughout her retirement.

Announcements included reminders by Cecile about our upcoming PENTA in 2017. A list of basket suggestions was circulated so those who would like to donate items, help with making up baskets from donated items, give a cash donation or do a group basket, could sign up. It is anticipated that they would like to produce approximately 25 baskets to be assembled sometime in October 2017.

Bonnie Folkard reminded members of the Seniors Centre's "Breakfast at the Bistro" in January. She also reminded us of the "Evening At the Races" on May 6, 2017 that is open to members, their spouses and friends. The "Art Appetizer" event is on hold until a new venue can be found. The good news is that it is still on the agenda for an undetermined date and place. Bonnie reminded us of the January luncheon with the guest speaker, RWTO member, Jennifer Maruno. President Cecile announced that our Oakville RWTO sisters would be joining us for the Fashion Show to be held in March; some would be models. The fashions will be through "Jus B' Gauze" in Burlington.

Bonnie Folkard provided each participant with a hand made "Thinking of You" card for the Holiday Season. Everyone enjoyed the very tasty Christmas meal of assorted breads, squash soup, roast turkey with gravy, stuffing, roasted potatoes and mixed vegetables followed by an igloo shaped chocolate dessert.

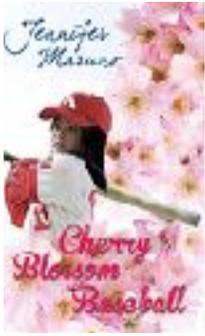
Major Locke from the Salvation Army was presented with a cheque from the membership for \$250, along with individual donations.

Carols were sung accompanied by Beth Anger's nimble fingers on the piano keys. Ruth Miller introduced the members to her own version of the 12 Days of Christmas which participants embellished to make it their own.

Santa and his elf were heralded into the hall to everyone's delight, bestowing thoughtful gifts on some unsuspecting members with the aid of our own comedian, Ruth Miller. Virginia McKee announced the winners of the "Silent Auction" and the "Penny Raffles". Many went home with some really unique and delightful Christmas gifts for family, friends or themselves.

President, Cecile Leach thanked all the helpers and convenors and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas to conclude the events.





January 23, 2017 Luncheon

by Rose Knight

Greeters Lynne McCulloch and Maureen Downey warmly welcomed 64 members to our lovely winter luncheon which Marilyn Park and Nancy Parkhill convened. Thank you ladies for all your help. We were pleased that Edith DeQuetteville was able to join us for a delicious lunch and to share some important information from the RWTO newsletter "Connections." She also announced the new incoming Area 12 Director - our own Moira Plexman. Congratulations, Moira.

As a former recipient of the "Feather-in-your-hat" award, Flo Gray honoured 3 of our members with kind words today who, among others, helped her during her teaching years and/or in her retirement. They were Rose Knight, Ruth Roberts and Beth Anger. The traditional hat was presented to Rose Knight, and a personal one was given to Beth Anger. The lucky winner of today's 50/50 draw was Brook Wilson.



Announcements were made of upcoming events : A February Friendship Luncheon, A Night at the Races/Slots and Basket Organization for our own Penta.

Our guest speaker was Jennifer Maruno, a Canadian Children's author as well as author of "The Cherry Blossom Series." Her presentation today was about the Japanese population in the Canadian West who were interned after the bombing of Pearl Harbour in 1941. Perceived as a security risk, this Japanese population was required to register with the Canadian RCMP after which began a process of segregation of families. With only the clothes on their backs and a few cherished possessions, many were taken further inland while others even were sent into the mountains. The previously hard-working, self-sufficient Japanese Canadians were now facing poverty, hunger, a harsh winter, inadequate housing, among other perils. Jennifer Maruno married into a Japanese family, and through them she gained first-hand insight into historical facts through their many stories and underground photos which she shared with us. It was a most interesting presentation, albeit a sad realization of how unfairly and inhumanely Canada treated this huge group of well-meaning and peaceful immigrants.



Program Report 2016 – 2017



This has been a busy and entertaining year. Our luncheon presentations included the Golden Horseshoe Women’s Chorus, the author of Bomb Girls, Barbara Dickson, Police Officer Nadine Clarke, Silent

Auction and Santa, Children’s author Jennifer Maruno and our fashion show from “Jus B’ Gauze” highlighting both Burlington and Oakville members as models. We experienced singing, thinking, laughing, crying and modelling all in a few short months. Our presentations took us down memory lane, made us more aware of scams, and exposed us to some very talented people.

Our special events, the cookie Sweet Swap and our special Friendship Lunch were well received. Still to come is our Night at Flamboro Downs where we expect our tummies and hopefully our pockets will be filled. In May, our own Members’ talents will be showcased at the AGM Luncheon. Lots of sharing, and having fun.

Next year has a varied repertoire of speakers, entertainers and a few extra events as well.

When you receive your program brochure mark the dates on your calendars right away so you won’t miss anything.

A special thanks to the hard working committee who work so hard to find entertaining, informative and fun experiences for us all to enjoy. We don’t have many meetings and we make sure we have fun there too.

Insurance report



RWTO has a variety of insurance plans available underwritten by Manulife Financial:

- **Hospital and Home Care Plan**
- **Personal Accidental Death & Dismemberment**
- **Travel Insurance**
- **Automobile & Residential Insurance**

I would like to remind new retirees that if you apply for the Hospital and Home Care during your first 12 months of retirement, you can do so without a medical or medical questionnaire and your acceptance is guaranteed. Your spouse would have to fill out a medical form. The cost is \$14.49 a month for yourself and \$15.57 for your spouse.

If you have any questions or need claim forms, contact me.

Sharon Ariss
 5125 Bayfield Cres
 Burlington Ontario L7L 3J5
 Phone: 905-333-9857
 E-mail:
sharonariss@hotmail.com



Farewell...

The past two years have gone by quickly and my time as your area director will soon be finished. I have found it to be an educational and inspiring experience, as I worked with the dedicated RWTO/OERO leadership at the provincial level. Also as I've visited our area branches I have met many friendly, hard working retired teachers who support each other and who also share their time and expertise to support their community in a variety of ways. It has been heart warming! Thank you Burlington Branch members for your support.

Edith De Quetteville Area 12 Director.

Treasurer’s Report

The Branch Treasurer is responsible for collecting Annual Membership fees and forwarding payment and member information to RWTO/OERO Provincial. A year-end report is sent to RWTO/OERO Provincial by April 30th and is then shared with the Burlington members at the Annual Meeting in May. At that time, a proposed budget for the next year is presented for membership approval.

Membership fees for 2017 -2018 will remain at \$50.00. If you retired prior to 1980, the fee also remains at \$25.00. Associate members pay only the \$10.00 Branch fee. \$10.00 of your Membership fee remains with the Branch to help fund our luncheons and Speakers. RWTO/OERO Provincial requests that all Membership fees to be paid to them by September 30th in order to ascertain the number of delegates for the 2018 Annual Convention. We encourage Burlington Members to renew at the May Annual Meeting/luncheon or to send a cheque payable to RWTO Burlington Branch to Carolynn Blake at 546 Evans Rd., Waterdown, Ontario, L8B 0G7. Your timely payment for your renewal is greatly appreciated. We are again offering a special incentive for Membership Renewal this year. If you pay your Annual Membership fee by July 31, 2017, the September luncheon will only be \$25.00 rather than our regular \$30.00.

The Treasurer also collects payments for luncheons. The cost of regular luncheons for members will be \$30.00 and \$35.00 for Guests. The cost of the Christmas luncheon is still to be determined. You will be notified of this cost sometime in November. RWTO Burlington Branch has subsidized your luncheon cost substantially again this past year. Again, this year, we request that payment for luncheons be forwarded to the Treasurer at the above address by the published due date. If you think your payment may not reach the Treasurer by the due date, please phone 905-689-8329 or email carolynablake@gmail.com to reserve your place.

Carolynn Blake, Treasurer

Dues for 2017-18
\$50.00 full membership
\$25.00 if retired prior to 1980
\$10.00 Associate membership

.....

Make Cheques payable to
RWTO Burlington Branch
(please include your membership form
if any information has changed
or if you have not filled one out before)

Please send to:
Carolynn Blake
46 Evans Rd.,
Waterdown, L8B 0G7

THE COST OF LUNCHEONS HAS BEEN INCREASED FOR 2017-2018

Last year, RWTO Burlington subsidized luncheons significantly due to rising costs at the Burlington Golf & Country Club. Our total cost of subsidy was \$2,258.87. For 2017-2018 members will pay \$30.00 for General Luncheons and guests will pay \$35.00. The cost of the Christmas Luncheon will be determined at a later date when BG&CC are able to give us a price. Cost of luncheons also include HST, Taxes and Gratuities.



Membership

Membership Forms

Again this year membership forms will be available at the May meeting **or** as part of the electronic newsletter.

The membership form has several purposes:

- To ensure all contact information is correct
- To have an up-to-date emergency contact name and number.
- To identify who needs a ride or who could offer a ride.
- To indicate if you would like to assist on a committee or interest group.

Renewal Incentives

We are continuing our membership renewal incentives:

- A draw for **one** free September lunch open to those members who have paid their **membership by May 31**. The draw will be held at the June executive meeting.
- A reduced fee of \$5.00 off the September lunch for all members whose payments have been received by July 31, 2017.

In past years, the response to the incentive has been very positive. Very few members last year had to pay full price for their September lunch.

Re-join in May and save.

We have had another great year of fun, fellowship, caring and sharing. Our programs have been highly engaging. Many of us have enjoyed participation in our various interest groups. Next year promises to be just as much fun especially as we celebrate Canada's 150 years when we host Penta this fall. You will not want to miss our BIG event.

Do you know a retired woman teacher? Is she a member of our branch? Spread the word and help grow our RWTO.

by **Moira -Jane Plexman**



Goodwill Report

This year over 110 cards have been sent out to members on your behalf. Thank you to everyone who kept me informed of significant events in our members' lives. Cards are sent for a special Birthday, Anniversary, Get Well, Thinking of You and Sympathy. We wouldn't want any of our members to be overlooked.

Telephone

Telephone calls are made to those members without e-mail access to remind them of luncheons & upcoming events. I would like to give a big "Thank You" to my faithful helpers who volunteer to make these calls: Joy McLaughlin, Gay Powell & Brook Wilson.

Virginia McKee
Goodwill Convenor
 905-335-8723
 ginim@cogeco.ca



Visiting

Our group of retired teachers is a very caring group. We like to visit our sick or shut in members. It is always an enjoyable time to hear the stories that our more senior members have to share with us. It is also nice to talk to them on the phone. If you are aware of any of our members who would benefit from a visit or a phone call please let me know. Please contact me:

Pam MacDonald
 905-689-3493



Knitting Group Report



Our “Knitting Group’s” needles are still clicking. We have knit about 200 dolls and teddy bears which have been donated to medical missions. Some of us are now working on ”FIDDLE MUFFS”.

What are “FIDDLE MUFFS” you say? Well, they are basic knitted muffs using yarns of different textures and colour and have items such as beads, buttons, ribbons, zippers, and laces etc., which are sewn both inside and outside the muff. People with dementia often have restless hands and tactile stimulation helps to soothe them. The muff provides a source of visual, tactile and sensory stimulation.



Jean Wilkinson took one of the muffs to show the staff at Mount Nemo Christian Nursing Home. They were delighted with the muff and would like to have enough to do some group activity with their dementia patients.

If you would like to join our knitting circle, please contact **Mary McCully**. Everyone is welcome. If you don’t have time to come out but enjoy knitting and would like to help with our worthwhile project, we would be delighted to provide you with the pattern instructions to work on at home.

Book Club Report



Our RWTO Book Club continues to meet every month to enjoy a discussion of our current book, along with refreshments and lots of socializing. Our group is at

capacity as we meet in each other's homes. In the Fall, we plan to invite members to join a second book club group, at a date and time of the group's choosing. This new group would set their own book list, but receive assistance with organization.

Heather White

Paper Crafting

We met six times this year at Fortino’s at Appleby Line and Dundas. We made seasonal, birthday, sympathy and everyday cards; usually three to four cards or more per session. We’ve stretched our creative souls and learned some new skills.

Next year we’ll meet again on Thursdays at Fortinos. Our first three dates are: May 18th, September 21st and November 2nd. Please let me know if you’d like to continue on or would like to join afresh or if you have some ideas of new things for us to try.



Bonnie Folkard



The Euchre group has enjoyed another successful year. The members have continued to enjoy each other's company. We have not only played cards, but have also dined on delicious foods of all kinds provided by the members in turn. We may be called a card group, but we share many stories and much laughter. It

truly is a wonderful way to spend an afternoon. We welcome new members who would like to pass an afternoon with fellow retired teachers.

Please contact Pam MacDonald at 905-689-3493. Please note the change in my phone number as I have recently moved.





Feather- in Your Hat Award- March 2017

For those of you who were not present at our January luncheon, Beth Anger and I were both awarded the “Feather-in-the-Hat” by Flo Gray. I was given the traditional pink floral one and Beth was given a “Red-Hatter” one belonging to Flo which she wanted Beth to keep. Now it is time for us to honour someone else.

Outside of school-related activities, our next recipient is very involved in her Church, is a superb jam maker, dotes on her children and grandchildren and is a very supportive friend. She enjoys scrapbooking and is a meticulous creator

of gorgeous cards.

During her rewarding teaching career, she mainly taught the primary grades. In retirement, she has held many offices in the Oakville Branch of RWTO of which she is a member. In addition, she holds an associate membership with our Burlington Branch.

The next recipient of our “Feather-in-the-Hat” award is indeed a very busy lady with plenty of responsibilities. Over the past two years, she has acted as our Area 12 Director.

This lady always has a warm welcoming smile making other people feel very comfortable in her presence. It is with a warm, welcoming smile today, that we proudly present this special hat to a hard working member and colleague.....**Edith DeQuetteville.**



Burlington Branch RWTO/OERO – Only in Canada, eh?!

Celebrating Canada's 150th Birthday

PENTA 2017

Tuesday, November 14th, 2017- 10:30 a.m.

Burlington Convention Centre

1120 Burloak Drive, L7L 6P8

Katherine Barber, Canada's Word Lady

Golden Horseshoe Womens' Chorus





Friendship Luncheon, February 2017

The day after a weekend snowfall, more than fifty of our members braved the parking lot of Tyandaga Golf Club for our Friendship Luncheon. Inside we were greeted warmly by Nancy Parkhill. The ambiance in the dining room was welcoming for our Valentine luncheon. Red tablecloths over white linen adorned every table along with lovely pink and red floral centrepieces and sweet cards with chocolate hearts tucked inside. Twinkle lights draped in white chiffon softly lit the room. Through the windows, the snowy view was spectacular. What a beautiful setting we had for this occasion !



While we were settling in and socializing, we were each asked to write our names on paper hearts which were collected. When it was time for lunch, we went up table by table for a deliciously-prepared buffet meal. Chef Tony Birch carved and served the meat according to our individual preferences. Everything was scrumptious ,and there was plenty if anyone wanted seconds. Dessert was decadent and appropriate for the occasion -strawberry shortcake with heart-shaped strawberry slices.



During the meal, Ruth Miller drew names from the hearts she had collected and distributed the many door prizes. The lucky ladies were: Claudia Stewart, Beth Anger, Nancy Schwenger, Marilyn Dowson, Marilyn Branch, Penny Hambly, Ann Orr, Janet Carter-Wright, Marie Rhodes, Joanne Tregunno, Emilie Prue, Marion Speziale, Sabine Johnson, Marg Cant, Mary Ann Eckert, Veronica Phillips, Rosemary Freeman, Linda Smith, and Marlene Horne. Thanks go to Bonnie Folkard for creating the door prizes. Thanks are also extended to our busy photographer, Susan Edwards, who was capturing the festivities with her camera. To end off the luncheon **Diana Zimmer**, a former teaching colleague of Cecile Leach, and a member of **The Poacher Ukulele Band** entertained us with her toe-tapping, ukulele-playing, sing-a-long.



It was a wonderful way to celebrate Valentine's Day. The donation which we gave Diana for coming to play for us will be re-routed to **Carpenter Hospice** by Diana herself.

by Rose Knight



International Women’s Day- March 8, 2017 **by Nancy Parkhill**

Tampon Tuesday



As I reflect on the beginnings of RWTO, I realize that our founding sisters were standing up for women’s rights. Our working for women’s rights and continuing to support those in need is something that I feel is still very vital in these times.

March 8 is International Women’s Day (IWD). This day is recognized and celebrated all over the world. It is a day where we acknowledge the challenges that women have overcome and recognize that these challenges are still ongoing.

To mark **IWD** this year, our Branch was part of the **1st Annual Oakville Tampon Tuesday** event on Tuesday, March 7th.

Tampon Tuesday began in London, Ontario in March of 2009. CTV London was doing a news report on the Spring Food Drive for the London Food Bank. When visiting the Food Bank, it was noticed that there were no feminine hygiene products at all. This began what is now known as “Tampon Tuesday”. On this day, donations of feminine hygiene products are donated and distributed to various agencies that deal with women in crisis. This year the United Way Oakville and the Oakville & District Labour Council sponsored a Tampon Tuesday event at the UNIFOR 707 Hall on the North Service Road in Oakville. Products that were donated went to 3 agencies in the Halton area, SAVIS (Sexual Assault & Violence Intervention Services), The Women’s Centre and Hope Place Centres. A donation of products was delivered to the UNIFOR Hall on Tampon Tuesday from RWTO Burlington. I would hope that we could continue to support the women in Halton through this event again next year.

The Dinner Party - Burlington Convention Centre



On Wednesday, March 8, several RWTO members were part of the more than 700 people attending **The Dinner Party** at the Burlington Convention Centre. The Dinner Party is an annual International Women’s Day event that is organized by Zonta Oakville and the Women of Halton Action Movement(WHAM). Proceeds from this event go to support SAVIS, Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan and Zonta International. ETFO, ETFO-OT and OSSTF have been supporting this event for many years. This year’s speaker was broadcaster Candy Palmater. Her talk was very informative, uplifting and entertaining. It is my hope that next year, other RWTO members may wish to attend and we can celebrate International Women’s Day together and support women in Halton.



“Jus B’ Gauze”- March 20, 2017 by Joanne Tregunno

President Cecile Leach welcomed both Burlington and Oakville RWTO members to the March luncheon at the Burlington Golf Club. A thank you was extended to greeters Charlotte McLean, Ruth Roberts and Laura Hay. Table centerpieces were done by Bonnie Folkard and Carol Martin and table favours by Bonnie Folkard. Reminders were given for the RWTO general meeting on May 15th and the need for a 1st VP, and 2nd VP for the executive, as well as interested people to join the program committee.

Ruth Ferguson regaled us with some of the things that we can look forward to at PENTA in Burlington, helping to celebrate Canada’s 150 years. The music, the Canadian language and the speaker Katherine Barber, who is the editor-in-chief of the Oxford Dictionary, along with the Golden Horseshoe Women’s Chorus, are only a few of the attractions to PENTA at the Burlington Convention Centre on Tuesday, November 14. Attention was directed to the poster boards for PENTA, where members can sign up for a basket theme to work on, either individually or in a group or to a make dollar or object donation to a basket.



Marilyn Park drew attention to the poster board to sign up for the outing to Flamboro Downs. The cost is \$33.50 and those who are interested can contact Marilyn. The date is Saturday, May 6th at 5:30 pm. Friends are welcome to this event!

Mary McCully found a new tea house in Guelph called “Jenny’s Tea House”. The date of the excursion is yet to be decided. It will be either the 25th, 26th, or 27th of April. Watch for emails with final details or contact Mary McCully if you are interested.



The “Feather-In-Your-Hat” was passed from Beth Anger and Rose Knight to a much deserving, Edith DeQuetteville, our area director.

Donna Milligan, owner of “Jus B’ Gauze” on New Street in Burlington, with the beguiling models Marilyn Park, Marie Reid, Penny Hambly, Lynne MacDonald of Burlington Branch, and Diane Sinden, Jo-Anne Oatridge and Laurie McLaughlin-Maveal of Oakville Branch, presented a wonderful show of fashions from her shop, displaying lots of easy care and wear outfits. Prizes were won by some lucky attendees. Norma Brown thanked Donna and her crew for such a delightful fashion show.

“Share the Wealth” was drawn. Lucky recipients were Kathleen Kerr and Eleanor Bates.

President Cecile closed the meeting with a thank you and safe travels for all.



Ontario Volunteer Service Awards



Ontario's medal and recognition programs celebrate the people who make our province a better place to live. The awards are presented at ceremonies across Ontario from March to June. The recipients are given a stylized trillium service pin and a personalized certificate to acknowledge their years of service. This award recognizes volunteers for providing committed and dedicated service to an organization, ranging from 5 to 65 years of continuous service.

This year we had four recipients for the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards. They were Carol Martin 25 years, Bonnie Folkard, Mary McCully and Joy McLaughlin all with 5 years service to our RWTO group. Also in attendance at the ceremony were President Cecile Leach, Vice President Nancy Parkhill and Marilyn Branch as well as Carol's daughter, Patti, the chauffeur and photographer. It was a lovely ceremony and followed by a reception on Tuesday, April 4th. The pins were presented to the ladies by Eleanor McMahan, MPP Burlington, and Monique Taylor, MPP Hamilton. Mary McCully was in Vimy, France at the time and will receive her pin and certificate at the May luncheon. Congratulations, Ladies!



RWTO/OERO Provincial Annual Convention

Delegates Nancy Parkhill, Cecile Leach, Bonnie Folkard and observer Moira-Jane Plexman will represent you in June at the RWTO /OERO Annual Convention in Ajax Ontario. We received input from the Executive meeting in April regarding resolutions published in "Connections" in March. This year, there are no workshops offered on the first day. This has been replaced by a Directors' Storefront where we will meet the Area Directors as well as Gloria Drake and Terry Kennedy who will be there to offer advice and answer questions. All members are invited to attend annual conventions, although only delegates vote. You may wish to consider driving to Ajax to attend one of the sessions. Your delegates look forward to sharing highlights of the convention with you in the Fall.

Nancy Parkhill



Obituaries

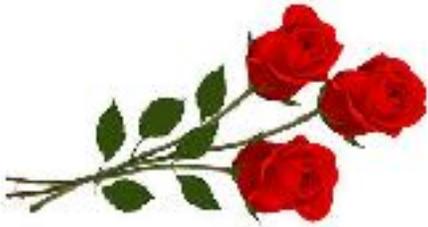


HELEN ISABEL PINDILLI

Helen was born on Feb 10th, 1924 in Elfros, Saskatchewan and passed away on January 12th, 2017 in her 93rd year at the Village of Tansley Woods Nursing Home. She was married to Joseph and they had a daughter (Ruth) and a son (Phillip). Helen started her teaching career in Kirkland Lake, then Timmins for many years before moving to Burlington. She taught in several schools in both Hamilton and Burlington.

MARGARET ANNE TAYLOR

Margaret Anne Taylor passed away quite suddenly at Joseph Brant Hospital on March 16, 2016 at the age of 65. Margaret spent her adult life in teaching and union work. She was a passionate advocate for the rights of elementary teachers, a skilled bargainer at the negotiating table and a generous friend to all who knew her. For the last 12 years of her career she was a Senior Negotiator with FWTAO and ETFO. For a number of years she was the Registrar for the Central Ontario Christian Ashram and gave inspirational testimony. Margaret, like her parents, was a longtime faithful member of Asbury and West United Church where she gave generously of her time and talent. She will be missed by her brother Don (Patricia), her niece Jennifer, her aunt Betty and many cousins and nieces and nephews as well as an extraordinary number of friends.



MARION ROSE CARNEGIE

Marion was born on September 1st, 1930 and passed away on October 18th, 2016 in her 86th year at Joseph Brant Nursing Home. She was married to James (Jim) Carnegie and they had one son Michael.

Marion had 2 beautiful Siamese cats which she adored and were her “second family”. She graduated from Hamilton Normal school and taught for the Catholic School Board until retirement. Marion was a member of Probus Women’s Club as well as RWTO where she started the Euchre group which is still thriving today. She always looked forward to socializing at the luncheons and was known for her laughter and beautiful red hair which was always perfectly coifed. Marion will be missed by her son Michael, brother-in-law George and her many friends.



EDITH GRACE BIELBY

Edith (Lott) was born on Oct. 29, 1910 in Brussels, Ontario and passed away on February 24th 2017 in her 107th year at Tansley Woods Long Term Care in Burlington, ON. After graduating from High School, she attended Toronto Teachers College and supply taught for 2 years before heading to Melissa, Ontario.

Here she met Arthur the love of her life, for 63 years. Soon they moved to Hamilton where their daughter Lorna was born. The Bielbys moved to Burlington where she taught until retiring in 1974. Edith was an early founder of RWTO Burlington Branch where she was very involved organizing activities, serving as President and Secretary and was a recipient of the “Cora Bailey” award.

Edith enjoyed visiting with her 2 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. She liked painting, sketching, sewing, knitting, cooking and playing cards. Edith will always be remembered for her positive attitude, sense of humour and ready wit.



NOMINATIONS REPORT

Another year has gone by which means it is time to look for someone to join our Executive. Thankfully everyone has agreed to remain in their roles for another year. That means we have 2 openings- First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President. I can see that there is a lineup for those jobs! **DON'T BE FRIGHTENED!!**

10. Duties of the First Vice-President

- Assist the President with Branch business.
- Perform the president's role in her absence
- Be a member of the Program Committee
- Call the first Program Committee meeting and facilitate the selection of a chair for the Committee if a program Convenor is not in place (**we already have one**)
- Serve on the Nominating Committee
 - Chair the luncheons/ meetings in the President's absence.
 - Present flowers and the Past President's pin to the outgoing President at the AGM. • Attend the Annual Convention and purchase Past President pins if needed.
 - Write articles for the newsletter about the upcoming Annual Convention.

11. Duties of the Second Vice-President

- Assist the President with Branch business.
- Be a member of the Program committee.
- Perform the duties of the First Vice-President in her absence.
- Ensure that there are ladies to both introduce and thank guest speakers at luncheons
- Inform the President the week before the meeting.
- Purchase and write Thank-you notes for the speakers. Have Honorarium ready to be presented to the speaker at the end of their presentation (Cheque or gift certificate as needed.).
- Arrange for the In Memoriam service at the May luncheon.

Please consider joining our Burlington Branch Executive. We only meet about 5 or 6 times a year in an informal setting. The meetings last a few hours only. If you find that too intimidating, perhaps you would consider shadowing someone to learn about their role in the organization.

How about joining our Program Committee! These ladies organize all the luncheons and special activities you enjoy so much. They meet to share ideas about luncheons and possible speakers, special events, and interest groups. We value everyone's input to help bring spice and variety to our events. The more hands....the smaller the job!

Proposed Slate

President: Nancy Parkhill
 First Vice President: **VACANT**
 Second Vice President: **VACANT**
 Past President : Cecile Leach
 Honorary President: Carol Martin
 Secretary: Mary McCully
 Treasurer : Carolynn Blake
 Program Convenor: Bonnie Folkard
 Membership Convenor: Moira-Jane Plexman
 Insurance Convenor: Sharon Ariss
 Archivist: Laura Hay
 Communications: Susan Edwards
 Newsletter: Ruth Miller
 Email: Susan Edwards
 Phone : Virginia McKee
 Goodwill Convenor: Virginia McKee
 Visiting Convenor : Pam MacDonald
 Member at large: Marilyn Park

