

SPRING MEETING TABLE FAVOURS

In order to keep our meetings fun and interesting, Bunny, our gifted maker of table favours, says, "My table favours which I will not divulge exactly what they will be, will add a touch of whimsy and the best word to describe them would be 'enchanted'. So if you wish to enter into the spirit of the table favours, wear something like a crown for a princess or something that would make one think of a fairy, or wear anything that you think might add to the theme. However, it is **you** who we want to see at the meeting and your dress is your decision.

CHRISTMAS MEETING

Our branch Christmas meeting was held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Port Hope on December 9, 2014. Vice-President Jan Engel capably handled the meeting. Since our fall meeting, President Barbara Moorcroft had heart surgery, and our 1st Vice-President Barbara Northey had a serious accident resulting in surgery and rehabilitation. It was with sadness that we heard that Joyce Bentham, Past President, had passed away on December 7th.

A new branch delegate will have to be selected for the provincial conference to be held in Stratford in June, 2015. Barbara Moorcroft still will be able to attend. Our branch membership is 62 which includes 3 life members. At the end of the meeting, it was reported that the members had donated \$150 to the 'Giving Tree' and other gifts equivalent to \$207.00. The silent book auction netted \$30.25 which was used for branch expenses.

Joan Putnam introduced Marilyn Emmett, our provincial president. Marilyn was the one responsible for producing the new provincial logo. She spoke about the fellowship, goodwill and branch activities, and how our motto 'Caring and Sharing' can be interpreted as Christmas all year. She reminded the branch to provide feedback to the provincial executive regarding admission of educational assistants into RWTO. We appreciated her comments and updates.

Brenda Sullivan beautifully sang several selections and led a carol singsong. She was accompanied by Audrey Mead, St. Paul's music director. The meeting closed with a delicious chicken dinner.

POSSIBLE ADMISSION OF OTHER EDUCATIONAL GROUPS TO RWTO/OERO

At its February meeting, the executive had a thorough discussion on this topic. Our provincial president at the Christmas meeting had asked for feedback on the subject as it will be discussed at the June conference. Our executive is concerned that the ones seeking admission into RWTO/OERO are just interested in our organization for the purpose of taking advantage of our insurance program. It has been almost 60 years that our organization has worked so hard to achieve all that we have, especially for us to be recognized. The executive wondered why the educational assistants who have brought this forward do not try to form their own organization. If they did, perhaps we could assist and support them and thus offer an opportunity for dialogue between the two organizations. We are concerned that if the EAs were allowed to join RWTO that this would set a precedent. Our executive is unanimously against the idea of EAs joining RWTO. We want to point out that RTO came after RWTO, and that RTO treats the EAs as associates, not as members.

Branch Archives Form: Some members still have not submitted their 'archives form'. If you have not, a form is being sent to you. Please complete and return to Barbara Moorcroft, 9 Gibson Place, Port Hope L1A 4G8 or bring it to the spring meeting.

Goodwill: The goodwill conveners send cards to members who are ill, for special occasions, to those over ninety and those who are in nursing homes or hospital. They send sympathy cards in cases of bereavement of a member's immediate family or someone very close to that member. They report the illness, death or important changes in a member's status to the membership convener. In order to do their job, the conveners need to be informed if any of the above needs to be attended to as they do not know every member personally. If you know of someone that needs attention in some way, please contact:

West of Port Hope Municipality of Port Hope, Hamilton Township & Cobourg East of Cobourg Visitation (shutins in their homes, and nursing homes)	Jan Engel Muriel Bell Astrida Jenkinson-Chalmers Sandra Boyko	905 623 4071 905 885 2882 613 475 1608 905 885 7543
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Branch Newsletter: To save postage and photocopying expense the branch newsletter is sent by email to those who have given us an email address. If you received yours by mail and you do have email, please let the editor, Joan Smith, know (joan.charlie@sympatico.ca) in time for the fall issue. Newsletters are sent to all on the membership list. Additional ones have been sent to previous members. However, if one has not paid one's fees or attended a meeting for the past three years, the newsletter will no longer be distributed to that person.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Tues. May 12th - after the spring meeting - **RWTO Northumberland South Durham Executive Meeting.**

Third Thursday of Every Month - 9:30 am - Traditions Restaurant 1053 Simcoe St. N. Oshawa. A social event - no business. Everyone welcome.

June 2nd, 3rd, 4th - RWTO 59th Annual Convention, Stratford, Ontario.
Delegates: Barbara Moorcroft (provincial), Sandra Boyko (branch).
Visitors: Astrida Jenkinson-Chalmers, Carolle Kennedy-Harding

Tues. June 9th - 'A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION'

Tuesday, June 09, 2015 - 2:00 pm - Seasons Retirement Home, 65 Clarington Blvd., Bowmanville. We all have birthdays, let's celebrate

together!

RSVP - by June 2nd

Jan Engel - 905 623 4071 ludi.engel@sympatico.ca
or Barbara Moorcroft - 905 885 4895 bmoorcroft1@cogeco.ca

Mon. Sept. 28th - Branch Fall Meeting - Grafton United Church - Harvest Buffet