'CARING & SHARING'

RWTO/OERO NORTHUMBERLAND SOUTH DURHAM BRANCH
FALL 2015 NEWSLETTER - ISSUE TWENTY-SEVEN

FALL MEETING

WHEN: Monday, September 28, 2015
10:00 am - Registration/Social 10:30 am – Business/Program
12:15 pm - Lunch

WHERE: St. Andrew's United Church, Old Danforth Road, Grafton

MEAL: Harvest Buffet (Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Fall Vegetables & Dessert) **$15**
** Please let us know if you have special dietary needs.

PROGRAM: Greetings/Guest Speaker - Karen Rynard, Area 7 Director
2015 Convention Report
Presentation of Cora Bailey Award
Installation of 2015-2016 Officers

Silent Auction during social time for gently used **recent** books (donations gratefully received). Please complete the survey form at the meeting about the type of books that you would like to see for the silent auction.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS: Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre

REPLY: **Before September 21st:** Call Bonnie Greer - 905 372 5886, Elaine Doty - 905 983 5831 or Joan Smith - 905 885 2528 or email: joan.charlie@sympatico.ca if you plan to attend.

* **A Gentle Reminder:** We are committed to pay for all meals ordered. If you are unable to attend as you indicated to Bonnie, Elaine or Joan, please cancel by contacting Joan at least five days before the meeting. Thanks!

If you know of a retired woman teacher who is not a member of our RWTO/OERO Branch, please invite her to come to the meeting with you. Let the person that you contact know the person you will be bringing. All qualified teachers who are retired are eligible to be members of RWTO/OERO regardless of whether they are receiving a teacher's pension. Teachers on Long Term Disability may become members.

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Branch Newsletter: To save postage and photocopying expense the branch newsletter is sent by email to those who have given us an email address. If you received yours by mail and you do have email, please let the editor, Joan Smith, know by November 1st for the Christmas issue (joan.charlie@sympatico.ca).

BRANCH SPRING MEETING

Our spring meeting was held at Maple Grove United Church, Bowmanville on May 12, 2015. President Barbara Moorcroft welcomed everyone. After the singing of 'O Canada', Barbara introduced our 1st vice-president, Sandra Boyko, who was inducted at the February executive meeting. She also explained about Barbara Northey's accident and, as a result, is unable to continue in her executive position. Julia Esford and Vicki Cubitt visited Barbara and updated us with an encouraging report.

President Barbara conducted a RWTO/OERO quiz to help us know our organization better. She then led the business portion of the meeting. An email from Barbara Northey was read, and President Barbara thanked everyone for all the goodwill gestures that she received while recuperating from heart surgery. A discussion was held on the 2014 resolution regarding possible admission of educational assistants to RWTO/OERO membership which will be discussed at the 2015 convention. The membership agreed to vote against this resolution. Treasurer Julia Esford informed us that we have 61 members including 4 life members. She reported that we have a bank balance of $2 261. President Barbara and Vice-President Sandra conducted a moving Memorial Service for Joyce Bentham and Naomi Stuckey.

President Barbara summarized the 10 provincial resolutions to be voted on. Resolutions 1, 2, 3 and 9 received approval and resolutions 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10 did not receive support for them. The membership felt that resolution 5 needed more clarification. Our two delegates, Barbara and Julia, were now able to take with them how our branch membership felt about the resolutions.

Mary Ann Found, a retired teacher and now involved in a Primary Agricultural Education program on her family farm in Courtice, was our guest speaker. She gave an excellent, often humorous, presentation on 'The Family Farm' and the many changes in agriculture over the decades to the world market we live in today. We then had a wonderful, surprise musical presentation by Ross Metcalf. We joined in and had a great sing-song together. The 4-H Club donations were $76.00.

Bunny Wright was thanked for her creative table favours, the lovely 'fairy' houses.

PROVINCIAL CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The provincial convention was held in Stratford. Our delegates were Barbara Moorcroft and Julia Esford. Astrida Jenkinson-Chalmers and Carolle Kennedy-Harding attended as visitors. Those that attended remarked on the excellent hospitality, and that our gift for the silent auction, a handcrafted bowl by Phillip Boyko, was well received. Briefly, the results of the voting on the resolutions at the provincial convention are:

Resolutions Carried: # 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7
Defeated: # 9
Resolutions Withdrawn & to Be Referred, Carried: 8, 10
Resolutions Withdrawn: 3, 4

Please read your fall provincial newsletter 'Connections' for full description of the resolutions. If you have any questions, ask at the September fall meeting.

BRANCH BIRTHDAY PARTY

Once again, our birthday party was held at Seasons Retirement Home in Bowmanville on June 9, 2015 where we are always warmly welcomed. A good time was had by all attending. As usual, the residents enjoyed the music, and each was presented with a lovely carnation. Tasty refreshments were provided by the staff of this beautiful retirement home.

'LET US CELEBRATE'
RWTO/OERO 60TH BIRTHDAY

'CARING & SHARING'

In 1956, a small group of retired women teachers in Toronto got together for the purpose of trying to persuade the government to raise the level of pensions for retired women teachers to the same level as their male colleagues. Their goal would be met some years later, and with it the realization that retired women teachers needed a voice.

Today, **Retired Women Teachers of Ontario/Organisation des enseigntes retraites de l' Ontario (RWTO/OERO)** continues to exist because there still is a need for an organization that cares for the interests and well-being of retired women teachers. More importantly, RWRO/OERO provides a forum whereby retired women teachers can come together for social interaction, stimulating programs, emotional support and most of all, friendship.

RWTO/OERO Website, Aug. 2015

On October 21, 1977 a group of superannuated women teachers (as they were called at that time) met at Dalewood for the purpose of forming a branch of the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers (OASWT). Miss Cora Bailey, the executive-secretary of the provincial OASWT, and Mrs. Mary Lou Akiens spoke about the organization. The fee was $1.00 per $1000 pension. The area covered at that time was Cobourg, Port Hope, Hope and Hamilton townships. Forty members attended the April 25, 1978 meeting. In 2017 our branch will celebrate its 40th Anniversary.

RWTO/OERO is divided into 12 areas across Ontario, each with an Area Director (Karen Rynard for Northumberland South Durham) who represents her area on the Board of Directors. Within these areas are 52 branches, each with its own executive, programs and activities. Our branch has a constitution which recently has been updated.

In 2016 RWTO/OERO will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary. Each branch has been asked by the provincial office to celebrate the occasion with a special event. Our branch executive has decided to hold a 'Victorian Tea' Party. A committee has been formed to plan the event. It will be held on the afternoon of June 1, 2016 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Port Hope with special entertainment. There will be 60th Anniversary pins available at the cost of $5.00 each. Mark the date on your calendar and watch future newsletters for further details.

SUCCESSFUL 'QUARTER AUCTIONS'

A few years ago, at our Christmas meetings, we held successful 'quarter auctions'. A variety of items which had been donated were auctioned off. Bids were taken in increments of $.25. For any of the items, the members could bid as many times as wished. Each time they bid a quarter it went into a 'pot' and the person was given a number. When the bidding closed, a number was drawn. The person holding that number won the item. This proved to be a fun way to raise funds for special projects. Donations of new, quality items were gratefully received. The executive has decided to reinstate this fun way of raising funds. A 'quarter auction' will be held at the 2015 Christmas meeting. Watch for details in the next newsletter.

OTHER NEWS

Membership Fees: If you have not paid your **2015-16 fees**, they will be collected at the **fall meeting, September 28th**. Members involved in the RWTO/OERO group insurance **must** renew membership. Membership cards will be distributed at the meeting. If you are unable to attend, please send your fees to the treasurer by **September 30th**.

Julia Esford, 1268 Cherrydown Drive, Oshawa, On L1H 7T2.

Cheques: Please make out to RWTO/OERO Northumberland South Durham.

Fees: Provincial RWTO/OERO Fee - Members retired before August, 1980 pay $15.00.
- All other members pay $40.00.

Branch Fee - $5.00 per member.

Rebate: The provincial rebate to each branch is based on $10.00 per member paying the $40 fee and $8.00 per member paying the $15.00 fee.

It would be great if the Northumberland South Durham Branch could earn the **Barbara Bain Membership Award** for 2015-2016. This is an award created by the provincial executive to honour Barbara, a past president and the first membership convener. Branches who achieve the largest annual increases in membership by November 30th are eligible for cash awards.

2014-2015 Books are balanced.

Membership Folders: These are prepared by Vicki Cubitt and her membership committee and are for any retired teacher or newly-retired teacher. They are full of valuable information about RWTO/OERO – for example, insurance data, recent branch newsletter and brochure. If you know of someone who would find the folder beneficial, they are available from Vicki (905 723 5114 or cobysummer@netscape.net).

Telephone Committee:

The branch executive is always looking for ways to increase attendance at the branch meetings; thus, it has decided to reinstate the telephone committee. The newsletter will continue and will be distributed about four weeks before branch

Telephone Committee (cont.'d)

meetings. Two weeks before the meeting the telephone committee will contact members to remind them about the meeting and encourage their attendance. This will begin with the Christmas meeting.

PROPOSED OFFICERS & CONVENERS FOR 2015-2016

(to be installed at the fall meeting)

Executive:

Past President	**Barbara Moorcroft**
President	**Sandra Boyko**
1st Vice President	**Jan Engel**
2nd Vice President	**Bonnie Brown**
Co-Secretaries	**Jan Engel, Vicki Cubitt**
Treasurer	**Julia Esford**

Conveners:

Archivists	**Barbara Moorcroft, Julia Esford, Joan Smith**
Communications	**Joan Smith**
Goodwill - West	**Jan Engel**
- Municipality of Port Hope, Hamilton Township, Cobourg	**Muriel Bell**
- East of Cobourg & North	**Astrida Jenkinson-Chalmers**
- Visitation	**Sandra Boyko**
Insurance	**Astrida Jenkinson-Chalmers**
Issues & Concerns	**Sandra Boyko**
Membership	**Vicki Cubitt**
Program/Social	**Executive**
Table Favours	**Bunny Wright**

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

September 28th - Executive Meeting after the fall meeting in Grafton.

December 2nd - **Christmas Meeting** - St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Port Hope
To be followed by an **Executive Meeting**.

Third Thursday of Every Month - **Social Event - Breakfast -** 9:30 am - Traditions Restaurant 1053 Simcoe St. N. Oshawa. No business. Everyone welcome. Contact Vicki Cubitt

June 1, 2016 - **'60th Anniversay 'Victorian Tea'** – St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Port Hope

June, 2016 - **Provincial Convention** in Windsor