

# CONNECTIONS

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



*Carol Bell  
President*

I am honoured to be your RWTO/OERO president for the coming year. This organization is grass-roots, unique and dynamic: grass-roots because it is you at the branch level that continue to make this group function; unique because it is the only provincial retired women teachers' organization in Canada; dynamic because the work that each branch does to fulfill our motto of Caring and Sharing is unparalleled. You raise thousands of dollars to help women, children and worthwhile charitable organizations. Our senior retirees are enabled, remembered and honoured at every opportunity. My thanks to all of you, who make this organization work so well.

I would like to thank Mara Hitchins and Cathy Harrison who co-convened the 2010 AGM Convention in London this past June with much help from three neighbouring branches, Chatham / Kent, London / Middlesex and St. Thomas / Elgin. If you missed this event, you missed a marvelous convention.

We have an exciting year ahead. I will only highlight some of our opportunities because you will read more detailed articles about them in this newsletter.

You will be seeing the results of the contest for our new logo, reflecting our more inclusive name, RWTO/

## President's Message

OERO as the year progresses. Pins and others items will be available when they have been created.

In recognizing the challenges for growing our organization, your membership committee has introduced an incentive for Branches to increase their membership. If your Branch has not yet applied for the \$400 available, please put your ideas together on an application from the convenor, Annalee Ladouceur, and see if yours can be one of the Branches that increase its membership by 5% for a reward of another \$200.

Another opportunity offered this Fall is the Open Window that Manulife is offering our members from September 15 to November 15. If you are like I was when I retired, I was only 54 and thought that I didn't really need anymore insurance so didn't take advantage of the "no medical needed" opportunity during my first year of retirement. Since then, I have learned

the importance of the Hospital and Home Care Plan and you can bet that I will be one of the first to sign up during the Open Window.

And last but certainly not least, for this year, you are invited to attend the 55th AGM Convention for RWTO/OERO to be held in Niagara June 7-9, 2011, hosted by St. Catharines Branch with a lot of help from the surrounding Branches, Niagara Falls, Niagara South and Lincoln West.

I look forward to meeting many of you this year. If you haven't contacted me for a visit, please do so. I look forward to seeing many of you on my travels throughout the province.

Catch the spirit of Caring and Sharing and have a wonderful time this year in RWTO/OERO.

Carol Bell

## HOW TO CONTACT US

**Provincial President:** Carol Bell  
61 Simpson Rd St Catharines L2N 3Z5  
905-934-2610 carolbell@sympatico.ca

**First Vice-President:** Annette Rhodes  
3684 Governors Rd RR 2 Lynden LOR 1T0  
519-647-3500 annetter@execulink.com

**Insurance Convenor:** Anne Graham  
2519 Hanlon Ave Ottawa K2B 7X2  
613-829-4679 grahamanne@rogers.com

**Manulife Financial** 1-800-268-3763  
Broker: Terry Kennedy 1-905-339-2424  
tkennedy34@cogeco.ca

### Publication

This newsletter is published three times each year in September, November and March. Deadline for submissions is the second Tuesday of the previous month preferably by email to bevr484@aol.com.

**Provincial Office**  
**Executive Secretary-Treasurer:** Gloria Drake  
2332 Woodburn Rd., Binbrook LOR 1C0  
Phone: 289-286-0657  
Fax: 905-692-9876  
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  
2332 Woodburn Road  
Binbrook ON LOR 1C0

# Convention 2010

The Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in London was transformed by the convention decorating committee into a magical fantasy forest. From the stylized cut-outs of trees which indicated the change of seasons in the conference foyer, to the centerpieces on the tables at mealtimes, our attention was drawn to the details of the Carolinian forest which is the home for the three hosting branches, Chatham-Kent, London-Middlesex, and St. Thomas-Elgin. The decorations were only part of the attention to details which will keep the memories of this 54th Annual Conference alive for those of us fortunate



enough to attend. All of the conference foyer area centralized the efficient registration desk, the welcoming hospitality room, the raffle and silent auction room which showcased the many generous gifts from area donors as well as generous Branches, and the spacious combination meeting rooms and meal rooms which were a feast for the eyes as well as the stomach. Many glowing comments were also heard about the room accommodations offered by the Sheraton. The fantasy forest was a delightful place to start your stay.

Provincial Board meetings began with the 6 member Audit committee meeting at 3 p.m. followed by dinner in the hotel restaurant on Monday evening. After being entertained by the rainstorm outside during our meal, the 25 Board members began the first session of our Pre-annual meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Convening for the second session at 8:30 the next morning after an early breakfast call, your Provincial Board again met to discuss details of various committee reports as well as to finalize the budget which would be brought forward at the Annual Meeting for discussion and approval. Lunch in the meeting room was followed by session 3 at which incoming



Board members were introduced and final details for Convention business were clarified.

On Tuesday afternoon, three networking sessions were offered by Provincial at no charge to assist Branches. Thank you to Annalee Ladouceur and her membership committee for the “Chat n’ Chew” workshop, to Bev Pickard, Communications Convenor, and Joyce Fee, former convenor and present member of that committee, for their “RWTO Communicates” session, and to Lila Carroll, Chatham-Kent Branch treasurer, for her “What Treasurers Need to Know” session. All of these workshops were well attended and beneficial to those who chose to take advantage of the helpful information offered. Dinner saw delegates and visitors gathered to share a delectable meal in the autumnal atmosphere of the Bristol ballroom, after which we were entertained by the harmony of “Men of Accord” and the jazz interpretations of Denise Pelley.

The business meeting on Wednesday morning included the exciting news of a Membership incentive which Provincial is offering to all Branches. A possible \$400 “Membership Matters grant” will be available to each Branch who submits an application with an outlined plan to host some type of event with the goal of signing up new members. A further \$200 Membership Matters award will be awarded to any Branch that achieves an increase of 5% in membership. Exact details and application forms have been provided to Branches through the Area Director. A presentation of the Financial Report and highlights of the 2010-2011 Budget were introduced by Gloria Drake, Executive Secretary-Treasurer. The following resolutions were also dealt with:



1. That the duties of the Honorary President be moved to the correct place in the Constitution. Carried.
2. That the preamble to the Constitution be amended. Carried.
3. That the Archivist be removed as an Executive position and she only attend Board meetings. Defeated.
4. That the Communications Convenor be removed as an Executive position and she only attend Board meetings. Defeated.

*continued on page 3*

5. That the position of Assistant Provincial Insurance Convenor be removed from the Board of Directors. Defeated.
6. That Article IV Organization 1. Board of Directors (f) Standing Committees is amended by the inclusion of a Provincial Insurance Committee. No mover for the motion so it was not dealt with.
7. That Article VIII Duties and Structures of Provincial Committees Section A Standing Committees be amended by the addition of #10 Provincial Insurance Committee. Out of order (as it was an outcome of the preceding resolution).
8. That set up the duties of the Provincial Insurance Committee. Out of order.
9. That flowers be sent to members celebrating their 95th birthday. Withdrawn.
10. That the Goodwill Convenor notifies 95 year old members that they now qualify as Life Members. Withdrawn.
11. That the position of Recording Secretary be an elected position. Carried.
12. That the position of Recording Secretary be removed from the list of appointed positions. Carried.
13. That the practice of paying an honorarium to the Recording Secretary be discontinued. Carried.

At the conclusion of Committee Reports, Terry Kennedy also updated everyone concerning the details of the Open Enrolment window for Insurance which will come into effect this fall.

After this very busy morning, everyone was free to enjoy "Freedom in the Forest" which might have included a double decker bus excursion, shopping at White Oaks Mall across the street, or some other form of relaxation.



Wednesday evening saw everyone gathered in the Bristol Ballroom for the banquet. The sparkle of winter was accented by the spectacular décor. Feather in Your Hat awards were presented to five branches and Barbara Bain Membership Awards were given out by Barbara herself to three branches. A special congratulations goes

out to Upper Canada East Branch who received both a Feather in Your Hat Award and a Barbara Bain Membership Award. The delectable meal was followed by the presentation of the Honorary Membership Awards to four recipients. The thoroughly delightful evening was capped off by an inspiring talk by the speaker Gabriele Del Bianco, who prompted us to enjoy life and retirement in a "TADA!" fashion.

Thursday morning began with a moving memorial service led by our Archivist, Barbara Moorcroft, who graciously accepted that position in the fall when our previously named Archivist had to decline the position because of illness. In keeping with the forest theme, Barbara's tribute to our 99 deceased



members as well as Past Provincial President Lenore Graham was indeed a celebration of their lives. The result of the contest to choose a design to be the springboard for a logo was announced, with the Board to follow up with a consultation with a graphic artist. Our 2010-2011 budget was approved unanimously without any questions, with the result that our morning business was finished in record time. After a longer than usual break, some afternoon business was moved up to this session and we proceeded with the installation of the new 2010-2011 Board of Directors as well as remarks as outgoing President by myself. The morning closed with the official "Call to Convention" in Niagara Falls next year.



*Mara Hitchins and Cathy Harrison, Co-Convenors*

The closing luncheon featured a spring/summer theme. The proceedings began with the introduction and honouring of the Over Ninety members of the three host branches followed by an appetizing pasta lunch and a special "Apple for the Teacher" dessert. Afterwards, a retired mother and daughter team were introduced and then the gavel was passed on to Carol Bell, your Provincial President for 2010-2011, who addressed the group and looked forward to her term.

An appreciative thank you and congratulations goes out to Mara Hitchins and Cathy Harrison, co-convenors for this marvellous 54th Annual Meeting, as well as to the convenors of the various committees. The considerable efforts of all the volunteers from Chatham-Kent, London-Middlesex, and St. Thomas-Elgin have contributed to a very memorable gathering.

Mary Jane Finn, Past President

# Board of Directors 2010-2011

## Honorary President

1443 Firwood Cres, Peterborough K9K 1J2  
705-740-2793

## Jean Axcell

larjeax1@sympatico.ca

## President

61 Simpson Rd, St Catharines L2N 3Z5  
905-934-2610

## Carol Bell

carolbell@sympatico.ca

## Past President

1766 East Gate Estate, Windsor N8T 2T2  
519-251-0700

## Mary Jane Finn

m.finn@sympatico.ca

## First Vice-President

3684 Governors Rd RR 2 Lynden L0R 1T0  
519-647-3500

## Annette Rhodes

annetter@execulink.com

## Second Vice-President

RR 1 Stn Main 86714 Courtney Crt Box 13,  
Kincardine N2Z 2X3  
519-395-0706

## Leslie Uttley

leslieuttley@tnt21.com

## Parliamentarian

401 Second St N RR 1, Sauble Beach N0H 2G0  
519-422-2380

## Joy Patyk

## Recording Secretary

RR 1 Old Mill Rd, South River P0A 1X0  
705-386-2274

## Peggy Stock

pegstockhome@netscape.ca

## Exec.Sec/Treasurer

2332 Woodburn Rd Binbrook L0R 1C0  
1-877-607-6696 or 289-286-0657  
Fax: 905-692-9876

## Gloria Drake

info@rwto.org

## Archivist

9 Gibson Pl, Port Hope L1A 4G8  
905-885-4895

## Barbara Moorcroft

bmoorcroft1@cogeco.ca

## Communications Convenor

484 11th Concession East RR 1, Freulton L0R 1K0  
905-659-1096

## Bev Pickard

bevr484@aol.com

## Convention Convenor

1 Tara Crt St Catharines L2N 2M2  
905-646-5543

## Marilyn Emmett

emmett@cogeco.ca

## Goodwill

RR 1 Stn Main 86714 Courtney Crt Box 13,  
Kincardine N2Z 2X3  
519-395-0706

## Leslie Uttley

leslieuttley@tnt21.com

## Insurance Convenor

2519 Hanlon Ave, Ottawa K2B 7X2  
613-829-4679

## Anne Graham

grahamanne@rogers.com

## Assistant Insurance Convenor

PO Box 3227, Prince Albert L9L 1C2  
905-985-4257

## Judy Anderson

ukelady49@powergate.ca

## Issues & Concerns

9908 Eric St RR 1, Thedford N0M 2N0  
519-243-2628

## Dianne Rice

dianr@execulink.com

## Membership Convenor

7024 County Rd 44 RR 3, Spencerville K0E 1X0  
613-658-2300

## Annalee Ladouceur

annaleeladouceur@jcis.ca

## Nominations

1766 East Gate Estate, Windsor N8T 2T2  
519-251-0700

## Mary Jane Finn

m.finn@sympatico.ca

## Program Coordinator

RR 6 12946 Longwood, Thamesville N0P 2K0  
519-692-3712

## Patricia Depencier

pjdepencier@sympatico.ca

## Resolutions/Constitution Convenor

3684 Governors Rd RR 2, Lynden L0R 1T0  
519-647-3500

## Annette Rhodes

annetter@execulink.com

## Director - Area 01

3 Centennial Heights Crt Meaford N4L 1E5  
519-538-3707

## Donna Hemeon

hemeond@bmts.com

## Director - Area 02

151 Norman St, Stratford N5A 5S1  
519-273-2767

## Mary Duffin

mduffin@quixnet.net

## Director - Area 03

9908 Eric St RR 1, Thedford N0M 2N0  
519-243-2628

## Dianne Rice

dianr@execulink.com

## Director - Area 04

3827 Dorchester Rd, Niagara Falls L2J 3A8  
905-357-9562

## Donna Parkhill

donnaparkhill@sympatico.ca

## Director - Area 05

717-10 Dean Park Rd, Scarborough M1B 3G8  
416-724-7107

## Carol Nelson

carol.nelson@sympatico.ca

## Director - Area 06

401 Thomas St, Stayner L0M 1S0  
705-428-2880

## Lois Plowright

myemi2@yahoo.com

## Director - Area 07

9 Gibson Pl, Port Hope L1A 4G8  
905-885-4895

## Barbara Moorcroft

bmoorcroft1@cogeco.ca

## Director - Area 08

7024 County Rd 44 RR 3, Spencerville K0E 1X0  
613-658-2300

## Annalee Ladouceur

annaleeladouceur@jcis.ca

## Director - Area 09

476 Evered Ave, Ottawa K1Z 5K8  
613-724-3793

## Suzanne Wilson-Marjerrison

donald.marjerrison@sympatico.ca

## Director - Area 10

263 Riverside Dr, Sudbury P3E 1H4  
705-675-8994

## Valma Mongeon

valma@sympatico.ca

## Director - Area 11

191 Sackville Rd, Sault Ste. Marie P6B 4T5  
705-949-2583

## Elizabeth (Betty) Wells

erwels@shaw.ca

## Director - Area 12

49 Irwin Cres, Georgetown L7G 1E7  
905-877-1533

## Heather Bosman

heatherbosman49@hotmail.com

## Insurance Matters

### **ANNOUNCING... An Exceptional Offer for Members &/or Spouses!**



*Judy Anderson, Assistant Insurance Convenor  
and Anne Graham, Insurance Convenor*

You asked us to provide you with another Open Enrolment Period and we're happy to tell you that one is now available. Beginning September 15th, members and/or their spouses, have an opportunity to enrol in the RWTO/OERO Hospital & Home Care Plan without providing evidence of good health.

#### **Open Enrolment**

**September 14- November 15, 2010**

Until November 15, 2010 all you need to do to enrol in the plan is complete a special enrolment form and submit it to Manulife Financial. You do not have to complete the Medical Questionnaire section of the form; simply complete all other sections; choose your payment option and send it in the pre-paid, self addressed envelope provided.

#### **No Medical questionnaire**

Why should you take advantage of this opportunity? Members frequently tell us how pleased they are with the plan; how it has benefited them and how inexpensive it is!

#### **Consider these features...**

##### **And Many More!**

- Convalescent benefit,
- Home Nursing Benefit,
- Cataract Surgery Benefit,
- Fracture Benefit,
- Comfort Care (hospital cash)

This plan has been designed to supplement other Extended Health Care coverage, which is why we like to refer to it as "the cherry on top".

You may wonder about pre-existing condition limitations, so to ensure there is no confusion or misunderstanding, we

thought we'd highlight this for you. There is indeed a pre-existing condition limitation – you will not be covered for any bodily injury or illness for which you received medical treatment or advice during the three-month period immediately preceding the effective date of your coverage. However, all pre-existing conditions will be covered after you have been free of medical treatment or advice for those conditions for 3 months after the coverage effective date, or until the policy has been continuously in force for 12 consecutive months; whichever occurs first. So, while there is a pre-existing limitation, it is only for at maximum, a year. After which time, all your pre-existing conditions are covered!

#### **How To Enrol**

To enrol, contact either your Branch Insurance Convenor; your Provincial Insurance Convenor, Anne Graham; your Assistant Provincial Insurance Convenor, Judy Anderson; or our broker, Terry Kennedy of the Dolphin Consulting Group. We'll be happy to answer any questions you may have or assist you in taking full advantage of this limited-time opportunity.



*Anne Graham, Insurance Convenor  
and Terry Kennedy, Manulife Financial representative*

## Branch News

### **BURLINGTON**

This summer our executive contacted all members to confirm their information and to provide details about important dates and programs. It was so good to have these informal chats and to catch up on news.

Our membership drive is underway. We look forward to welcoming new friends to our branch and raising our community profile. In April a few of our members participated in serving breakfast to seniors at the Burlington Seniors Center. It was a busy few hours but fun to do, and our help was very much appreciated by the organizers. In June another group assisted at a special event presented by the Appleby Retirement Residence. It was a fundraising affair to highlight the works of a few of the artists who live there as well as to entertain the residents and guests. We served refreshments and met a few former teachers as well. This effort, too, was well appreciated and our branch publicly recognized.

### **CHATHAM -KENT**

Our enthusiastic, dedicated executive members have planned what we hope will be a fun-filled program for caring, and sharing, and having fun in 2010-2011. We have scheduled four general meetings with luncheons and two outings during the year.

Fall: Barb Sutor and Brenda Hoyles – ‘Bear With Us’. They will demonstrate the art of Teddy Bear making.

Christmas: the ‘Dulce Jubilo’ a cappella instrumental harmony group.

Spring: ‘Makeup, wardrobe, colour analysis

Annual meeting: Elsie Thoonen – local artist.

In September we host our fourth annual ‘Recess for Retirees’, inviting them to join us at our first general meeting as our guests. We are encouraging our members to help us recruit new members by bringing them to either our September or November meetings at half the cost. We look forward to our visit to St. Thomas-Elgin and to hosting them in the spring.

### **GUELPH - WELLINGTON**

Our enthusiastic and dedicated executive has planned another fun-filled and meaningful year of activities for our members. In October, Gisele Ireland, a humourist, will address our group on ‘Making The Most Out of Retirement: We don’t have to impress anyone anymore’. At Christmas, we will continue to support our favourite charity, ‘Sleeping Children Around the World’. Our focus in March will be on ‘Wellness’, offering a choice of workshop topics designed to encourage healthy lifestyles. In May, we will attend a play at the Drayton Festival Theatre. In October, we will join our RTO colleagues on a trip to Stratford to see ‘Evita’. Our interest groups, which include Walking, Hiking, Book, Travel, Pot Luck, Movie, Golf, and Live Entertainment Clubs, meet monthly, providing members with opportunities to socialize and enjoy new experiences.

### **KITCHENER-WATERLOO**

Last fall, our members experienced a glimpse into our history as educators in Ontario with a visit to the Sloman School on Wheels in Clinton where the original CPR car #15089 has been restored and preserved, honouring Fred Sloman, the Clinton teacher whose efforts led to the School on Wheels program. Car #15089 and others like it were outfitted as classrooms. From 1926 to 1965 they were pulled by CPR trains into remote sidings in Northern Ontario. The cars remained at each siding for one week before traveling on to the next and then returning in five weeks. The teachers who lived onboard (and in the case of Fred Sloman, with his family) provided education for many children in these remote areas who would otherwise have had no access to schooling. On these visits, teachers offered community and social opportunities for families. Most of our KW retired teachers were both surprised and fascinated by this little-known aspect of the history of Ontario education.

### **LISTOWEL**



Earlier this year Helen Bacon, a missionary nurse in Thailand for 30 years, provided an interesting pictorial presentation about her work with those afflicted with leprosy. Following a luncheon, our group traveled to Castle Kilbride in Baden for a tour and Victorian tea.

Our June meeting was held at King’s Buffet in Stratford. President Beryl Semple spoke about the backpack project, which provides young people in need with back-to-school supplies. On September 23rd there will

be a luncheon and meeting where Judy Anderson will speak about insurance plans.

Beryl announced that, at the recent RWTO/OERO convention, our Listowel branch received the Barbara Bain Membership Award for showing the greatest percentage increase in membership this year.

Congratulations to our members for their efforts!

### **LONDON-MIDDLESEX**

Our branch reached out to members, both locally and provincially, when, with neighbouring branches, Chatham-Kent and St. Thomas-Elgin, we organized and hosted the Annual RWTO/OERO Convention. This event, two years in the planning, strengthened relationships with our sister branches and within our own group. It increased our awareness of the vital

*continued on page 7*

functions of the provincial organization. Fund-raising, committee work, and the overall responsibilities for the event created a new energy and cohesiveness within our own branch. The hour before each luncheon meeting was a veritable artisan marketplace for our members to shop and peruse. It proved to be a fun, profitable 'mixer'.

The Friendship Group attracts members to its activities such as breakfast once a month, a day trip to summer theatre, pot luck meals, afternoon tea at historic Eldon House, and a Community Theatre evening. We continue to reach out to the community with donations to several programs. Each project is assigned to a certain month. This year, we presented a wreath at the Remembrance Day service.

All in all, it has been a satisfying, enjoyable year of activity and accomplishment in the true spirit of sharing and caring.



*Founding executive members of the Lydia Snow Branch  
Front: Thelma Hearn, Helen Hansen, Janet Nielsen.  
Back: June Doberthien, Jean Somerville, Marg Kalil, Marg Megelink,  
Mattie Spencer, Joanne Mackie*

### **LYDIA SNOW-NORTH HALTON**

What a great year we've had with our enthusiastic membership. We meet monthly and plan a variety of programs. Last September we visited a local market farm and enjoyed a wagon ride just like our days on school trips. In December we celebrated Lydia Snow Branch's Tenth Anniversary, complete with corsages and planning charts from the initial meeting on December 6, 1999. At other meetings we have learned about local Community Support Services, the Women's Shelter, Emergency Preparedness, and Stretching our Dollars. We were pleased to have Mary Jane Finn, our Provincial President, and Ruth Ferguson, our Area Director, attend our April meeting and install the new Branch Officers for 2010-11. It was a fun-filled meeting during which we learned good daily exercises to keep ourselves fit for our busy lives.

### **MISSISSAUGA**

Our branch has truly felt the power of caring and sharing this year. Through the support and continuous growth of our membership and the success of hosting the 2009-2010 Convention, we were able to support seven of our Mississauga community organizations. A donation of \$1000.00 was made to each organization. We can all smile when we realize how our efforts will help women and children in our community. In addition, we are very busy preparing to host our

PENTA Luncheon in November. Thanks to the talents of our Interest Groups, the design of our raffle baskets will be based on the activities of the various arts, crafts, physical activities and other diverse interests. Each group will be assembling a basket connected to its specific activity. The value will be approximately \$100.00 per basket. All proceeds of this raffle will be donated to the Mississauga Food Bank.



*Miss Jean Ford turns 100.*

### **OAKVILLE**



*Bev Thomas and Diane Sinden display moisture resistant mats for Haiti crocheted from strips cut from milk bags.*

May 12th was a busy day for our branch as our annual meeting was held at the Oakville Golf Club. Two Cora Bailey Awards were presented- one to Gail Cargo and the other to JoAnne Oatridge, both very active members and past presidents of our branch. A 2009 memorial service was held for members who passed away in 2009, Lelia Lindsay (106) and Mary Cavataio (59). Proceeds from the November Penta Luncheon were shared equally with Dudley Clarke-Fare Share Food Bank, Tom Horlor-Lighthouse Program for Grieving Children and Ben Ward-Kerr Street Ministries. Dudley and Tom stayed and visited with us at lunch. Diane Sinden and Bev Thomas displayed the mats members are busy crocheting using strips cut from milk bags. Other members are busy crocheting bags as well as mats and meet on Monday mornings. These items will be sent to Haiti. We try our best to live up to the RWTO motto of caring, sharing and having fun!

*continued on page 8*

## **PALMERSTON**

Our small but active group was very busy this year with a variety of guest speakers and entertainment. A massage therapist encouraged us to 'strive for balance' in our daily lives. The Arthur Button Accordion Band had us clapping our hands and singing along. We listened intently as one of our own members outlined her plans to help build a school in Kenya through the 'Free the Children' organization. We support this program as well as Sleeping Children Around the World (SCAW). We celebrated the 93rd birthday of Edna Walker, a longtime member of our branch. Our Book Club and Film Club each had a successful first year.

We are excited that our membership has increased by five new members and we anticipate adding more with our 'Recruitment Breakfast' in September and our 'Dessert and Coffee' get together in November. Further plans for the fall include trips to Drayton and Stratford Theatres.

Good things continue to happen in the Palmerston Branch!

## **PEEL NORTH**

Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? Our regular meetings this past year have taught us about therapy dogs, Sleeping Children around the World, an Ecovillage in Caledon, the intrigue of being an undercover RCMP officer, and an educational program for girls in Mozambique.



Our latest endeavour is helping Kiilinik High School in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut. Three class sets of the novels 'Frost', 'On Thin Ice', and 'Going Places' as well as several books with Inuit/Arctic themes, have been sent to their library collection. The teachers are using the books to do interest-based reading groups, novel studies, literature circles and guided reading groups. We send only new books because of the extra appeal up-to-date material has for young or reluctant readers. Chapters' policy of free shipping for orders over \$39 has helped our budget go further. We support this outreach with our coin jars and fundraisers and would be thrilled to hear about other RWTO/OERO branches who might adopt aboriginal schools.

## **RENDEZVOUS**



Pauline Milne has been the president, treasurer, and goodwill person for this branch for twenty years. Her devotion to RWTO was recently recognized by RTO District 16. She received the Outstanding Service Award from them for 2010. The money she received was then presented to the charity of her choice. Her choice was the program, established twenty years ago by Saloma Smith, who is also a member of Rendezvous, to support the schools for girls in Pakistan. Rendezvous members are proud of Pauline, her dedication to our branch,

her volunteer activities that support Saloma, and her support to members across the country and our local branch.

## **SARNIA/LAMBTON**

Our program theme this year was 'The Rhythms of Our Lives'. At the September meeting and luncheon, DrumAnticks, an exploration of percussion instruments with audience participation was presented. Our November luncheon and Christmas bazaar was a great success, raising over \$1400 for charity. Seasonal rhythm was provided by a member's production of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. The rhythms of our community were explored at our January luncheon with a slide presentation of Communities in Bloom. The April luncheon launched us into the rhythms of spring with advice on trees, shrubs, and flowers. A presentation on the *Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life* closed our program for the year at our May luncheon and Annual General Meeting. As part of our caring and sharing, our branch donated toiletries to the women's shelter and made cash donations to the three area food banks. Donations were made to Theatre Sarnia Youth Program and to Lambton County Music Festival.

## **SCARBOROUGH**

Scarborough had its first craft show last October. Seventeen members 'purchased' tables and the displayed crafts were varied - hats, mittens, baby items, slippers, jewellery, chocolates, pottery, jams and jellies, welcome stones, bags, and quilts. Each 'crafter' donated one item that was then put into a silent auction to raise funds for the branch. This event was so successful that another one has been planned for October 2010.

## **ST. THOMAS-ELGIN**

We have continued with our Backpack Program filling backpacks with a variety of school supplies for children who arrive at the local Women's Shelter. A girl was sponsored in coordination with Big Sisters, to attend camp for a week. The girl chosen was so excited that she was counting the days to go.

Donations are made to the Women's Shelter, to the Christmas Care program, to the three food banks in our county and to the Elgin County Archives. Some of our members will be donating their time and volunteering at the International Plowing Match which is being hosted by Elgin County in September.

Programs offered included a fashion show, a speaker on trees of the Carolinian Forest, an afternoon Whisk, musical entertainment, a quarter auction, a Memorial service and a variety of venues for lunch.

To meet the challenge of fundraising we sold fair-trade coffee, held 50/50 draws and raffles, and played Twonie Takes a Hundred. We sold tree pendants and pins with the 2010 convention tree logo on them. We gave and collected items for the silent auction room at the convention which was a great success due to our past president's diligence.

We look forward to welcoming new members and to promote a strong social interaction among our retired teachers.

*continued on page 9*

# Membership



Annalee Ladouceur,  
Membership Convenor

The Convention in London was wonderful. Many thanks to the organizing committee for a job well done. A highlight for the Membership Committee is the awards presentations.

## Feather in Your Hat Awards

**Scarborough  
North York  
Upper Canada East**

Congratulations for your excellent program ideas.

## The Barbara Bain Awards

**Listowel  
Upper Canada East  
Mississauga.**

Congratulations for your hard work in increasing your membership.

It is always a pleasure to see the happiness and satisfaction these awards bring to the well deserving branches. Make sure your branch is entering for these awards.

## Membership Matters Grant- Money to put your ideas to work

Since the Convention your Membership Committee has been very busy accepting applications for the new **Membership Matters Grant** that was approved in London. To date twenty-nine Branches have received approval for their ideas. If your Branch has not yet applied all you have to do is submit a detailed plan to increase your membership and include a budget for \$400 to cover your expenses. Submit this to [annaleeladouceur@jcis.ca](mailto:annaleeladouceur@jcis.ca). Contact your Area Director or a member of this committee for more information.

## Increase your membership by 5%

If your membership increases by 5% you will then receive an additional \$200 for your Branch. The committee has been very impressed with all the great ideas like wine and cheese parties, coffee and muffin mixers, spa days, house parties and picnics. This is a great opportunity to have some fun, meet new friends and in the process increase our memberships. So, to the rest of the Branches, we look forward to hearing from you in the Fall with more creative membership projects.

The Membership Matters Grant along with the open door Insurance incentive will surely create interest and increase our membership. It is an exciting time for RWTO.

Yours in caring and sharing,

Membership Committee: Donna Parkhill  
Mary Duffin  
Pat Depencier

Convenor: Annalee Ladouceur

## Branch News – continued

### STRATFORD

Members went 'Back to School' last September. Meeting at the Brocksden Country School Museum, (a one-room school still on its original site), we learned about the history of the school and the educational programmes available today.

In November, a local pharmacist spoke to us about 'The Safe Use of Medications', and 'The Myths of Aging'. After answering many questions from those in attendance, he reminded us to return all unused and outdated medications in our home to a pharmacy for safe disposal.

We welcomed Mary Jane Finn, RWTO/OERO Provincial President, and members from the Listowel Branch, to our April meeting. Joan Dixon, a Romeo P.S. teacher, spoke to us about the Danny Project (an ETFO Education and Poverty Project). The program allows students to gain experiences and skills not normally available to them.

We finished the year with a theatre trip to Drayton to see *On Golden Pond*.

### YORK NORTH

The baskets at our December luncheon have become a tradition for the branch. Members start in the summer to make jams and jellies to put in each basket. Other items are added to the baskets - lotions, creams, coasters, candles, etc. - and then they are beautifully wrapped. The lucky ticket holders are thrilled when their number is drawn. The funds that are raised by this event are used to support the charities that the branch supports in the community. In the interest of the environment and the economy, winners are encouraged to return the baskets and jelly jars when they have finished with them.

# Issues and Concerns

## Power of Attorney



*Dianne Rice  
Issues and Concerns  
Convenor*

Have you ever wondered what would happen if you are unable to manage your own affairs, who will pay the bills, look after your bank accounts, investment and taxes? Who will decide where you live, what you eat and the health care you will receive? Many people believe their families will be able to step in if something happens and they cannot make decisions for themselves. This isn't always true. By making Powers of Attorney you can plan ahead and be confident that your plans and wishes will be carried out.

A Power of Attorney is a legal document in which you state that you give someone else the authority to make certain decisions and to act on your behalf. Just because the word attorney is used it does not mean that the person you give this authority to has to be a lawyer.

In Ontario there are three different kinds of Power of Attorney.

With a Continuing Power of Attorney for Property you can name someone to make financial decisions for you and allows the person you name to act for you even if you become incapable of managing your affairs.



A Non Continuing Power of Attorney for Property covers your financial affairs but can't be used if you are not capable to manage your own affairs. You might give this power if you need someone to look after your financial transactions while you're away from home for an extended period of time. As long as you are capable of making decisions the other person must follow your direction. You are simply sharing your power with someone else. You can revoke the Power of Attorney at any time if you become dissatisfied with what they are doing.

A Power of Attorney for Personal Care covers your personal care decisions such as housing, food, hygiene, clothing, safety and health care. In this document you can also include a "living will" which will state what you want to happen if you become ill and can't communicate your wishes about treatment.

The person you designate assumes certain duties and responsibilities. The most important obligation is to act in your best interest. This means they must always follow your instructions, and act with the highest degree of good faith. There is some freedom to do as he or she pleases, therefore it is

essential to choose someone whom you trust. This is a very important decision requiring careful thought.

**Before selecting someone ask yourself the following questions:**

Do I trust this person?

Does this person understand my feelings and my point of view? Will he or she follow my wishes?

Is this person willing to do the work and spend the time handling my affairs?

Is this person available to visit me or to keep in contact by phone?

Is this person knowledgeable about and good at handling finances?

Always speak to the person before making the decision and make sure they are willing to take on this job.

No one can make you sign a power of attorney. But, if you don't choose one, the government may have to appoint someone. It's better if you choose someone you feel you can really trust, who knows your wishes. A Power of Attorney ends upon death and your Will governs the handling of your estate. A Power of Attorney document is not a substitute for a Will.



Information is available on the Ontario Government website [www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca](http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca) If you are considering making a decision of this importance it is always wise to seek a legal opinion.

*Dianne Rice*

## Goodwill

### *Smiles To Go and Smiles That Linger*

RWTO/OERO Provincial sends birthday and seasonal greetings in both December and April to all members reaching ninety years and beyond. Bouquets are sent to members through the member's local branch when a member celebrates the milestone of 100 years. The cost for the bouquet is forwarded to me for reimbursement for the branch. It is important not to miss acknowledging these special times. As the Provincial Goodwill Convenor I cannot express what a thrill it is to go to my mailbox and find lovely cards from our over nineties and not just the usual flyers and bills. Many of our special members are enjoying



good health, living independently and they also remain strong members of the organization. On a side note, one cannot help but admire the penmanship! They possess a skill that has vanished in today's world. I encourage each branch to recognize, visit and remember these special members in other ways beyond the Provincial remembrances. Send smiles and I guarantee your own smile will linger

*Leslie Uttley*

*Second Vice-President, Goodwill Convenor*

## Logo



Convention attendees selected the logo design submitted by Marilyn Emmett. Thank you to everyone who forwarded entries and suggestions. I am currently working with Marilyn to finalize the art work and produce new products with our new logo. We anticipate having these ready in time for Convention 2011 and will distribute to all branches at that time.

*Bev Pickard*

*Communication Convenor*



## Resolutions

All resolutions to be brought to the 2011 Annual Meeting must be submitted to Annette Rhodes, Convenor of the Resolutions Committee by November 15, 2010. Each resolution must contain only one key issue. The intent of the resolution should be clear and concise. Questions and concerns should be directed to Annette Rhodes or Joy Patyk, Parliamentarian, who are available to assist with the wording and structure.

Send to [annetter@execulink.com](mailto:annetter@execulink.com) or Annette Rhodes, 3684 Governor's Rd., RR2, Lynden, Ontario L0R 1T0

*Annette Rhodes,*

*First Vice-President*

# RWTO Calendar of Events 2010-11

September 14, 15, 2010 .....	Provincial Executive Meeting
October 12, 2010.....	Submissions for November Newsletter
October 19, 20, 2010.....	Provincial Board of Directors Meeting
November 15, 2010 .....	Submission of Resolutions for 2011 Convention
November 30, 2010.....	Determine Branch numbers for Convention delegates
January 31, 2011 .....	Nominations for Board for 2011 - 12
	Honorary Membership Awards nominations for Convention
February 8, 2011 .....	Submissions for March Newsletter
March 1, 2011 .....	Nominations for Feather in Your Hat Award
April 1, 2011 .....	Submission of invitation to host 2013 Annual Convention
April 15, 2011 .....	Submit Delegate Forms for Annual Meeting
April 12, 13, 2011 .....	Provincial Executive Meeting
June 6, 7, 2011.....	Provincial Board Meeting
June 7, 8, 9, 2011.....	55th Annual Convention at Niagara, The Wonders of Niagara

## RWTO/OERO

RWTO/OERO Provincial Office  
2332 WOODBURN RD  
BINBROOK ON LOR TCO

PM Agreement  
40739021