

Sault Ste. Marie R.W.T.O. Newsletter Spring 2014



Sharing Caring Having Fun

Awards:

Joyce Mertes was recognized by R.T.O. as Super Senior for spring 2014! She has advocated on behalf of teachers while holding leadership positions both locally and provincially with F.W.T.A.O. and R.W.T.O. She continues to be active with Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority, R.T.O. and Central United Church. Check out her picture on page 5 of the March 2014 R.T.O. newsletter.

Rita Wagner and Sandy Fulcher were recognized by the Zonta Club of Sault Ste. Marie during International Women's Week in March 2014 for being active community members.

Rita is C.E.O. of the Prince Township Library, a participant in the Prince Township Women's Institute, an organist at two churches, a volunteer at St. Vincent Soup Kitchen, a past President of R.W.T.O. twice, participant on many committees to plan the 2012 convention and currently a member at large on the executive committee.

Sandy is President of the Prince Township Women's Institute, a member of the board of the Ontario Finnish Rest Home, an instructor at the Steelton Seniors Drop-In Centre, a teacher of Finnish Language and Culture, Treasurer of our branch of R.W.T.O. and Area Director serving on the RWTO provincial board.

In Memoriam: Betty Wells, a long time member of our branch, passed away on March 30, 2014. Betty is remembered as an extremely valuable member of our organization. We will miss Betty's positive force.

February Craft Meeting--Another fun craft session was held February 12th. Lorraine Defazio was back by popular demand to demonstrate scarf tying techniques. The participants got their wishes for classy looks suitable for formal nights on a cruise or just for dressing up an outfit a bit for a special event. Many ladies enjoyed learning how to create earrings from Myril Lynn who taught how to choose colourful beads and to twist wire to create their own dangle, drop and stud earrings. Sandy Fulcher led a group in making and filling miniature Valentine gift boxes for the special people in their lives. The ladies in attendance either participated in one or two of the three crafts or just enjoyed an afternoon of pleasant conversation.



Paula (left) checked that Lorraine (right) was making a perfect tie on her scarf.



Myril instructed Carmen (left), Bernice (right back) and Dionisia (right front) how to design and create lovely beaded earrings.



Vi (right front) and Carol (right back) learn from Sandy how to make delicate Valentine boxes.

Steelton Seniors' Centre--On April 3rd, the ladies met at the Steelton Senior's Centre for a tasty lunch prepared by Rick Borean, the centre's Recreation Director. Rick then described the many activities that are available to adults 55 years old and over. Some of our members now enjoy gentle yoga at the centre. Others are planning to join card or bowling groups or try their hands at painting, quilting or knitting.

Book Club News--The book club members get together every third or fourth Wednesday to discuss the books they have carefully selected to read. They take turns hosting the sessions and have been treating each other to foods mentioned in the books when possible.



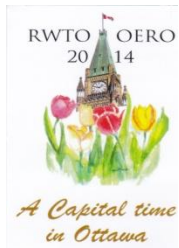
The club met at Rita's to discuss "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" and enjoyed baked potatoes covered in cheese with the peelings, no less.



At Brenda's, the club tasted French baking (Orange Madeleines and Strawberry and Pistachio Macarons) while critiquing "The Painted Girls".



Carmen set out Japanese place cards and served Red Velvet cup cakes and Fortune Cookies when we discussed "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet".



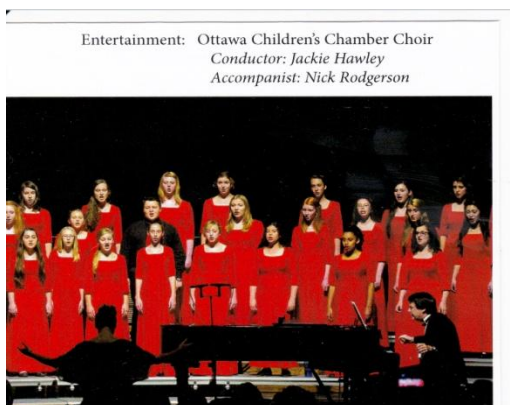
Rita Wagner, Sandy Fulcher and Gerry Yeo attended the 58th annual R.W.T.O. Convention in Ottawa from June 3rd to 5th, 2014 and reported having a truly “capital time”. There were about 250 delegates in attendance from 52 branches.

They attended the “Be Our Guest” workshop and brought back some exciting ideas about how to recruit members and keep them. Do you agree with the workshop presenter’s comments that members want to feel useful, needed and able to share a talent, and that it is important to keep interest groups fun and small in order to foster friendships?

In the “Newsy Bits” workshop, Sandy collected important information to pass on. In case you are not aware, the provincial newsletter “Connections” is on the R.W.T.O. website along with archived editions. You can go to the website www.rwto.org and download the document. The Provincial website is updated every Friday. When you visit the Sault Ste. Marie Branch of the website, you will find the most recent and archived copies of our local newsletters as well.

Rita reports that the business part of the meeting moved along quickly and the resolutions for the most part did not “get bogged down” with lots of debate. It was Resolution #4 that brought out strong feelings from the delegates. Resolution #4 regarding the inclusion of retired women Educational Assistants was deferred, and a motion was passed to have the Board of Directors headed by the Provincial President, Marilyn Emmett, create an ad hoc committee to study the implications of the resolution. Input from members in the north would be appreciated; you are invited to write, telephone or email your input.

In their spare time, Rita, Sandy and Gerry took a wonderful bus tour of Ottawa and Gatineau (Hull) to see the sights and enjoyed lovely musical entertainment in the evenings after dinner.



Convention 2015 will take place in Stratford, Ontario, from June 2nd to 4th.

INSURANCE NEWS

There is an Open Window for medical insurance from September 15, 2014 to November 15, 2014, with a provision to extend the date if necessary. There are no forms to complete or questions asked. Rita Wagner states: "Here is an excellent opportunity for our members to ask a retired woman teacher to join us. She does not have to be receiving a pension from teaching. She needs to be retired and she needs to have been a teacher." Sandy adds that the insurance is also for spouses or significant others, and there is no increase to the premium at the moment."

Enhancements to the RWTO/OERO Hospital and Home Care Plan*

RWTO/OERO coverage now offers even more value! Enjoy the following expanded benefits at no additional cost:

BENEFIT	ENHANCEMENT
Oxygen Benefit	Now includes CPAP machines and accessories , up to the current maximum of \$300 per benefit year
Cataract Surgery Benefit	Now includes cataract testing not covered by OHIP, up to the current maximum of \$100 per eye
Transportation Benefit	Now includes parking costs up to the current maximum of \$350 per injury or illness (combined with other transportation benefits)

For more information, please call toll-free:

1 866 410-0550
(New enrollment)

1 800 268-3763
(Currently insured)

For more information about this insurance, you may also contact Bev Brazeau locally at 705-949-0266 or at ourplace86@shaw.ca.

MEMORIES FROM OUR CLASSROOM TEACHING DAYS

Lorraine DeFazio shared this story from 1969 with us:

After a few months, my mid-year transfer student confided in me at recess. *"Miss, I like it here."*

"That's nice," I replied. *"I'm glad"*.

She responded, *" No Miss, I REALLY like it here."*

"That is wonderful news," I replied, and continued on yard duty.

She followed me and repeated again, *" No Miss, this school is REALLY nice."*

"Great!" I replied. *"I'm happy for you that the move is good."*

"Do you know why, Miss?"

"No tell me why."

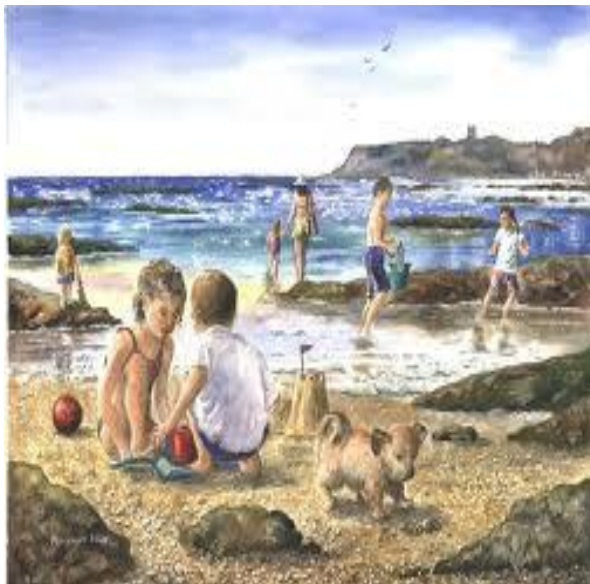
"Because you don't slap my hand with the ruler when I write with my left hand."

I did not reply.

Carol Coutu related this memory:

"I had a motto to live by during my teaching years. *100 years from now...the world will be different because I was important to the life of a child.* When leaving St. Bernadette, the staff found a decorated plate with that motto and a child standing with a sand castle at the edge of the water. It also has the starfish on the beach which was on the emblem for our board and ... another great story..."

REMINDERS:



1. Local RWTO members meet for breakfast /coffee the 2nd Friday of each month at 9 a.m. at Gino's Restaurant, 1076 Great Northern Road. Join us!
2. Our Book Club meets the 3rd or 4th week of each month except July and August. If interested in joining us, contact Brenda Gallander at 705-949-9145 or gallanb@shaw.ca
3. Next meeting: Wed., Sept. 10, 2014, at 11a.m., at the United Baptist Church at 41 Malabar
4. Contact President Carol Coutu at 705-759-8633 or at cacoutu_18@hotmail.com with concerns or ideas.

HAVE A SAFE, FUN-FILLED SUMMER WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!!!!

Newsletter by B. Gallander

