



# Cambridge Branch



**Sept. 2015**

**Newsletter #24**

Cambridge R.W.T.O. Executive	
2015-2016	
President: Terry Hamilton	622-2298
Past President: Sheila Wittie	745-1884
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Vacant	
Secretary/Archivist: Mary Jane Novak	622-0415
Treasurer: Barb Welfred	653-7393
Lunch Co-ordinator: Mary Latham	653-3097
Goodwill Convenor: Helen Darby	632-8819
Insurance Convenor: Sheila Wittie	
<b>Callers:</b>	Area Code 519
Marilyn	653-2117
Anne	624-8261
Terry	623-6925
Sue B.	658-2716
Joanne	621-4749
Sheila	621-1737
Sue M	226 600 1078
Carol	519 752-7123
Penny 658-6508 OR Bev 740-3065	
<b>Please contact your caller about EACH meeting.</b>	
<b>If you need a ride to meetings, call one of us!</b>	

**Membership Fees** of \$40.00 are due as soon as possible and before September 30<sup>th</sup>. Please pay your fees to Barb Welfred, Treasurer.

Make cheques out to: **RWTO Cambridge Branch**

The fee for a member who retired on or before Aug. 31, 1980 is \$15.00

Meetings will be held at the **Galt Golf and Country Club**, on Coronation Blvd, next to the hospital. An elevator is available in the lobby.

Meetings follow this format:

Charity item drop off: In designated bins in the lobby on the way in: info from your caller

Mix and Mingle: 11:30 am

Business Meeting: 12:10

Lunch served: 12:30

Guest Speaker(s) 1:30-2:30

**Special Note!**  
***Meals that you order must be paid for by our RWTO Cambridge Branch. If for any reason you cannot attend after reserving your place, send your cheque payable to our Treasurer, Barb Welfred, a.s.a.p. Her address is 99 Pioneer Tower Road, Kitchener, N2P 2H4 You may also pre-pay for luncheons, @\$25each. Contact Barb to do so.***



Caring and Sharing  
Helen Darby  
519 632 8819

## Cambridge Branch



As your Goodwill representative, I have continued to send sympathy, get well and thinking of you cards to some of our members. Please feel free to phone me if you know of anyone who should receive a card on behalf of our group.



### President's Report: Terry Hamilton

Welcome back RWTO Cambridge members. I hope that you enjoyed this beautiful summer. Your Executive has a wonderful fall program lined up for you. RWTO Cambridge is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. In celebration we have booked the famous Drayton comedian Neil Aitchison as our guest speaker for our **September 22nd luncheon**. Mark the date and please come to the luncheon. Many of your past-presidents will also be attending.



Guest Narration by  
**NEIL AITCHISON**

Our Christmas luncheon will be on **November 17<sup>th</sup>** and we will be having our **annual silent auction** at that time in support of Haven House. Last year it was suggested that we try having it at the November luncheon as many members wanted the opportunity to buy Christmas gifts at it. So we are trying it this year and we will see how it works out. Please think about making and/or donating items for

the auction. Our entertainment for the Christmas luncheon will be the Chick'lets directed by Dianne Winkler. They started performing 10 years ago at our Christmas luncheon so it is fitting that their last performance will also be at our Christmas luncheon! Meeting dates for the new year are **Tuesday, February 16** and **Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**.

At our September luncheon there will be a questionnaire distributed to gather what your thoughts are on who you would like to see as a guest speaker at future luncheons. Please take a moment to fill in your ideas. I do appreciate any suggestions.

I am really enjoying being your president but this will be my third year doing it and the VP's job! Please consider helping out on your Executive. The old adage "Many hands make light work" really does make sense. Please contact any Executive member if you are interested. I want to thank the club for nominating me for 2nd Vice President of the Ontario Board. At the AGM in June I was not elected. However it was a great experience taking part in the election process. Lastly, it is RWTO's 60th Anniversary this year. If you check the Ontario RWTO website you will find 60th Anniversary items for sale. The logo for the celebration is quite nice don't you think?  
Terry Hamilton, RWTO Cambridge President

**Day Trip:** Twelve members enjoyed a trip to the Clay and Glass Gallery followed by lunch at Sole Restaurant in Waterloo.

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### Book Club 1:

#### **Anne Borchardt Co-ordinator**

Last Fall, following the RW meeting we were about to read the Rules of Civility. Set in New York in 1938 we meet 25 year old Katy Kontent who embarks on a journey from a Wall Street secretarial pool through the upper echelons of society in search of a brighter future. Her trials and tribulations will teach her that individual choices will be the way that life crystallizes loss. The surprising life choices captured the club's attention. Our November title What the Psychic Told the Pilgrim by Jane Christmas followed the famous northern Spanish route of the pilgrims' trail --Camino de Santiago--which has inspired many a walker to look for answers to life's questions. However, Jane Christmas starts off with a group of 14 women she does not know and ends up alone -- the psychic did warn her! The author makes you laugh, challenges your patience, and reminds you to savour clean fresh sheets and a hot shower. Jean knows someone personally who made the trip. Marnie was set to give it a go. And then good heavens Sue Meighan had a round or two with a diagnosis and surgery for breast cancer in December! She's good now --better than ever! That was followed by Bonnie's war with a blood disorder starting in March (following her husband Bob's bypass surgery in December). She hopes to be undergoing surgery for stents later this year. You'd think that we had a psychic choosing our reading list. Tuesdays with Morrie in January was almost too close for comfort for me. Sue M was the host extraordinaire that day and the book's advice: "work less, think more about your spouse, give yourself to others, and remember once you learn how to

die, you learn how to live". Author Mitch Albom provided a frightful reminder of how close we can get. It was a good thing we read All the Light We Cannot See in February because the uplifting story about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths eventually collide in occupied France in St Malo as both try to survive the devastation of World War II was a great read. I had to get out my pictures of a visit to St Malo and enjoy them all over again. And then The Rosie Project. It reminded me of Sheldon on The Bing Bang Theory tv series. Don's asberger-like characteristics set him up to design the Wife Project to find his perfect partner: a sixteen-page, scientifically valid survey to filter out the drinkers, the smokers, the late arrivers with surprising results! I couldn't attend the April meeting when the group read The Bear by Clair Cameron. I've borrowed a plot outline to give you a glimpse: while camping with her family on a remote island, five-year-old Anna awakes in the night to the sound of her mother screaming. A rogue black bear is attacking the family's campsite — and pouncing on her parents as prey. A change of pace for May got us reading Mourning Hours by Paula Treich-Deboard where the unique point of view of preteen Kristen creates a mystery that haunts her life, and especially her brother's life, once he is accused of murdering his teenage girlfriend Stacy. With the passing of her father, the adult Kirsten returns home and solves the mystery that shattered her childhood. June brought us to an author study. We have a tradition now of reading a variety of titles by one author. In June we read British detective mysteries by Reginald Hill who is famous for his Dalziel and Pascoe stories. We made a list of titles

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written since 1992, but there are older ones. I've been re-reading the series ever since. If you love this genre you can still find the series to stream on YouTube. And to cap off our year we added a new segment to Book Club. Liz invited the group to the cottage for a special summer edition of Book Club. So a few members chose to while away a couple of days on an island in Georgian Bay and discuss **The Round House** by Louise Erdrich -- well that's what they were supposed to do. But wine and food and boat trips may have outmanoeuvred the book talk. I wasn't able to attend but Marnie says it was the best book club ever and Sue has included a picture or two you might enjoy.



Well things couldn't be better because Bonnie says she'll be attending September

to talk about **Happiness** by Will Ferguson.



### Book Club 2

#### Barb Welfred, Co-ordinator

Reading a variety of books selected by several different people becomes an exciting learning experience with every book you read! This year our club had many great learning experiences and we read many books we would not have otherwise chosen. Here is a

brief review of some of the books we read. In "*My Story*" by Elizabeth Smart we read about the experiences of a young teen who was kidnapped and held hostage and in *The Dinner* written by Dutch author Herman Koch we read about two families torn further apart by the activities and interaction of their sons. Somehow we ended up with several books with war experiences - *I'll Be Seeing You* - Loretta Nylan and Suzanne Hayes share the experiences of two American wives while their husbands are away in W.W. 2, *The Madonnas of Leningrad* - Debra Dean relayed the experiences of a young woman during the siege of Leningrad as she remembers them as an elderly woman with Alzheimer's, and in *The Book Thief* - Markus Zusak set in Nazi Germany in 1939, we read about a young girl who learned to read and shared her skill and her stolen books with her neighbours as well as a Jewish man hidden in her basement. On a lighter note we read the delightful book *While We were Watching Downton Abbey* - Wendy Wax, which was a tribute to the power of friendship built during weekly gatherings to view this series that would sustain them through some of life's hardest moments. Although not necessarily a "lighter" read but definitely of a different venue was *Midnight at the Dragon Café* - Judy Fong Bates. In this story a young Chinese girl, the daughter of a small Ontario town's only Chinese family has her life changed one summer when she learns the burden of secrets.

We finished our season with a delicious and lovely luncheon at the Stillwater's Restaurant in Paris, Ontario. We choose some books for the coming year and also enjoyed some retail therapy. A lovely afternoon!



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If being a member of a book club sounds like something you might enjoy please speak to one of the members of the Executive and if there is enough interest another book club could be started. Happy reading to all!

### RWTO Hiking Club

Our hiking season began with a city walk on April 2<sup>nd</sup> which included the old Jesuit Monastery in East Galt, now the site of Vineyard Church. We have continued on Thursdays at 9:00 and usually walk for an hour and a half on trails before sampling some of the many coffee shops in the area.



This season we have welcomed newly retired teachers Mary Poweska and Catherine Mitchell to our group. Members are encouraged to bring friends who don't need to be teachers to participate. Our walks this spring and summer have been along the Rail Trail, Pinehurst, Riverbluffs Park and Walter Bean Trail, Moffat Creek, Linear Trail, Devil's Creek, YMCA trails, Downtown Galt ending at the Art Attic, Riverside Park, Sudden Track and the Dickson Wilderness where we were fortunate to see two beautiful swans.

New members are always welcome.

**Mary Jane Novak**, 622 0415, or 221 2462

**Convention Flashback:** In June our branch staffed the registration desk at the Best Western Arden in Stratford. The volunteers were capably organized by Sheila Wittie and Maxine Neller and included Anne Borchardt, Ruth Foss, Barb Welfred, Marg Gingrich, Faye Lootsma, Pat Taylor, Helen Darby, Sue Meighan and Terry Hamilton. Some of these women attended a "Convention Celebration Lunch" on July 16<sup>th</sup> at the Arden. Attending the convention were delegates Dianne Winkler, Terry Hamilton and Barb Welfred as well as member Ruth Foss. Congratulations to Sheila Wittie who received the Cora Bailey Award for the Cambridge Branch.



Convention announcement for 2016:

*"Come Rally by the River"*

60<sup>th</sup> Annual RWTO Convention in Windsor June 7-9, 2016 at Caesars Windsor Hotel Tel: 1-800-991-8888

Book rooms for Convention 2016 in Windsor at **Caesars Windsor Hotel**

377 Riverside Drive East

Tel: 1-800-991-8888

[www.caesarswindsor.com](http://www.caesarswindsor.com)

When booking, remember to say

RWTO (Retired Women Teachers of Ontario) 2016

and request the group rate with the Code:ACNO607

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