



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario / Organisation des Enseignantes Retraitées de l'Ontario

President's Message

It has been a busy fall. My twenty-one branch visits have been most enjoyable. What a great organization we have! Fifty-two unique branches, quite incredible mini-organizations, that all function as part of the provincial organization with the same mission statement, beliefs and goals!

But how did we get to where we are?

In the early 1900 women teachers, if they could get a job, were primary teachers. It was unthinkable for a woman to have the responsibility of being a Principal. During WWI ideas started to change. School boards began to recognize the valuable contributions made by women teachers.

However, when women teachers retired they felt isolated and missed the camaraderie of their colleagues. Soon they began to meet in each other's home for a game of bridge, a visit and a cup of tea. At one such meeting they decided to meet monthly for a social get-together, a "rendezvous". The Rendezvous Club that is still in existence today was formed in May 1937. This was the first group of retired teachers in Ontario.

During the Depression, salaries averaged \$300 to \$400 per year. When it came time for teachers to retire, the amount of their pension was grossly inadequate. Efforts of small groups of retired women teachers to rectify this situation fell on deaf ears. It was clear that only a large group might get a hearing and make an impact on the government. The members of the Rendezvous Club offered to form an organization for retired women teachers and by retired women

Marilyn Emmett,
Provincial President



teachers. On April 3, 1956, representatives from across the province met in Toronto and The Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers was born.

Each year the briefs presented to government were turned down. One reason was that the organization did not represent all teachers. Therefore, in 1965, Superannuated Teachers of Ontario was formed representing all retired teachers. Their main goal was to secure suitable pensions. Thankfully for us, they were successful. For a short time it was feared that STO (now RTO/ERO) would make OAS-WT (now RWTO/OERO) redundant. However, the focus for each group is distinctive. We get along well and support each other. Many of us are members of both organizations.

As with all organizations RWTO/OERO has had growing pains but we have come a long way in the past 59 years. We continue to be a work in progress and should be extremely proud of our organization and of the continuing enthusiasm, dedication, conscientious work ethic and volunteerism of our members. Each of you can contribute to the future of RWTO/OERO by assisting with your branch activities, joining your Branch Executive, taking positions at the provincial level and by always being positive ambassadors of our wonderful organization. Together we will grow in RWTO/OERO. ▶

Retired Women Teachers of Ontario Organisation des Enseignantes Retraitées de l'Ontario

Provincial President: Marilyn Emmett

1 Tara Court
St Catharines, ON L2N 2M2
(905) 646-5543
emmett@cogeco.ca

First Vice-President: Dianne Rice

9908 Eric St. RR1
Thedford, ON N0M 2N0
(519) 243-2628
dianr@execulink.com

Insurance Convenor: Nancy Iannizzi

17 Queen Mary Drive,
St. Catharines, ON L2R 2J3
(905) 687-9783

Manulife Financial 1-800-268-3763

Broker: Terry Kennedy

The Dolphin Consulting Group

(519) 583-0098
Fax: (519) 583-2876
tkennedy34@bell.net

Provincial Office Executive

Secretary-Treasurer: Gloria Drake

15 Deer Cross Ave.,
Wheatley, ON N0P 2P0
Toll free: 1-877-607-6696
Email: info@rwto.org

Website: www.RWTO.org

*The Provincial Office is moving
in January. See note on page 11*

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40739021
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
RWTO/OERO Provincial Office

*This newsletter is published three times each year
in September, December and March. Send submissions by email to
rwtoconnections@gmail.com • Website: www.RWTO.org*



*To all my friends at RWTO,
Here is a special, "Ho! Ho! Ho!"
Whether your holiday is busy and bright,
or quiet and calm as a silent night.
However you celebrate, wherever you are,
I'm sending these greetings near and far.
Merry Christmas to you and to those you hold dear. Best wishes to all for a Happy New Year!*

- Marilyn Emmett -

Call For Nominations - Provincial Board Positions

Nominations for the following elected Executive officers for the Provincial Board of RWTO/OERO will now be accepted until January 31, 2015:

- Provincial 2nd Vice-President
- Provincial Recording Secretary
- Provincial Insurance Convenor

Nominees should have experience at the board level as well as at the Executive level in an RWTO/OERO Branch and/or other organizations. The job descriptions are printed in the RWTO/OERO Policy and Procedures Manual Appendix C and are also available from your Area Director and members of the Nominating Committee and on our website at www.rwto.org. Names submitted are to be approved by the Branch Executive making the nomination and then sent to the Area Director for confirmation before forwarding to the Nominations Committee Chair.

Nominations should be emailed or mailed with a postmark no later than January 31, 2015, to:

Anne Graham, Nominations Committee Chair,
Box 43, 56 Owen St., Lanark, Ontario K0G 1K0
Email: grahamanne56@bell.net

Any new Area Directors will be selected in accordance with the protocol established within each area and outlined in the Policy and Procedures Manual Appendix A. The names of each Area Director elected/selected by the members in her own area must be forwarded to the Provincial Nominations Chair as soon as possible before the end of each fiscal year.

For further information, please contact any member of the Nominations Committee: Anne Graham, Kay-Anne Broger, Phyllis Robson, Marilyn Emmett

*Anne Graham, Past President,
Nominations Committee Chair*



Honorary Membership Award

Provincial Honorary Membership in RWTO/OERO is the highest honour that can be bestowed on a member for outstanding services at the Provincial level. This award is presented at the Annual General Meeting. The criteria for this award is listed in Article XIII, page XIII-1 in our Policy and Procedures document which can be found on the RWTO/OERO website.

This provincial award is dependent upon nominations from the branches. Your nomination letter should include an outline listing the Provincial Committees on which the nominee has served and the noted service to RWTO/OERO at the Provincial level. All submissions must be received by the Committee Convenor by January 31, 2015.

Please provide the name, address, telephone number and email address of the nominee.

Please send nominations to:

Annette Rhodes,
3684 Governor's Road RR2,
Lynden, ON L0R1T0
annetter@execulink.com

Committee Members: Dorothy Pearson, Judy Drummond, H n dine Weiman, Annette Rhodes



*Annette Rhodes,
Honorary
Provincial President*

Insurance Report - The Open Enrolment Period Has Been Extended!

By now you've likely heard that a window of opportunity has opened for RWTO/OERO members and/or their spouses to enrol in the Hospital and Home Care Plan without providing evidence of good health. Since the 15th of September, this window opened. We're happy to tell you that Manulife has agreed to extend this period until **December 15, 2014**.

Until December 15 all you need to do to enroll in the plan is complete a special enrolment form and submit it to Manulife Financial. Simply complete the application form, choose your payment option and send it in the pre-paid, self-addressed envelope provided. You may notice at the top of the form a statement that "parts E and F must be completed in full", however you won't find parts E and F in this form. Parts E and F are normally the medical questionnaires. Please just disregard this statement on the form.

Why should you take advantage of this opportunity? Members frequently tell us how pleased they are with the plan; how it has benefitted them and how inexpensive it is! Consider these features: Convalescent Benefit, Home Nursing Benefit, Cataract Surgery Benefit, Fracture Benefit, Comfort Care (hospital cash) and many more! This plan has been designed to supplement other Extended Health Care coverage which is why we like to refer to it as "the cherry on top"!

You may wonder about the pre-existing condition limitations. To ensure there is no confusion or misunderstanding we thought we'd highlight this for you. There is indeed a pre-existing condition limitation – you will not be covered

for any bodily injury or illness for which you received medical treatment or advice during the three-month period immediately preceding the effective date of your coverage. However, all pre-existing conditions will be covered after you have been free of medical treatment or advice for those conditions for three months after the coverage effective date or until the policy has been continuously in force for twelve consecutive months, whichever occurs first. So while there is a pre-existing limitation, it is only for, at maximum, a year. After which time all of your pre-existing conditions are covered!

To enroll, contact either your Branch Insurance Convenor, your Provincial Insurance Convenor Nancy Iannizzi, your Assistant Provincial Insurance Convenor Bertha Breen, or our broker Terry Kennedy of the Dolphin Consulting Group. We'll be happy to answer any questions that you may have or assist you in taking full advantage of this limited-time opportunity.



*Nancy Iannizzi,
Provincial Insurance Convenor
(905) 687-9783
iannizzi@sympatico.ca*

*Bertha Breen,
Assistant Insurance
Convenor
(519) 273-7908
bertbreen@gmail.com*

*Terry Kennedy,
RWTO Broker
(519) 583-0098
tkennedy34@bell.net*

Ad Hoc Committee Update

The Ad Hoc Committee was organized in September as the result of a motion at the Ottawa AGM. The committee's directive is to study the implications of extending membership to other retired women in education. What are the positive and the negative effects that such a membership extension would have on our organization?

The question of membership expansion has been raised during a special time in our RWTO/OERO history. As we prepare to celebrate the 60th anniversary of our unique organization, we are reflecting on both its past and its future. Where do you see this future? Please consider this issue carefully and share your thoughts with this committee.

Please send your email submissions to:
peggystock3@gmail.com
or by Canada Post to:

Peggy Stock,
RRI, Old Mill Road
South River ON P0A 1X0
(705) 386-2274

I will respond to each submission to let you know that we have received it. Our committee looks forward to hearing from you, and to sharing our report at the AGM in June.



*Peggy Stock,
2nd Vice-President
Ad Hoc Committee Chair*

News from the Branches – “Caring and Sharing” ... and Having Fun!

Beaver Valley

The Beaver Valley Branch has enjoyed another year of “Caring and Sharing” and having fun. We are a small group who look forward to our time spent together and have enjoyed breakfast meetings, picnics and luncheons. In May, we had a tour of Carpe Diem Gardens and received



tips on container planting. June’s highlight was the Ottawa Convention and the summer was a time to enjoy a picnic at Inglis Falls with neighbouring branches, host our own picnic inviting potential members and

attend a Victorian lunch at Billy Bishop House in Owen Sound. In October, our members lunched at Lora Bay and in November, a wine and cheese social was hosted by one of our members. As the calendar year draws to a close, we anticipate our December Christmas lunch as a special opportunity to celebrate, appreciate and reflect upon the times that we have shared. Our donations of food items and gifts for local children in community outreach programs remind us of our good fortune.

Flesherton

In the remaining days of autumn, the gentle warmth of summer seems far away. Our group was busy, however, in July and August, first with a meeting at Wendy Cudmore’s home, situated on the shores of beautiful Lake Eugenia. Later in the summer, a fierce rain storm with heavy winds made a brief but powerful impact during our meeting at the home of Rosa Grinschgl. It seemed most fitting as we listened to the story of the sinking of the WWII ship, the Wilhelm Gustoff, presented by our guest speaker Horst Voit. Once again, we had a booth at the Flesherton Market to attract new membership and share information with both interested vendors and buyers. Our trip to the Grey Roots Museum, located just south of Owen Sound and splendid tour of the historic buildings relocated there on permanent display, was another summer highlight. We learned about the beautiful St. Vincent area of the Caribbean from guest speaker Rev. Hackshaw, learned more about our valuable insurance options and wrapped up our “Caring and Sharing” activities making Christmas cards together.

Dundalk-Highpoint

Our Dundalk-Highpoint Branch started off 2014-2015 meetings off with a “Get Fit” initiative. Our guest speaker was VON Kelly Gee. Kelly informed us of the VON Canada SMART program. SMART stands for Seniors Maintaining Active Roles Together. It is a gentle fitness program de-



signed for people ages 55+. It encourages seniors to stay fit and maintain independence. SMART programs are offered by the VON in communities across Canada. Kelly not only informed us of the program but walked us through some of the exercises and showed us how to accommodate various levels of mobility. The roll call for this September meeting was a monetary donation to the Breakfast Clubs in two of our area schools. Principal Nicole Bolyea of Dundalk-Proton School was on hand to receive the donation for her school and remained to have lunch with us. In November, we will enjoy our first Christmas dinner and Christmas card making, with donations for the Dundalk Christmas Cheer campaign as our roll call. This should put us all in a festive mood.

Owen Sound

The Owen Sound Branch has enjoyed a number of outings. Despite a threat of rain, we had a great attendance for our trip to Keppel Croft Gardens at Big Bay. The four acres of gardens were natural and lovely. There are perennial borders, rock gardens, xeriscape gardens, a Zen garden and a woodland garden, with several ponds and art installations. The gardens are adorned with many interesting statues and accessories are nestled in among the plants. The Nature Trail offered us the opportunity to stroll through the arboretum and the fields to a hardwood bush. After touring on our own, we all met on the patio where

News from the Branches continued

linen-covered tables were set up for a delicious potluck lunch. Following an enjoyable time eating and visiting with friends, we left the gardens and proceeded to Bobbie's house to enjoy her spectacular yard complete with flowerbeds, shrubs and a pond. It was a wonderful day!

South Bruce

Our branch enjoys two meetings yearly, in October and April, and a Christmas tea in November. At the November event we are urged to bring a non-member, retired woman teacher in hopes they will join our group and this has



proved to be quite successful in adding to our numbers. Our branch also made donations to a local church group for their relief work in Haiti and to children's programs at the Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre in Southampton. We fundraise by holding raffles and book sales at our meetings. The Cora Bailey Award for 2014 was presented to Leslie Uttley, our RWTO/OERO Past President, at our Spring Meeting. In September, our branch presented roses to one of our life members, Mary Fleming, on the occasion of her 100th birthday. She attributes her longevity to farm living and eating what you grow. We are looking forward to having a great year filled with "Caring and Sharing".

Warton

Warton Branch welcomed several new members and the now Provincial Past President Anne Graham. We enjoyed catered lunches at our meetings and have been entertained with musical treats on guitar, trumpet, piano and voice by members and guests. The OPP



shared advice about safety around our homes and vehicles. We feasted with several other branches at our July potluck picnic and learned about the biosphere of the Bruce Peninsula, in which Inglis Falls is classified as a healthy benefit to our community. Our popular raffle baskets allow us to provide a generous tip to our caterers and to support two local fall fairs. We collected toiletries and sundries for our local women's shelter, and contributed to the food bank. We are sharing our President Sharron Colter with Area 1 as its new Director. "Caring and Sharing" come naturally to the Warton Branch.

Brant

Our year began with our Breakfast Meeting and guest speaker Lisa Roddie from the Children's Safety Village, a program which teaches children about home, traffic and Internet safety. Area 4



Director Lois Lockhart presented the Cora Bailey award to Delcy Knox, our esteemed treasurer. Five of us joined St. Catharines for their October luncheon of perogies and chicken and were entertained by the Ambassador Swing Band. Other events include: Brant Heritage Quilters show and lunch at Kirby's in October; Christmas in Holland at Holland Park Nursery in Burlington in November; Court Whist and our famous potluck, which has the most incredible food; tea at the Golden Teapot at Glenhyrst Gardens; our fabulous trip to Fallsview Casino; our Spring Banquet at the Brantford Golf and Country Club and a garden party at the Stedman Hospice to view the new building and gardens. "Caring and Sharing" is at its best here in Brant!

Haldimand

The Haldimand Branch of RWTO/OERO hosts three luncheons each year. Women come from all over our large county and beyond to reconnect with teaching friends and to participate in "Caring and Sharing" projects such as donations to local food banks or women's shelters. Do we have fun? Well, just imagine the visiting and laughter that fills the room when we are all together! There are door prizes and our ever popular Share the Wealth draw at the end of each luncheon. Everyone goes home a little richer in spirit certainly and possibly as a prize winner, too! The 2014 Fall Luncheon was held in the Coach House at a Haldimand landmark, Ruthven Park. In our photo, RWTO/OERO Provincial President Marilyn Emmett congratulates the

News from the Branches continued

2014-2015 Executive of the Haldimand Branch of RWTO/OERO. Sincere thanks to all who volunteer to serve on the Executive, including our freshest recruit Vicki Duxbury, Secretary-in-Training (standing, far left).



Hamilton-Wentworth

Our initiatives this year include public awareness and a special outreach project. We are a proud sponsor of the Ancaster Film Fest, all of its profits going to local charities. View our Sponsorship Link on their website! Once a year, a deserving local cause, submitted by one of our members, will receive a one-time donation of \$500 to help offset



financial needs. Our second complimentary “Be Our Guest” event, advertised in newsletters, community newspapers and ads, was a huge success! The room buzzed with joy and excitement, friends and colleagues mingled and new members were warmly welcomed! The ladies had fun playing games at the storefronts that represented our Interest Groups, savouring delicious sandwiches and pastries, and delighting in winning generous prizes. A bountiful bin

of toiletries for two local high schools was donated by the ladies. A great way to start the new membership year!

Lincoln West

We have had many good meetings over the past year, but for our September meeting, the nightmare happened: the speaker cancelled close to the meeting! We had promised the membership a fun meeting about chocolate. In desperation, we went through Plans B, C and D to no avail. One store was closed, another busy with a Fall Fair and at a third, the owner was on vacation to Australia! Panic attack! However, we are teachers and can cope with crisis! Marshville Chocolates of Wainfleet kindly supplied free samples of dark and milk chocolate. We bought their chocolate-dipped gummy bears, salted pumpkin seed bark and more. We dipped fresh strawberries to put at each place setting and we were off. Marshville supplied posters and photos for visual aids telling the story of cacao from pod to powder. We all snacked and smacked our lips before our lunch and acted out the tenet, “Life is short, eat dessert first”. Another great meeting.

Niagara Falls



We have our four annual luncheons at Betty’s where we continue to enjoy the entrees and of course their famous pies. At the September 29 meeting, we enjoyed the information shared by Provincial Communications Convener Mardie Panabaker

and Provincial Insurance Convener Nancy Iannizzi. A very successful autumn outing included shopping at a local market while enjoying the RWTO/OERO fellowship and on November 11, Remembrance Day, our members will place a wreath to honour those who have served. On December 1, we will be having a speaker from Hospice Niagara to raise awareness of this important aspect of life. Our April 13 gathering will be a joint meeting with Niagara South and Niagara Falls welcoming special guest Provincial President Marilyn Emmett. Interest Groups include the Book Club, Luncheon Group and Movie Group while the popular magazine and cookie exchange is always successful. Niagara

News from the Branches continued

Falls members continue to help each other through phone calls, programs and suggestions.

Niagara South

Niagara South began the year with a Fall Tea Luncheon served by the members of the Port Colborne Senior Centre. New retirees were invited and presented with flowers. In November, we meet in the evening in Welland at a local garden centre to make and take a fresh Christmas arrangement followed by dessert, coffee and tea. A joint lunch meeting with the Niagara Falls Branch will be held in April. Our guest speaker will be Sandra Bell-Lundy, "Between Friends" comic strip creator, along with President Marilyn Emmett. Showboat Theatre presentation and lunch at the Roselawn Centre in June will conclude our program for a year of "Caring and Sharing" and having fun.

St. Catharines

St. Catharines Branch members are an amazing group of women! We are enthusiastic and generous at our very interesting and fun meetings; in the services rendered to each other in our interest groups; in "Caring and Sharing" within our membership, visiting and caring for our Forever Young Members and as volunteers within our community. Attendance at our luncheons has been at record numbers



as new members are joining our branch. We were delighted to welcome five members of the Brant Branch in October, who thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Within our interest groups: "We start by joining as colleagues and then end up becoming friends!" Our Cora Bailey Award nominees honour all of us and we will again present three winners in May! We look forward to our next meeting on Dec. 3, our Christmas Luncheon, to celebrate the season with a sing-along with the School Belles.

Belleville

What an exciting year for Belleville and Area Branch members! We supported The Dominican Family Fund, an ongoing project of member Lynda Rollins. She raises money to buy school uniforms for children in the Dominican Republic. No uniform ... no school! In December, we honoured new members and our Over 90s. We were fortunate enough to have Lilyan Flinn, 98 years young, and Alice Heasman, 108 years young, join us for the celebration. We continued our support for the Adopt-a-Child program, which provides new winter clothing for children 12 years old and younger, as well as The Learning Foundation, by donating personal hygiene products. We were fortunate enough to have Anne Graham and Susan Armstrong attend our Spring Meeting. We ended the year with a delightful change of pace. We had a Mad Hatter's Tea Party and invited our neighbours, Trenton Branch and Nananee Branch. Alice would have had fun!



Durham North

Things are happening in Durham North. At our Fall Luncheon we were joined by our Area Director Karen Rynard and our guest speaker Nancy Iannizzi, our Provincial Insurance Convenor. We had a great time, with 60 people joining us for lunch along with a very informative presentation by Nancy. We also had our memorial service where we acknowledged the lives of Margaret Pearson, Pat Bagshaw and Ricarda Kight. It was membership time again and we continued to sign up new members. At the June Convention we received the Barbara Bain award for the second year in a row. Our members are enjoying monthly coffee hours, drop-in luncheons at a local diner and various social outings. At our last Spring Luncheon we honoured Audrey Lee, Sylvia Farrell and Mary Harrison with the Cora Bailey Award. We look forward to



News from the Branches continued

honouring more members at our 2015 Spring Luncheon in May. We are “Caring and Sharing”, while growing, in Durham North.

Northumberland/South Durham

“Caring and Sharing” is alive and well in our branch, as seen through our meetings and social events.

At each one of our three meetings, we donate to women and children. In September, we give financially to Keystone Services for Women, at Christmas we donate unwrapped gifts for children to the Northumberland Giving Tree and in May we



give to Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Cards, visits and flowers are sent to members in times of celebration, illness and sympathy. Our final event of the year is our Annual Birthday Party. A local retirement home hosts our party and we invite all of the residents to come to celebrate with us. We sing songs together, share birthday cake and a drink. We have many retired teachers in this home who look forward to this annual event. A great time of “Caring and Sharing” is had by all!

Peterborough

Our members wish to remember Hilda Sweet. Hilda, a tireless worker with FWTO, upon retirement, immersed herself in both RTO/ERO and RWTO/OERO, becoming Provincial President of both organizations. Hilda was Area 7’s Director for four years and received Honorary Membership in 1999. Our Fall Meeting speaker, Barb Christi of Trusted Transitions, addressed de-cluttering, moving to smaller homes and how to dispose of items in many different ways. A special draw resulted in a donation to Crossroads, a centre for abused women. A number of display boards gave information about our interest groups and our plan to attend Les Miserables, sponsor a film for Reframe

Film Festival, walk in The Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser and host our Area Director Karen Rynd and our Provincial President Marilyn Emmett. At our Christmas meeting, we will hold our Friendship Auction for local charities. With our Birthday Bash and regular meetings, we plan to be busy and have fun.



Trenton

Trenton and District members meet ten times yearly with a variety of interesting meetings. In 2013-2014, we emphasized the “Caring and Sharing” aspect of our organization by providing an opportunity for personal and branch financial and goods donations to educational facilities, Relay for Life-Niagara, the local agricultural museum, the local food bank, two area hospital auxiliaries, as well as Caring Partners Global, which supports education in Kenya. Each meeting is an opportunity for fellowship as we gather in a variety of locales. This offers another opportunity to care for our community supporters as we share the talents of the ladies (and gentlemen) of the kitchens. In the upcoming year, our plans are to continue to support our mantra globally by supporting the Tlama Clean Water Project in South America and locally by making donations to our Caring and Sharing Food Bank in Trenton. For a full list of meeting activities, we welcome you to view the trifold at www.rwto.org.



Kudos to the member, in each branch, who handles branch communications and keeps members connected via website and newsletter creations, program brochures, phone messages, etc. Perhaps you are fondly referred to as the Branch Publisher or Phone Convenor or even the “Flyer Lady”. Your job is time intensive and invaluable to your branch. What would we do without you!

A gentle reminder to email Gloria Drake at info@rwto.com if you are able to receive your newsletter via email.

Issues And Concerns: Ovarian Cancer

After receiving an article by email about ovarian cancer I did some research into this topic. I spent time at my local health unit, used the Ovarian Cancer Canada, Cancer Care Ontario and Life Labs Ontario websites and interviewed RN Bonnie Schnittker and spoke with my own Health Provider.

- Facts:**
- Ovarian cancer is the most fatal gynecologic cancer.
 - There is no effective screening test for early detection of ovarian cancer.
 - A pap smear does not detect ovarian cancer -- it detects problems with the cervix.
 - The HPV vaccine now given in Grade 8 helps prevent cervical cancer not ovarian cancer.

What to Look For:

See your family doctor if you have one or more of these symptoms and they last longer than three weeks

- swelling or bloating of the abdomen
- pelvic discomfort or heaviness
- back or abdominal pain
- fatigue

- gas, nausea, indigestion
- change in bowel movements
- emptying your bladder frequently
- menstrual irregularities
- weight loss

What You Can Do

- 1) Have a yearly pelvic exam.
- 2) Get a transvaginal ultrasound.
- 3) Take a CA-125 blood test.

Even if the tests are negative, ask for a referral to a gynecologist or a gynecologic oncologist if symptoms persist.

We must take control of our own health issues. We know our body better than anyone else!!!



*Judy Drummond,
Issues and Concerns Convenor*

Membership

RWTO/OERO membership is open to all retired women teachers regardless of your experience, whether you receive a pension, where you taught or at what level. Although increasing membership is a long-term aim of RWTO/OERO, maintaining our current numbers is the immediate goal. Having encouraged new membership, it is our responsibility to keep our new members through friendship, stimulating programs and interest groups as well as meaningful community projects. Being initially partnered with an experienced member can help greatly to establish new connections and friendships.

Some years ago, Annalee Ladouceur suggested that, ideally, each branch should have a Membership Convenor to assist in growing branch membership. Do you have a Membership Convenor in your branch?

It is time to consider those in your branch who deserve to be recognized with the Cora Bailey Award for outstanding service to your branch. As well, a branch or branches working on one particular project should consider applying for the Feather in Your Hat Award.

Details can be found at www.rwto.org/awards.asp

The Membership Committee sincerely thanks Area 12 Director Phyllis Robson for her leadership during this past year and wishes her well.



*Kay-Anne Broger,
Provincial Membership Convenor*



Goodwill

Over 60 birthday greetings and cards have been sent out to members since September. Eleven ladies have joined the Over 90 members group as each celebrated her ninetieth birthday this past fall. Mary McLernan of the Mississauga Branch, Mary Fleming of the South Bruce Branch, Isabel



Kay-Anne Broger (Area 6 Director) is on the left, with Mary Moles in the centre and to the right is Pam Goring, Past President Orillia Branch.

Grant of the Sudbury Branch and Bessie Smith of the Napanee Branch are our newest centenarians. Congratulations and best wishes to you all!

I have been surprised and delighted to receive letters back from several of our Over 90 members. Their active lifestyles and positive attitudes are typical of so many of our members. Living young is a skill which many, many retired women teachers seem to have acquired.

Area 6 Director Kay-Anne Broger has visited with one of these special ladies. Mary Moles, a Blue Mountain Branch member, celebrated her 107th birthday on July 15. She lives with her daughter and son-in-law in the same home where she raised her own family. Mary's passion for family history keeps her busy. She has compiled many albums, complete with pages of memories, written in her beautiful penmanship. As well, Mary has prepared a small album for each of the area schools in which she taught. Mary's joy for living shines through in the picture.

Peggy Stock,
Provincial Goodwill Convenor

Anniversary - We Are Sixty!



Our Diamond Jubilee year begins in June 2015 and will culminate at Convention 2016 in Windsor. We are planning at this time to have 60th Anniversary pins for sale at Convention 2015 in Stratford. We are hoping that each branch will at some point through the 2015-2016 year plan something to mark this special anniversary. Our organization has accomplished much in the last 60 years and we need to honour those accomplishments and celebrate the strong, dynamic women who have come before us. I look forward to hearing what your branch is planning.

Dianne Rice,
1st Vice-President
(519) 243-2628 - dianr@execulink.com



'In Memoriam' - Juanita Rathbun

(May 16, 1926 to October 5, 2014)

From the time she retired, Juanita was an active member and staunch supporter of RWTO/OERO. She was a dynamic member and Past President of the St. Catharines Branch. Juanita was an Honorary Member and Past Provincial President of RWTO/OERO. She also served as Provincial Parliamentarian for many years. We will truly miss her wealth of knowledge, her endless and willing support and, most of all, her friendship.



Recent Legislation and RWTO/OERO

Anti-Spam Legislation:

The new anti-spam legislation came into force on July 1, 2014. The legislation provides a three-year implementation period and prohibits sending commercial electronic messages without the recipient's consent or permission. While RWTO/OERO does not send out electronic messages, it does send out emailed newsletters to members who have requested delivery via email.

There are two type of emails that are exempted from this legislation and RWTO newsletters are covered in both cases. They are: non-commercial messages that are sent for information and education and do not contain advertising or promotion and informational messages such as ongoing subscription or membership messages.

If you wish to receive the Provincial newsletter by email and have not already done so, please email Gloria at the Provincial Office at info@rwto.org. This comprises your consent, which can be revoked at any time.

Privacy Form

RWTO's Privacy Form is now a requirement for any new member and any member who has yet to sign the form. Four items on the form are optional: phone number, email, retirement date and birth date. These items have always been optional. It is up to a member if she wishes to disclose any of this information.

When a member does disclose her birth date it allows the Provincial Goodwill Convenor to send birthday cards and other greetings to the members who have reached 90 years of age.

The Privacy Form also gives permission, among other things, for Provincial to share the information with RWTO's insurance agents/broker. However, a member also has the option of deleting this section at the time of signing the form. If it is left in and the member later decides she does not want the use of her information to offer her products and services, she can simply contact the Provincial Office at the address noted on the form with her request. As an example, some members have specifically noted they do not wish to receive any insurance information. In that case a notation is made in the Provincial database to that effect. Recently there has been a notification sent out by Terry Kennedy regarding the open enrolment for the insurance offered through Manulife. Any member who had not signed a Privacy form or who had indicated they did not want to receive any information regarding insurance was not sent the notification.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the Provincial Office by phone, at Toll Free: (877) 607-6696 or by email at info@rwto.org.

*Gloria Drake
RWTO/OERO Executive Secretary-Treasurer*

RWTO/OERO Provincial Office is moving as of January 15, 2015, to:

**19730 Four Rod Road
Blenheim, Ontario N0P 1A0**

In order to accommodate the move and the set-up of the new office, please note that the Provincial phone and email may be down from January 15 to January 19.

The RWTO/OERO toll free number will remain the same at (877) 607-6696. The email address for the Provincial Office will remain the same at info@rwto.org.



Our Area Directors sharing a fun moment.

Standing: Hénédine Weiman, Lois Lockhart, Sharron Colter

Middle: Adrienne Johnson, Val Luscott, Karen Rynard, Sandy Fulcher

Front: Kay-Anne Broger, Dorothy Pearson, Judy Drummond,

Absent: Dianne Winkler, Phyllis Robson



RWTO/OERO 59th Annual Convention

June 2nd, 3rd & 4th, 2015

The Arden Park Hotel

552 Ontario St, Stratford, ON N5A 3J3

519-275-2936 or 1-877-788-8818 Request "RWTO 2015" rate

\$139 plus taxes, double occupancy Suites Available

Rooms are filling fast. Book yours NOW!

Come to Stratford where "All the World's a Stage"

- ◇ Take in a Theatre performance
- ◇ Participate in an organized tour
- ◇ Enjoy Stratford's many parks & gardens
- ◇ Browse the local shops
- ◇ Explore the surrounding countryside

Watch for details in March Connections

Email questions to rwtoconvention2015@gmail.com



RWTO/OERO

RWTO/OERO Provincial Office
15 DEER CROSS AVE.,
WHEATLEY, ON N0P 2P0

**PM Agreement
40739021**