



RETIREMENT MATTERS



Sharing, Caring and Having Fun

President's Report



Oh, what a summer! Oh, what weather! One day it was hot and sunny and the next rainy and cool. It was a very unpredictable summer. It is good to know that a predictable time is beginning...another year of RWTO Caring, Sharing and Having Fun!

This year will again be filled with a multitude of activities and events for you to enjoy. Bonnie Folkard and her committee have been busy planning and organizing for this year. Make sure you check your brochure on a regular basis so you won't miss anything!

It is our year to host PENTA. The PENTA committee has been working on making this year's event one to be remembered. Make sure that you check out the articles on PENTA in the newsletter to see how you can get involved.

This year's RWTO Convention was held in Ajax. Cecile Leach, Bonnie Folkard, Moira Plexman and I attended the event. Moira was officially inducted as the Area 12 Director. I am sure that she will bring a new outlook and ideas to her new role. Lois Lockhart (Area 4, Haldimand Branch) became our new Provincial President. Lois will be attending PENTA this year. Check out the Convention report to get more highlights of the Convention.

As mentioned at the May luncheon, there are openings on our Executive. If you think that this might be just the thing for you, or if you are even considering it, please contact me (burlingtonrwto@gmail.com) and we can have a chat. Working on the Executive is a wonderful experience. It will give you insight into the workings of RWTO and give you a chance to have a voice in the decisions that are being made.

We are also looking for new members. If you know of a newly or not-so-newly retired teacher who might be interested, have them contact Moira Plexman (plexmanm@gmail.com) for more information. A new Member meeting is planned for September 12th. Any new members will have the opportunity to find out more about our organization.

I am looking forward to this year and all that it will hold.

Yours in Caring, Sharing and Having fun!

Nancy Parkhill

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News from your Area Director

Every two years, branches in Area 12 take turns, on a rotational basis, to select an Area Director. I am honoured Cecile Leach asked me to represent Burlington Branch in this role. Thank you to those who have sent me words of encouragement and support. I was officially installed in my new position at the June Convention.

I have recently met with our past Director, Edith De Quetteville who shared information and passed on a binder to help me get started in my new role. I thank Edith for her enthusiasm and support. She did a great job as our Director. I hope I can do as well.

On a sadder note, Gloria Drake passed along information to the Board that Lee Beech, former Provincial Parliamentarian and author of our RWTO history Uncommon Women passed away on July 3, 2017. At Lee's request there was no funeral or notice in the papers. Lee spoke at the Burlington 2012 Penta. Many of you may have attended and heard Lee discuss her research and reference highlights from her book. Lee Beech's legacy to all of us is her well-researched and comprehensive history of our organization.

I will be holding a meeting of the five Branch Presidents in September.

The next Board of Directors meeting is planned for mid -September

Yours in Caring, Sharing and having Fun!

Regards

Moira



Breakfast at the Bistro

Saturday, June 10, was a bright and sunny day when five of our members got together to help serve breakfast at the Burlington Seniors' Centre. Janet Carter Wright, JoAnne Tregunno, Joy McLaughlin, Jane Taylor and Bonnie Folkard dished out the food at the buffet style breakfast that was offered to the members of the Seniors Centre. People were impressed by our red aprons with the Retired Women Teachers lettering and commented on how nice it was to have our help. We were there for about two hours and had a lovely breakfast after everyone had been served. It was a fun volunteering job and it helped to give our group some outside recognition. We should do more of this.



Convention Report 2017 by Bonnie Folkard

This was my second convention as a branch delegate. It was interesting to meet other retired teachers from around the province. A couple of them even remembered me from last year. (I don't know if that is good or bad). The business meeting is always interesting as is the voting procedure in such a large organization. The big excitement this year, when voting on resolutions, was that we had to have a recorded ballot for one resolution, which we ended up repeating several times before we finally defeated the resolution. Resolutions # 1,2,3,5,6 were all carried. Resolution # 4 was defeated. We got to know our sisters from Lydia Snow and Oakville quite a bit better this year. Each of those two branches had not only delegates in attendance but several observers who each paid their own way. What a great way to see what happens at a convention! Maybe next year we could have people who would like to attend as a delegate or an observer. Next year's convention is Tuesday June 5th to Thursday June 7th at the Nottawasaga Inn Resort in Alliston, not too far away. Think about it!



From the Archives

1973



Our Burlington Branch was created almost 45 years ago by a group of pioneering women. Olive Wilson urged the formation of the Burlington Branch on April 30, 1973 at Wellington Square School. The slate of officers was President Kay Donkin, Vice President Annie Hall, and Secretary Margaret McClure. Thanks to these ladies we have continued to attract wonderful women to form our executive every year. I think they would be proud to see that we are still caring and sharing, going strong, and continuing their vision of women working together.

With kindest regards,
Laura Hay

Cora Bailey Awards 2017

Margaret Steedman- Turek



Margaret has certainly made a significant contribution to not only the teaching profession but also to RWTO Burlington Branch. Her involvement has spanned more than 15 years. She has been a valuable member who has taken an active part in many areas of our group. She has been on our executive and has held several positions including Second Vice President, First Vice President, President and Past President. Consequently, she has also helped with the organizing of three Penta Luncheons. Margaret was the archivist for our branch for 10 years before family commitments forced her to take a hiatus. In 2014, she received the Ontario Volunteer Service Award for 10 years of service to our organization. Marg's contributions to our Branch have earned her the recognition of her peers.

Her sunny disposition has helped her develop many friendships within our group. She loves to play card games and Dominos. She loves to travel to the

cottage in the summer and to Florida in the winter.

When presented with the Cora Bailey Award at our AGM, Margaret responded that one should not get an award for something one loves to do !

Pam McDonald



Virginia McKee



Having Virginia as a member of Burlington RWTO is a blessing – one that is felt every day. Virginia is kind, caring and compassionate. She is generous with her time and her talents.

She is the best candidate to be our Goodwill Chair. Because of Virginia, members of our branch receive cards for significant life events. She telephones members who might be on their own and who might like to hear a friendly voice. Virginia visits our elderly members – several in Long Term Care -particularly those who might need cheering up.

Virginia is renowned for the organization of THE BEST Christmas Silent Auction and Penny Sale ever. She works quietly behind the scenes on whatever she is involved in, organizing and helping things run smoothly. She created the personalized red aprons that our volunteers wear when they serve breakfast at the bistro. Virginia belongs to our knitting group. She

knits Izzy dolls, and she knits the most wonderful teddy bears. After a lengthy stay in a rehab hospital she donated 30 teddy bears to a charity that supports spinal care.

Virginia is delightful and dependable. She is kind, caring, creative, witty and wonderful. She is certainly most deserving of the Cora Bailey award!

Mary McCully

Membership

Membership Report – Moira Plexman

Membership forms

Again this year membership forms were available at the May meeting **or** as part of the electronic Spring 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 committees or interest group

Contact Information:

If your contact information has changed, either e-mail me (plexmanm@gmail.com) with changes or see me prior to the beginning of a luncheon meeting to update your existing information.

It is really important that we have an emergency contact number should you have an unexpected health event at one of our meetings.

Renewal Incentives

The executive voted to continue our membership renewal incentives for 2017:

- A draw for **one** free September lunch was open to those members who paid their **membership by May 31**. Fifty-Four names were in the draw. **Congratulations to the Winner, Gay Powell.**
- The 80 members whose membership payments were received by July 31, 2017 will have a reduced September lunch fee.

Looking Ahead

We anticipate a fabulous 2017-18. It will be a year of fun, fellowship, caring and sharing. Our program committee has worked to engage interesting and informative luncheon presenters and activities. Our interest groups continue to grow. We will celebrate **Canada's 150** years when we host **Penta** this fall. The Penta committee has been busy over the summer working to ensure Burlington's Penta is an experience you will not want to miss! It is our BIG event. Renew your membership and the fun.

Recruitment

Do you know a retired women teacher? Is she a member of our branch yet? Our members are the best ambassadors to promote membership in our branch. Spread the word and help grow our RWTO! Invite them to accompany you to a meeting for prospective members at the home of Sharon Ariss, 5125 Bayfield Crescent, Burlington on **September 13**.

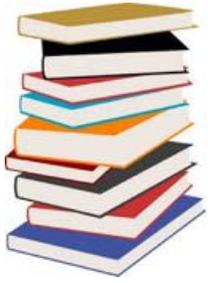


Wonderful News

Congratulations to Laura and Iain Hay on their 50th wedding anniversary on July 1! Canada Day!

A photo in The Spec congratulated Arlene and Jim Standen on their 50th anniversary on July 8th. Our best wishes go out to both couples. 1967 was a great year

Book Club



The RWTO Book Club is looking forward to another great year of reading. As we meet in each other's homes, our group is full, but we will help to get a new group

started if there are members interested in forming one.

Our August book is *The Marriage Lie* by Kimberly Belle, which will be discussed over lunch at The Good Earth Winery. All early reports are that it is a gripping read that is hard to put down. Our September book, *Medicine Walk* by Richard Wagamese, reflects the current national focus on the Truth and Reconciliation Report. It is not a difficult book, and will help us to understand the perspective of the native people of Canada a bit better. Our October book, *The Home That Was Our Country* by Alia Malek, will provide insights into the Syrian war and the country that existed previously.

Happy reading!

Heather White



Insurance



I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer. In this article, I'm going to mention three important reminders regarding insurance.

- I want to remind any new retirees that you can sign up for the RWTO Hospital and Home Care Insurance without having

to fill in a medical questionnaire if you apply during your first year of retirement. Your spouse would have to fill in a medical questionnaire.

- I want to remind everyone that you need to pay your membership dues to RWTO to keep your RWTO Insurance in effect.

- The last reminder is for everyone to be sure a family member or friend has a list of all the insurance coverage that you have. They should have a contact number too. If something should happen to you, you want to be sure to take advantage of any coverage you have.

Furthermore, some plan improvements have occurred:

- 1) Cochlear implants in the Hearing Aid Benefit (to the plan maximum of \$200,000.
- 2) Including Volunteers drivers (Cancer Society) to the Transportation benefit- This will be capped at \$100.00 which is the amount the cancer patient has to pay the cancer society to arrange for a driver for treatments.
- 3) Inclusion of Walking poles, when prescribed by a physician and required for a medical condition (such as balance) , under the Mobility Assistance Benefit, to the current \$150.00 maximum.

RWTO has a variety of insurance plans available:

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

I'm always available to answer questions anytime and I have claim forms if you need them.

Sharon Ariss
Burlington Insurance Convenor
905 333-9857





Knitting

The knitting group met in July for an afternoon picnic at the country home of Jean Wilkinson. After a potluck lunch we sat in the shade admiring Jean's backyard and listening to the baby wrens in her birdhouse.

Since everyone is in and out over the summer, we decided to postpone the group meetings until September when everyone was back from cottages and trips.

A number of fiddle muffs were completed and delivered to Mount Nemo Long Term care facility for patients with Alzheimer/dementia



Barbara Boles Davis left on a mission with 2 garbage bags full of dollies. Check the photos to see where the dollies went!

We meet in the homes of members. We tend to meet about every two weeks though sometimes we retired people are just too darn busy to get to knitting that often! We try to switch our meeting days around a bit so that we don't compete with other RWTO events and people who have a commitment can attend from time to



time. If you would like to join the Knitters please sign up at the September luncheon, or call **Mary McCully**. We have spare needles, yarn, patterns... we just need you.

Travel Club

We have such a busy bunch of travelers that it's hard to find time when we can all get together. One suggestion that I am working on is to create an on-line sharing site. I am working on using Wordpress.com. Pictures, must see and dos, itineraries, suggested web-sites, tips and warnings would come to me as the site manager and then I would post them to the travel site.

That does not mean we will dispense with the meetings. All agree that our afternoons talking travel are fun and we would miss them. Instead we will have fewer meetings, probably every other month, starting with Monday, October 2 at 1:00 at my apartment at 2160 Lakeshore. Other dates to be determined by the group.

Happy travelling.
Bev Balch

Euchre Group



Well a new Euchre group year is almost upon us. **This year we will be making a change to a new venue.** We will be playing at the new **Seniors Centre** in Waterdown. It is located on Highway 5 (north side) between Hamilton St. and Highway 6. **The dates are still to be determined. Euchre Members will be called when the dates are confirmed.** Come out and see us in our new home. If you are new to the group or would like to join us please call **Pam MacDonald at 905-689-3493**





The Golden Teapot, Brantford Ontario

June 23 loomed gray and it rained buckets. However 21 ladies were in sunny spirits as we enjoyed High or Low Tea at The Golden Teapot in Brantford. It turned out to be a wonderful time with plenty of great food and teas and an equal amount of great conversation. It was worth the drive for sure.



Our Executive Likes to Eat Out!

- Ruth.....Wendy's.....Paradiso
- Marilyn.....Arby's.....Montfort
- Cecile.....Mythos.....superb moussaka and sea bass
- Carol.....Napoleon's West Plains Bistro & The Olde School House (Brantford)
- Laura.....August 8 (Beamsville)
- Mary.....August 8.....Bhan Thai
- Moira.....Buca di Bacco.....J.A.C both are in Oakville

For our December newsletter, we would like to include a brief list of our members' Christmas Highlights. Just send the rmiller@cogeco.ca or 905 634 1268 by November 15. I shall include your name.

An example follows:

Ruth Miller: big family dinner....mom, dad, siblings and their kids, 2 aunts, 1 uncle, doing the farm chores and breakfast before opening gifts, cuckoo clock, a bottle of orange pop, stuffing and ketchup, kids table.



Our newest “Over Ninety” Member



Marjorie Milligan

Marjorie is a New Year’s baby, born in Shomberg, Ontario on January 1, 1927. Marjorie is the oldest child, with 7 brothers and a sister, scattered around Ontario. She grew up in Shomberg and attended the Toronto Teachers College. Marjorie taught at Islington School for about 15 years, teaching grade 8 homeroom and girls physical education. She remembers teaching grade 8 boys and girls to square dance for a special performance for parents, sanctioned by her principal at the time. After

marrying John Milligan in 1963, Marjorie and her husband moved to Burlington where she taught at Wellington Square Public school before she moved to grade 8 at Burlington Central Public School for 2 years. Marjorie recalls, being housed in the high school because there was no room for her class in the elementary school building, after being bumped by the French teacher at the time.

Marjorie enjoys reading and especially keeping in touch with her family. After losing her husband John 2 years ago, Marjorie has lived in her Burlington home with the help of family and friends. Marjorie is looking forward to her move into Tansley Woods on July 26, where as she jokingly stated that she won’t have to cook anymore. Marjorie has a great sense of humour and an outlook on life that is a delight.

Jo Anne Tregunno

Visiting

We are a very Caring organization and as such we like to show compassion for our members when they are sick or shut-in. If you know of any member who would benefit from a visit or phone call, please contact me.

Pam MacDonald
905-659-5967



Goodwill

Our Goodwill Convenor is Virginia McKee. If you know of someone who would benefit from a card , or a call, please let Virginia know.



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



Luncheon Meeting Monday, May 15, 2017 - Burlington Golf and Country Club by Mary McCully

Greeters were Norma Diell, Linda Smith, and Laura Hay. The Annual General Meeting, with 36 attending, was held in advance of our luncheon meeting.

The incoming President Nancy Parkhill thanked Cecile Leach for her support and leadership for the past two years. She introduced Barry McKee who was in attendance with Virginia McKee. Nancy supports our philosophy of Caring, Sharing and Having Fun. She introduced the members of the Executive for the coming year. Past Presidents were introduced. It was impressive to see so many of our past presidents in attendance. It is great to see that they continue to support our organization.

Beth Anger led us in a poignant In Memoriam Remembrance of four of our members who have passed away this year: Margaret Taylor, Marion Rose Carnegie, Helen Pindilli and Edith Bielby. As she mentioned each name a rose was placed as a tribute. A donation in their memory will be made to the children's department of the Burlington Public Library and their families will be notified that we have done this.



Bev Pickard gave a brief promotional presentation about our PENTA coming in November. The theme is Canada, eh? in celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary. We will be entertained by the Golden Horseshoe Chorus; Katherine Barber, Canada's Word Lady will be the speaker. Tickets are \$40.

Mary McCully presented the Cora Bailey award to Virginia McKee. Pam MacDonald presented the Cora Bailey award to Marg Steedman -Turek. Cecile presented Mary McCully with a 5 year Volunteer Award. Pam MacDonald presented our "over 90" Jo Moore and Marjorie Milligan with a rose. A rose will be given to Jean Kemp at a future date. Both Jo and Marjorie were delighted to be honoured this way.

We were given a number of reminders: The June Tea Adventure, sign up for PENTA, and an incentive to pay your membership dues early... that means your September luncheon cost will be reduced to \$25. Bonnie Folkard highlighted some of the activities available to us for next year and encouraged us to read and refer to our new Program Brochure.

We were treated to a **Showcase of Talent**. Three of our members told and showed us the results of their prodigious talents. **Muriel Nightingale** told us about the development of her painting and poetry. We saw several of her impressive works as some of her poems were read. **Carol Leppan** told us about experiences she and Mary Lyons have had with the North Metro Sweet Adelines. Her video showed us two separate prize winning performances. **Lynne McCullough** showed us her prize winning talent with quilting. Many pieces of her works of art were brought into the audience for their pleasure and appreciation.

Her Canada 150 quilt was outstanding! Each of these presentations in the Showcase of Talent was a stunning display of works of art. Their talents,

enthusiasm and results were amazing. If you were not here for the presentation, you missed a great afternoon.

Our luncheon concluded with the Share The Wealth draw. Linda Smith was the lucky recipient. Maybe it will be you next time! Nancy wished us all a safe and happy summer.

As the members departed, there were hugs and talk of their summer plans and a genuine feeling of Caring, Sharing and Having Fun.



RWTO Night at the Flamborough Races- by Marilyn Park



And they're off! 🐎

Saturday May 6, 2017 was a fun night at the Flamborough Downs Race track. Twenty-four of our members and friends met at the "Top of the Turn". We had a delicious buffet, with all the trimmings, and scrumptious desserts. We were each given a \$5.00 voucher to use at the casino. The horses were spectacular. One of the races was listed in the brochure as Retired Women Teachers of Ontario, and we were able to have our picture taken in the Winner's circle. **Everyone had a great evening and "had a**

limit, and played within it." 😊 I would be happy to organize another evening like this if there's an interest.



News from the BASKET COMMITTEE



PENTA is coming quickly and we are excited about the caring, sharing and fun we will have on November 14th at the Convention Center.

A part of that fun will be the raffle for the baskets that have been donated by our members. Thank you to those who have already signed up to have a basket ready for the first part of November. There are some clever ideas that are already in the process of being put together, however, we still need more baskets or items that can be put into baskets.

If you would like to donate new and unused items they can be dropped off at Marg Steedman Turek's home (**2091 Country Club Dr. Burlington**) any time between now and November 1st. Please just call ahead before you drop them off 905- 335-3767.

If you or a group of ladies are interested in donating a basket how about considering consumables . Most of us are at that stage in life where we do not need to accumulate any more "things", however, how about homemade jams, wine, preserves, baking , wine, soaps , toys for Grandchildren, candy and oh did I mention wine!!

There will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting. We would truly appreciate more members filling out the sheet before you leave the meeting. We will need completed baskets and unused items to be delivered to **2091 Country Club Dr. Burlington**, Marg Steedman-Turek's house by November 1st .If you need your basket or items picked up, please call Marg 905-335-3767 the last week in October and we will make arrangements for the pick-up.



Thank you to all for your help in bringing together this part of PENTA 2017.



2017-2018 Executive

Standing from L to R

Bonnie Folkard, Pam MacDonald, Carol Martin, Susan Edwards, Virginia McKee, Sharon Ariss, Ruth Miller, Carolynn Blake.

Seated fro L to R

Cecile Leach, Mary McCully, Moira Plexman, Nancy Parkhill.

Absent

Laura Hay, Marilyn Park



Burlington Branch RWTO/OERO
Celebrating Canada's 150th year
Presents

PENTA 2017 - O Canada, Eh!

**Burlington Convention Centre,
1120 Burloak Drive, Burlington L7L 6P8
Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017 10:30 am**

Katherine Barber, Canada's Word Lady
Golden Horseshoe Women's Chorus

Great Lunch,

Great Baskets and Great Company

Provincial quilted table-runners also will be available for purchase.

A Coffee station will be available upon arrival.

Cash bar: wine \$6 per glass. Juice/soft drinks \$2.50

Cost: Members \$40:00

With Canada's harvest in mind - LUNCH 12:30 PM –

Assortment of Freshly Baked Rolls & Butter

~BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP

~FRESH ATLANTIC SALMON

~Atlantic Fillet of Salmon Smothered with Olive Oil, Roasted Pepper Paste & White Wine~

~Medley of Fresh Vegetables & Rice Pilaf~

~Dessert: House Made FRESH BERRY CRUMBLE ~

~Fresh Brewed Colombian Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee & Tea ~

~Vegetarian Meal~

~VEGETABLE STIR FRY**

~Asian Crisp Vegetables Sautéed in Soya & Teriyaki Glaze Served on Basmati Rice ~

(Good for**Gluten Free, Lactose Free & Vegan)

Last date to register is Nov. 1, 2017

Mail cheque payable to **RWTO Burlington Branch** and mail to

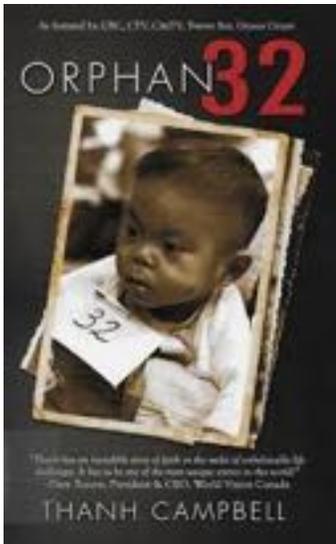
Carolynn Blake

546 Evans Rd.

Waterdown, Ontario L8B0G7

*** Please make sure that you indicate to Carolynn if you want any substitutions or the vegetarian option so that she can notify the Convention Centre ahead of time to ensure they are ready.**





Our October Speaker- Thanh Campbell

Nearly two decades long, the Vietnam War was one of history's devastating battles. More bombs were dropped than both World Wars put together. Lives were destroyed and families torn apart.

In April 1975, the last flight out of Vietnam rescued 57 war orphans before the Communists took over the south capital of Saigon. En route to Canada, Nguyen Ngoc Minh Thanh was aboard that flight. The number 32 was pinned to his shirt and he and 56 other parasite-ridden and malnourished Vietnamese youngsters took off in a hail of North Vietnamese gunfire. It was part of an international rescue nicknamed **Operation Babylift**, and the Canadian plane was the last one out before the communist forces overtook Saigon.

He was Orphan #32.

After they landed in Toronto, Nguyen Ngoc Minh Thanh would become Thanh Campbell. He would find a new family and a new life, something he remains thankful for beyond words. But as the years went by he yearned to know about his biological family. He came to think of the other children on the flight as a kind of extended family and he wanted to touch base with as many of them as possible. He writes in Orphan 32 about tracking down 44 of 57 orphans who were on the Canadian Air Force plane that fateful day. He came to learn he wasn't actually an orphan. His parents dropped him off at the orphanage for a few months because they thought he would be safe there.

A Hamilton Spectator story about the reunion made it into a Vietnamese paper, and soon after, Campbell's long-lost family contacted him. A DNA test showed a 99 per cent match with the man claiming to be his father, and in 2007 the two men met, exchanging what Campbell calls "the 30-year hug."

It was seemingly a perfect end, but Campbell says reconnecting with his family has brought up some other issues. He wasn't looking for them, he said, they found him. It's something that's changed the way he sees himself.

"Just because I found my family doesn't mean everything's awesome. I don't speak their language, it's hard to relate to them culturally ... all that stuff," he said.

"But at the same time it does bring an aspect of myself that I never had before. It fills me up."

And Campbell's story is still changing. He hopes to travel to Vietnam again soon, and perhaps start doing some charity work in the country. Though he doesn't speak the language, he said he still feels a deep connection to the country.

"I've always had that heart for that country, knowing I could have been one of them."

