



# The Scoop

*RWTO Newsletter*  
**Chatham Kent Branch Autumn 2013**  
Donna Easter Editor [deaster5@cogeco.ca](mailto:deaster5@cogeco.ca)



**Caring and Sharing**

## Spring Meeting Country View June 26,

At our Spring Meeting, we were able to peruse the Annual Report for our branch. We are fortunate to have a full slate of officers for the coming year and these women, along with their contact information, are listed on our brochure which was distributed to all of our members.

The Chatham YMCA made a presentation to the group about staying fit in retirement. Beverlee Bodnar is shown with Amy Wadsworth, the YMCA Fitness Coordinator and one of the directors of fitness at the new centre in Chatham. We enjoyed the presentation and were encouraged to go the "Y" with a free day pass.



## Memorial Service 2013

As has been the case for many years, Barb Rose organized and presided over our memorial service this spring. Luckily, we had no deaths to report this year and so Barb encouraged us to remember all those who have gone before and to continue our good work and friendships in their memory.



## Our President for 2013-2014: Jane Cartier



I want to take this opportunity to thank so many of you for the little things you do for our organization. It is the little things that make the big things come to fruition. For example, you "buy" a candy from the dish at the lunch table. When many of us do that, it enables someone to enjoy a season of bowling. Someone volunteers to say grace for our meetings. That generally gives us a perspective on being thankful for our blessings. You bring, sell or purchase books from our table. This past year that contributed \$ to Because I'm a Girl. Purchasing one of our draw tickets gives you the chance to win a little extra spending money as well as putting money into the local treasury, thereby contributing to the continuation of having some wonderful speakers. Being a greeter at the door brings a smile to the faces of those coming into the building. Attending Convention as either a delegate or a visitor provides an opportunity to learn more about our wonderful organization and how what we do in Chatham Kent can have a bearing or impact on the entire province. Being a member of the local Executive ensures that information continues to flow to our members and that programs are designed for all to benefit. Just attending meetings, listening to what is being presented by either local members or guest speakers and sharing social time with others is appreciated by the members of your Executive who work hard to ensure that meetings run smoothly.

One of our members, Pat Depencier, has spent many years representing Chatham Kent, as well as the entire provincial membership, on the Provincial Board. Her contributions at that level have been of benefit to all across the province and her guidance at the local level has been invaluable. Not everyone is interested in that role, but Pat has served us well.

Our motto of "Caring and Sharing and Having Fun" is being lived to the fullest here in Chatham Kent and I thank you most sincerely for being a part of that process. **JANE**



Lynn Sulman and Barb Suitor at the Spring Meeting.

## Insurance Matters!

It is great to see that the rates for the Hospital and Home Care Plan have not increased in 14 years, even though improvements have been made to the plan. Below lists some increased benefits:

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

Just a reminder, that Health Care Insurance is a deductible expense and should be claimed on your Income Tax Returns. (Manulife sends out a tax receipt for this purpose.)

## Hamilton 2013 Annual Convention



Our representatives this year were Jane Cartier, Edna Madill, and Sharon Nicholson. Many other members attended as well to enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow retired colleagues in a beautiful and relaxed setting.

Next year's convention is in Ottawa. Stay tuned for more information.



Dinner was great at convention for Sharon Nicholson, Marg Mazurek, Ruth Anne Rhea and Edna Madill.



President Jane Cartier and Marjorie Craven attended the conference



Nancy Stewart wins a gift at convention.



Beverlee Bodnar lit up the room at convention,

## Report From Convention 2013 by Jane Cartier

Thirteen members from Chatham Kent enjoyed attending Convention in Hamilton this past June with the theme of "Jewel on the Bay". There were only five resolutions, so the business meeting was finished in good time. Two of the resolutions dealt with minor changes regarding the Board of Directors, one to make the position of Assistant Insurance Convenor an appointed position and the other to clarify who the Executive Officers are on the Board. Past resolutions going back seven years will be published on the provincial website, [www.RWTO.org](http://www.RWTO.org) for reference. The motion to donate surplus money to a charity was defeated. The fifth motion, to have provincial office pay for the membership of all members over 90, was referred to the Board of Directors for further study and will be followed up at next year's Convention in Ottawa. As always, there were good meals, fabulous entertainment, wonderful items at the Silent Auction and opportunities to socialize with members from across the province. Some of our members came home with door prizes or gifts from the Silent Auction, including one of our members who purchased six items at the Silent Auction. A good time was had by all with an eye to our motto of "Caring and Sharing" and having fun.



## The Cora Bailey Award Goes to Mrs. Brenda Hoyles

Brenda is a wonderful recipient for the Cora Bailey Award. She has been a positive and active advocate for our local RWTO. She has reached out to recruit new members and has served on the executive in many ways.

From being the second vice president in 2005 to serving as first vice president and president and past president in the following years, Brenda continued her involvement with our local branch as Insurance Convenor for the next five years and also assisted with the provincial convention held in London in 2010.



## Our Fall Meeting Charing Cross United Church September 25, 2013.

Our First Vice President, Edna Madill, conducted the meeting. It was recommended by the executive that we continue to support the Special Olympic Bowling activity and that funds from our book sale go to "Because I Am A Girl". New retirees were welcomed by Edna Madill and JoAnne Chrysler, membership convenor.



New retirees are Sue Sparling, Doris Newcombe, Nancy Kelly, Kathy McCulloch, Margery Newby, Susan Simpson and Darlene Groenenberg



Members Barb Rose and Anne Mann visit before the Autumn Luncheon.



Edna Madill and Pat Depencier greet our Provincial President, Anne Graham (centre) at our Autumn Luncheon.



**Meet Dave Benson** Dave Benson provided our entertainment at the Autumn Meeting. He is the former Heritage Co-ordinator for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, director of the Chatham-Kent Museum, Milner Heritage House and the Ridge House Museum.

Dave brought his wide range of knowledge to us as he did a show and tell about homes and home furnishings from the 1812 era. Thanks to Dave for speaking to our group.

### Hats and Mittens Needed

Sue Cummings assists the May Court Club of Chatham, to help meet the needs of women and children. She distributes hats and mittens to as many schools as possible during the winter months. She is asking for donations of hats and mittens. Please call Sue at 519-351-4982 if you can help.

## The Editor's Line of Sight

Once again, I bring an endeavour of my own to share with you. As a caring and sharing group, we have much to offer our communities. As a group, we have a good idea as to what good citizenship looks like and we are an educated group of experienced individuals. Having said that, please consider joining me on the Family and Patient Centred Steering Committee at the Chatham Kent Health Alliance.

To qualify for membership on this committee you should have had some experience with the hospital through your own life or someone you have cared for. You would be asked to share insights and information about your experiences in ways that others can learn from them. You would need to be able to see beyond your own personal experiences and show concern for more than one issue or agenda. If you can listen well, respect the perspectives of others, speak comfortably in a group with candor, and interact well with many different kinds of people, then this may be just the committee for you.

Let me know if you would like an application form.

**DONNA**

