

Connections

March 2016



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



outreach



sisterhood



thoughtful



laughter



Caring



friendship



companionship



fun



Sharing



encouragement



active



committed



involvement



President's Message

We are Sixty! Sixty years of women working with women for the benefit of women. In May 1937, some retired women teachers in Toronto decided to meet for fun and fellowship calling themselves the Rendezvous Club. They were the first group of retired women teachers ever organized in Ontario.

After the Great Depression and the inflation rate created by WWII, it soon became obvious to this group that there was extreme need among some retired women teachers. It was at that time the purpose of the group turned toward improving pensions. The Teachers' Superannuation Commission and the Provincial Government were approached to no avail. A larger, stronger organization was needed in order to be given a hearing. Anna Hunter and Bena McCowan took on the challenge, writing letters to pensioners across Ontario, asking if there was interest in forming a provincial organization. The rest, as they say, is history.

On April 3, 1956, Rendezvous hosted representatives from a number of centres across the province and the Ontario Provincial Association of Retired Women Teachers was born with Bena McCowan our first Provincial President. Over the next 10 years well-written and informative briefs were presented to the legislature without success. Then, in 1967, the minimum pension was raised to \$1,200 and the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers, formerly known as Ontario Provincial Association of Retired Women Teachers, was given the credit for this major breakthrough. However this was for future pensions and did not help those already retired and in need. More needed to be done. W. L.

*Dianne Rice,
Provincial President*



Hanna said: "How often has failure turned into real success through the unconquerable courage and will power of the determined spirit." These women certainly had that.

As a result, today we all benefit from the persistent and diligent work of those first members and the dedication of their successors and our members throughout the province. We have developed a constitution, added an insurance program, changed our name to RWTO/OERO, and developed branches and areas. Our major focus continues to be on "Caring and Sharing" supporting charities that help women and children in need and in crisis. We also continue to support and honour the more senior members in our own ranks.

We have every reason to be proud of our accomplishments in our first 60 years. It is my great honour and privilege to be your Provincial President this Diamond Jubilee year. As we celebrate this year, let us understand and know our history. Know that service for others has always been and will continue to be most important to our organization and that the contributions large and small of each and every one of our members matter.

Happy Diamond Jubilee!

*Dianne Rice,
Provincial President*

Membership

As we celebrate our 60th Anniversary, it is an appropriate time to reflect upon the past years and ask ourselves whether RWTO/OERO is better for the years we have spent as an organization for retired women teachers, whether we have grown in our purpose and in our relevancy.

In April 1956, representatives from 12 areas recognized the need for action and came to Toronto with the intention of organizing retired women teachers, calling themselves the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers. As Lee Beech reports in Uncommon Women, by the early 1970s, the organization had over 2,900 members and 38 branches. Since that time, membership has steadily grown to the present numbers of more than 5,000 members and 52 branches.

Although the organization began through the initiative of

the Rendezvous Club with the goal of improving pensions for retired women teachers, our goals today remain those of helping women and their children locally, nationally and internationally. One only needs to read the annual reports submitted by the 52 branches to see how diverse our help is and how innovative branch projects can be. Be proud of your branch and the difference that you make. Continue to do what you do so well. Happy Anniversary!

*Kay-Anne Broger,
Provincial Membership Convenor*



Insurance Report - 60th Anniversary! A time to reflect ... a time to look forward

As I write this current article it is the beginning of 2016. The beginning of a new year is a time for reflection. It's a time to consider what we've accomplished in the years gone by and to consider what we're moving toward in the future.

2016 is also a celebratory time for RWTO/OERO as we honour our 60th Anniversary. What a party it will be as we gather in Windsor in June to commemorate the occasion! For your Insurance Team, it is also a time for us to reflect on our insurance program ... why and how it came to be; how it has changed over the years and how it will change as our Provincial Insurance Plan changes and needs change.

And how it has changed! Your insurance program first came into being in 1974. Back then, Norma Hackett of Windsor lobbied for an insurance plan that would assist members to maintain their independence as many retired women teachers lived alone by choice or because they outlived their spouses. Norma maintained that women teachers were (and they still are) an independent breed and she felt health care costs stood to jeopardize that independence. She believed that the RWTO/OERO Hospital and Home Care Plan was, at that time, the only plan to address post-hospital home care problems and needs and that, next to Extended Health Insurance, post-hospital home care protection is the most important personal protection retired women can have.

Since 1974, at the plan's inception, the RWTO/OERO has maintained this plan to provide comprehensive coverage to members and their spouses. Over the years it has seen many changes; changes that have enhanced and improved the plan and changes to reflect changes in Provincial Health Care (OHIP). Benefit amounts have increased and new benefits have been added to the plan. Likewise, insurers have changed over the years. In 2001, the insurer was Industrial Alliance. In 2002, Liberty Health became the insurer for the plan when they agreed to enter into a Profit Sharing Arrangement with the association. As the insurance industry expanded through acquisitions, Liberty Health was acquired by Maritime Life which became the insurer for the RWTO/OERO insurance plans. Maritime Life was subsequently acquired by Manulife Financial which remains the insurer today.

I reflect on the growth of the plan and how the Profit Sharing Arrangement has benefitted the association and its members. In 2003, when the financial position of the plan was finalized for the year, the plan generated a payment of \$14,495 to RWTO/OERO. At last year's convention in beautiful Stratford, Ontario, a Profit Sharing cheque in the amount of \$62,516.90 was presented. We've come a long way!

Where are we going in the future? The Ontario Government has announced that there will be changes to the way home care is delivered in Ontario. The current Community Care

Access Centres (CCACs), now under the direction of the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) and reporting to the Ministry of Health, will be eliminated with the LHINs taking over the role that the CCACs previously provided. The intention is to remove a layer of administration and to streamline operations to provide better home care when it is needed. We will be watching this evolution very carefully to determine how the RWTO/OERO Hospital and Home Care Plan needs to change to meet the needs of our members and their spouses in this new environment. If new benefits are required or benefit amounts need to be expanded, we'll be examining those and making recommendations to your Board of Directors and Executive. Sometimes, these changes come with a slight cost increase. As always, it is our objective to deliver to the membership good value for the dollars they spend on the insurance program. I'm pleased to advise that for 2016 the Hospital and Home Care Plan has again renewed with no change in premium.

So it is with great excitement and anticipation that we move forward into a new year. Your Insurance Team is Provincial Insurance Convenor Bertha Breen, Assistant Insurance Convenor Donna Hemeon and our Broker Terry Kennedy of the Dolphin Consulting Group. We're looking forward to seeing you at Convention 2016 in Windsor!

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Issues and Concerns - Over the Years

Before our organization changed its name to RWTO/OERO it was called the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers (OASWT). It is fair to say that in the early days, OASWT focused on getting our organization on its feet. The driving issue was pension concerns for both previously retired women teachers and new retirees. The women spearheading this journey were strong, determined individuals, who continued to lobby for suitable pensions for all retired women teachers

Other issues lay ahead. Lee Beech reports, in Uncommon Women, that at the London Convention in 1957-1958, "there was interest in developing regional conferences to educate retired women about issues of relevance ... during this period, the question of insurance to supplement the Ontario Hospital and Blue Cross plans was raised. Our predecessors took an active concern in issues affecting their members."

We now celebrate 60 years of active engagement in this mission. We address the topics you talk about at branch meetings: health and wellness, financial and estate issues, living on a pension, affordable housing, modern technology and its usefulness, daily living, social activities and travel, to name just a few. Your input has assisted the writers of "Issues and Concerns" articles found in our newsletter *Connections*.

Many topics which you may want to revisit are still pertinent today, including: Elder Abuse (Sept. 2007, Sept. 2011); Health and Wellness Issues: "Me – Then and Now"

(Sept. 2010), "Pills, Pills and More Pills" (Nov. 2010), "Osteoporosis" (March 2011), "Immunizations" (Dec. 2012), "Body Image in Seniors" (Sept. 2013), "Arthritis" (Sept. 2014), "Ovarian Cancer" (Dec. 2014); Retirement Residences (Nov. 2008); Financial and Estate Matters: HST (Nov. 2009), Power of Attorney (Sept. 2010), Financial Security in Retirement (March 2012), Making Donations Count to Charities (Sept. 2012), Power of Attorney vs Executor of a Will (Dec. 2013), Follow Up to Power of Attorney (Dec. 2014), New Probate Filing Rules (Sept. 2015); Parenting Grandchildren (March 2013); Daily Living: "Decluttering" (March 2015), "Senior Shopping" (Dec. 2015). These back issues are located on the RWTO/OERO website at www.rwto.org/news.asp.

Special thanks to Lenora (Lee) Beech, author of Uncommon Women, to RWTO/OERO for documenting early issues in Chalk, Challenge and Change and to the authors of *Connections*' "Issues and Concerns" from 2007-2015.

Karen Rynard,
Issues and Concerns Convenor



Archivist

Since I love history and I love learning, being the Archivist of RWTO/OERO has been a pleasure and an honour.

Recently Branch Executive Members have contacted me to see if I could assist them in finding information about a member that the branch wants to honour with a special award. The Provincial Executive does not keep a record of individual members unless they have served in positions at the Provincial Level, but there may be information in past issues of *Connections*. This may be the time for individual branches to have an archivist who will write the history of their RWTO/OERO branch.

As RWTO/OERO celebrates its 60th Anniversary this year, the history of RWTO/OERO has been preserved and is located at York University in the Clara Thomas Archives. Every five years RWTO/OERO information is added to the Archives. This includes AGM minutes and the minutes and

reports of the Executive and Board meetings; copies of *Connections*, binders profiling recipients of the Cora Bailey and the Honorary Membership Awards. Copies are available of Uncommon Women. Author Lenora M. Beech visited the archives to write this history of RWTO/OERO. A seven-page brief history, highlighting the changes in RWTO/OERO, is also available on the website at www.rwto.org/history.asp.

Sharron Colter,
Provincial Archivist



St. Catharines:
two-part fashion show
with clothing from six
decades, modelled by
Past Presidents

Durham North:
Old English High Tea
with Millie Morton,
author of Grace

Dundalk-High Point:
Provincial President,
memory lane, cake,
Cora Bailey Awards.

Central Algoma:
luncheon/tea with
50s clothing

Warton: collecting
and publishing the
stories/memoirs of
our teaching
experiences

Niagara South:
"Denim and
Diamonds" and much
smiling and laughter

Gananoque:
40 members strong,
used our gift to
purchase a 60th pin
for each member

Upper Canada East:
golf course lunch with
60th decorations, and
entertainment

Guelph-Wellington:
lunch/tea, viewing of 2005
fashion show of teacher's
dress from the 60s to
the 90s, filmed in our
younger, slimmer days

Chatham-Kent:
Celebration of what
women teachers have
brought to Ontario
education.

York North:
Ongoing displays of photos,
using the anniversary gift
for photo printing and
bulletin board supplies

Peterborough:
luncheon with
old/new fashion
show, a silent auction
and a booklet
of members' stories.

Ottawa-Carleton:
"Puttin' On The
Glitz" luncheon,
over 80s, music
over the years

Muskoka:
shared memories and a
"Carnation to Remember"
what RWTO represents

Lincoln West:
luncheon party
celebration

Northumberland-South
Durham: Victorian Tea,
music, yummy cake,
special presentations

Orillia: celebrating
fashions of the 50's,
wearing fancy hats
at high tea social!

Brant: "Those Were the
Days" banquet, with
mementos from our
members' teaching days,
Prov. President and Prov.
Archivist re: RWTO/OERO
history

Trenton: year-long
celebration 'Diamonds in
our Midst', with guests,
tours, venues and special
fundraising

Lanark: Prov.
President,
luncheon, photos of
members 60 years
ago. Fun!

Cambridge:
Year-long: luncheons, Past
Presidents, archives,
stories, history in song.

Blue Mountain:
complimentary
luncheon and tea-
tasting party

Niagara Falls:
guest A.D. Judith Bennoch,
"Diamonds" jeweller
demo, prizes

South Bruce:
TBD, but will be
wonderful

Stratford: with
Prov. President, Area
2 Director, anniversary
cake and 60th pins

Burlington: Spring
birthday cake, "diamond glitz",
history of RWTO/OERO, new "gift"
retractable banner

Napanee and Kingston:
Museum tea, tour, book
talk, entertainment and
individual branch
meetings

Peel North:
Shhh,
it's a surprise!

Hamilton-Wentworth:
High Tea, skit, fascinators,
music and memorabilia

Kitchener-Waterloo:
May celebration
with cake and
anniversary pin

London-Middlesex:
special guests and
concerts at our
new venue



"We are Celebrating"!

“Spring Fling” in the Branches

Area 1

Beaver Valley

Beaver Valley Branch members are ready to fling into spring. We ended 2015 with a festive turkey dinner enjoyed by 23 ladies. Dianne Rice was our special guest and her speech was very entertaining. For 2016, we have included seven breakfast socials, four lunch outings, a movie afternoon, a wine and cheese social, our annual picnic and a Christmas dinner. We look forward to celebrating RWTO/OERO's 60th Anniversary, complete with cake at a member's nearby cottage. Everyone will be asked to share a memory from her early teaching days. Two of our members have published books: Patricia Kortland's historical novel, Inn the Beginning, recounts the challenges and rewards of an Irish father and his daughter as they immigrated from Ireland in the 1800s and settled in Upper Canada, and Kay O'Neil's book, The Birth of Kerry's Place: the First Treatment Centre in Canada for Persons Diagnosed with Autism. We also celebrate our annual art camp that enriches the lives of 30 children every summer.

Flesherton

The lengthening days and shrinking snowbanks are signs that spring is near. Monthly well-attended meetings continue and special events, such as Hallowe'en, provided an opportunity to gather and enjoy sweet treats. Sadly, over the summer we mourned the loss of our long-standing member, Susan MacKinnon, at the age of 95. We will forever remember her wit and humour. Our “Caring and Sharing” is well under way with varied presentations such as telephone safety and plan a plant exchange in June. Members will attend Convention 2016 in Windsor, and in mid-summer gather with members from nearby branches for our annual picnic at Inglis Falls, near Owen Sound. We continue to support local foodbanks and other groups in need and provide awards at each of our elementary schools. Finally we look forward, along with other members, to celebrating and gathering memories in this, our 60th year.

Dundalk-Highpoint

Dundalk-Highpoint Branch is looking forward to celebrating RWTO/OERO's 60th birthday. The highlight of our September meeting was a visit to a one-room schoolhouse at Grey Roots Museum in Owen Sound. It was a nostalgic event for those of us who attended and/or taught in such a facility. It set the stage for “a walk down memory lane” in

this Anniversary year. The theme for our April 18 meeting is “The Way We Were”. Members have been asked to bring a one-page account of memories or particular highlights of their teaching career. These will be shared then placed in a booklet and become part of our archives. We are also having a display of teaching memorabilia. Birthday cake, candles, balloons and party favours will naturally be part of the celebration. Happy 60th, RWTO/OERO!

Owen Sound

Greetings from snowy Owen Sound and Area! Our branch has had a successful year so far, with a new president and a new venue. At our September meeting, Mary Morton entertained with her “One Room Schoolhouse” presentation. In November, Knox Bells of Praise, a handbell choir from Meaford, put on an enjoyable concert. We also placed a wreath at our local cenotaph on Remembrance Day. Our decorating committee, known for spectacular centrepieces, offered a Christmas Box Decorating craft afternoon. It was held at Seasons Retirement Home, and some Seasons' residents joined our lively group. All who attended went home with a beautifully wrapped Christmas box. What talent! Our annual Christmas buffet lunch was at Stone Tree Restaurant, where laughter and lively conversations accompanied a delicious luncheon. This winter we will learn about therapy dogs at our March luncheon. I'm sure our excursion committee will have some more interesting activities for us to enjoy as well!



South Bruce

Our 2015 year began with our spring meeting at Chalmers Church near Kincardine with 22 enjoying a turkey dinner. At our Christmas tea, a donation was given to “Our Kids Bruce Grey Foundation” and to Bruce Presbytery for the refugee families coming to live in Kincardine. We support the Saugeen Grannies, an organization affiliated with the Stephen Lewis Foundation, with gently used jewellery. Our raffles, book exchange and donations to our local food bank aid others. We enjoyed the Christmas crafts made at our fall

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“Spring Fling” in the Branches - Continued



meeting which were demonstrated by two of our members. Thanks to the volunteers who made Christmas visits to our members in retirement homes, who are no longer able to attend our meetings. We were pleased to have three new members join our group last fall. Plans are in progress to celebrate RWTO/OERO 60th Anniversary.

Warton

The Warton Branch serves retired women teachers from Tobermory at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula, to Chesley, 150 km. to the south. We support two women's shelter houses, two food banks and two fall fairs. About 40 of our 55 members attend most of our four lunch meetings held in church halls and community centres, including an annual summer picnic at famed Inglis Falls with our twin Flesherton Branch. We have educational speakers and musical programs with choirs, trumpeters, guitarists and pianists.



We enjoy sharing great social times, including a tour of the Bruce County Museum at Southampton. We are so proud of our President, Sharron Colter, who has been serving as Area 1 Director and Provincial Archivist. Members anticipate spring as they fling themselves into branch activities and complete their short biographies of their teaching careers for our celebration of the RWTO/OERO 60th Anniversary.

Area 4

Brant

Dr. Michael Ackerman from Wilfrid Laurier University and Kathy Poirier from the Grand River Council on Aging captivated our autumn breakfast meeting with a segment called "Tell Me a Story". Four RWTO/OERO members, aspiring writers all, enrolled in a pilot project partnering seniors with university students. In September, we visited St. Catharines RWTO/OERO for luncheon. Lunch at Quehl's in Tavistock, then day tripping in Stratford were October's events. Our November visit to Burlington's Holland Park featured Christmas decor. January's famous Court Whist/Potluck is up next. February holds two events: a

lunch/auction with Hamilton/Wentworth and a breakfast/tour at Tranquility Place Senior's Residence. April's Spring Banquet highlights the 60th Anniversary with special guests Provincial President



Dianne Rice and Provincial Archivist Sharron Colter. Port Dover and the Lighthouse Theatre will be enjoyed in May. Our membership continues to model "Caring and Sharing".

Haldimand

“Spring Fling – Haldimand Style!”

When spring days arrive in Haldimand County
We rejoice as Mother Nature shares all her bounty.
RWTO/OERO friends gather for a delicious May lunch
We retired women teachers are an excited bunch
Finally to be out in the fresh country air
And to see grass and flowers EVERYWHERE!
Our waterways sparkle, Lake Erie and the River Grand,
We enjoy local produce grown in Haldimand clay and sand.
There are smiles and happy greetings and the
RWTO/OERO gals
Bring donations for good causes – even animal pals.
Some have been sewing through the winter at Peg's
So we add to our projects, lap quilts to warm older legs!
Food banks, Early Learning Centres, women's shelters too
We are glad to collect and deliver lots, and we do.
For all, the lunch meeting in spring is a welcome fling,
And sharing kindness with others is a Haldimand thing!

Hamilton-Wentworth



Spring is in the air in Hamilton-Wentworth! We're preparing for our April 13 "Diamond Jubilee High Tea". A workshop is being offered so members can create sensational floral fascinators to wear. Our writing team has prepared a skit, reenacting the 1956 Rendezvous Club bridge game, where the seeds were sown for the creation of RWTO/OERO. Period clothing and music will enhance this trip through memory lane. Finger sandwiches, sweets and tea are to be served, as beautiful

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“Spring Fling” in the Branches - Continued

sounds of harp and flute fill the room. Archival displays include a memory board of school memorabilia from such Hamilton-schooled icons as TVO host Steve Paikin, actor Patrick McKenna, singer-songwriter Robin Magder Pierce, award-winning author Terry Fallis and the amazing Diane Dupuy of 'Famous People Players'. Past and present Cora Bailey recipients and Past Presidents and guests, including Provincial President Dianne Rice, Area 4 Director Judith Bennoch and our special Over 90s members, will be attending. It's a celebration! Cheers!

Lincoln West



Our branch has grown to over 50 members and so we are pleased we can send two members to Convention this year. In September, our Area Director Judith Bennoch joined us as we learned about Habitat for Humanity. Then in November, our President Dianne Rice, joined us for our Christmas luncheon. The picture shows Dianne and some of the members. We gave many new books to West Lincoln Community Care. We have started a new item on our agenda: we have a Member Moment. Laurena Brouwer was our first speaker to attempt this. She spoke of her years of teaching and how she had to step down as Principal once a degree was required. She noted how far we have come in providing for retired teachers, who once had very little on which to live.

Niagara Falls

As we all look forward to spring with its new opportunities and the warmth it will bring, our group must applaud the past few weeks. At our annual Christmas meeting we honoured June Thomas with the Cora Bailey Award. June has been a member whose kindness, energy and hard work have made all of our meetings a pleasure. We also anticipate upcoming events, including a Valentine's luncheon buffet, a relaxing good old-fashioned visit. We initiated this event

last year and it has been a great success! We plan to celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of RWTO/OERO at our April meeting when a local jewellery expert will speak to us about diamonds! Our May meeting includes the ever-popular Penny Sale, organized by June Thomas. In “Caring and Sharing”, we wish everyone all the best as we “Spring into Spring”.



Niagara South

The Niagara South Branch members enjoyed a Christmas floral-arranging session in December at which we had the pleasure of 2nd Vice-President Lois Lockhart and her friend Sharon Craven attending. We are looking forward to welcoming President Dianne Rice to our spring meeting in April to celebrate our 60th Anniversary with the theme of “Denim and Diamonds”.

Alison Brown of A. P. Brown Jewelers will be our guest speaker and donations for Women's Place will be collected. In June, we will meet at the Roselawn Centre in Port Colborne for lunch and a live musical comedy production called *Fitz Happens*. In Niagara South, we are “Caring and Sharing” with lots of smiles and laughter.



St. Catharines

What an exciting year for St. Catharines Branch! September's luncheon featured Lisa Lubin singing and playing her steel drum. In October, Mayor Walter Sendzik spoke to us about the forward-thinking Strategic Plan for the City of St. Catharines. At our Christmas lunch, our generous group raised \$5,000 for Community Care of St. Catharines, beating last year's record. We enjoyed Christmas music provided by two former teachers, Tom and Fran Inglis. During December, members wrapped Christmas presents at a local mall for the Arthritis Society and many volunteered with the local Toy Bureau. Our 60th Anniversary celebration in April, will spotlight our Past Presidents, dressed in period costume from the 1950s to 2000, followed

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“Spring Fling” in the Branches - Continued



by a modern fashion show with members modelling. In May, we have two events: the Rankin Run for Cancer, with proceeds going to local community hospitals, and our AGM, with ‘In Memoriam’ and change of Executive.

Area 7

Belleville Branch

February is that time when thoughts of spring begin to germinate. Belleville Branch planted many seeds of hope this year through members' altruism in providing over \$1,200 worth of hygiene products for marginalized high schoolers and over \$1,300 worth of new



winter clothing for elementary students. Members planted seeds of hope for a daycare in the Dominican Republic by providing over \$600 worth of school supplies. The seeds of “Caring and Sharing” are visible in our many interest groups where friendship is grown. We pay homage to our perennial long-time bloomers like Alice Heasman, who turned 107, and Phyllis May, who celebrated 100 years. As spring approaches, Belleville Branch looks forward to cultivating awareness of the local environment at our April meeting and celebrating our 60 years of success at our June meeting. Spring is in the air!

Durham North

We are excited and looking forward to spring in Durham North. We are planning a High Tea celebration of our 60th Anniversary, hopefully at the Lucy Maude Montgomery Museum in Leaskdale, Ontario. Personal invitations have been made for each of our members and we are looking forward to this. In November, a few of our executive visited with member Audrey Lee to celebrate her 100th birthday. Audrey shared stories about teaching and RWTO/OERO 60 years ago! We have started a euchre group and a quilting group. The quilting group is making small quilt tops for Victoria Quilts. We meet the second Wednesday of each month for lunch at the Sunderland Roadside Diner and we look forward to our spring luncheon with guest speaker

Millie Morton, the author of the book *Grace*. Durham North eagerly anticipates spring.

Northumberland-South Durham

To quote Provincial President Dianne Rice, Northumberland-South Durham Branch is “dreaming big” with year-long festivities. Our Birthday Party celebration, an annual outreach event, occurred June 9, 2015, at Seasons Retirement Home in Bowmanville. In September, Area Director Karen Rynard spoke beautifully and gave heart-felt encouragement when she installed the new Executive. As well, Astrida Jenkinson-Chalmers received the Cora Bailey Award, a well-deserved recipient. Our Christmas meeting included a Quarter Auction led by auctioneer Jean Axcell of Peterborough Branch who performed brilliantly. President Dianne Rice, in attendance wearing her Anniversary “diamonds”, spoke passionately of RWTO/OERO and its mandate. Our theme of spring is developed with a presentation on flowers and gardens in April to be followed by our June celebration.

Peterborough



Our general meetings vary in content. In September, speaker Dr. Helen Scott talked about improving maternal and child care in Third World countries. What a treat when harpist Angie Ottwell entertained at a luncheon! At a special Christmas event, with guest Area Director Karen Rynard, we enjoyed carols and several fund raising activities to benefit the Pediatric Unit of PRHC, The Salvation Army, Cameron House and Reframe Festival. March brings Games, Crafts and Goodies at Grace United Church and, in April, Jean Axwell heads our 60th Anniversary celebration. Provincial President Dianne Rice will attend our May Annual General Meeting, when speaker Dr. Carlyle Smith will discuss Sleep Research. In July, we usually attend 4th Line Theatre. Lastly, some members have joined our new interest group, the

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“Spring Fling” in the Branches - Continued

Merry Mattress Makers, have attended The Producers and will walk in “The Coldest Night of the Year”.

Trenton

The planning committee of Trenton and District sprang into action with exciting and varied programs by local people. The 60th Anniversary began with a visit from an Ice Princess, who sold ice cubes for a chance to win a pair of beautiful earrings. Other programs included a diamond expert, an entrepreneur in sprouting seeds and a local Sweet Adeline Chorus. Our spring plans include a photojournalist and a

legacy videographer. A major fundraiser will be a Spring Bling Fling where our members are invited to donate used jewellery, scarves and purses for a donation-type sale. Proceeds will be given to our local Trenton Hospital Foundation. Our members and guests are great at upholding our RWTO/OERO motto!



Communications

How our methods of communicating the RWTO/OERO message have evolved! From hand-written one-page newsletters, authored and mailed by our first President, to the professional mailed/mailed 16-page spread that we presently enjoy. If you receive your newsletter via email, please keep space in your inbox by deleting any old, unnecessary messages. In 1956, a website was not even imagined, yet we can now track events in 52 branches with the click of a mouse. Thank you to all communicators, both past and present, who work(ed) tirelessly to keep us “connected”.

And ... we have a winner! Jennifer Davis, the Communications Convenor for Belleville Branch, sent the 5,000th email to rwtoconnections@gmail.com this year. Congratulations, Jennifer! Your prize is in the mail.

Mardie Panabaker,
Provincial Communications Convenor



Goodwill

Helen Hayes said that age is not important unless you're a cheese. We believe that age is worth celebrating, especially if you are one of our Over 90s. In this, our 60th Anniversary year, 37 members will celebrate their 90th birthday, bringing the number to 295. Thanks Gloria for the update!

In November, December, January and February, 80 birthday cards were sent. Donelda Mackey, Audrey Lee and Kathleen Fritz celebrated their 100th birthday. Flowers marking this milestone were delivered, thanks to their local branches. Special congratulations to Bessie Smith, Clara Lahmer, Dorothy Brush, Anna Reid, Isabel Grant, Muriel McRae and Frances McCallum, Olive Morden, Margaret Barclay, Clara Tupper, Bertha Kay Tuckwell, Ida McKenzie, Edith Parsons, Mary Childs, Thelma Hicks, and Jean Morrison, all of whom celebrated more than 100 years. An extra special mention goes to Alice Heasman and Alice Bullard who turned 107 years old. Congratulations ladies!

In December, we also sent Christmas greetings to our Over 90s. I would like to thank my local “elves” for helping with envelope addressing. One request is that branches remain diligent in maintaining contact with members so we are informed when they experience life changes.

2016 is an exciting year of celebration as we plan special events across Ontario to mark the organization's 60th Anniversary. “Caring and Sharing” is our motto and Goodwill has been an important way to enact this motto.

Lois Lockhart,
Provincial Goodwill Convenor



'In Memoriam'

NAME	CITY	BRANCH	NAME	CITY	BRANCH
Abrahams, Helen	Richmond Hill	Pay Direct	MacKinnon, Susan	Markdale	Flesherton
Appleton, G. Fredericka	Gravenhurst	Muskoka	Mahabir, Dawne	London	London-Middlesex
Beeler, Audrey	Bracebridge	Hamilton-Wentworth	Mattiussi, Elizabeth (Betty)		Burlington
Bice, Norma	Ailsa Craig	London-Middlesex	Burlington		
Bolton, Dorothy	Goderich	Cambridge	Mawer, Carol	Belleville	Trenton
Brown, Marlene	Ayton	Palmerston	McBride, Grace	Nanticoke	Haldimand
Caldwell, Marion	Ottawa	Ottawa-Carleton	McCullough, Anna	St Marys	Stratford
Cameron, Barbara J	Belleville	Belleville	McIntosh, Jean	Listowel	Listowel
Cameron, Dorelle	Toronto	Pay Direct	McLeod, Rebecca	Moose Jaw	Ottawa-Carleton
Cant, Kathleen	Petrolia	London-Middlesex	Meadows, Susanne	Rockwood	Guelph-Wellington
Carruthers, Irene	Wardsville	London-Middlesex	Meilleur, Pauline	Sudbury	Sudbury
Carruthers, Jessie	Welland	Niagara South	Milne, Pauline	Etobicoke	Rendezvous
Castle, Myrna	Dorchester	London-Middlesex	Morgan, Irene	St Catharines	St. Catharines
Clare, Elisabeth	Cambridge	Cambridge	Murray, Marian	Niagara Falls	St. Catharines
Clavelle, Laurretta	Alexandria	Ottawa-Carleton	Nash, Donna	Fonthill	Niagara South
Connor, Valerie	Orillia	Orillia	Newton, Muriel	Kincardine	South Bruce
Crawley, Linda	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Niblock, Norma	Smiths Falls	Lanark
Cudmore, Patricia	Stoney Creek	Hamilton-Wentworth	Nickel, Eva	Warton	Warton
Davey, Margaret	Lindsay	Orillia	Niddery, M. Peg	Scarborough	Scarborough
Doogan, Arvilla	Drumbo	Cambridge	Oakley, Evelyn	Brockville	Brockville
Doyle, Ida	Orillia	Daisy Wilson	Pammett, Margaret	Peterborough	Peterborough
		Coldwater	Parking, Peggy Ann	Croton	Sarnia-Lambton
Dupuis, Patricia	Windsor	Windsor-Essex	Partridge, Helena	Stratford	Stratford
Durrant, June	Owen Sound	Lydia Snow North	Penikis, Inara	Sault Ste. Marie	Sault Ste. Marie
		Halton	Powers, Norma	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
Egsgard, Lyn	Orillia	Orillia	Quaglia, Margaret	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
Eplett, Lois	St Catharines	St. Catharines	Rannie, Carol	Ottawa	Ottawa-Carleton
French, Mollie	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Rock, Catherine	Waterloo	Kitchener-Waterloo
Gallant, Delia	Vanier	Ottawa-Carleton	Rothmel, Elizabeth	St Catharines	St. Catharines
Glover, Helen	Waterloo	Kitchener-Waterloo	Schmidt, Marilyn	Owen Sound	Owen Sound
Goodman, Margaret	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Scott, Barbara	Toronto	Muskoka
Gordon, Lillian	Hamilton	Hamilton-Wentworth	Semple, Beryl	Listowel	Listowel
Gulas, Gail	Hamilton	Hamilton-Wentworth	Siltala, Margaret	Sault Ste. Marie	Sault Ste. Marie
Guse, Margaret	St Catharines	St. Catharines	Slack, Orma	Belleville	Belleville
Harmen, Anne	Mississauga	Mississauga	Smith, Eleanor	Port Dover	Haldimand
Harris, Mary	Guelph	Guelph-Wellington	Smithrim, Irene	Trenton	Trenton
Henwood, Olive	Toronto	Rendezvous	Sobieniak, Vera	Toronto	Rendezvous
Hilton, Donna	Smiths Falls	Lanark	Somerville, Dorothy	Bowmanville	Northumberland
Horak, Donna	Blenheim	Chatham-Kent			South Durham
Howes, Lois	Orillia	Orillia	Stearns, Bertha	Jasper	Lanark
Izawa, Mary	Mississauga	Mississauga	Stone, Maxine	Listowel	Listowel
Jenter, Marjorie	Fonthill	Niagara South	Thomson, Becky	North York	York North
Jones, Joyce	Belleville	Trenton	Toogood, Carol	Kingston	Kingston
Jull, Jean	Guelph	Guelph-Wellington	Trumble, Kay	Picton	Belleville
Kauk, Diane	Brantford	Brant	Tweeddale, Jane	Guelph	Guelph-Wellington
Keyes, Alice	Kingsville	Windsor-Essex	VanStrepen, Dora	Ottawa	Ottawa-Carleton
Kuhl, Sylvia	Owen Sound	Owen Sound	Weber, Patricia	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton
Leckie, Muriel L.	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton	West, Pat	Burlington	Burlington
Lee, Joan	Mount Hope	Hamilton-Wentworth	Wyles, Elaine	Stayner	Blue Mountain
Lovering, Annabelle	Coldwater	Daisy Wilson	Ziraldo, Isa Marie	St. Catharines	St. Catharines
		Coldwater			
Luciani, Suzanne (Sue)	Acton	Lydia Snow North			
		Halton			



Resolutions for 2016 Annual General Meeting

Board Resolutions for 2016 Annual General Meeting

Board Resolution #1 *The Position of the Provincial Communications Convenor*

Be it resolved that the position of Communications Convenor, as listed in Constitution Article IV Organization 1. Board of Directors g) be divided into two separate positions, namely the Provincial Communications Newsletter Convenor and the Provincial Communications Website Convenor, so that RWTO/OERO Constitution Article IV Organization 1. Board of Directors (g) would read: g. Appointed Convenors: Goodwill, Issues and Concerns, Membership, Communications Newsletter, Communications Website, Archivist, Assistant Insurance Convenor.

Rationale:

- Since its creation in 2004, the Communications position has grown into a multi-faceted position. Presently the Communications Convenor receives and sends over 5,000 emails per year.
- Both the newsletter and the website are now large and equally time-intensive portfolios. In the past two years, our newsletter has grown to a 16-page publication and branch submissions have increased to a 100% submission rate.
- From its inception in 2000, our website has grown exponentially and has expanded to include branch links for all 52 of our branches. As well, many new Provincial links, i.e., Convention, a yearly revised Constitution, and Policy and Procedures links have been added to create an informative and valuable communications platform for our organization.
- The responsibility for keeping the website current involves ongoing projects. The skills for managing and growing our website are different from those needed to develop our newsletter. As technology expands, the goal to present a modern website that will draw new members will be of even greater importance to RWTO/OERO.
- We have members who are website-proficient and would take our website to a new level. Let's use their expertise.

Board Resolution #2 *Definition of a Regular Member*

Be it resolved that Constitution Article III 1. Regular Members be amended to read:

Article III 1. Regular Members: Any retired woman teacher is eligible to be a member of RWTO/OERO whether or not she is receiving a teacher's pension.

Rationale:

- This resolution seeks to clarify the definition of a Regular Member by replacing the word 'qualified' with 'retired'. Currently, all women teachers retiring today have earned

professional qualifications as teachers.

- Historically that was not the case, as, during the mid-half of the twentieth century, teaching under a 'letter of permission' was common practice. FWTAO worked diligently to raise the standards of employment and retirement for all women teachers and to ensure that women with teacher training were recognized as holding those qualifications. Today, a retired teacher may have varying additional qualifications and accreditation; however, her basic teaching qualifications and degree are standard for the educational panel in which she taught.
- By replacing the word 'qualified' with 'retired', we are removing wording that may be confusing, may seem elitist and does not relate to retired woman teachers of today.

Board Resolution #3 *Membership Fees*

Be it resolved that Constitution Article III Membership and Fees, 5. Fees e) be amended to read:

Annual membership fees must be forwarded to the Provincial Office when they are received. They should be forwarded to the Provincial Office by October 15. Only members whose annual fees have been received by Provincial Office on or before November 30 will be counted in the branch membership numbers that determine the number of eligible branch delegates at the Annual Meeting for that year.

Rationale:

- The wording of this article as currently stated is: Annual provincial membership fees are due September 1 each year. They should be forwarded to the Provincial Office by October 15. Only members who have paid their annual fees prior to or on November 30 will be counted in determining the number of delegates to the Annual Meeting for that year.
- This wording may be cause for confusion and misinterpretation. It does not state accurately the procedure and timeline used by the Provincial Office to determine branch delegate numbers for Annual Meetings.

Board Resolution #4 *Duties of the Provincial Insurance Convenor*

Be it resolved that Constitution Article VI Duties of the Executive Officers, 6. Duties of the Provincial Insurance Convenor, 6.a) act as liaison between the Board of Directors and the Insurance Company which underwrites the RWTO/OERO Hospital and Home Care Plan be amended to read: 6. Duties of the Provincial Insurance Convenor. a) act as a liaison between the Board of Directors and the Insurance Broker for the RWTO/OERO Hospital and Home Care Plan.

Resolutions for 2016 Annual General Meeting - Continued

Rationale:

- The Provincial Insurance Convenor of RWTO/OERO works with our Insurance Broker, not directly with the Insurance Company.

Board Resolution #5 Duties of the Provincial Insurance Convenor

Be it resolved that Constitution Article VI Duties of the Executive Officers, 6. Duties of the Provincial Insurance Convenor, 6.b) organize and present annual workshops to train local Branch Insurance Convenors, Branch Presidents and Branch Treasurers about the Insurance Plan be amended to read: b) organize and present annual workshops to train Branch Insurance Convenors and Branch Presidents about the RWTO/OERO Insurance Plan

Rationale:

- Eliminating the need for three branch members from each branch to attend annual Insurance Workshops is a cost saving measure. Branch Treasurers are no longer an integral part of the Insurance process because RWTO/OERO members' enrolment in the Insurance Plan is now private information (Privacy of Information Act)

Board Resolution #6 Duties of the Provincial Insurance Convenor

Be it resolved that Constitution Article VI Duties of the Executive Officers, 6. Duties of the Provincial Insurance Convenor, be amended with the addition of a new clause (c) which would read: c) keep RWTO/OERO Branch Insurance Convenors and general membership informed and updated on an ongoing basis about RWTO/OERO Hospital and Home Insurance Plan.

Rationale:

- This third duty is in accordance with the work that our Provincial Insurance Convenor undertakes on our behalf.

Resolutions from the Branches for Annual General Meeting 2016

Branch Resolution #1 From the seven Branches of Area 4 (Hamilton-Wentworth, Haldimand, Brant, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Niagara South and Lincoln West)

Be it resolved that Area 4 be divided to create two new areas: Area 4, comprised of branches from Hamilton-Wentworth, Haldimand and Brant and a new Area 13, comprised of St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Niagara South and Lincoln West Branches.

Rationale:

- This resolution is supported by 99.6% of paid-up members of these seven branches who responded to an individual vote. The vote was taken over a period of two and a half months with all members of the seven branches having the

opportunity to share their opinion. Overall, 78.3% of the more than 1,000 paid-up members of the seven branches of Area 4 responded.

- The geographical location and like interests of the branches support a natural division of two distinct areas, one centered in the Hamilton region and the other in the Niagara region.
- As it now stands, Area 4 represents 20% of RWTO/OERO's total membership. It presently includes seven branches, two of which have the largest branch memberships in RWTO/OERO.
- Currently, within the Area's rotational format, each branch waits a minimum of 14 and maximum of 28 years to have the opportunity in the rotation to provide a Provincial Director.
- With such a long period of time between individual branch representation at the Board level, the Provincial Board may miss the opportunity to tap into strong branch leadership interested in serving the organization as a whole.
- Thus, a division of Area 4 would significantly reduce these timelines and increase new opportunities for leadership.
- The financial implication for the organization is an increased cost of approximately \$1,300 – not a significant increase to better serve 1/5 of our membership.

Branch Resolution 2 From the Oakville Branch

Be it resolved that Constitution Article III Membership and Fees, 5. Fees, section (a) There shall be an annual flat fee for membership in RWTO/OERO, be amended to include the following: If a member joins between October 1 and March 31 the annual fee shall be prorated.

Rationale:

- Now when a member joins between October 1 and March 31, after they pay the full fee, they pay the full fee again when it is collected from current members in the spring. Prospective members should be welcomed and encouraged to join at any time during the year and not be asked to pay more than others for doing so.
- Historically a small number of memberships have been received during the winter months so this should not create a lot of extra work for the Provincial Office.
- New memberships should be a priority, especially as privacy issues make it difficult to contact prospective members.
- RTO prorates membership based on the month of joining.



RWTO/OERO Convention 2016

June 7-9

RALLY TOURS-CONVENTION 2016



Tuesday Evening: Going Down Memory Lane
Wednesday Dinner: Glitz and Glam Evening
THURSDAY LUNCH: Celebrations
PRIZES! PREPARE FOR UNLIMITED FUN!



Wednesday June 8, 2016

All Tours Are On A First Come Basis

Rum Runners Tour: Go back in time to the Roaring Twenties as costumed actors tell the story of Prohibition and Windsor's connection to this era. You will be transported from site to site on an old-time trolley. Buffet lunch included.
Cost: \$75.00 for this 4 hour tour. **Limit-** 47
Visit www.rumrunnerstour.com for a detailed tour description.

Essex County Adventure: Enjoy the sights of our bountiful Essex County as you travel to Colasanti's Tropical Gardens. Browse through the expansive areas of plants, cacti and home decor and enjoy the included buffet lunch. Then travel on to Kingsville to the Pelee Island Winery for a tasting experience of excellent wines. Travel is on a coach with wheel chair lifts for 2 chairs as well as walker storage.
Cost: \$76.00 for this 4 hour tour. **Limit -** 50.
Visit www.colasanti.com and www.peleeisland.com for more information.

River Cruise: Enjoy lunch and sightseeing on the Detroit River on a 197 passenger vessel. This is a fully narrated informative tour cruising both sides of the river lasting 2 hours and a buffet lunch is included. The boat is docked on the water in front of the Casino with steps and a ramp leading down to the dock. Can be accessed by walker users.
Cost: \$40.00 for this 2 hour tour. **Limit -**100
Visit www.windsorrivercruises.com for details.

City Highlights Trolley Tour : Begin the tour with lunch on the river at Lilly Kazzilly's followed by a narrated trolley ride along the beautiful waterfront and throughout the city to view sites such as our world class Aquatic Centre, Art Gallery, University, Sculpture Garden, Olde Sandwich Towne and much more.
Cost: \$60.00 Time 3½ hours. includes lunch, tax and tip and one non-alcoholic beverage. **Limit -** 47.
Visit www.lillykazzillys.com

Hotel Information

Automobile:

- ❖ Take HWY 401 West. Exit at Dougall Ave.
- ❖ Follow Dougall Ave. North approximately 2 km
- ❖ Continue North on Dougall Ave.
(the street name changes to Ouellette Ave.)
- ❖ Continue for 6 km. to Riverside Dr. E. at the foot of the Detroit River.
- ❖ Turn Right, head East, to the first traffic light
- ❖ Turn right on McDougall which will bring you to the Valet Parking and Hotel Check-in



CAESARS WINDSOR
 377 RIVERSIDE DR. E.
 WINDSOR, ON N9A 7H7
TEL: 1-800-991-8888
 ASK FOR
**** GROUP RATE CODE:
 ACN0607**

❖ Free Valet Parking



Windsor International Airport (YQG):

- ❖ Caesars Casino Windsor is located 11 km Northwest of the Windsor International Airport
- ❖ Taxis are available onsite at the Windsor International Airport 24/7

Train/Via Rail:

- ❖ Caesars Casino Windsor is located 2 km West of the Via Rail Station
- ❖ Taxis are available onsite at Via Rail 24/7





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