



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

President's Message

To misquote a famous Roman, 'We came, we saw, we celebrated'. And oh, how we celebrated! There really is nothing like an RWTO/OERO AGM to bring out good times and camaraderie. View the photos posted on our website at <http://www.rwto.org/previous-convention.asp> and you'll see joy, laughter and a sense of fun. Caesar's Windsor certainly was the place to be this past June as members reunited with old friends, made new ones, and were treated to an unforgettable convention by our wonderful Windsor-Essex Branch hosts. Thank you Co-Convenors Linda White, Karen Clark-Lauzon and all Windsor Essex Branch volunteers for creating such a memorable, sparkling convention. We did indeed rally by your Detroit River and drew both inspiration and energy from our gathering. We celebrated the women whose vision established our organization and those who have steered it through its first 60 years. This was truly a wonderful experience for all in attendance.

As we East Parry Sounders drove down the 401 on our return trip back to South River, we all agreed that we had participated in and witnessed a remarkable event. I for one, couldn't help wondering how the year would go. Would the enthusiasm of this AGM be re-created within each branch? Would branches all find volunteers to fill empty executive positions? Would each branch be able to promote RWTO/OERO in ways that would raise our profile, spread the word and encourage new memberships? These are on-going challenges and I sincerely hope that this year, we meet them successfully and creatively in all our 52 branches.

Speaking of 52, I am already plotting a zigzag trip across Ontario. To date, I have received over 30 branch invitations and I look forward to more. Attending these meetings is a true privilege and I eagerly anticipate my time with each branch. Those of us who have joined RWTO/OERO know the value of this membership. We love the community outreach that we accomplish together, we love our meetings where we can get together in friendship and support and we love the friendships we have made within this group.

As your 61st RWTO/OERO Provincial President, I am both honoured and delighted to serve. Your 2016-2017 Board of Directors is a very dedicated, hard-working team of women, who commit their skills and strengths to RWTO/OERO. We represent you, our wonderful membership of over 5000 retired women teachers, whose ages span some 50 years, whose life experiences are rich, full and varied, and who offer strength and support to each other. I know that as a Board, we will work thoughtfully, carefully and cooperatively on your behalf.

I look forward to hearing from you and to meeting with you during my branch visits, and I wish you all a wonderful RWTO/OERO year.

Peggy Stock,
Provincial President 2016-2017



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Convention 2016 - "Rally by the River"

We "Rallied by the river" in Windsor's spectacular Caesar's to celebrate our



RWTO/OERO 60th anniversary as an organization and my farewell as Provincial President. From the welcome to the last farewell, it was outstanding. Congratulations and many thanks to Co-Convenors Linda White and Karen Clark-Lauzon and their Windsor-Essex pageant-clad facilitators



for creating an excellent party. As life-learners, we appreciated the three workshops in "Insurance", "Excel for Treasurers" and "Let's Do PR", offered by Terry Kennedy, Gloria Drake and Hope Leon.

We enjoyed the opening dinner, with gorgeous décor and delicious food. There we laughed and bopped to the tune of

Celebration while the anniversary cake was ceremoniously cut. We appreciated Hamilton-Wentworth's card-players skit on the origins of RWTO/OERO. Lastly, we sang along as the talented duo of Sean Sennett and Mya Morris showcased 60 years of Broadway music.



Wednesday morning focused on business at the AGM. The Provincial President welcomed the members and announced that branches would receive a grant of \$250 to enhance

branch charitable work and/or branch membership advertising. This cheerful news was followed by committee reports; Gloria Drake's comprehensive financial report and proposed budget; and a discussion of resolutions, aptly chaired by Parliamentarian Joy Patyk.



Playtime was next with the afternoon's choice of tasty lunches and fun-filled tours around Windsor-Essex; the hospitality suite overlooking the river, a great place to meet both new and old friends; and the successful Silent Auction, where many bid on wonderful items.



At the evening banquet, Board Members were piped into a room that sparkled with glittery outfits and members' smiles and it was my privileged to introduce the 12 Past Provincial Presidents who were in attendance. After a delicious meal, presentations were made to the Barbara Bain Membership and the Feather in Your Hat Award recipients. Leslie Uttley then presented Judy Anderson and Dianne Rice with Honorary Memberships. The magic continued as "Elvis" was "in the building" and, along with an Elvis Jr., rocked the house. Your Provincial President learned that Elvis is a pretty good dancer. We weren't "Lonesome Tonight".



Thursday morning began with a 7 a.m. Board of Directors meeting. Afterward, Sharron Colter, assisted by Hénédine Weiman and the Area Directors, conducted a poignant memorial service. The AGM continued with committee reports and the presentation of a substantial Profit Sharing cheque by Insurance Broker Terry Kennedy. With business ended, an enthusiastic Convention 2017 committee invited us to "Follow the Dream" to Ajax next June. I can hardly wait!



Thursday's lunch was very special as several Over 90s members and two mother-daughter duos were recognized.

After lunch, Honorary President Leslie Uttley installed the 2016-2017 Board of Directors. As outgoing Provincial President, I expressed my thanks to all who had made my presidential year spectacular. Peggy Stock the 2016-2017 Provincial President was introduced by her branch and warmly received by those present. It was a truly memorable convention, our "Rally by the River".



Dianne Rice
Provincial Past President



Awards

Honorary Membership Awards

Judy Anderson

Judy's devotion to RWTO/OERO continues in all areas of the organization. In 2007, she represented Rendezvous, Scarborough and York North as Area 5 Director on the Provincial Board. The next year she was appointed to be the Assistant Insurance Convenor and two years later became the Provincial Insurance Convenor. Her musical attributes were also a part of her road show as she visited the branches throughout the province. Her Power Point presentation and her theme song, The Cherry on the Top, were hits. Judy has been the RWTO/OERO Provincial Representative at the ETFO Annual Convention for the past five years, introducing teachers to the RWTO Organization. At present, Judy is the Co-Convenor for the RWTO/OERO Convention being held in Ajax in 2017. Her enthusiasm is contagious and her ideas are endless.

Congratulations, Judy, as you receive the Honorary Membership Award 2016, in acknowledgement and appreciation for all your contributions to RWTO/OERO.



Dianne Rice

Dianne's journey to the position of Provincial President of RWTO/OERO is filled with so many accomplishments. Her journey began as a member of the Sarnia-Lambton Branch. Dianne soon became a member of the local executive and eventually became Branch President. When the Area 3 Director position became available, Dianne put her name forward to serve on the Provincial Board. She worked in harmony with the branches of Chatham-Kent, London/Middlesex, Sarnia/Lambton, St. Thomas-Elgin and Windsor-Essex. As Issues and Concerns Convenor, Dianne's articles were very informative. As 2nd Vice-President, Dianne served as Goodwill Convenor and as 1st Vice-President was Resolutions Convenor for Convention 2015. Dianne has been a wonderful leader whose "Caring and Sharing" have made her year as Provincial President most successful.

Congratulations, Dianne, as you receive the Honorary Membership Award 2016, in acknowledgement and appreciation for all your contributions to RWTO/OERO.

Feather in Your Hat Award

This award recognizes creative, innovative and successful activities carried out by a branch that has clearly enriched the programs offered by RWTO/OERO. In 2016, we had many applications and it was so difficult to choose. We narrowed our search by selecting branches that had many members involved in a project and congratulate all of the branches for their submissions.

Niagara Falls Branch.

Niagara Falls began its relationship with the local Salvation Army's Eventide Home many years ago when \$500 was given to branches involved in some community project. The initial grant was used to purchase mobility equipment for the residents. Annually the branch donates games, compact discs, garden equipment, personal care items etc. But the most important aspect of their submission is that members continually give of their time. They cater in the tuck shop, take residents to chapel, help them with gardening and read to them, doing whatever they can to improve the quality of life for the residents. The branch is committed to providing both monetary and personal support for many years to come.

Congratulations to Niagara Falls- your submission exemplifies "Caring and Sharing".



Burlington Branch

Their project, making Izzy dolls, sometimes called African Comfort Dolls, is not a new concept as it has been around since the mid-1990s, begun in memory of Mark Isfield, who was killed in Croatia on a peacekeeping mission for Canada. Burlington Branch's knitting group began this project in the fall of 2015, and continues to meet regularly and also knits at home. In January, Burlington hosted a guest speaker, who travels frequently to third-world countries at her own expense, and presented her with more than 100 dolls to take with her. So many members were moved by the talk and learning how much these dolls mean to the children receiving them, that more members have asked to join the knitting group. This is a true example of giving your time to benefit those in need.

Continued ▶

Congratulations to Burlington.

Hamilton-Wentworth Branch.

They had many outstanding projects during the year, but they are receiving their hat for one initiative in particular. Hamilton-Wentworth has an idea called “Our Members Have Spoken”. At each event they have a suggestion treasure box, where members can submit ideas for projects or fun activities. The most exciting aspect of their “Listening to Members” initiative for us is that a member suggested that the branch should have Cora Bailey pins for their past and

present Cora Bailey recipients in this special anniversary year. The executive listened and a Cora Bailey pin was designed by Linda Sargeant from Hamilton- Wentworth. We are hoping that the branch will agree to allow Provincial to produce the Cora Bailey pin for all branches to use.

Congratulations on being such an innovative branch. Your members have indeed spoken and they have been heard.

Submitted by the membership committee of Sharron Colter, Area 1; Sandy Fulcher, Area 1; Suzanne Lanouette-Carswell, Area 9 and Kay-Anne Broger, Area 6 (chair).

Barbara Bain Membership Awards

This provincial award is named in honour of our long-time London-Middlesex member, Barbara Bain, who served on the Provincial Board of Directors for 11 years as an Area Director, Assistant Insurance Convenor, Insurance Convenor, 2nd and 1st Vice-President, President, Past President and Honorary President as well as being our first Membership Convenor.

As you are aware, the formula for this award was changed last year to be more equitable and to honour more branches. The calculation, done by Gloria, is straightforward - how many new members join your branch minus the number of existing members who do not renew during the April 1 to March 31 period. If any branch wishes to know its exact numbers and the resulting calculation, feel free to contact Gloria. There are 9 awards, 3 in each tier, for a total of \$1800. We were honoured to have Barbara Bain at Convention 2016 to present these awards.

Tier 3, the smaller branches: (all first time recipients)

- \$300 - Niagara South, net increase of 6
- \$200 - Lincoln West, net increase of 4



\$100 - Gananoque, net increase of 3

Tier 2, the middle-sized branches:

- \$300 - Upper Canada East, net increase of 9
- \$200 - Brant, net increase of 8
- \$100 - Brockville, net increase of 7

Tier 1, the largest branches:

- \$300 - Mississauga, net increase of 12
- \$200 - Belleville, net increase of 11
- \$100 - Peel North, net increase of 7

**The Cora Bailey recipients are listed on the website at www.rwto.org/awards.asp. Please scroll to the bottom of the main page and click on “Cora Bailey Recipients May 2015-August 2016”.*



Judy Anderson



**We welcome you to come,
“Follow the Dream”!
to RWTO/OERO Convention 2017
at the Ajax Convention Centre, June 6-8, 2017.**



Carol Nelson

<http://www.rwto.org/upcoming-convention.asp>

Resolutions for 2016 Annual General Meeting

Business Arising from 2015 AGM Minutes – Stratford Convention:

The following resolutions from Stratford 2015 AGM were withdrawn and referred to the Constitution and Resolutions Committee for consideration by the Board.

Resolution #8 from the Burlington Branch - 2015 AGM.

Be it resolved that Policies and Procedures Manual, Article III, Finance Policies, item 5 Reimbursement of Expenses, item A, line (c) General: Expense claims must be submitted to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer within forty-five (45) days of the event and not later than March 31, the end of the fiscal year. Expense claims submitted after forty-five (45) days must be submitted to the President before any payment will be made. If the President decides there were special circumstances causing late submission of the claim, then authorizing payment would follow (revised October 2012) be amended to read: Expense claims should be submitted to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer within forty five (45) days of the event and not later than March 31, the end of the fiscal year.

At the September 2015 Board Meeting, after a report from the Constitution Committee, a motion was carried to stay with the timing of admittance of expense forms to 45 days.

Resolution #10 from the York North Branch - 2015 AGM.

Be it resolved that in years when there is an excess of revenue above expenditures of more than \$1,000.00 in the RWTO/OERO budget that RWTO/OERO donate \$1,000.00 to a provincial charity which supports women and/or children in need. Such a charity to be determined by the Executive (for example, the OACAS Bursary/Scholarship fund for Ontario's youth in care).

This was discussed at length at the September 2015 Board Meeting. The Board does not feel it can designate one charity that would satisfy all 52 branches. Therefore the Board made a motion that branch charitable donations are the best way to honour our Mission Statement and has decided not to take any further action as recommended by Resolution 10. We can all be very proud of the outreach work we do at the branch level.

Further to this, President Dianne Rice announced that at the May 2016 Board Meeting a motion was approved that the branches receive a grant of \$250.00 to enhance branch charitable work and/or Branch Membership advertising in the 2016-2017 year.

Board Resolutions from 2016 Annual General Meeting

Board Resolution #1 The Position of the Provincial Communications Convenor

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

Board Resolution #2 Definition of a Regular Member

Be it resolved that *Constitution Article III 1. Regular Members* be amended to read: Article III 1. Regular Members: Any retired woman teacher is eligible to be a member of RWTO/OERO whether or not she is receiving a teacher's pension. **Carried**

Board Resolution #3 Membership Fees

Be it resolved that Constitution Article III Membership and Fees, 5. Fees e) be amended to read: Annual membership fees must be forwarded to the Provincial Office when they are received. They should be forwarded to the Provincial Office by October 15. Only members whose annual fees have been received by Provincial Office on or before November 30 will be counted in the branch membership numbers that determine the number of eligible branch delegates at the Annual Meeting for that year.

Withdrawn for further clarification.

Board Resolution #4 Duties of the Provincial Insurance Convenor

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

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Board Resolution #5 Duties of the Provincial Insurance Convener

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

Carried

Board Resolution #6 Duties of the Provincial Insurance Convener

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

Carried

Branch Resolutions from 2016 Annual General Meeting:

Branch Resolution #1 From the 7 branches of Area 4 (Hamilton-Wentworth, Haldimand, Brant, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Niagara South and Lincoln West)

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

Withdrawn

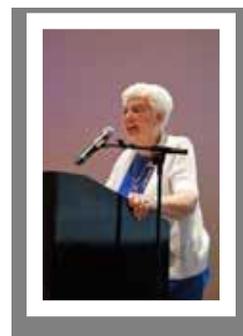
This resolution was withdrawn as this is not a constitutional matter and cannot be brought forward. At the May Board meeting, following discussion, the Board passed a motion approving the division.

Branch Resolution 2 From the Oakville Branch

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

Defeated

Joy Patyk,
Parliamentarian



Resolution Submissions for the 2017 Annual Meeting

Resolutions for the 2017 Annual General Meeting must be submitted to Lois Lockhart by November 15, 2016. The intent of every resolution should be clear, concise and must contain one key idea or focus. (Policy and Procedures Article VII Resolutions).

You'll find the newest edition of our Constitution on the www.rwto.org site, specifically at

<http://www.rwto.org/pdf/RWTO%20Constitution%20June%202016.pdf>

When your branch is preparing to submit a resolution, questions and concerns should be directed to Lois Lockhart or Parliamentarian Jane Cartier (519) 676-4495 acecartier@cogeco.ca

Lois Lockhart,
First Vice-President
(905) 774-4786
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***More Convention photos are available on-line at <http://www.rwto.org/previous-convention.asp>. For these treasures, we thank Convention 2016 photographers Kathy Gallagher and Arlene Veitch.**

Insurance Matters

Ah, September! This month always seems to me to be a time of renewal. The hot, hazy days of July and August are a fading memory. The anticipation of crisp, cooler weather, changing leaves and a new school year just beginning gives me a sense of excitement. It's a wonderful time to look back at where we've been and forward to where we're headed.

As we travel around our beautiful province, meeting members and conducting workshops, I'm always happy to be so warmly welcomed! To a person, those I meet seem to enthusiastically embrace the ideals of RWTO/OERO of "Caring and Sharing" and having fun. The purpose of the workshop is to share information, to share stories and of course, to encourage members to join our wonderful insurance plans: the Hospital and Home Care Plan and Personal Accidental Death & Dismemberment Plan.

I thought I'd take this opportunity to share a bit of information with you. As much as we try to encourage members to join the Plan, I'm still struck by how many of you seem to feel you don't need this or won't use it, so why bother? I am also struck by how many believe that because they've been retired for over a year, they can't join the Plan or that they are too old to join the Plan. I hope to resolve some of those issues now.

Looking back over the claims of this past year, let me share a story of how one member (she'll remain nameless to protect her identity) thought she'd never need the Plan, had considered dropping it because she hadn't used it, but became very glad indeed that she stuck with it.

The member fell down her stairs in her home and fractured her hip. She was taken by ambulance to hospital where she was admitted and had surgery to repair the fracture. She was in hospital for over a week, then was transferred to a rehab hospital for a month of rehabilitation. Following her stay in the rehab hospital, she decided to move to a convalescent facility for a further week as she lives alone and wanted to be certain she could manage. She called to find out what she should claim and how to submit her claim. She was surprised to learn that she could claim the **Fracture Benefit** which paid \$200 for her hip fracture, the **Convalescent Benefit** which pays her \$350 a month for up to six months while she's recovering from her surgery, the **Comfort Care Benefit** which paid \$25 for each day she was in hospital, the Ambulance Benefit that paid the portion of the ambulance charge not covered by OHIP, the **Patient Transfer Benefit** (for the Private Ambulance which was used to transport her to the Convalescent Facility), the **Mobility Assistance Benefit** (which paid for the rental of her walker), the **Physiotherapy Benefit**, the **Assistive Devices Benefit** (which paid for the grab bars she had installed in her bathroom) and the **Physician Validation Expense Benefit** (which paid the fee her family doctor charged to complete the claim form). She received over \$3,000.00 in benefits for the annual premium of

only \$173.88. While she wasn't happy to have suffered such a terrible fall and the pain that went along with it, she was very pleased that she hadn't cancelled her Plan after all. That one accident covered 17 years of premium payments!

This Plan is available to all members in good standing, whether you are newly retired or have been retired for a while. For those members who have been retired for less than one year, acceptance is guaranteed and you do not have to complete the Medical Questionnaire contained in the application form. For members who have been retired for more than a year, your eligibility for the plan will be determined by the Underwriters who review your Medical Questionnaire. There is no age maximum for the Hospital and Home Care Plan. Any member, of any age, provided she is living independently and remains a member in good standing, can apply for the plan and can continue to enjoy the many benefits of the plan. And remember, your spouse can apply as well.

Not to be confused with the Hospital and Home Care Plan, the Personal Accidental Death & Dismemberment Plan does have an age maximum....members and spouses under the age of 85 are eligible for this plan but coverage does terminate at age 85.

And looking forward, I'm pleased to tell you that the Hospital and Home Care Plan and Personal Accidental Death & Dismemberment Plan has been renewed this year with no rate change. Members continue to pay \$14.49 per month for the Hospital & Home Care Plan; spouses pay \$15.57 per month. Contact your Branch Insurance Convenor or any one of your RWTO/OERO Insurance team for a brochure and application form. Our contact information can be found at the end of this column.

And a reminder to those members who are planning a trip away to warmer climes over the coming winter, don't forget your travel insurance! RWTO/OERO offers a travel insurance plan that can ensure you have the coverage you need when you need it. It can top up or extend your existing coverage. Call CanAm at 1 (888) 326-3535 for a quote.

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News from the Branches – “Moving Ahead”

Beaver Valley



Beaver Valley Branch is focused on moving forward. We are a small group and continue to find it challenging filling our executive positions. We persevere with expectations of filling each role. Our Summer Art Camp was a resounding success. Guided by a professional instructor, participants released their

inner artist as they sketched, drew anime' self-portraits, painted watercolour anime's and created acrylic birch tree scenes. The final project was to select a Group of Seven era painting and interpret it in their own style using acrylics. Plans are underway for next year's program. We are currently filling backpacks for local children and continue to support a variety of local charities. We mourn the loss of June Falls, a branch member for many years. June began teaching in a one-room school and experienced many changes during her long and rewarding career. We will remember her dedication to our group and we will miss her friendship.

Belleville

The members of RWTO/OERO Belleville are “moving ahead” and looking forward to the journey. Past President Jennifer Davis is now Area 7 Director and outgoing president Kay Snedden will be in charge of membership. Our branch is also moving ahead with the idea of co-presidents.



Diane Fisher and Judy Mewett have jointly taken on this position. Our membership is growing and the interest groups are well attended. The fall luncheon will be October 5, 2016 and John Cairns, a motivational speaker, will inspire us to live positive, active lives. Louise Ford will entertain us musically at our Christmas luncheon on December 6, 2016. The Cora Bailey Award will be presented at our spring luncheon on April 20, 2017 and the guest speaker will be from Healing with Horses. Our summer luncheon, June 14, 2017, is going to have a 50s-60s theme with entertainment provided by Peter Rea of the Reasons.

Brant

Our membership increased last year to 87 full members and we hope to have more retirees join our lively group this year. Our Membership Breakfast began our year with guest speaker Christine Pizzey from Child Hunger Brantford, a non-profit organization providing weekly school lunches for children. Plans for the rest of the year include: October – TBA; November – Christmas and toy drive at the Golden Teapot; January – the popular potluck lunch and Court Whist; February – tour of Riverview Terrace Retirement



Home; March – Spring at Holland Park Garden Gallery in Burlington; April – Spring Banquet and Silent Auction at Brantford Golf and Country Club; May – Grand River Cruise and lunch. Attendance at meetings is from 25 to 55 as

our members enjoy coming out, meeting new friends, and having adventures. We recognize those ill or celebrating special events with cards, phone calls, or flowers. “Caring and Sharing” in Brant at its best!

Dundalk-Highpoint

In April, the Dundalk-Highpoint Branch presented the Cora Bailey Award to three members: Helen Pallister, Maxine Copeland and Audrey Oldfield have been dutiful participants in RWTO since their retirement. They each have shown leadership in their community. Each is an exemplary role model to others. We enjoyed celebrating 60 years of RWTO/OERO by sharing stories of our teaching time. It was great to reminisce on the fun times and events that molded our teaching careers.

No birthday party would be complete without ice cream and cake which was served following our story telling. In June, the Mitchells invited us to their home on Lake Eugenia. A pontoon cruise on the lake with Captain Jim, followed by lunch on shore, was a fun way to beat the heat.



Continued ▶

News from the Branches – “Moving Ahead” - Continued

Durham North

Durham North had a sensational spring and is looking forward to a fantastic fall! To celebrate the 60th year of RWTO/OERO, author Millie Morton was our guest speaker at our spring meeting. Millie spoke about her book *Grace*,



which is based on the life of her mother, who taught in a one-room schoolhouse. Many of our members were able to relate because they also had started their careers in a one-room schoolhouse. Later in June we celebrated with a High Tea, at the Lucy Maud Montgomery Society

of Leaskdale, Ontario. It included a tour of the manse, where Lucy Maud had lived for several years; a beautiful luncheon, typical of Lucy Maud's time period and then, we sat upstairs in the old church and told stories from our teaching days. What a wonderful event! Now, we look forward to all that will happen this fall. We are glad to be “moving on” to new adventures and new experiences with friends new and old.

Flesherton

The long hot days of summer have been busy for Flesherton and District branch members. We celebrated RWTO/OERO 60th in May, with President Dianne Rice, by serving regal cupcakes and sharing inspiring words that we would give first year teachers. In June, our “Sharing and Caring” awards were given to a deserving graduating student from each of our four local elementary schools. At the beginning of July, we promoted our branch at a Flesherton Farmers' Market. On July 25, we had our annual potluck picnic at Inglis Falls with our sister group from Wiarton. We celebrated a 90th birthday and listened to musical selections played on a harp. In the fall, we hope to have a local author, a lesson on bee keeping, a discussion on the role of a Power of Attorney and a trip through the Welland Canal. Our branch's exciting news is that our member, Shirley Greenwood, has become the Area 1 Director. Congratulations and enjoy your new role.

Haldimand

The ladies of the Haldimand Branch of RWTO/OERO are looking forward to another great year with a few surprises, along with our three well attended luncheons. We anticipate the musical entertainment of Dr. J, as we will sing along or dance to his tunes; our annual Christmas gift draw with book exchange; and a February Tea, accessorized with hats, fascinators and gloves! Our branch continues to support seniors' programs, geriatric health, local food banks, women's shelters, Early Years Centres, hospice care, school breakfast programs, the Regional Heritage Fair and animal rescue,



to name only some. Our Touch Quilt Program resumes in the fall. Participants help by gathering, cutting, sewing and assembling the fabric from many women's lives to create lap sized quilts for shut-ins. Many women's hands helping many others. Congratulations to our own Lois Lockhart, who was sworn in as the provincial 1st Vice-President at the AGM at Caesar's in Windsor.

Hamilton-Wentworth

September is always filled with new beginnings and a sense of anticipation. This year is our branch's 60th birthday, coinciding with Canada's 150th. We congratulate member Sandie Bender, our new Area 4 Director. Lots of celebrations are in store in Hamilton-Wentworth, beginning with our September Be Our Guest annual membership drive, with its creative interest group displays, food, fun and fellowship. October's waterfront Harvest Luncheon with speaker, Catherine Astolfo, author of the Emily Taylor Mystery Series, is sure to be fun! Toys, books and monetary donations to CAS/CCAS will be collected, as all events have an Outreach component. Celebration at the Station will crown 2016, with a delicious turkey luncheon and a Christmas themed sing-a-long provided by the costumed Baker Street Victorian Carollers Quartet. Warm wrap-ups for the Christmas Tree of



Hope, gifts for the Mental Health Coalition and monetary donations for Ronald McDonald House will add to this festive, joyous and giving season.

Lincoln West

Lincoln West Branch celebrated the RWTO/OERO 60th Anniversary with a June luncheon. Our special guest speaker, Pauline Grondin, spoke about the life of Adelaide Hoodless and members were delighted with her sharing. The meeting ended with a Kindergarten class from Jacob Beam P. S. singing to us. Their teacher, Amy Peters, was able to point out her Kindergarten teacher to her students, retired teacher Helen Guagneli. It was a special moment! Moving ahead, in September, we have planned for the Director

Continued ▶

News from the Branches – “Moving Ahead” - Continued

of the Natural Abilities Store in Smithville to speak to us. Natural Abilities, operated by Community Living-Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln, provides a unique opportunity for individuals, with developmental disabilities, to work in the community, making gift packages for sale. We purchased our Convention 2016 Silent Auction items from Natural Abilities. At the Convention, we were proud to receive a Barbara Bain Membership Award and hope our branch continues to grow.

Niagara Falls

Our chapter has completed a most exciting 2016 season, with our annual Summer Picnic at the lovely shady yard of member Helen Macdonald. As usual, we were blessed with wonderful summer weather and a great turnout of members. One of the highlights of 2016 was our Diamond Jubilee Celebration in April. A fantastic number of members and guests joined together for a very rewarding luncheon at Betty's Restaurant in Chippawa, Niagara Falls. Our group was thrilled to



welcome one of our most Senior Members, Marion Lauder. We had over 30 door prizes and at least half of our members went home with a gift ... including dear Marion!

Niagara Falls Branch, in the new Area 13, is looking forward to a sensational and motivating set of meetings and activities during 2016 - 2017.

Niagara South

Niagara South Branch completed their program in June with a delicious buffet lunch and seeing a live comedy production at Showboat Theatre in Port Colborne. We are moving ahead in September with a new President, Patricia Davis and a new Vice-President, Lynn Millar. With newly retired women teachers as our guests, we are having a luncheon tea along with presenting the Cora Bailey Award to two very deserving members. Having received the Barbara Bain Membership Award at the Convention was an honour and surprise and we in Niagara South will continue to move ahead encouraging others to join our “Caring and Sharing” members.

Northumberland-South Durham

We consider it very important to encourage women in their pursuit of excellence in fields that are not usually open to women, in order to establish viable role models for young

women. Northumberland South Durham Branch is proud to announce our successful submission that Barbara Marian, of Colborne, Ontario, receive a Governor General's Award for Meritorious Service, Civil Division. On June 23, 2016, His Excellency, the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, presented the award to Barbara, in Ottawa. Her citation states that as an “internationally accredited referee for tae kwon do,” [Barbara has] “broken barriers for women and girls in a male-dominated sport” [and is] “highly respected in the worldwide sport of tae kwon do.” The citation underscores “her fairness and knowledge” [and points out that she serves as] “a role model to athletes” [and] “as a mentor to Canadian and international referees.” Our branch is especially grateful to Joyce Benthem (now deceased), Astrida Jenkinson Chalmers and Lee Beech (at that time a branch member) who helped bring this nomination to fruition. Doesn't this initiative underscore RWTO's September theme 'Moving Ahead', in a most appropriate way!



Owen Sound

Once again our group shall be very busy. We had our four branch and eleven executive meetings. In June, we celebrated the RWTO/OERO 60th with a picnic at the local museum



Grey Roots, at the schoolhouse that we helped to build. The Stratford RWTO visited us the following week at the same location. We had a great time. We have four branch meetings planned and guests have been booked to tell us about how fraud is affecting

seniors; one of our members shall share her trip to Australia with Christmas music; a spring fashion show sets us up for the new year and our AGM and Memorial Service shall be in May. The first day back to school will be celebrated with a group breakfast at a local Park Inn. We have other small gatherings throughout the year that are casual. Our group is growing and we enjoy the fellowship, new information and fun.

Continued ▶

News from the Branches – “Moving Ahead” - Continued

Peterborough

The Peterborough Branch is excited to ‘move ahead’ while still honouring our history. Presenting our new “Jean Axcell Award” to Jean at our 60th Anniversary Gala, was a highlight of the day and it will now be given annually to a deserving member. We were delighted to host Provincial President Dianne at our AGM in June. We appreciate dedicated women who continue to commit to serving at the local and provincial level. ‘Moving ahead’, we welcome new Area 7 Director, Jennifer and Provincial President, Peggy. Our members continued to meet throughout the summer, playing bridge, attending an outdoor theatre performance, making mattresses, playing golf and having lunch at restaurants, including the one-room schoolhouse in Ormsby. We also had a booth at Millbrook’s Ladies Night. We anticipate great adventures in 2016-2017 at new locations, with new members, new interest groups and with renewed energy. We are ready to ‘move ahead’.

St. Catharines

Our branch of 375 regular members offers General Meetings - with lunch and local, talented, entertainment and guest speakers - in September, October, April and May, and a Christmas Social in December. In September, we look forward to The Evergreen Singers, while October brings local entrepreneur Shannon Passero, of The Post Office Boutique. A big draw is the varied Interest Groups: we hike morning or afternoon and in the summer, enjoying each other’s company and chatting about travel and books; we also chat over a Bridge or Euchre table, on the golf course and at the bowling alley; we share a pot luck meal in our homes and or go out to restaurants, and share our talents when we sing for fun and dabble in the arts with En Plein Air watercolour. Members of our largest Interest Group, the Revolving Book Club, read, then forward, one book a month, keeping the final book they read in June. “Caring and Sharing” is alive and well in the St Catharines Branch of RWTO.

South Bruce



South Bruce Branch group enjoyed musical entertainment at our spring meeting held in the Ripley Legion. To celebrate the 60th anniversary of RWTO/OERO, we are planning a September meeting and lunch to honour our members who were teaching in 1956 and who are able to attend. At that meeting we plan on filling shoeboxes for disadvantaged children. The boxes are

sent to Kitchener for an organization called Organization Christmas Child. At our Fall Meeting in October, a fashion show is planned with outfits coming from one of our local Kincardine clothing stores. Members are encouraged to bring a retired teacher as a guest to this meeting. At the Christmas Tea we make a donation to the Bruce Children Are Special Foundation. We invite a representative from that organization to our meeting. Our members donate generously to this very worthy cause at this meeting, continuing to support our motto of “Caring and Sharing”.

Trenton

Trenton and District Branch is definitely 'moving ahead' with plans for another great year. We chose Celebrating Diversity-Canada 150 as our theme. We have invited several guest speakers to make presentations on a variety of inspiring and interesting topics. Our year begins with a 'Meet and Greet' in Frankford and we hope to have some new retirees join us. We have published an updated directory and many members are using their email addresses for correspondence. Our branch now has a Facebook page as well! Our interest groups commence in September and our card making group will be creating table favours for the 2017 Convention in Ajax. Our group is looking forward to the opening of a new school in Trenton which will consolidate 3 older buildings. We have donated a Buddy Bench in honour of the 60th anniversary of RWTO/OERO and our members will be invited to the official opening of the school early in 2017. “Caring and Sharing” and “moving ahead”!

Warton

The Warton Branch serves those retired women teachers from Tobermory, at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula, to Chesley, 150 km to the south. The members support two women’s houses, two food banks, and two fall fairs. About forty of our 55 members come out to most of our four lunch meetings held in church halls and community centres, including an annual summer picnic at famed Inglis Falls with our twin branch in Flesherton. We have educational speakers and musical programs with choirs, trumpeters, guitarists, harpists and pianists, sharing great social times, and even touring the Bruce County Museum at Southampton. We are so proud of our President, Sharron Colter, who has been serving as Area 1 Director and Provincial Archivist, and is now Provincial 2nd Vice-President. Members will enjoy an exciting year as they fling themselves into RWTO activities and complete their short bios remembering their teaching careers.



Issues and Concerns - “Medication use in Seniors”

Are you a little confused today? Can't remember where you put your glasses? Recognize a face but can't put a name to it? Before you attribute this to the inevitable effects of aging or even scarier, dementia/Alzheimer, consider this: it could be the medications you are taking.

Confusion, dizziness, falls, sleep disturbances, etc. may be caused by some medications or drug interactions. If more than one drug is being used simultaneously there is a risk of drug interaction. This means that one drug changes the effect of another drug and may render a drug ineffective, increase its potency, or lead to side effects. In most cases, a person on several different medications will be under the supervision of a doctor who will take possible drug interactions into account when prescribing a new medication. However, as we age and see various medical specialists, each of whom may have prescribed a new medication for us, the possibility of a drug interaction can occur. To prevent this from happening to you it is a good idea to get all of your medications from the same pharmacy and to review your medications with a trusted physician whenever your medications are changed in any way.

Along with interactions, also consider dosage, that is, the quantity and frequency of taking medications. Problems with dosage sometimes arise when tolerance to a drug changes over time, extra doses are taken to make up for a missed

dose, or directions for use are misread. It is also important to adhere to expiry dates as the potency and safe use of the drug cannot be guaranteed after the stipulated date.

These problems can arise with any age group but since medication use increases as we age, the risks are greater for seniors. The keys to safe and effective medication use are taking drugs only as prescribed and seeking medical advice before starting any other medications, over the counter meds, nutritional supplements or herbal remedies.

Check with your doctor right away if the drug you are prescribed seems to be ineffective or causing side effects before increasing/decreasing dosage or stopping the drug altogether.

It's your health. Don't hesitate to be your own advocate.

Teresa Dorey,
Issues and Concerns Convenor



Membership Matters

Hopefully all branches appreciate the new, more equitable method of deciding the Barbara Bain winners each year. It is rewarding to see some of the smaller branches being recognized for their efforts to increase membership. While monetary contributions toward your charitable works are essential, remember that the camaraderie developed, by having members personally involved in some of your projects, is invaluable and the publicity that can be generated is one of your best means of advertising RWTO/OERO. I offer a few suggestions taken from either Board meetings or Feather in Your Hat submissions. The idea for the new Cora Bailey pin came from the “Our Members Have Spoken Suggestion Box” (Hamilton-Wentworth) and was designed by their member Linda Sargeant. Hopefully, if the Board agrees, Hamilton-Wentworth's Cora Bailey pin, will soon be available to all branches.

Area 3 Director Val Luscott suggests that branches might consider inviting family members to their Cora Bailey presentations. If a deserving member has already received the

Cora Bailey Award for service to her branch, an award which is traditionally given only once, that member may possibly be recognized in a different way at another time. East Parry Sound gives an Uncommon Woman Award to a deserving member for outstanding community service. Consider this idea.

Since many branches will be reconvening in September, I offer Central Algoma's “Welcome Back” idea of collecting snacks and school supplies for needy children. Suggestions from you are always welcome.

Kay-Anne Broger,
Provincial Membership Convenor



Goodwill

The theme for the September Connections branches' articles is "Moving Ahead." To match that theme, I would like to say congratulations to our RWTO/OERO members who are "moving ahead" as they celebrate their 100th birthday this year. We have 31 members who are or will be 100 years old or more by May 2017. The oldest member is 107 years old. This year, as your Goodwill Convenor, I will send birthday cards, on behalf of RWTO/OERO Provincial, to 260 members in the over ninety category. What a wonderful achievement for these women born between 1909 and 1927. We can admire these retired women teachers as they were the teachers who helped organize and plan the RWTO/OERO that we enjoy today. I

am honoured to be able to demonstrate "Caring and Sharing" with these amazing retired women teachers of Ontario.

Sharron Colter photo
Goodwill Convenor



Archives

I am honoured to be appointed as your Provincial Archivist this year. My role as the archivist is to work closely with the Executive and the Board of Directors as business is discussed and written into the minutes of the AGM, the September and May Board of Directors and Executive Meetings held in Guelph. These minutes will be included in the archival materials that I will store safely. RWTO/OERO is entering the next five-year cycle of collecting and storing material for the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections at York University. Pictures from the Convention 2016 in Windsor will be included in the materials to be kept for the archives. Thank you to the Area Directors and the branches who sent

pictures of their special celebrations for RWTO/OERO 60th Anniversary. These pictures will be put into a binder for future reference.

Hénédine Weiman,
Provincial Archivist



Program Coordinator

Welcome Directors and Branch Presidents to the 2016-2017 year! You should have received your Director and President Timelines. If not, please contact me. I encourage you to refer to them often for assistance in helping you fulfil your roles. It is much appreciated when deadline dates are met as it helps our organization run smoothly.

Something new has been added to the Website. Check out "Materials". There, you can view pictures of items that are for sale. For more details regarding sales items, see the last page of your Timelines. I look forward to another great year!

Nancy Papiez,
Provincial Program Coordinator
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Communications

I am grateful to the convention delegates for recognizing that due to growth in the newsletter and the website, the responsibilities of the Communications Convenor, have grown beyond the capacity of one individual to handle. Following delegate approval of Board Resolution #1 at the June AGM, the communications file will be "Moving Ahead" with the splitting of the position into two: Communications/Newsletter and Communications/Website. I will continue with the newsletter portfolio and the position of Communications/Website Convenor will be filled at the September Board meeting, by Board appointment. Branch Presidents and Branch Communication Convenors will be updated at that time and members introduced to the new convenor in the December issue of Connections.

I will be handling the website updates until late September. With branch membership season around the corner, remember to send your web updates to www.rwtoconnections@gmail.com. Wishing you much success in the attraction of new members and retention of present ones.

In "Caring and sharing".

Mardie Panabaker
Provincial Communications Convenor



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Continued

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RWTO/OERO Calendar 2016-2017

September 1, 2016	Annual Provincial Membership Fees due – can be sent to Provincial Office as received	January 31, 2017	Membership + Communications Committee applications to the Provincial Past President
September 12 -14, 2016	Provincial Executive and Board Meetings	January 31, 2017	Nominations for Honorary Membership Award at AGM
October 15, 2016	Membership fees due September 1st for 2016-2017 and should be sent to Provincial on or before October 15, 2016.	January 31, 2017	Submissions due for March Newsletter - Areas 2, 3, 9, 12
November 1, 2016	Submissions due for December Newsletter – Areas 5, 6, 8, 10, 11	March 15, 2017	Branch Annual Reports due to Directors
November 15, 2016	Resolutions due for 2017 Convention in Ajax	March 31, 2017	Director Reports due to Program Coordinator
November 15, 2016	Resignation of any Directors to Provincial President	March 31, 2017	Unpaid members are taken off membership list. Insurance may be in jeopardy.
November 30, 2016	Calculation of branch numbers for 2017 AGM delegates based on official membership count as received and recorded in the Provincial Office	March 31, 2017	Financial Year End
January 5 - 10, 2017	Annual Report and Branch Membership Forms sent to branches	April 15, 2017	All delegate names are to be in to Executive Secretary-Treasurer
January 15, 2017	Submission of each new Area Director's name to Provincial President	April 15, 2017	Registration due for Convention 2017 in Ajax
January 31, 2017	Nominations for 2017-2018 Board to the Provincial Past President	April 30, 2017	Branch Financial Reports due to Executive Secretary-Treasurer
		May 9 - 11, 2017	Provincial Executive and Board Meetings
		May 15, 2017	Branch Executive names for 2017-2018 due to Executive Secretary-Treasurer
		June 6 - 8, 2017	Convention 2017 and AGM in Ajax



RWTO/OERO

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**PM Agreement
40739021**