

President's Parting Message 2017

by Bernice Whalen



The colours of the fall initiated an exhilarating ride into what will be for me a memorial year.

The fall started in full gear with a pot luck supper hosted by the executive. In honour of Ovarian Cancer Month an informative session was held and a donation to Ovarian Cancer Research was made. A Special Event happening with a corn maze at Farmer Bob's also proved to be a lot of fun and certainly reminded us of the beauty that surrounds us with the vibrant colours of fall. Throughout the year, we continued to provide a strong caring profile through our ongoing support of SCAW (Sleeping Children Around the World). It is unbelievable that this unit has provided almost 150 bed kits for children throughout the world. Certainly, the profile for the RWTO Sault Ste. Marie unit has left an indelible mark throughout the world. The unit continues to be one of caring concern for others. Christmas Cheer and homemade cookie boxes for our shut-in sisters were the thrust of our second general meeting. Our Scrabble club met once a month in a retirement home making it possible for our sisters who are less mobile to stay connected. The Book Club also met once a month as well as the Breakfast Club. There have been a lot of opportunities for sharing and having fun. The craft day in February was a huge success and Babies, Babies, Babies! seemed to be well received by all. It was heart-warming to hand over baskets of beautiful and practical needed baby items to Algoma Family Services to distribute to young expectant mothers. The feedback from this agency was heartwarming indeed!

Joining with our Central Algoma sisters to host President Peggy Stock at the Lighthouse setting in Thessalon proved to be a joyous occasion. Who could ever forget Gerry Yeo drumming on the stock pot?

Our website got initiated this year with strong support from our provincial team. It was dynamic and kept fresh with input of pictures from our various gatherings as well as seasonal president messages.

Each of you plays a critical part in this mosaic. Your attendance at meetings and your smiling support trigger a synergy that keeps us linked! We stay connected through our phone tree, our good will, our socials, our newsletters and our dynamic website.

Our health care and insurance RWTO insurance local chair continues to serve the needs of our members in an exemplary manner. Our Goodwill chair brings the needed hugs to those sisters who are experiencing health challenges. All this speaks of a very vibrant, caring community with the best interests of our RWTO sisters at heart. It is evident that hours of dedication are devoted through the generous hearts of the members and your executive team. Alone we can do little, but collectively we can do so much!! At the beginning of the year I invited you to join me for a ride on the colour train. You got on board! Each one of you made this year a special one in your own way. Your presence and support were appreciated and made the journey a pleasant one for me personally!

To the executive team----many, many thanks! It has been an honour and a privilege to have served alongside such a devoted group of individuals! Now like the lead goose in the V formation, I must move my position to the back. It is now time for a new leader in the formation, but be assured that I will continue to serve in any way that I can.