



CONNECTIONS

Retired Women Teachers of Ontario • Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario



*Leslie Uttley
President*

Ohana means family and family means no one is left behind! This is the message from the Disney characters Lilo and Stitch, in their children's movie. Lilo a little Hawaiian girl and her friend Stitch from outer space have a bond which makes them a strong, vibrant force. Perhaps it was my recent trip to Disney (number fifteen, I believe), which makes me think Ohana when I think of RWTO/OERO. On a side note, the memory still holds strong as my knees still hurt from all that walking. Disney owns twenty-eight thousand acres and my knees say I inspected every acre.

As I have continued to visit the various branches across Ontario I am amazed at the warmth, the caring and the happiness that abounds in every branch. No two branches are similar. Each branch has unique programs, foci and traditions. Each branch has dedicated members whether the branch is small or large. Each branch has seemingly unlimited capacity to reach out and include other prospective members as they simultaneously tend to their members who have attained Life Memberships.

How does this magic happen?

The secret, I believe, is that you all are teachers skilled in making sure each member of each class each year was a prized member of the class. Some took extra coaching in the behavior department, some needed a gentle push to participate and some were ready to take your place as teacher with a moment's notice. Class meetings, sermons from the big desk and, yes, a lot of stickers and rewards made a class gel and care about every class member. Each year a miracle would slowly unfold until you were sorry to see them leave each June.

I remember the little boy at six who had gone home to cook Kraft dinner alone and place it back in the box to eat with his little fingers during class. I let it happen and wove a tale to the class so it was acceptable.

President's Message

Ohana

I remember the young German boy in grade eight whom I had worked with so hard to help him adjust to his changed family circumstances in Canada. He awkwardly returned to school after walking home with his friends to give me a small lamb as he mumbled thanks for taking care of all the sheep in the flock. I remember one grade six boy in particular who had gleefully led me down his garden path of misbehaviour most of the year. I believe he was the catalyst for my obsession with teddy bears. One day in desperation I said you need to do this because Mommy Bear says so. He finally taught me how to appreciate his humour and eventually he came to appreciate the finer points of bearable behaviour. On Mother's Day he delivered a box of chocolates to me, with a card saying, "To My Mommy Bear"! As life would have it, the next year his own mother passed away very suddenly. To this day I am still Mommy Bear to him and receive regular calls and updates from him. He is now a fine parent to his own family.

Ohana means family with no one left behind! Yes, that is what each branch does. When I attend a branch meeting I always feel welcomed, cared for and appreciated. Teachers know how to create that special sense of belonging and being special! You have that way of doing what is needed for all your different members. Teachers have

the Goldilocks Syndrome down perfectly that makes each member feel "just right"!

I am reminded of the young boy on a Mexican beach walking along at low tide. He repeatedly bent and picked up one starfish after another and then yet another. Time and time again he tossed the retrieved starfish back into the ocean. A man approached and questioned his actions. The boy explained that each starfish would soon die from a lack of oxygen if it were left on the shore. The man said that he understood the boy's good intentions but there must be thousands of starfish washed up around the world. How could the boy's actions make a difference? The boy continued tossing the starfish back into the ocean and smiled slowly and said, "Made a difference to that one".

Jackie Robinson waited a very long time to break the colour barrier and play major league ball. Robinson stated, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives".

I am proud to have the privilege of serving as your President this year. I am proud of RWTO/OERO. I am proud to be part of the RWTO/OERO Ohana, Family - nobody left behind!

Leslie Uttley
President

HOW TO CONTACT US

Provincial President: Leslie Uttley
RR 1 Stn Main 86714 Courtney Crt Box 13,
Kincardine N2Z 2X3
519-395-0706 leslieuttley@tmt21.com

First Vice-President: Anne Graham
2519 Hanlon Ave, Ottawa K2B 7X2
613-829-4679 grahamanne@rogers.com

Insurance Convenor: Judy Anderson
PO Box 3227, Prince Albert L9L 1C2
905-985-4257 ukelady49@powergate.ca

Manulife Financial 1-800-268-3763
Broker: Terry Kennedy 1-519-583-0098
Fax: 519-583-2876 Mobile: 416-931-2142
tkennedy34@bell.net

Publication

This newsletter is published three times each year in September, December and March.
Submissions by email to rwtoconnections@yahoo.ca.

Provincial Office
Executive Secretary-Treasurer: Gloria Drake
15 Deer Cross Ave., Wheatley, ON NOP 2P0
Toll free: 1-877-607-6696
E-Mail: info@rwto.org

Website: www.RWTO.org

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40739021
Return undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:
RWTO/OERO Provincial Office
15 Deer Cross Ave.,
Wheatley, ON NOP 2P0

Goodwill Report

“The beauty of a woman is not in a facial mole; a woman’s true beauty is reflected in her soul. It is the caring that she lovingly gives, the passion that she knows.”

Audrey Hepburn

Our “Forever Young” club, RWTO/OERO members who have reached their 90th birthday, now has more than 300 members. Congratulations and best wishes to Madeleine Honeyman (January 6) from the Ottawa–Carleton Branch, Jessie Calder (January 8) a member of the Owen Sound Branch and Edith McNeil (January 25) a Pay Direct member from British Columbia. These ladies have all recently celebrated their 100th Birthdays. A special milestone has been reached by Orma Slack, Belleville Branch. She was 110 on February 19, 2013.

What a pleasure it has been this year to send birthday, Christmas and very soon, spring greetings to these wonderful members! It is very rewarding to receive notes from many of these special ladies, their families and caregivers. Our Goodwill efforts are truly appreciated.

Branches are reminded to verify the addresses of these special members to make sure our greetings reach them. A very special thank you goes out to branches for all their work with local Goodwill Committees.



Marilyn Emmett
Goodwill Convenor
Second Vice President

Membership

RWTO/OERO members have HEART

In the depths of our Canadian winter, February, is heart month. The Heart and Stroke Foundation is prominent in the news reminding us to take care of ourselves and our bodies and be heart healthy. On Valentine’s Day we think of our loved ones near and far and are made aware of our emotional need for friendship and the importance of caring and sharing in our lives. I was struck by the importance of these issues at the Brockville branch February lunch at a restaurant. When I walked into the room, the cheerful sound of women’s laughter and chatter was accompanied by the visual impact of a room full of laughing ladies wearing red! The tables were beautifully decorated by Cheryl with centre pieces, and delightful Valentine favours at each place. When I asked the members what RWTO/OERO means to them, they overwhelmingly replied fun, food and friendship! They also told me there is a sense of calm, supportive caring and promising friendships in an otherwise busy life. These women are involved in their community volunteering in many organizations. Our group however is unique. We cater to the needs of retired women teachers, caring and sharing with one another, as well as reaching out to others in need.

H happy
E enthusiastic
A astute
R responsible
T terrific

These are the traits our members project. Keep up the good work ladies. You are very special.



Annalee Ladouceur
Membership Convenor

Issues and Concerns

Have You Been Left Holding The Baby?

I'm a grandma and thrilled to be one. I tell everyone who will listen that it is the best job I've ever had. I can spoil them to bits and then send them home. However a few weeks ago I had to look after my grandchildren while my daughter and son-in-law were away. This opportunity allowed me a very small glimpse of what it is like for those grandparents who for a variety of reasons must take on the parenting duties and raise their grandchildren. The grandparent relationship changes in this situation when you have to give up your retirement and personal plans for diapers, daycare and discipline.



For many reasons in today's society a large number of grandparents are raising grandchildren. In the 2011 census it was reported that in Ontario 27,280 grandchildren were living with their grandparent with no parent in the household. Regardless of the reasons, these can be difficult times for all involved. It can be difficult emotionally, financially, and legally. It is important that grandparents know their rights. Lawyers specializing in family law are a good choice to provide advice and guidance to worried grandparents. Whether they are seeking permanent custody or permission to take temporary guardianship of grandchildren, it is important that they employ a competent attorney. There is a booklet called Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: A Legal Guide available free of charge to grandparent caregivers on www.parentsupportbc.ca. Click on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren then on Resources and Publications. Other publications available on that site are Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, a resource book, and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Legal Issues and Resources, a pamphlet.

Financial concerns are a major issue for these families. While the situation crosses all social-economic and cultural boundaries, the majority of these grandparents are white, middle class, retired and on fixed incomes. There is very limited government financial support for these families. Prior to 2008 they were able to receive a small amount from Temporary Care Assistance. This legislation also provided some support for prescriptions and dental and vision care. In 2008 the provincial government changed and tightened the rules

for TCA and this meant that most grandparent caregivers lost the benefit. Grandparents may qualify for the Canada Child Tax Benefit and Universal Child Care Benefit. Your lawyer, financial advisor, Service Canada or Ontario Works may be of some assistance applying for these benefits.

Parenting grandchildren today is very different from when we parented our own children. Society has changed and children are facing very different challenges and situations than in the last generation. Grandparent caregivers may be dealing with disabled grandchildren, those who have been traumatized by events in their previous living arrangement, children who are angry at their parents or are feeling divided loyalties. Grandparent caregivers often feel alone and unclear where to turn for help.

Betty Cornelius, a grandmother from McArthurs Mills, Ontario, set up a support group in 1996 which was renamed Cangrands Kinship Support in 1999. At that time she launched a website www.cangrands.com. This is an excellent website for finding practical help and tips for grandparent caregivers.

Other sites you may find helpful are:

www.seniorsite.ca/grandparents.htm which provides information to help meet educational, social and emotional needs of grandchildren.

www.raisingyourgrandchildren.com/Index.htm has resources for grandchildren and grandparents.

www.helpguide.org Type grandparents raising grandchildren into the search bar and you will find 2 or 3 interesting articles.

Raising your grandchildren can be a life changing event. Being a parent at 60 or 70 is very different from being a parent at 20 or 30. Our more senior bodies don't function quite like they once did. The stress involved in caring for children can take a toll. Caregivers are careful to see that children's needs are met but often don't look after their own needs. It is important that grandparents find time for rest and relaxation. They also need to have a healthy diet and exercise, as well as maintain personal friendships and social contacts.

Making the decision to take on parenting duties for your grandchildren is a daunting task. There is very little financial help or resources available and only recently has the issue reached the consciousness of the media, government and researchers. We hope that changes will come to assist this weary loving group of grandparents.



Dianne Rice
Issues and Concerns Convenor

Insurance Matters

As I complete my term as Provincial Insurance Convenor I look back over the last four years and am amazed at what I have learned from Anne Graham, my mentor, who encouraged me as I became comfortable with everything 'Insurance'. I have also learned from Nancy Iannizzi whose questions helped me clarify my thoughts. The third person who works tirelessly on your behalf is Terry Kennedy, our Broker. It is Terry who takes our suggestions for improvements to Manulife and convinces the actuaries that not only are the increased benefits reasonable, but also that the premiums should not be raised. She has done it again this year! We'll tell you all the news at the Convention. Anne, Nancy and Terry have taught me a lot but I also must acknowledge the Branch Insurance Convenors whose understanding of their portfolio and their members has led me in new directions.

The following edited story demonstrates how our insurance plan works for us.

Our RWTO/OERO Hospital and Home Care Insurance Plan has been especially designed for retired WOMEN teachers, many of whom are single, separated, divorced or widowed. Many of us may be living in a community that is not close to family and friends, so when we get sick, we often need this kind of special assistance. While in hospital, you can claim \$25.00 per day with no receipts required for those everyday comfort benefits like TV, telephone or magazines. If you are married, your husband can also be covered for only \$186.84 per year.

Following something like knee replacement surgery, rather than returning home to an empty townhouse with stairs to several levels, check into a local retirement residence like Juanita did.

"It was like a five star hotel. I had a private suite (living room with a balcony, a large bedroom, huge bathroom with a sit-down shower, and a full kitchen) a personal care worker, physiotherapist, doctor once a week and three meals a day. My TV and telephone were also included in the cost. My Convalescent Benefit paid for [part of] my three-week stay at that

luxury hotel. I returned home fully recovered and able to look after myself. Now that is a success story, for sure."

Juanita Rathbun,
Provincial Past President RWTO/OERO

Why not consider investigating the benefits under this relatively inexpensive RWTO/OERO Hospital and Home Care Insurance Plan today? Speak to your Branch Insurance Convenor or call this toll free telephone number: **Manulife Financial at 1-866-410-0550**

I have reprinted parts of Juanita's article from 'Connections' March 2010 as the message remains as pertinent today as it was three years ago. Our Hospital and Home Care insurance continues to be very reasonable at \$173.88 annually or \$14.49 per month. If you are traveling and need insurance, check out **CANAM Travel Insurance at 1-888-326-3535**.

Many Branch Insurance Convenors have worked in this portfolio for several years. Although they are comfortable with the material and love what they do, you could show your interest in Insurance. Maybe you might consider stepping into this position on your local Executive. Start as an assistant like I did and see where it takes you. RWTO/OERO enjoys a profit-sharing arrangement with Manulife that enhances our financial position. Through our two insurance plans, our members are taken care of when they make claims and receive benefits. Let's keep this partnership strong.



Caring and sharing,

Judy Anderson
Provincial Insurance
Convenor
905-985-4257
ukelady49@powergate.ca

Nancy Iannizzi
Assitant Insurance
Convenor
905-687-9783
iannizzi@sympatico.ca

Preferred Vision Services

I have only just been advised of a brochure going out with the tax receipts as I received a telephone call from a member asking me if there now is Vision Care coverage in the Hospital & Home Care Plan. To clarify, there is no Vision Care benefit per se. However, as of January 1, 2013, all Health and/or Dental policyholders of Manulife will have access to the Preferred Vision Services (PVS) network at no extra cost. Now, by visiting a practitioner in the network as a Manulife customer, policyholders can realize the following savings:

- Up to 20% off the cost of prescription eye wear which includes frames, lenses and contact lenses

- Up to 50% off the cost of contact lenses purchased through PVS' Home Delivery Service Provider
- Up to 10% off the cost of hearing aids

This is a discounting service...not a Vision Care benefit. Members benefit by realizing a cost-savings if they visit a Vision or Hearing practitioner within the PVS network.

Hope this helps to clear up any confusion!

Terry M. Kennedy
Insurance Broker
Telephone: 519-583-0098 Facsimile: 519-583-2876

Branch News

Burlington

Burlington Branch organized Area 12's Penta Event. In all, 233 members from our district gathered to celebrate 'caring and sharing'. Thanks to meticulous planning, we most definitely had fun. Guest speaker Lee Beech's Penta address highlighted the efforts of the women who began this great organization. We are thankful for their vision and persistence in the face of initial political indifference. We have evolved into a significant social organization that holds dear the value of caring and sharing for each other. Congratulations to Penta Chair Bev Pickard and her team of past presidents undertook the Penta planning over the past year. Many sub-committees worked hard at various jobs to bring it all together on November 13. The gift baskets were a joy to behold! Profits from our event were donated to the Halton Learning Foundation. Our impressive new royal blue Burlington Branch banner made its first official appearance at Penta and is now used on the podium at our general meetings.



Burlington President Moira Plexman addresses the PENTA luncheon with MC Marina Lloyd

Cambridge

The Cambridge Branch has seen a slight growth once again over the past year, with several new members joining our ranks. It's wonderful to see! We kicked off this September with lunch at the Galt Golf Club. Our guest speakers, Leslie Uttley and Mary Duffin, spoke about the RWTO/OERO organization and gave many excellent suggestions to members of how to get the most out of their memberships. November's lunch was very informative as the owner of Wordsworth Books explained the ups and downs of running a small book store in a digital age. He also shared with us his "Top 10 Books List for 2012/13". Throughout this past year, our members have continued to show their commitment to caring and sharing by contributing supplies, money, time, and reading materials to our two main charities, Bridges Homeless Shelter and Haven House Women's Crisis Shelter. All in all, it's been a great year!!

Chatham Kent

Four general meetings with luncheons and two outings are scheduled this year. New retirees are honoured in September, 90 year-olds in November and 80 year-olds in April. Entertainment this year includes a presentation on the Redevelopment of the Tecumseh Project (timely with War of 1812 celebrations), routines by a local dance club, information on Communities in Bloom and programs that are available for retirees at our YMCA. Attendance ranges from 65 to 100 people. At our

Christmas meeting members bring donations for local food banks, the Women's Shelter or Children's Services. As part of an ongoing tradition, reciprocal visits with the St. Thomas Elgin branch occur each year. In early December there was a local dinner theatre featuring "The Queen of Kincardine". In the spring we will be touring the RM Restoration Museum, followed by lunch at a local restaurant.

Guelph-Wellington

We have a busy group! Our walking and hiking groups stroll and hike both local areas and venues as far as Niagara. Our weekly curling group continues to progress in their skills.



Our five book clubs enjoy enthusiastic discussions along with their snacks. For those with culinary skills, or those who just love to eat, we have a pot luck club. Our monthly travel club is planning a week in Sedona. Our entertainment club enjoys concerts and Mirvish productions. Monthly movies are followed by coffee and discussion. The art group arranges creative opportunities and gallery visits. The Singing Belles live up to their name. Our Joy club visits members who can no longer attend our four yearly luncheons. The 145 attendees at our Christmas luncheon contributed \$7653 to SCAW. Our luncheon in May will include the Drayton presentation of the Songs of Sinatra. Our group is amazing!

Kitchener-Waterloo

Our September meeting was a 50th Anniversary celebration of RWTO/OERO in Kitchener-Waterloo. Eighty-five members, guests and dignitaries gathered in the Crystal Ballroom at the Walper Hotel in Kitchener for this special event. The ballroom was festively decorated with a large cake and mirrors, 50th sprinkles and beautiful floral centrepieces on the tables. Members enjoyed reminiscing while viewing a slide show and an archival display of our memorabilia. Five past presidents and three of our most elderly members were acknowledged with corsages and thanked for their commitment to the RWTO organization. Dignitaries brought congratulations and official recognition along with memories of contributions made by teachers to their lives. A history quiz on education over the past fifty years was fun and challenged our memories. Our group of Singing Teachers presented a musical journey recall-

Branch News continued



ing familiar songs from a typical school year. What a wonderful tribute and celebration of 50 RWTO/OERO years!

London-Middlesex

We were honoured to receive a Feather in Your Hat Award for our initiatives to increase membership. It is a continued motivator with our over 190 members.



Friendship and caring is paramount to our London-Middlesex RWTO/OERO luncheons.

Attendance at general luncheon meetings is over 100 and we expect a full house in April at our fashion show, A Kaleidoscope of Fashion for You. Two years ago, we initiated an Education Award funded by personal donations from our

members. We have established a new award with the Kiwanis Music Festival in the Oral Communication category called Speech Art to be given annually as a trophy and monetary prize to the winner in each age category. In March we are conducting a survey of members' ideas for future awards to be funded from our Education Fund. The Policies and Procedures Committee continues its work to complete a Handbook describing the organization of our branch and the roles and responsibilities of members, the executive, and committees. We continue to develop our website link and to connect with members across Ontario.

Mississauga

This year has been full of fun, caring, and sharing. At our October luncheon we introduced our members to the Real Women of RWTO/OERO Mississauga as they modelled fashions from Nygard. At our luncheons we collect coins for the Salvation Army and have a 50/50 draw for local charities. December luncheon's guest speaker, Diane Dupuy of The Famous People Players, was an inspiration. Our basket raffle raised \$2200 for the Mississauga Food Bank which paid for 6,600 meals for hungry children, families and seniors. We also

collected \$1070, four large boxes of food, toys, and a special donation of books for the Salvation Army. In February, we enjoyed the music of Justus at our Valentine luncheon. April's luncheon will see us honor our Cora Bailey Award recipients and learn about the Inspiring Women of Peel. Finally, in May we'll celebrate our Golden Girls' birthdays and sing along with our guest Elvis Tribute artist, Jay Zanier. Our numerous interest groups continue to expand and our trips and tours are a great source of entertainment for our members.



Oakville

We are 73 retired women teachers strong, full of caring and sharing, of fellowship and fun. We have book club, bridge groups, coffee and craft club, and the out to lunch bunch.

This past year we held a Canada Day Garden Party, an Olympic Pool Party, a Hallowe'en Costume Party and a Three Santas Christmas Party with a Silent Auction. We played Bingo, visited a renovated one room school house, and watched the Oakville Happy Tappers perform. Our group often donates to various charities and this year we gave to the Kerr Street Ministries. We look forward to a Valentine's Day gathering with a JOYologist speaking, "Kitchen Witches" theatre, a "Who Done It?" murder mystery, and much more! We were very proud of 12 of our members who made sundresses from pillowcases. Over 400 sundresses were made and 80 pairs of boys' shorts to be sent to Third world countries.

Ottawa-Carleton

The last year was busy. We toured the Cordon Bleu Culinary Arts Institute in October and toured the Ismaili Imamat learning of the work of the Aga Khan Foundation in November. Our Christmas luncheon was well attended. Collections of eyeglasses and cases for third world countries and toiletries for Harmony House were very successful. Christmas Angels were sold for the African Aids Angel Project, and our yearly Christmas donation went to Inner City Ministries. During the winter and spring of 2012 we enjoyed an open rehearsal by the NAC Orchestra, a tour of the Richard Robinson School of Haute Couture and store outlet, and our annual Fashion Show luncheon. President Annette Rhodes attended our AGM luncheon and presented the Cora Bailey Awards to Gwen Parsons, Barbara Dowd and Val Leach-Ray. Summer activities included annual fund raising pot-luck cottage luncheon, a tour of the Manotick Mill and Heritage Dickinson House and the Art Gallery's Van Gogh exhibition. This Fall activities included our yearly Newly Retired Women Teachers' Reception and a workshop on our Health Insurance plans for Area 9 members.

Branch News continued

Peel North

Peel North congratulates Marion Jonnasen who was this year's recipient of the Cora Bailey Award. Well done, Marion! Our October meeting ended on a light note when members donned various bits of costuming provided by Sandra Kovak and Clare Ganson-Bell. The member whose birthday was closest to Hallowe'en ended up parading around the tables wearing the entire ensemble. Heather Stiles was completely unrecognizable as she strutted her stuff. Our annual silent auction was our best yet, earning a goodly sum to support our donations to Caledon Community Services and the Brampton Salvation Army. As usual, the Cookie Patrol (aka. Hez Whittier, Marion Russell and Ruth Taylor) filled over 30 cookie tins with deli-



icious homemade Christmas goodies for our senior members. This year our branch is working diligently on the organization of the 2013 Area 12 PENTA luncheon in November. It gets more difficult each year to meet the high standards of the 5 branches of Area 12 for this wonderful get together.

Rendezvous

It began as a seed: an idea of an activity that Rendezvous members could participate in for their own satisfaction with an outcome that serves others. Members were invited to be prepared to knit or crochet at the January meeting. Hoping for some experienced crafters to guide those of us whose memories of knitting go farther back than our teaching career, a small group, including Area 5 Director Carol Nelson, gathered and developed a plan. We would knit or crochet 8" squares to be sewn into blankets which would then be donated to a local women's shelter. As we talked, colourful squares were already taking shape. By the end of the week a challenge had gone out to Scarborough and York North branches where it was picked up enthusiastically. Now needles are clicking all over Area 5!

Sarnia-Lambton

We continue to grow in numbers and in enthusiasm. Our membership has climbed to 318 with eighteen new members joining from our September 'Get Together Social'.

We participated in a project initiated by The Inn Of The Good Shepherd in Sarnia to provide backpacks to those children heading back to school who needed help acquiring school

supplies. Our Christmas Luncheon Bazaar, our biggest fundraiser, had tables offering baking, crafts, and baskets of goodies, all donated, and all purchased by our members to raise money to help those in need. It was a joyous occasion of giving and receiving. Our luncheon meetings' theme, 'Just Clowning Around' has generated much fun and laughter. Our AGM will be the 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party.' We will wear our most outrageous hats. Hopefully our visitor, Provincial President, Leslie Uttley, will also wear one. We have launched Personal Growth workshops for our members. 'Getting to Know Your iPad', was a great success. Other workshops on a variety of topics are in the planning stages.

St. Thomas

Our group was most excited to receive the Barbara Bain Award at convention last June for our expanded membership. We continue to gather for seven luncheon meetings at different venues for socializing and laughter. We have had a fashion show, played Court Whist, and participated in our fundraising Quarter auction. In the spring we are having a presentation from the VON on their services, as well as another fashion show, flower demonstration, a visit from Dianne Rice, and an outing to historic Elmhurst for lunch. We have had visits from Leslie Uttley, our provincial president, and the ladies from Chatham-Kent. Our group continues to do outreach by supporting various charities in our community each month. These include Violence against Women, Caring Cupboard in three different areas, Christmas Care and our annual back pack project. Our members donate generously to these undertakings to support our motto of Caring and Sharing.

Windsor-Essex

One of our highlights was the 80+ Tea Party where 18 members enjoyed fancy sandwiches, desserts and tea from fine china cups. Other activities enjoyed by members were an April trip to Stage West, a July trip to Grand Bend Playhouse and an overnight trip in October to Stratford to see "42nd Street". At the May luncheon, our Branch executive was inducted. Attending our September luncheon at St. John's Parish Hall was Provincial President, Leslie Uttley. At our December luncheon, our guests were Gloria Drake, the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, and Area Director Dianne Rice. Over the year we presented Cora Bailey Awards to Donna Cowie, Margaret Jennings and Carol Petryshyn. At every luncheon, Sharing and Caring continues with the collection of canned goods,



Donna Cowie presents the Cora Bailey Award to Margaret Jennings.

toiletries, eyeglasses and new children's books. We now have three interest groups: Movie Matinees, Knit and Crochet Club, and Cribbage. Our Goodwill Convenor, Val Luscott, will be our Area 3 Director beginning in June.

In Memoriam

Name	City	Branch
Auger, Joyce	Guelph	Guelph-Wellington
Bailey, Herma	Burlington	Burlington
Banks, Blanche	Mount Albert	York North
Brown, Elsie	Brampton	Peel North
Brunner, Mary	Hamilton	Hamilton-Wentworth
Campbell, Eleanor	St Catharines	St. Catharines
Chisamore, Ruth D.	Gananoque	Gananoque
Churchill, Nina	Kingston	Gananoque
Clark, Marjorie H.	Port Lambton	Sarnia-Lambton
Colburn, Shirley	Clarksburg	Beaver Valley
Danard, Eileen	Owen Sound	Warton
Davis, Dorothy	Brockville	Brockville
Didemus, Francis	Niagara Falls	Niagara Falls
Disch, Linda	Thornhill	York North
Dolan, Marie	Corbyville	Trenton
Dryden, Elizabeth	Guelph	Guelph-Wellington
Eastaugh, Mary	Owen Sound	Owen Sound
Edwards, Carol	Skead	Sudbury
Elliott, Kathleen	Thornhill	York North
Fair, Vivian	Trenton	Trenton
Fawthrop, Isobel	Ottawa	Ottawa-Carleton
Fisher, Agnes	Toronto	Rendezvous
Forbes, Mildred	Etobicoke	Rendezvous
Forsey, Loraine	Cambridge	St. Catharines
Franklyn, Monica	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
Glos, Dora	Leamington	Windsor-Essex
Goheen, Alice	Kingston	Guelph-Wellington
Grant, Norma	Kitchener	Kitchener-Waterloo
Graviston, Cavalle	Tavistock	Stratford
Gray, Iris	St Jacobs	Palmerston
Greaves, Ruth	Brockville	Brockville
Hale, Betty	Guelph	Guelph-Wellington
Hanna, Olive	Ripley	South Bruce
Harvey, Bonnie	Tupperville	Chatham-Kent
Hawkrigg, L. Noreen	Toronto	Rendezvous
Hazelton, Marion	Mississauga	Mississauga
Hiemstra, Elizabeth	St Catharines	St. Catharines
Hogan, Marion	Sudbury	Sudbury
Howard, Verna	Belleville	Belleville
Huggins, Judith	St Catharines	St. Catharines
Hunt, Jean	St Catharines	St. Catharines
Jenkins, Marjorie	Dundas	Hamilton-Wentworth
Johnson, Doris	Virgil	Niagara Falls
Johnson, Myrtle	Jarvis	Haldimand
Jolley, Catherine	Thornbury	Beaver Valley
Jones, Linda	Burlington	Burlington
Kukde, Zarina	Mississauga	Mississauga
Ladd, Verlyn	Chatham	Windsor-Essex
Lancaster, Patricia	Peterborough	Peterborough
Little, Brenda	Hamilton	Hamilton-Wentworth
Longmuir, Marjorie	North York	Rendezvous
MacMillan, Phyl	Toronto	Scarborough
Mark, Doris	St Catharines	St. Catharines

Name	City	Branch
Mason, Hortense	Fergus	Sudbury
McIntosh, Elizabeth	Welland	Niagara South
McKee, Elizabeth	Ottawa	Brant
McKnight, Helen	Listowel	Listowel
McLaren, Helen	Belleville	Belleville
McLelland, Marjorie	Hamilton	Hamilton-Wentworth
McNalty, Shirley	Dundalk	Dundalk-High Pt
Milligan, Kathleen	Orillia	Orillia
Neal, Rita B.	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton
Norris, Phyllis	Westport	Gananoque
Nowak, Katharine	Kitchener	Kitchener-Waterloo
O'Hara, Eileen	Port Hope	Northumberland South Durham
Plewes, Jean	Mississauga	Mississauga
Pollard, Ethel	Stratford	Stratford
Proctor, Evelyn	Flesherton	Flesherton
Reidy, Julia	Mount Forest	Guelph-Wellington
Remington, Sue	Napanee	Napanee
Reynolds, Elizabeth	Lakefield	Peterborough
Richards, Keitha	Trenton	Trenton
Ricker, Mary	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
Robertson, Marion	Dundas	Hamilton-Wentworth
Robinson, Yvonne	Toronto	Rendezvous
Ross, Margaret	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
Rupert, Margaret	Oxford Mills	Upper Canada East
Schoenfeldt, Jill	Kemptville	Upper Canada East
Schweitzer, Doris	Waterloo	Guelph-Wellington
Scott, Grace	Corunna	Sarnia-Lambton
Scott, Katharine	Kingston	Gananoque
Shifflet, Mae Rose	Ariss	Guelph-Wellington
Slonetsky, Helen	Toronto	Rendezvous
Snow, Gwen	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton
Soper, Charlotte	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton
Spinkova, Sarka	Toronto	Rendezvous
Stapley, Betty	Napanee	Napanee
Stemerowicz, Josephine	Kenora	Pay Direct
Stinson, Helen	Scarborough	Scarborough
Stoneman, Irene	Owen Sound	Owen Sound
Thomen, Virginia	Cobourg	Northumberland South Durham
Tompkins, Edith	Lions Head	Warton
Tremonti, Eleanor	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
Trestain, Jane B.	London	London-Middlesex
Turnbull, Clara	Durham	Flesherton
Tyler, Gladys	Ottawa	Ottawa-Carleton
Vaughan, Marie	Owen Sound	Owen Sound
Vollick, Bev	Burlington	Hamilton-Wentworth
Ward, Isabel	Orleans	Ottawa-Carleton
Waters, Cathy	Mississauga	Mississauga
Watson, Doris	Scarborough	Scarborough
Webb, Audrey	Cargill	South Bruce
Wilson, Marjorie	Hastings	Peterborough
Winger, Estella	Townsend	Haldimand

Resolutions for the Annual Meeting 2013

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 or registered delegates- Constitution Article X – Annual meeting Section 4 (a)

Resolutions From The Board Of Directors

Resolution # 1

Be it resolved that Article IV (b) Executive Officers be amended to include the elected officers, the Parliamentary and the Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

Rationale:

- This resolution would reduce the size of the executive by including only the elected officers and the Parliamentary and Secretary Treasurer both who are non voting members of the executive.
- Article IV Organization Elections 4a. There are 8 elected officers Past President, President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Program Coordinator, Provincial Insurance Convenor, Assistant Provincial Insurance Convenor, and Recording Secretary.
- Over the past several years, appointed convenors have been brought onto the provincial executive for their expertise in specific timely issues.
- Those in appointed positions would now sit on the board only. These members could be invited by the president to attend executive meetings as needed. Much of the same information has been presented at length at the executive meeting and then at the Board Meeting. The board is our decision making body.
- Reduction in the size of the executive by three positions would reduce the cost of executive meetings by approximately \$4000.

Resolution # 2

Be it resolved that the position of Assistant Insurance Convenor become an appointed position

Rationale:

- Having the Assistant Insurance Convenor on the Board only would not diminish the effectiveness of work of the insurance convenors.
- Having only one insurance convenor on the executive would eliminate duplication of votes from one position.
- It is a further cost saving measure.

Resolutions From The Branches

Resolution #3 from Mississauga Branch

Be it resolved that all past resolutions be made electronically accessible to all Branches in the order in which they were passed; and if rescinded in a future meeting, so noted

Rationale:

- Duplication of the presentation of resolutions that were passed at previous Conventions would be eliminated.
- Branches should have access to archived resolution information to assist with work done at the local level.

Resolution #4 from York North Branch

Be it resolved that, in years when there is a surplus of more than \$1,000.00 in the RWTO/OERO budget, RWTO/OERO donate \$1,000.00 to a charity in Ontario that supports women and/or children in need, such charity to be determined by the Executive.

Rationale:

- Local Branches make many valuable donations to charities. Making a Provincial charitable donation in years when our budget is in surplus would give all our members a sense of togetherness as an organization.

JEWEL ON THE BAY

HAMILTON 2013

RWTO/OERO



The welcome mat is out! We hope you'll be seen at the Provincial convention in twenty thirteen!

Sheraton Hotel Hamilton
116 King St. West, Hamilton, Ontario

Directions:

From the Toronto/Niagara Area:

From the QEW, take Highway 403 East Hamilton. Exit the 403 at Main St. E. Follow Main St. 1.5 km. to Summers Lane across from the City Hall. Turn left on Summers Lane. Turn left on King St. The parking garage for the Sheraton Hotel is immediately on your right, while the hotel main entrance is 1/2 block further ahead on your right. Please note that the parking garage has a height restriction of 6'11".

From the West:

Take Highway 401 to Highway 403 East. Exit the 403 at Main St. East. Follow Main St. E. 1.5 km. to Summers Lane across from the City Hall. Turn left on Summers Lane. Turn left on King St. (see directions above)

From the South:

Take Highway 6 to Highway 403 East. Take the Main St. East Exit. Follow Main St. 1.5 km. to Summers Lane. (see directions above)

By Rail:

VIA Rail – 1-888-842-7245 - to Aldershot (Burlington) GO Station, Then GO Transit – 1-888-438-6646 - to downtown Hamilton

By Air:

West jet flies into John C. Munroe Airport, Hamilton, Ontario
www.westjet.com, from Thunder Bay or Ottawa
 Bearskin airlines from Kapuskasing – www.bearskinairlines.com

USEFUL Hamilton Websites:

www.tourismhamilton.com www.cityofwaterfalls.ca
www.hamilton.ca

Convention Workshops: Tuesday June 4, 3:30–4:30 pm

Workshop #1 – “Quarter Frenzy”

Leader, Carole Watson, St. Thomas-Elgin Branch
 Experience an entertaining way to raise money for your branch. Bring your quarters for a fun-filled, fast-paced auction.

Workshop #2 – “Climb Every Mountain”

Leader, Peggy Stock – East Parry Sound Branch.
 Join the East Parry Sound Branch as they present their own musical version of Uncommon Women”, (with apologies, both to Lee Beech and to ‘The sound of Music’) Learn how this skit generated a unique award to honour the Uncommon Women of within their branch.

Workshop #3 – “Another Meeting?? ...”You’ll Love It”.

Leader, Carole Martin – Burlington Branch
 How to add a little something special to your gathering!

TOURS – CONVENTION ‘13

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

#1 Out and about the City of Water Falls

Indulge in a delicious soup, salad, and sandwich buffet at scenic Dundas Valley Golf and Curling Club (Dress code-no denim of any colour). Then hike, a little or a lot, in beautiful Flamborough, to view Tew’s Falls, a few metres less in height than Niagara Falls, and Webster’s Falls, the largest classical waterfall in the region. End your afternoon by browsing independently in chic downtown Dundas with its many boutiques, specialty shops and local artists’ co-operative, The Carnegie Art Gallery. (Moderate Trail Walking; Umbrella if raining)

#2 World Class Gardens and Hamilton’s Castle

Royal Botanical Garden’s ideal location offers a wide variety of gardens unique to our geography. If you love nature R.B.G. is a destination like no other. Begin with a lunch in the main building followed by a tour of The Hendrie Gardens. Then visit Dundurn Castle, home of Sir Allan MacNab, one of Canada’s first premiers. Discover mid-19th century Hamilton as you view more than 40 rooms and three floors. (Easy Walking; Some Stairs)

#3 The New and The Old - The Art Gallery and Whitehern

Walk across the street to the Art Gallery of Hamilton to enjoy a delectable plated lunch (salmon or chicken). Docent led tours will help you appreciate art genres from traditional to contemporary. Take a short walk to tour Whitehern, one of the finest examples of a Canadian historic home. Return at your leisure to the Art Gallery or Hotel. (Easy City Walking)

#4 Come Fly With Me

Enjoy a fabulous lunch with locally sourced seasonal ingredients at the beautiful Ancaster Mill. The restaurant is built over a waterfall-fed creek that gushes down from the Niagara escarpment. Follow this with a guided tour of the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum where nostalgia fills the air and the Museum’s extraordinary collection of over 40 vintage aircraft sets the stage. (Easy Walking)

#5 Waterfront and Mountain Views

Enjoy a delicious lunch while overlooking the Harbour in the beautiful Waterfront Centre above the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club then tour the Waterfront trails and parks in a unique trolley car with detailed narration. Continue your enjoyment of our City with a bus tour of our Mountain, highlighted by the outstanding scenic views from the Niagara Escarpment.
 (Limited Walking; Maximum 35)

“Catch the Wave”

JEWEL ON THE BAY

HAMILTON 2013
RWTO/OERO



RWTO/OERO 57th Annual Convention - June 4, 5, 6, 2013 - Hosted by Hamilton-Wentworth Branch

Name: _____
(Given Name) (Surname)

Address: _____

City: _____
(Prov.) (Postal Code)

Contact: _____
(Phone) (E-mail)

RWTO/OERO Branch: _____

Check your role at this Convention

- _____ Provincial Board of Directors
 _____ Provincial Past President
 _____ Provincial Delegate (1 per branch)
 _____ Branch Delegate
 _____ RWTO/OERO Member (non - voting)
 _____ Guest _____

Special Mobility Requests:

Special Dietary Requests:

_____ check here, if you do not have a roommate
and want help finding one.

Convention Registration	Cost	My Cost
Full Convention Package – Early Bird Rate - by April 30 3 day registration, Coffee Breaks, Hospitality, Tuesday Dinner, Wednesday & Thursday Breakfast, Wednesday Banquet - (*wear your bling*) and Thursday Luncheon	\$270.	
Full Package – after April 30	\$295.	
Wednesday Single Day Registration (AGM, breakfast, break, hospitality, banquet)	\$145.	
Thursday Single Day Registration (AGM, breakfast, break, luncheon)	\$120.	
INDIVIDUAL MEALS:		
‘Casual Tuesday’ Welcome Dinner	\$55.	
Wednesday Banquet *** wear your bling ***	\$55.	
Thursday Luncheon	\$40.	
Wednesday Tour and Lunch: (Not included in Full Package)	\$40.	
Tuesday Networking Sessions: 3:30-4:30 1. “Quarter Frenzy” 2. “Climb Every Mountain” 3. “Another Meeting??...You’ll LOVE it.”	Come and Join Us	
Total Enclosed ***No post-dated cheques		

WEDNESDAY TOURS (includes Lunch)

(Not included in price of ‘Full Convention Package’)

*indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices

1. Out and About the City of Waterfalls _____
2. World Class Gardens & Hamilton’s Castle _____
3. The New and The Old: The Art Gallery and
Whitehern (meal choice: **chicken** _____ **fish** _____) _____
4. Come Fly With Me Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum _____
5. Waterfront and Mountain Views _____

Please mail completed form with
Cheque payable to
“RWTO Convention 201 3”.
Mail to Registrar: Shelley Freeman
54 Pleasant Avenue
Hamilton, Ontario, L9C 4M7
905 383-7086 - shelley@exti.com

Cancellation: Registration fee refundable, less \$25 service fee, on receipt of written notification before May 1st

Hotel Reservations Sheraton Hamilton Hotel - 116 King St. West, Hamilton, Ontario, L8P4V3 - To assist you in booking your room, a reservation website is available at: www.tinyurl.com/hamilton2013 OR call 905-529-5515 or 1-800-514-7101.

“I understand that I may appear in some Convention photos posted on the RWTO/OERO web site or published in the Provincial Newsletter following the Convention.”

“Catch the Wave”

Communications

We print over 5,000 copies of our newsletter, Connections. Only 375 members currently receive their newsletter by email. When we have incorrect mailing information, it takes a lot of time and money to sort out the problem. It also means you may be missing out. Please try to keep us up to date. Consider receiving your newsletter online.

If you should ever be missing your newsletter, tell us as soon as possible. You can contact Gloria Drake, Executive Secretary Treasurer, toll free, 1-877-607-6696 or by email at info@rwto.org; or contact the Communication Convenor at rwtoconnections@yahoo.ca.

You may also access back issues of newsletters on the website at www.rwto.org. While you are there, take some time to look at Branch News. Once a year each branch is invited to submit 150 words for the newsletter. But on the web site, there is so much more: program brochures, upcoming events, photographs!

It is great to be retired and enjoying the Caring and Sharing of our RWTO/OERO. I am sitting in my motorhome in Florida,

working with our editing team in Ontario and our layout artist in Nova Scotia to complete this last issue for you! Then it is off to the printer and Marilyn Emmett giving the ok to roll the presses.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Communication Convenor and thank you for your support over the past four years. I will miss it all very much.



Bev Pickard
Communication Convenor

Communication Committee Joyce Fee
Sharon Maskell
Angie Mannella-Pisani
Mardie Panabaker

RWTO/OERO

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

PM Agreement
40739021