



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario

St. Catharines Branch Newsletter – October 2016



Greetings from the President



The days are growing shorter and there is a briskness to the night air – it must be October and time for our next Newsletter!

Our inaugural meeting as part of the new Area 13 got off to an excellent start! 152 members met at St John's Activity Centre on Lakeshore Rd in St Catharines on Sept. 28th. St John's provided a wonderful meal, as usual, and our program - the Evergreen Singers, were outstanding. Special thanks goes to member Karen Burr for facilitating their performance.

Unfortunately, this fall was not without some major challenges as well. Due to health reasons, Myrna Kroeker, our 1st Vice President, has had to submit her resignation. This plus the recent passing of 2nd Vice President Penny Lailey left a void on our Executive and some very big shoes to try to fill. Fortunately two current members of the Executive willingly agreed to take on these additional responsibilities. Special thanks goes to Susan McLaughlin who has been appointed to the position of 1st Vice President. Susan, currently our Insurance Convenor, will wear both hats this year, agreeing to do both jobs. Special thanks also goes out to Patti Malkiewich, our Interest Group Convenor. Patti has been appointed our new 2nd Vice President. She too will continue on in both roles for this year. We want these two ladies to know how much we appreciate their willingness to accept this additional responsibility and we recognize the 'caring and sharing' they've committed themselves to in support our St Catharines Branch of RWTO.

Now is also the time to nominate the hard working members of our Branch for the Cora Bailey Award. Cora Bailey was the very first Provincial Executive Secretary Treasurer. It was a position she held for 11 years until 1982. She wrote the RWTO/OERO History Book **OASWT 1956 - 1976**. This award was created in her honour. The Cora Bailey Award is to be presented to up to three Branch members each year who have contributed outstanding service to our Branch. Do you know of such a member? Be sure to fill out the nomination form at our October luncheon.

The October General Meeting and luncheon takes place on Wednesday, October 26th at Club Roma. Doors will open at 10:30 with the meeting beginning at 11:00. Our program is guest speaker Shannon Passero, a local entrepreneur and business owner. You will remember the fabulous fashions from her Thorold shop, **The Post Office**, that we showcased at our May 60th Anniversary fashion show. We are all looking forward to hearing her speak.

At Club Roma you will also be able to pick up your new membership card and your 2016 - 2017 Directory. Another feature that will be offered again this year is the opportunity to pre-pay for your Dec. 7th Christmas luncheon ticket. Our Christmas Social, which supports Community Care, will once again feature the same wonderful buffet we enjoyed at the Holiday Inn on Ontario St. Please bring \$30 cash or cheque in a sealed envelope with your name written on the outside – it will save you a stamp later on!

Kathleen Bradley

Membership Report

I would like to thank all members who responded in a timely manner to requests for their Membership Renewal for 2017. Our membership year begins on September 1, which often makes it a challenge for us to reach members in a timely manner to receive fees before the deadline. For this reason we began the process in May this past spring. Although many members responded at this time, it really did not change the number of members who we still had not heard from by September 1 – close to 100!

ANY CHANGES?

Please report any changes either phone number or address to Judith Bennoch

Phone Number: 905-468-3040
e-mail: judithbennoch@icloud.com

.....Beginning in 2017, as many other branches do, we will be requesting fees for 2017-2018 in early spring. We are trying to reach members before they make their summer plans for vacation etc.Members will be able to provide post dated cheques for August 15, 2017 and will be able to include luncheon monies as in the past.

More information will be forthcoming in our March 2017 Newsletter.....

At the September Luncheon we were pleased to welcome the following new members:

*Barb Cook
Carol Daly
Sue Keating
Jacilynn Lewis
Jan Murdoch
Jean O’Gorman
Lu Popilniuk
Marg Van Dyk
Donna Ward
Vivian White*

To date we have 16 new members included 2 new Social members. Our total of all members is 396.

REMEMBER: The best way for us to learn about new members is through YOU our existing members. Please contact either myself, or one of the members of the membership committee; Chris Graham OECTA, Donna Painter ETFO, or Margo Smith OSSTF.

We were saddened by the loss of the following members since the early spring....



*Barbara Chadwick Penny Lailey
Richy Lampman Judith Fassongi
Edith Turner*

A Request from the 2017 Convention Committee Follow The Dream in the World of Retirement

Who is the dreamer? What is her dream? What challenges did she face? How did she overcome the obstacles in her path?

As retired women teachers, many of our RWTO/OERO members have pursued activities in retirement that have taken them on an entirely different journey from their previous careers as educators.

At AGM 2017, we would like to honour the women within our organization who have set forth on a whole new adventure upon retirement. We would like to collect their stories and a picture for each member who may have followed or is actively pursuing a dream in retirement. We are planning a display of these stories to honour their achievements.

Please include this information with each submission:

- Member's name, address, branch (and e-mail address if applicable)
- A **short** (approx. 125 words) description including the dream and how this member set about achieving that dream. Perhaps there were challenges along the way, obstacles to overcome.
- Each story will be unique and inspiring and will form part of an interesting display of those in RWTO/OERO who have followed a dream in retirement.

Please e-mail the description to

Patti Malkiewich - pmalkiewich@gmail.com. Every submission will be sent to the Convention committee along with a photo for display. They will also be displayed at our Branch. We need submissions by March 1, 2017.

Patti Malkiewich

2nd Vice President

Executive 2016 - 2017

As Chair of the Nominations Committee, I encourage all new and returning members to consider being on our executive next year. Please approach any executive member to express your interest.

Clarice West-Hobbs

Past President

905-646-1367 or clariceros.westhobbs@gmail.com

Branch Website

I am in charge of maintaining the Branch Website on the Provincial Website. Would your interest group like to contribute an article? If you have any information or photos that you would like to see on our website please forward them to Clarice West-Hobbs.

How to Find Our Web Page????

- a) click RWTO.org on your browser
- b) when you have the provincial page scroll down the left side to Branch News and click
- c) You should be on the map of the province
- d) Click Area 13
- e) Click St. Catharines on the map to get our website
- f) You should now be on the page about St Catharines

Clarice West-Hobbs

Past President

905-646-1367 or clariceros.westhobbs@gmail.com

Convenor Reports

Insurance

The RWTO Hospital and Home Care Plan continues to be of great benefit to our members. The fees have not increased for 16 years, and it gives us excellent additional coverage for in-patient and post-hospital care. Our broker, Terry Kennedy, is carefully monitoring the change from CCAC to the new home care plan under the LINS to see if we need to upgrade our policy.

If you are a new RWTO member it is good to subscribe in your first year of retirement because you are accepted with no medical exam required.

If you have questions, give me a call.

Susan McLaughlin

Insurance Convenor

905-935-9966 or susseandchris@gmail.com

Goodwill

Please let us know of ANY member who would appreciate visits from RWTO members. Many of our over 90's are receiving visits at this time. BIRTHDAY cards and CHRISTMAS cards are sent to members 80+. (If you haven't been receiving yours, please let us know so we can update the records.)

GET WELL, SYMPATHY and THINKING ABOUT YOU cards are also sent. So, please contact us when you know of someone who would appreciate receiving a card.

If you would be interested in driving someone to the luncheons, or visiting someone at home, please give us a call too. Thanks.

Alice Bradnam

905-934-7108 or alicebradnam@aol.com

Nadine Martin

905-938-2593 or nmartin21@cogeco.ca

Goodwill Co-Convenor

OUR FOREVER YOUNG MEMBERS

We are pleased to honour these very special "over 90" members of our Branch.

Victoria Brett

Helene Fast

Kathleen Fritz

Anne Macdonald

Marian McKnight

Rosemary McNamee

Joyce Montgomery

Anna Thwaites

Geraldine Young

PHOTO OPS OF OUR MEMBERS AT FALL LUNCHEON AND AN INTEREST GROUP



The School Belles



Patt Chivers Revolving Book Club



Our Newest Interest Group **Singing for Fun**



Margaret Ewert, Anne Adam, Marilyn Emmett



Karen Burr Judith Bennoch Area 13 Director



New Members

Upcoming Events

Community Outreach 2016 -2017

Subcommittees of Community Outreach:

- a. **Arthritis Gift Wrapping:** Chair –Linda Holmes
RWTO St. Catharines supports the Arthritis Society by volunteering our time to wrap gifts at the Fairview Mall. We will continue to add names to our gift wrapping schedule at the October luncheon. Thank you for your ongoing support.
- b. **Rankin Cancer Run:** Chair - Jayne Shortill
Jayne will continue to organize our participation in the Rankin Cancer Run in 2017, but we are looking for someone to take on this role in 2018. This is your chance to make a difference. Please consider sharing your talents.
- c. **Community Care:** Chair – Rita Aceti
We will once again be supporting Community Care at our December 7th luncheon. Donations of cash or a cheque (preferred - payable to Community Care St. Catharines) will be collected in sealed envelopes with your name and address recorded on the outside. Tax receipts are available for donations of \$10 or more.
Last year we collected an astounding \$5000 and we hope to surprise ourselves again with another astonishing total this year.

2016-2017 LUNCHEON PROGRAMS

December 7th Social at the Holiday Inn, Ontario St. St Catharines
There will be an **Old Fashion Christmas Carol Sing-a-long**
led by Chris McLaughlin
and

We will be collecting your Community Care donation of cash or a cheque.
Remember to use a sealed envelope with your name & address on the outside.

Want to pay for your December Social ticket early?
Bring your \$30 cash or cheque in an envelope with your name on the outside to our October luncheon. Linda and Judith will be collecting!

April 2017 - Pauline Grondin - Voices of the Past - Historic Storyteller

May 2017 - In Memoriam & Annual General Meeting
Juliet Dunn Niagara Jazz Festival Lead

SPRING LUNCHEONS 2017

Reserve these dates. More information will follow in the March Newsletter.

April 26th, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.
Doors open at 10:30
Location: Coppola's 203 Carleton St.

May 24th, 2017 - 11:00 a.m.
Doors open at 10:30
Location: TBA

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, Dec. 7th, 2016
Doors Open at 11:00 a.m.
Symposium 11:30
Lunch 12:00



Holiday Inn
327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines

COST: \$30.00

LUNCH BUFFET:

Assorted Rolls and Butter
Tossed Garden Salad with dressings
Chef's choice Salads
Roast Ontario Tom Turkey with Stuffing
Traditional Gravy and Cranberry Sauce
Carved Leg of Virginia Ham with Raisin Apple
Sauce
Market Fresh Vegetables, Mashed Potatoes
Pasta with Tomato Sauce
Staff to serve dessert with coffee and tea including
decaf

Cash Bar Available

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Please return with your cheque payable to
RWTO St. Catharines for **\$30.00**

Wednesday, Dec. 7th, 2016
Holiday Inn (formerly Parkway Inn)
327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines

Please send your cheque payable to
RWTO St. Catharines for **\$30.00 by Nov. 30th, 2016**

**(Cancellations will be accepted with refund up to
Nov. 30th, 2016)**

MAIL CHEQUES TO:
Linda Foster
14 Woodgarden Ct St. Catharines, L2M 7C9