



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

President's Message

Anne Graham President



Welcome to the new look of Connections, for which I must thank Mardie Panabaker and her Design Update team of Marilyn Emmett, Phyllis Robson and the talented Sandy Mulveny from Hello Design Studio. It is so warm and inviting, and I hope that everyone is enjoying the change.

What a winter we experienced this year! Snow, cold and more of it! It is interesting that I used to enjoy getting out on my cross-county skis, snowshoes and skates. There were times when I even went to school by snowmobile because I couldn't get my car out. Now it seems that the fireplace is more enticing. Can I blame the winter or could it be my age?

Visiting throughout the province, I have seen so many wonderful things. I want to thank those of you who have held positions on your branch executives this year. The level of leadership is amazing. However, some branches are having problems getting new executive members. Please consider taking your turn to keep your branch vibrant and active. I know that you all treasure the times you spend together.

Teachers tend to be terrific organizers. They tend to have interesting hobbies and contacts. They spend hours volunteering in their communities. Could you help plan one activity for your group? Could you share something you have experienced or a talent that you have? Do you know a speaker or entertainer the group would enjoy? Could you help with a fundraiser, introduce or thank a speaker, deliver a donation, call members, send goodwill messages, welcome people, share a joke or pick up a friend? Remember that "many hands make light work". Several branches now have co-presidents. We want to do our part for our branch but we need the time to enjoy our family, to travel and to pursue our many interests. This is retirement.

It is always heartwarming to hear that members are interested and willing to become involved at the provincial level. Having been on the board for seven years, I have had the privilege of working with many wonderful women from all parts of the province. I will miss the ones who will not be with us next year and welcome the new members to the board. RWTO/OERO is in good and capable hands. Two very special ladies that we are so fortunate to have working with us are Gloria Drake, our Executive Secretary Treasurer, and Terry Kennedy, our Insurance Broker.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Convention '14 in Ottawa in June. The Ottawa/Carleton and Lanark Branches are planning a "capital" time for you. Be prepared for some special announcements. Please carefully consider the resolutions in this newsletter and express your opinions to your delegates. They will be in Ottawa to vote as directed by your branch.

By the time you receive this newsletter, I will be in my last four months as your Provincial President. I will be continuing my branch visits and looking forward to meeting more members. There are no words to describe the pleasure and warm welcome that I have experienced visiting branches. It has made me realize just how important our unique organization for Retired Women Teachers is to you the members. We have a common bond and we "CARE and SHARE" not only for our members but also for our communities.

Thank you all for your support and kindness making this year so memorable for me.

Yours in caring and sharing,
Anne Graham

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

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Insurance Matters

The benefit year-end for the Hospital and Home Care Plan is quickly approaching and we're pleased to let you know that once again, there will be no increase to the rates for this plan. The plan continues to perform well and members continue to benefit from the various features of the plan.

Often, as we're travelling throughout the province meeting members during branch visits, questions arise that we feel may be relevant to other members. We like to use this forum to share some of those questions and answers with you.

A question recently came to us asking: "When applying for the Hospital and Home Care Plan do I need a doctor's medical?" We're pleased to tell you that, no, you aren't required to submit a physician's medical or a paramedical examination. If you are applying for the coverage and have been retired from teaching for more than a year, you need only complete the Medical Questionnaire contained within the application form. If you are still within your first year of retirement, you don't even need to complete this questionnaire as your acceptance is guaranteed.

Another question: "Do I have to be confined to my own home when I am released from the hospital to be eligible for the Convalescent Benefit?" The answer is no. If, after the required period of hospitalization, you are immediately confined to a convalescent facility for your recovery (such as a nursing home or long-term care facility), you can qualify for the Convalescent Benefit as though confined to your own home. You can use the funds you receive from the Convalescent Benefit to help offset the costs of your stay in this facility. Please keep in mind that you will not qualify for the Home Nursing Benefit, as the nursing care you receive will be part of the fee you pay to the facility.

A member expressed confusion about the Home Nursing Benefit and the nursing services provided by the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) in her area. Having recently been hospitalized for hip-replacement surgery, she was receiving support from a Registered Nurse, a Personal Support Worker and a Physiotherapist, all provided to her by the Community Care Access Centre coordinating her post-hospital care. She wondered if she was eligible for the Home Nursing Benefit because she was re-

ceiving all these services. Since in her particular case, her physician did not recommend additional nursing services to supplement those provided by the CCAC, she was not required to pay out of pocket for the nursing services she was receiving. Therefore she did not qualify for the Home Nursing Benefit. If her physician had felt that the services she was receiving were inadequate and had recommended additional supports, she could have paid for those additional services and then submitted the receipt with her claim. The Home Nursing Benefit pays 80% of the incurred cost, to a maximum of \$1,500 for any one injury or sickness.

Finally, we'd just like to close this issue of Insurance Matters with a reminder for those travelling who may become ill or injured and need to attend at a hospital while on their vacation. In this event, it is extremely important to contact your insurer's assistance company as soon as possible to ensure you don't jeopardize your Out-of-Canada Emergency Hospital/Medical Insurance coverage. The assistance company will coordinate your care, guarantee payment to the hospital and physician(s), and arrange for your transfer home, if required. This applies to all travel insurers, whether your coverage is arranged through the RWTO/OERO plan, the RTO plan, OTIP's plan, CAA, CARP or any other company you may use.



Respectfully submitted by:

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Resolutions for the 2014 Annual General Meeting

Notes:

- Resolutions that amend the constitution, which are submitted by the deadline, require a 66% majority vote of the registered delegates. Amendments without prior notice require an 80% majority vote of registered delegates - Constitution Article X - Annual meeting Section 4 (a)
- Resolutions should be discussed with your Branch membership prior to the Annual Meeting.
- Delegates should vote in accordance with their Branch opinions.

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Resolutions for the 2014 Annual General Meeting continued

RESOLUTION FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Resolution #1

Be it resolved that Constitution - Article VIII, Duties and Structures of Provincial Committees, section 3 (a) be amended to include the Honorary President as a member of the Honorary Membership Committee.

Rationale:

- The Honorary President has a wealth of knowledge concerning the past history of RWTO/OERO.
- The Honorary President has a solid knowledge of the criteria for the selection of recipients.

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE BRANCHES

Resolution #2 (from Cambridge and Mississauga Branches)

Be it resolved that Policy and Procedures - Article III, Fee Rebates to Branches, section 3b (i) be amended to read that the annual branch rebate per paid Provincial member shall be 35% of the membership fee, commencing with the 2014-2015 membership year. The rebate on the \$15.00 membership fee shall remain at \$8.00

Rationale:

- The fee rebate has not changed in six years - The 35% fee rebate would be \$14.00 per member as opposed to the present \$10.00 per member.
- Given the ever-increasing cost of meals and speakers, as well as Branches' focus on charitable activities, \$4.00 extra per member in rebates does not seem out of line.
- Since we have over \$200,000.00 in our reserve fund partly due to our huge insurance share of the profits (\$61,000.00 in 2013) and since we have a declining membership, giving more money back to the branches may help them to offer better programs and keep more members.

Resolution #3 (from Cambridge and Mississauga Branches)

Be it resolved that Policy and Procedures Article III, Fee Rebates to Branches, section 3b (ii) be amended to read that the minimum branch rebate shall be \$200.00

Rationale:

- The increase in the minimum Branch rebate would be particularly beneficial to the smaller branches.
- The impact of cost of speakers, cost of meals and cost of renting a venue is much larger on smaller branches. The increase minimum to \$200 will help smaller branches offer interesting programs and therefore help to maintain their membership.

Resolution #4 (from Lydia Snow Branch)

Be it resolved that Constitution - Article 111, Membership and

Fees, section 1 be amended to include the addition of: retired women Educational Assistants be eligible for membership in RWTO/OERO on the same basis as retired women teachers.

Rationale:

- Educational Assistants work alongside teachers as colleagues in the development and delivery of program to assist the learning of special needs and identified students.
- Educational Assistants are now required by Boards of Education to have completed a diploma as an Education Assistant or similar diploma.
- RTO Scholarships now include achieving a diploma as an Educational Assistant on the same level as ECE's and classroom teachers, reflecting the recognition of an Educational Assistant as a career choice.
- Because they are a relatively small group, there are no associations specifically for retired Educational Assistants; RWTO/OERO would provide a logical group for them to participate in after retirement.
- Allowing retired EA's to attend meetings as "guests" only would develop a two-tiered membership that would not be palatable in an equal society.
- In small communities, the addition of Educational Assistants as members would help to increase the membership in local branches to make them more viable.
- Our motto is "To Care and Share". By including colleagues who worked alongside us in the classroom, we would be living up to the spirit of our motto.

Resolution #5 (from Northumberland – South Durham Branch)

Be it resolved that Constitution - Article V, Duties of the Provincial Executive, section 1 (a) be amended to change the structure of the Executive meetings from a face-to-face meeting to a telephone or video conferencing call.

Rationale:

- This resolution would reduce the cost of travel, food, lodging and meeting room expenses. It is understood that the average cost per executive meeting is \$4,500.
- Conference calling would result in less duplication of reports for the Executive when forwarded to the Board meeting.



- The Retired Teachers of Ontario and many business organizations use conference calling due to budget restraints.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Emmett, 1st Vice-President.



'In Memoriam'

<i>NAME</i>	<i>CITY</i>	<i>BRANCH</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>CITY</i>	<i>BRANCH</i>
Adams, Marian	Guelph	Palmerston	Howard, Grace	Athens	Brockville
Allan, Reta M.	Glencoe	London-Middlesex	Hudson, Laura	Meaford	Beaver Valley
Anastasi, Carol	Mississauga	Mississauga	Huston, Mary C.	London	London-Middlesex
Attwell, Joyce	Kitchener	London-Middlesex	Hutchings, Marjorie	Smiths Falls	Gananoque
Ault, Patsy	Morrisburg	Upper Canada East	Jacques, Joan	Cambridge	Cambridge
Austin, Aline	Port Hope	Northumberland - South Duham	Jamieson, Doris	Burlington	Burlington
Baird, Audrey W.	Mississauga	Mississauga	Johnston, Sylvia	Lombardy	Lanark
Baker, Iris	Odessa	Kingston	Kays, Olga	Haliburton	York North
Bell, Jean	West Lorne	St. Thomas-Elgin	Kelley, Doreen	Paris	Brant
Benner, Ruth	Ridgeway	Niagara South	Kingsley, Marjorie	Nepean	Ottawa-Carleton
Blair, Virginia	Brockville	Gananoque	Komar, Olive	Gormley	York North
Bradley, Betty	Carp	Ottawa-Carleton	Lawrason, Marilyn	Burlington	Burlington
Brignall, Dorothy	York Harbour	Scarborough	Masyk, Jennie	Stayner	Blue Mountain
Bush, Adeline	Belleville	Trenton	McKim, Elizabeth	Leamington	Windsor-Essex
Calder, Jessie	Owen Sound	Owen Sound	McLachlan, Jacqueline	Barrie	Orillia
Campbell, Carol	Smiths Falls	Lanark	McLean, Evelyn	Exeter	Sarnia-Lambton
Caulfield, Eunice	Oakville	Oakville	McLellan, Margaret	St Thomas	Rendezvous
Charters, Marion	King City	York North	McRoberts, Ethel	Parry Sound	East Parry Sound
Chevalier, Helen	South Woodslee	Windsor-Essex	McVean, Myrtena	Perth	Gananoque
Cobleigh, Muriel	London	London-Middlesex	Miller, Helen	Blenheim	Chatham-Kent
Cotie, Bernice	Elizabethtown	Brockville	Mohr, Ivy	New Hamburg	Kitchener-Waterloo
Cottrill, Marjorie	Kincardine	South Bruce	Moses, Olive	Brantford	Brant
Coulter, Enid	Scarborough	Rendezvous	Mundy, Helen	Camlachie	Sarnia-Lambton
Courneya, Margaret	Elgin	Gananoque	Murray, Linda	Meaford	Owen Sound
Craig, Florence	Owen Sound	Warton	Nesbitt, Mary	Smiths Falls	Lanark
Crawford, Olive	Harrowsmith	Kingston	O'Shea, Isabella	Kingston	Kingston
Crinklaw, Barbara	London	London-Middlesex	Ottewell, Sharon	Kitchener	Kitchener-Waterloo
Cumming, Betty	St Thomas	St. Thomas-Elgin	Park, Marion	St Catharines	St. Catharines
Davies, Jean	Niagara Falls	Niagara Falls	Parker, Edna	Midland	Coldwater
Davis, Evelyn	Ottawa	Ottawa-Carleton	Patterson, Marjorie	Bracebridge	Muskoka
Dettweiler, Norma	Cambridge	Kitchener-Waterloo	Penno, Maureen E.	Toronto	Rendezvous
Dodd, M. Kathleen	Napanee	Napanee	Rainbird, Margaret	Creemore	Blue Mountain
Drummond, Ruth	Corbeil	East Parry Sound	Redmond, Ilene	Dundalk	Dundalk-High Pt
Dunham, Fay	Belleville	Trenton	Reid, Mabel	Kingston	Kingston
Dunn, Jean	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton	Robertson, Gwendolyn	Napanee	Napanee
Dunn, Marie	Kingston	Napanee	Rode, Pat	St Catharines	St. Catharines
Dyas, Hilda	Scarborough	Scarborough	Rose, Mary	Kinburn	Burlington
Earle, Margaret	Gananoque	Gananoque	Sansburn, Janet	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
Embury, Helen	St Catharines	St. Catharines	Scott, Evelyn	Harriston	Guelph-Wellington
English, Florence	Morrisburg	Upper Canada East	Scott, Margaret	Manotick	Ottawa-Carleton
Estey, Shirley	St Catharines	St. Catharines	Shantz, Gwen	Toronto	York North
Evans, D. Jean	Forest	Sarnia-Lambton	Shaver, Mabel	Ottawa	Upper Canada East
Ferguson, Helen	Brockville	Brockville	Shaw, Pauline	Fergus	Guelph-Wellington
Fisher, Lorraine	Toronto	Scarborough	Shepard, Alice	Palmerston	Palmerston
Foskett, Jacky	Bracebridge	Muskoka	Sherk, Dorothy	Waterloo	Kitchener-Waterloo
French, Pat	St Catharines	St. Catharines	Simmonds, Margaret	Oakville	Oakville
Garbutt, Mary	Caledon	Peel North	Simpson, Georgina	Stratford	Stratford
Gilmore, Elizabeth	Stratford	Stratford	Simpson, Marylla	North York	Scarborough
Gilmour, Alexandra	Belleville	Belleville	Sinclair, Helen	Owen Sound	Owen Sound
Grayson, Anna	Windsor	Windsor-Essex	Stoyanovich, Marjorie	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
Hankinson, Margaret	London	London-Middlesex	Stroeder, Sister Eleanor	Waterdown	Kitchener-Waterloo
Hill, June	Stratford	Stratford	Strom, Gladys	Sault Ste. Marie	Sault Ste. Marie
Hodgins-Sloan, Judith	London	London-Middlesex	Stubel, Dora	St George Brant	Brant
Horstead, Pat	Windsor	Windsor-Essex	Swan, Jean	Inwood	Sarnia-Lambton
Hough, Margaret	London	London-Middlesex			

In Memoriam' continued

<i>NAME</i>	<i>CITY</i>	<i>BRANCH</i>
Taggart, Theo	Kingston	Kingston
Taylor, Grace	Kincardine	South Bruce
Taylor, Jean	Gravenhurst	Muskoka
Taylor, Marianne	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton
Thaler, Elizabeth	Brantford	Brant
Thomas, Marjorie	Gananoque	Gananoque

<i>NAME</i>	<i>CITY</i>	<i>BRANCH</i>
Thompson, Helen	Barrie	Blue Mountain
Vandeweg, Anna	Harriston	Cambridge
Walker, Shirley	Mississauga	Mississauga
Way, Hasna	Belleville	Belleville
Wetmore, Shirley	Ottawa	Ottawa-Carleton
Wilson, Gloria	Parry Sound	East Parry Sound

News From the Branches

Cambridge

The Cambridge Branch of RWTO currently has 99 members. We meet four times a year at the Galt Golf and Country Club for lunch and also enjoy a garden party at the home of a member. This year our speakers are from the community and include a fibre artist, a hypnotist, the CEO of the Women's Crisis Services and the Chaplain of the Women's Prison. Our branch supports the Bridges, a local homeless shelter with donations of toiletries, beverages, books, magazines, hats, mitts and socks. We maintain the shelter library and provide tutoring for children of the families there and for adults needing ESL. We also support Haven House, a shelter for abused women. In 2013, we donated \$600, raised through a silent auction. Cambridge Branch has two book clubs, a day trip club and a hiking club which participates in the Bridges annual "Walk to the Future".

Guelph-Wellington

Members of the Guelph-Wellington Retired Women Teachers are actively engaged in Branch activities. Typically, 70% of members attend the luncheons and they also participate in a diverse range of interest groups. In September, we welcomed potential new members to Victoria Park East Golf Club. We enjoyed beautiful fall colours while we ate a delicious lunch and were entertained by Eve Harding, a motivational speaker. Melville United Church catered an amazing Christmas dinner in early December. GWRWT members donated generously to our annual project, Sleeping Children Around the World. Collectively, we donated a record amount of \$9950.00 which was \$200.00 more than last year. In the spring, GWRWT will host a Fashion Show to raise funds for Women in Crisis. Members will be modeling spring attire from Zack's at Stone Road Mall. Our final meeting will be a luncheon followed by Drayton Festival Theatre's production of South Pacific. Members continue to demonstrate caring and sharing in our community.

Kitchener-Waterloo

The Kitchener-Waterloo Branch has 103 members, plus six life members. We have four luncheon meetings a year along with other activities, e.g., museum visits, high tea, Court Whist. About 75 members attend our luncheons. Our September speaker was Karen Redman, former long-time Liberal MP for Kitchener Centre, who shared tales of her political life. Karen is currently Executive Director of Waterloo Region Habitat for

Humanity. November's Christmas buffet featured Peter French leading a karaoke-style carol sing-a-long. March will feature our Vice-President, Anne Cameron, speaking about her fund raising for the Teachers' Salary Project of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan. In May, "Joyologist" Bonnie Simonato, a retired special education teacher from Guelph, will share timely tips on cultivating our garden of friends. In sharing with our community, we support Marillac Place (for moms and babies) and the children's library at the Anselma House shelter which our Kitchener-Waterloo Branch established.



Listowel

Listowel Branch has four meetings per year with 21 of 26 members attending and continues to focus on "Caring and Sharing". In 2013, we supported our local food bank with food donations; purchased 13 bed kits for SCAW; contributed to the North Perth children's library; supplied 70 students in grades K to 12 with much needed school supplies, through the "Backpacks for Kids" project, initiated in 2006. In addition, all summer we gathered items for the women's shelter. In November, we met for a work session to put together 22 boxes (filled with amazing items) to give to Optimism Place. Then a lunch and social time followed. In February, we visit members who find it difficult to get out on these cold, snowy days and also members who may have had surgery or been ill. We take each one a special, sweet valentine treat. The money for these projects mainly comes from our October "silent auction". Caring and Sharing with others is really what gives our lives meaning.

Palmerston

What an exciting year for the members of the Palmerston Branch! We were surprised and honoured to receive the Barbara Bain Award at the Convention in June for increased membership! Our Branch encourages new members with exciting entertainment at our dinners. This year we heard about travels to China, were encouraged to work our brains with the Bal-a-

News From the Branches

Vis-X program and enjoyed learning about quilting from a local quilter. As well, the Branch held a Historical Day where we learned about the beginnings of RWTO/OERO and especially about our own Branch. A lot of history was shared! We are kept busy with a book club, walking club, film club and this year we went on



trips to Stratford Theatre and Deerhurst Lodge. We have purchased a total of 39 bed kits for SCAW and continue to support the Free the Children organization as well as the local hospitals with our donations of teddy bears. Branch members welcomed Area 2 Director Dianne Winkler to our dinner in the fall. Our Branch will be working with the rest of Area 2 in hosting the 2015 Convention in Stratford. Exciting days ahead!

Stratford

Caring and sharing abound in the RWTO/OERO Stratford Branch! We have adopted the Emily Murphy Centre, a second-stage housing facility for abused women and their children, as our permanent charity. Not only do our members bring donations to our General Meetings (September school supplies, November women's needs, April garden supplies), but the Busy Bees have formed to volunteer to teach knitting, quilting, drumming, etc., with the staff and clients at the centre.



We have amazing women in our group! In between regular meetings there are lots of fellowship opportunities: games afternoons, movies with the Cinema Canners, theatre outings, book club discussions, museum tours and breakfast

and luncheon get-togethers. Plans are being made to celebrate our 60th Anniversary at an Open House Tea July 23rd at Kingsway Lodge in St. Mary's, and at our September General Meeting. The RWTO/OERO 59th Annual Convention 2015 will be held in Stratford so the excitement and fun of working together on special projects continues!

Chatham

Four general meetings with luncheons and two outings are scheduled this year. Seven new retirees were honoured in September when Anne Graham was able to join us, three 90 year olds in November and one 80 year old in April. Continuing our theme of 1812, we have heard about homes and furnish-

ings from that era as well as about barn quilts. Attendance ranges from 75 to 100 people. In December, members bring donations for local food banks, the Women's Shelter or Children's Services. We support a local Special Olympics bowler through our "candy sales" (drop some change in the basket and take a sweet). Proceeds from our used-book sale at each meeting currently support "Because I'm a Girl". As part of an ongoing tradition, we engage in reciprocal visits with the St. Thomas Elgin Branch. In early December we enjoyed local theatre featuring "Seniors Greetings". In the spring a tour of the Wallaceburg and District Museum will be followed by lunch at a local restaurant

London-Middlesex

Our membership continues to grow, 180+, and we are thrilled to welcome over 100 members to our six luncheon meetings. As a designated Large Branch, we realize the responsibilities and challenge to provide a wide variety of interest groups, entertainment, speakers, programs and fun times for our diverse interests and needs. We survey our membership annually asking for input and ideas to help with planning. Our Policies and Procedures Committee is creating an updated, comprehensive Branch Handbook explaining who we are, what we do, and the roles and responsibilities of the Executive and Committees. Our interest groups include book clubs, friendship groups, choir and community outreach. Monthly Luncheon programs incorporate brief business, interesting guests and plentiful fun times as illustrated in our website photo gallery. A new Branch Award called "The Shining Star", presented annually at the Spring Banquet, recognizes a member who exemplifies RWTO/OERO, with dedicated work and efforts in "Caring and Sharing" toward our members and the community. Thanks to "idea person" Pat Savage, we have a lasting way to recognize our unsung heroines.

Sarnia-Lambton

Sarnia-Lambton has five lively meetings a year, rotating throughout our county. We were honoured to present our "Caring and Sharing" award to Noelle's Gift. This charity, in memory of Noelle Paquette, provides resources for children. An exciting branch development has been new workshops, such as the monthly iPad meet-ups, the What's for Dinner monthly cooking lesson, and a My Publisher demonstration. We plan to visit an herb farm and local winery. Our program theme is Community Matters. We have enjoyed excellent speakers from One Tomato, Foodworks and the Awesome Foundation. Our April speaker will be from The Lambton Area Water Supply System. The Christmas Bazaar was a huge success, highlighted by bake sales, cookie trays, crafts and basket draws. Our members look forward to this event every year. Our summer and spring vis-

News From the Branches

its to our over-90s, members in nursing homes or confined to homes continues to be a very special project of visiting and sharing teaching experiences. How very rewarding for both visitors and homebound members.

St. Thomas-Elgin

Our St. Thomas-Elgin Branch has had three wonderful fall meetings plus an outing to Stratford for lunch and to see "Fiddler on the Roof". In September, we had a Coffee Break at the Wayside.

Our October meeting was shared with 12 of our Chatham Kent sisters who joined us at the Lawrence Station Hall. The delicious meal was followed by an excellent presentation by our famous garden centre, Canadale's. We were shown how to decorate ourselves with scarves and how to create fall and winter urns. Our

Provincial President Anne Graham and our Area 3 Director Val Luscott attended our November meeting at the St. Thomas Golf and Country Club. Carole Watson and helpers excelled



at conducting our Quarter Raffle and Auction. The best part of this event was that each of our 99 members who attended brought an unwrapped toy for Christmas Care St. Thomas-Elgin. The gifts were very much appreciated by the donation centre staff who indicated so by saying "Your Retired Women Teachers' donations will make MANY smiles on several children of Elgin County!"

Windsor-Essex

Windsor-Essex Branch has three general membership luncheon meetings with over a third of the membership attending. The executive meets monthly. At the May luncheon, our Branch Executive was inducted. Attending our September luncheon at St. John's Parish Hall was Provincial President, Anne Graham, and Tina Wakeford, Manager of Convention Sales at Caesars Windsor. In June, we honoured our 80 plus members by treating them to an English-style-tea. Trips to Grand Bend Playhouse and Niagara Falls Theatre were organized. Guest speakers at two of our luncheons were the founder of Second Chance Ministry and a representative from Women's Enterprise Skills Training. These are non-traditional local charities which we are supporting. Through our updated website, we provide newsletters and luncheon videos to our members. At the link at the Provincial website all members can view our professional presentation. Cora Bailey awards were presented to five very deserving women throughout the year.

Rendezvous

Members of Rendezvous Branch are invited to eight monthly meetings for coffee, business and chat. We plan topics for dis-

cussion and ways to interest ladies to join our group and attend meetings. Our very successful Knit Squares for Blankets project got lots of women involved, challenging them to do something for others.

In November, we celebrated Clara Lahmer's 102nd birthday by bringing her to lunch at the Old Mill. She loved the members dancing and regaled us with stories of her years in the classroom during the drive home. The photo shows Clara and Judy Anderson (Rendezvous President & ukulele enthusiast) at Clara's celebration. After lunch, Clara and the residents of Cedarbrooke Lodge were joined by her RWTO/OERO friends for a party with a singsong and birthday cake.



Scarborough



The Scarborough Branch has had an amazing year: the highlight of which was our November 2013 Christmas Luncheon. One hundred eighty-three members and guests, including Provincial President Anne Graham and Area 5 Director Adrienne Johnson were thrilled to welcome The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and Her Honour, Mrs. Ruth Ann Onley. Their Honours both spoke and Her Honour also sang for us. A sea of Christmas gifts donated by our members for children and youth added to the festivities. Our other "Caring and Sharing" includes donating toiletries and magazines to a women's shelter, financial donations to Autism Ontario for their Christmas party and to the RTO Golf Tournament for Breakfast for Kids. Entertainment provided at every luncheon and excursions to theatres "in and out" of Toronto, as well as "out of the country" trips add to the enjoyment of our members.

York North

York North is a very active Branch with 43 Provincial members including two who retired before 1980 and one Life Member. We also have 31 local-only members. Fourteen executive members and convenors meet five times a year to plan events

News From the Branches



for our Branch. Members enjoy four lunches at the Thornhill Golf and Country Club and are entertained by travelogues, musical groups, fashion shows, guest speakers (such as hand writing analysis) and may also attend five Coffee Chats annually at the Pickle Barrel. Luncheons are used as fundraisers for our “Sharing and Caring” initiatives. These initiatives included Loonie/Toonie dish collections, used-book sales, a December gift basket raffle and donations by Fifth Avenue Jewelry consultant Barb Lesperance. These were topped up with funds from general revenues making a total donation of \$1000.00 to local food banks.

Burlington

We have created several new interest groups in the last couple of years. Some enjoy a group to share travel hints while others join fellow members for tea at local tea rooms. Our scrapbooking group meets monthly. The book club has planned trips and author talks along with an interesting reading list. The creation of winter planters was informative, fun filled and satisfying; we are already signing up for our 2014 session. At our Christmas luncheon, members continue to donate scarves, hats, socks and mittens for distribution to very appreciative Burlington schools. We are encouraging members to share their news and accomplishments through talks to our group and articles in our newsletters. We are also recognizing our volunteers through the Ontario Volunteer Awards program. As Burlington celebrates 40 years as a branch, members ages 55-103 are proud and happy to share our retirement together.



Lydia Snow

The Lydia Snow (North Halton) Branch of RWTO is an active group of 90 members who meet monthly from September to June. Members come from the communities of Acton, Milton and Georgetown. We vary the days on which we meet to try and accommodate as many members as possible. We have five luncheon meetings a year, often catered by local groups. We enjoy a wide variety of speakers and topics for our programs, some of which have included Hiking the Bruce Trail, Bizarre Food Delicacies From Around the World and Demystifying Dementia. We especially enjoyed the PENTA gathering hosted by Peel North in November. Our Christmas luncheon at a local golf club is always enjoyable and very well attended. At this function we are also able to raise a nice bit of money from our raffle table. Three

used-book sales and monthly 50/50 draws help out our finances throughout the year. We are about to begin planning our 2014-2015 year and look forward to more good times of Caring, Sharing and having Fun.

Mississauga

Mississauga Branch was delighted to welcome 40 new retired teachers this year for a grand total of 375 members. Our many interest groups continue to increase and multiply. Whether it's bridge, gardening, genealogy, art gallery tours, hiking, day trips or excursions to theatres and restaurants, we are an active branch with very involved members. We host five luncheons yearly, four of them being GM's, as well as an Annual General Meeting. We also plan other events such as the September “Meet and Greet” Social for prospective new members. At the October luncheon, our Area director Phyllis Robson, presented new members with their pins. Catherine Astolfo, retired principal turned crime writer, was the featured speaker. December's Christmas luncheon was a great success with a raffle that raised \$2,200.00 for the Mississauga Food Bank. We also proudly supported the Shoebox for Shelters initiative. Three exciting luncheons lay ahead with February's “Moodivational” speaker, Carole Bertuzzi Luciani; April's speaker, Terry Fallis author of “The Best Laid Plans”; and May's Nygard Spring Fashion Show with members as models.



Oakville

We are 67 retired women teachers strong, full of “Caring and Sharing”, fellowship and fun. We have a book club, bridge groups, a coffee and craft club, Out to Lunch Bunch, Cinematic Sisters Club (movies), walking club and G.A.R.D.E.N. Club. We received the “Feather in Your Hat” award for our “Pillowcases to Sundresses and Shorts for Third World Countries” project. We honoured Cora Bailey Award winners, Eunice Caulfield and Marion Lindars. Members entertained us with the murder mystery, “The Final Act”. We visited the Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory, celebrated Canada Day and “Caribana” (pool party), enjoyed four luncheons, listened to a speaker for Dog Guides of Canada, went to a Hallowe'en Costume Party and PENTA. Members saw the Simcoe Festival of Lights; celebrated Christmas with Frosty, Santa and the Kerr Street Singers; and enjoyed a theatre production of “Leading Ladies”. We donated to Dog Guides of Canada, Sleeping Children Around the World, the Women's Shelter and Kerr Street Ministries. Some members

News From the Branches

knitted pneumonia vests for African children. We may be small in numbers but we're mighty in our commitment to our members and others.

Peel North

What a busy and fun-filled year we have had so far. Much of this had to do with our preparation for PENTA as we were the host Branch. PENTA is an annual event put on by Area 12 when all five branches join together in November each taking turns to host. Our theme this year was "Hats off to Life, Love and Laughter". Many of those attending wore interesting hats and fascinators. Our special guests included Provincial President Anne

Goodwill Report

As we begin 2014 our Over Ninety Club for RWTO/OERO has approximately 285 members. It was a great pleasure to send out over 300 Christmas cards in December to this group and the Past Presidents. Thanks to everyone who sent cards and thank you notes in return. What wonderful stories were shared and I thoroughly enjoyed reading the many stories that were included in the warm responses of the 'Over 90' Club! In January, one of our members, Anna Reid of Owen Sound, celebrated her 100th birthday. In April, Ida McKenzie of Stratford will reach that milestone as will Thelma Hicks of Belleville in May. Congratulations to all.

Now that the days are getting longer and we are anticipating some sunshine it will be time for me to send out spring/Easter greetings to all our over-90 members and our Past Presidents. I want to take a moment to thank the Branch Presidents and

Issues & Concerns

Follow up to:

POWER OF ATTORNEY VS. EXECUTOR OF A WILL.

I received this letter from one of our RWTO members. Her experience may benefit some of us. Remember your lawyer or your bank is only a phone call away!

"My husband passed away 6 years ago. I was the executor of the will and all our worldly possessions were to be transferred to me. What I learned:

1. Power of Attorney ceases the moment the person dies. That means, it was useless to me after his passing. Because the bank account was in his name only, even though I had Power of Attorney, it had to go to probate which is costly. This is a formality but it is expensive. **ALL WORLDLY GOODS SHOULD BE IN BOTH NAMES.**
2. Before you ask a lawyer to settle the estate, **ASK WHAT IT WILL COST TO DO SO.** I chose the lawyer who made up our will a couple of years earlier. It was very simple as we were executors to one another. It never occurred to me to

Graham, our Area Director Phyllis Robson and Judy Suke who entertained with the topic "Let Laughter Lighten the Load". Our Christmas meeting found us relaxed and in the spirit of the season. We had a Mini Christmas Market, a traditional carol sing and a sharing of Christmas memories while enjoying a sumptuous turkey dinner. Our two spring meetings will include the presentation of the Cora Bailey Award in April and our Memorial Service in May. A wide variety of programs this year have added interest to our General Meetings. These included making our own fascinating fascinators, hearing about "Scammer Defense for Seniors" from a Peel Police officer and sharing our Christmas memories and carol sing.

Goodwill Convenors who continue to keep our Secretary-Treasurer Gloria Drake informed of any changes in the list of our over-ninety members. It is very important that we keep our list and addresses current.

It has been a great pleasure to be the RWTO/OERO Provincial Goodwill Convenor for 2012-2013. I wish everyone the best in the coming months.



Dianne Rice,
Second Vice-President/
Goodwill Convenor

ask what it will cost to settle the estate. I never even saw the lawyer, I only dealt with the legal clerk.

The bill was \$3,900.00. After my complaint, it was reduced to \$3,600.00. I still felt this was way too much. There could not have been that much work; there was not that much to transfer. Therefore, I went to court. Justice prevailed and the judge reduced my bill to \$ 800.00."

I thank you for sharing your experience with our members.



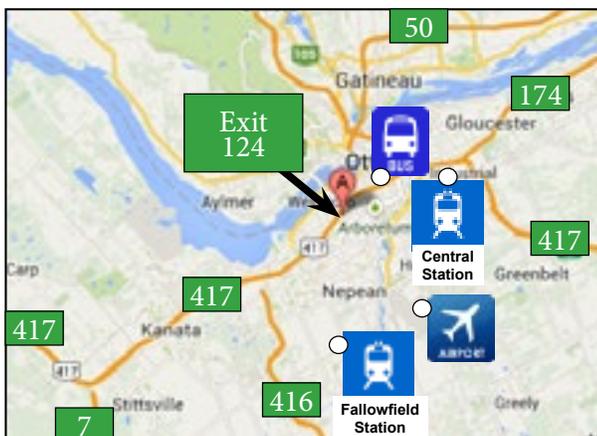
Judy Drummond,
Issues and Concerns Convenor
jjdrum@explornet.com,
613-275-1354.

Travelodge Hotel, 1376 Carling Avenue



From the W, N-W:
Hwy 7 or 17 to 417, Exit 124, past lights at Kirkwood, hotel on the right side of Carling Ave.
From the S-W, S:
Hwy 401 to 416 to 417, Exit 124 as above.

Directions:



There is no shuttle service from the airport or train and bus stations. Please use taxis or consult Ottawa bus service at: www.octranspo.com and use the Advanced Travel Planner.

Convention Workshops: Tues. June 3, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Workshop #1 – “Newzy Bits”

Sharing ideas for use in your Branch Newsletter
Leader: Mardie Panabaker, Hamilton-Wentworth Br.
Provincial Communications Coordinator

Workshop #2 – “Be Our Guest”

Ideas and activities to attract and welcome new members
Leaders: Annette Rhodes, Hamilton-Wentworth Br.
Past Provincial President
Sandie Bender, Hamilton-Wentworth Br.
Past Branch President

Workshop #3 – “How Can We Help?” Provincial Direction

Go to any one or all of the following:

How to ‘Excel’ with Excel, pointers in using Excel
Secretary Treasurer: Gloria Drake

Health Matters: Discussion of health insurance questions
Insurance Convenors: Nancy Iannizzi, Bertha Breen

Sharing ideas about keeping branch archives
Archivist: Lois Lockhart

Sharing ideas for encouraging new leadership in branch executives.

Directors: Kay-Anne Broger (Area 6)
Adrienne Johnson (Area 5)

Tours, Wednesday, June 4, 2014

Price \$50.00 extra, not included in the Full Package price.
The tour lunch will be served at the Hotel before boarding buses for:

#1 National Gallery of Canada

Built in 1988 with architect Moshe Safdie’s inspiration, our National Gallery of Canada is a grand, light-filled structure of glass and granite where visitors can view 36,000 works of art from the Group of Seven, old European masters and Inuit sculptures to arresting works in every medium by contemporary artists, Canadian and otherwise. You can also relax and enjoy its beautiful cloistered garden courtyard, a glass-bot-tomed pool and a reconstructed 19th century chapel.



#2 Canadian War Museum

Completed in 2005, the Canadian War Museum’s dramatic architecture by Toronto’s Raymond Moriyama and Ottawa’s Alexander Rankin is a showcase for its vast art collection and its extensive artifact collection. Human conflict is explored through personal stories, art, artifacts, photographs and interactive presentations. Come see the models for the Vimy Monument and the unique architecture around the stone of the unknown soldier.



#3 Canadian Museum of Nature

Constructed between 1905 and 1912 with architect David Ewart behind its grandeur, the Canadian Museum of Nature was the home of Parliament when the Parliament Buildings burned in 1919. In 2011, it was renovated with architects Barry Podolsky, Marc Letellier, Bruce Kuwabara and project manager, Louise McGugan involved. Many of the treasures in the more than 10M specimen collection are one-of-a-kind and cover four billion years of earth’s history. Its natural history collection includes rare fossils, live animals, wonders of the earth and ocean. The entranceway is topped with a glass lantern dedicated to the 60-year reign of Queen Elizabeth.



#4 Canadian Museum of Civilization

An Architectural jewel designed by Douglas Cardinal and built in 1988, the Museum of Civilization, soon to be renamed the Canadian Museum of History, draws more than one million visitors per year. Explore a thousand years of history through life-size reconstructions while you acquaint yourself with some of the remarkable individuals who have shaped our nation and explore the traditions and achievements of our first Nations.



#5 Tour of the City of Ottawa

Travel by coach bus along the Ottawa River to see the beauty of Ottawa, with its amazing architecture. Featured in the tour are the Canadian War Museum, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Parliament Buildings, the National Gallery of Canada, the National War Memorial, the Canadian Museum of Nature, the Rideau Canal, Dow’s Lake, the Arboretum and the Experimental Farm. You will be able to leave the bus at some locations to walk a little if you wish.





Membership Matters

Keeping our membership strong is an ongoing process. In order to keep the members we have, branches need to have engaging programs that meet the needs of their members. Have you recently surveyed your members to evaluate how your branch is doing? Asking members for suggestions may be helpful in coming up with new ways to become involved and have fun.

Unfortunately we lose some members each year because of the nature of our group. We need to keep up with ideas to add new members to keep our membership strong. We can each do our part. Wear your membership pin and tell people you meet about RWTO/OERO and its various activities. You may reach someone who didn't know about our wonderful organization. Submit articles and photos to local newspapers about upcoming meetings, guest speakers, charitable activities and special programs. Make sure that your branch keeps its information up to date on the Provincial website and be sure to add photos. If you haven't placed an advertisement in a newspaper or magazine yet, you might want to give it a try. Some branches are also printing business cards that are convenient to hand out to prospective mem-

bers or post on bulletin boards in the community. I have templates for an advertisement and business cards that I will email to you upon request. The templates can easily be modified with your branch information.

The membership committee is pleased with the number of submissions for the Feather in your Hat award. The winners will be announced at the Convention in June. I look forward to seeing many of you there.



Phyllis Robson,
Provincial Membership Convenor
E-mail: probson1@cogeco.ca



RWTO/OERO

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**PM Agreement
40739021**