

**'CARING & SHARING & HAVING FUN'**  
**RWTO/OERO NORTHUMBERLAND/SOUTH DURHAM BRANCH**  
**CHRISTMAS 2013 NEWSLETTER - Issue Twenty-Two**

**CHRISTMAS MEETING - 2013**

**WHEN:** Thursday, December 5th, 2013  
10:00 am - Registration/Social  
11:00 to 11:45 am - Meeting  
12:15 pm - Lunch  
1:00 pm - Program

**WHERE:** St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 131 Walton Street, Port Hope.  
Use the south entrance. Parking in church lot south of  
Walton off Pine St. S. or at front of the church on Walton.

**MEAL:** Chicken Breast Dinner - \$15.00  
\* Please let us know if you have any special dietary needs.

**PROGRAM:** Guest Speaker - Anne Graham, RWTO/OERO Provincial President.  
Branch Choir  
Silent Auction during social time for gently used books. If you have any  
books that you would like to donate for this, it would be appreciated.  
The proceeds go towards the branch expenses.

\*\* There will be a prize for the person who best represents Christmas  
in their outfit at this meeting.

**CHARITABLE DONATIONS:** 'Northumberland Giving Tree' - a gift for mother/child.  
Samaritan's Purse - monetary donation to be given to Darlene Read  
for her craft and sewing projects (see Fall Meeting Report).

**HOW TO RESPOND:** By November 30th - Phone Bonnie Greer, 905 372 5886, Elaine  
Doty, 905 983 5831, Joan Smith, 905 885 2528, or email Joan  
joan.charlie@sympatico.ca if you will be attending.

**NOMINATIONS:** Will be received for the Cora Bailey Award for 2013.

**If you know of a retired teacher who is not a member of RWT/OERO, or has just  
recently retired, please invite her to come to the meeting with you. Let the person  
that you contact know that you will be bringing someone with you.**

**WINTER SOCIAL OUTING**

Are you interested in a winter social outing for January or February at the OLG Slots a Ajax  
Downs? They have a nice VIP area that accommodates up to 60 people and all groups receive  
a free \$10 in slot play. At the Christmas meeting, Vicki Cubitt, our membership convener, will  
have a sign up sheet for those interested.

## **'SEASONAL SONGSTERS'**

The branch choir, now known as the 'Seasonal Songsters', has had a few practices this fall, every other Tuesday from 2:30 to 3:45 pm in its new location, Kingsway Arms Retirement Home, Bowmanville. Our format for the practices is a half hour 'sing song' with the retirement home residents, followed by a half hour choir practice. We are still in need of more members to sing and to assist in leading the residents 'sing song'. This is an opportunity to reach out to the community to demonstrate 'caring and sharing'. You do not need a songster voice to be a part of this outreach or to sing in the choir. Please contact the director, Vicki, at 905 723 5114 or email [cobysummer@netscape.net](mailto:cobysummer@netscape.net) We need your assistance to make this outreach successful.

## **FALL MEETING**

The fall general meeting was held at Grafton United Church on September 25th. After the meeting opened with 'O Canada', Linda Hansen introduced Darlene Read, guest speaker. Darlene is a retired teacher who originally began knitting bears with her mother for 'Doctors without Borders'. Later, the bears were sent to Kitchener for the 'Samaritan's Purse' program, a non-denominational charity based on the story of the Good Samaritan. In 1993, 'Operation Christmas Child', a shoebox program for the world's neediest children, was begun by the charity. Darlene started projects for this program in 2003. She now has eighteen women and one man working in her home every Wednesday afternoon as well as 120 off-site workers. They use a variety of recyclable materials such as cereal boxes, greeting cards, broken jewelry, clear and coloured milk bags, Kleenex and cardboard boxes, thread, needles and pop tabs to make clothing, blankets, stuffed toys, etc. When asked how our organization could help her cause, Darlene said that the best way was to make a monetary donation. It was decided to have this program as one of the charitable donations at our Christmas meeting. Darlene was thanked by Jan Engel for her interesting, humorous and inspiring presentation, and she was presented with a copy of the book Uncommon Women, written by Lee Beech.

After a delicious ham & scalloped potato meal, President Astrida Jenkinson-Chalmers capably handled the business part of the meeting. Treasurer Julia Esford reported that \$60 was donated to Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre, our charitable organization for the day, and \$32 was raised from our silent book auction. Insurance Convener, Carolle Kennedy-Harding, encouraged everyone to read their insurance policy as new coverage has been added. Secretary, Jan Engel, reported that the June 'Birthday Bash' celebrated at the Kingsway Arms Retirement Centre in Bowmanville was very successful and well attended. Also in June, the Oshawa Peony Festival was a wonderful outing. At the first meeting of the branch choir, Director Vicki Cubitt reported that they had renamed themselves, 'The Seasoned Songsters'. Archivist, Barbara Moorcroft, publicly thanked Martha Budd for the wealth of information that she has shared with Barbara regarding the history of our branch. Astrida and Barbara visited Doris Potts who had recently celebrated her 100th birthday. A dozen red roses were presented to Doris at her birthday party by Barbara.

A resolution will be sent by our branch to the provincial executive of RWTO/OERO re its fall meeting recommending that the use of conference calls be the way of communicating for the

**Fall Meeting (cont.'d)**

executive, thus eliminating the fall meeting. The branch officers for 2013-14 were installed by Barbara Moorcroft. Bunny Wright was thanked for her beautiful table favours. A website for seniors on.ca/seniors looking for any assistance from the government is available. It provides much information.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES**

If you have not paid your 2013-2014 fees yet, please send them by **November 25th** to Julia Esford, 1268 Cherrydown Drive, Oshawa, ON L1H 7T2. Fees are **\$40** (if you retired before Aug. 31, 1980 - **\$15**) plus **\$5** branch fee. If you have the RWTO/OERO insurance, your fees must be up-to-date.

**UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS**

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|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Breakfast Club:</b>         | <b>Third Thursday of the Month - 9:30 am</b> - Traditions Restaurant<br>1053 Simcoe St., North, Oshawa. Everyone welcome to a social gathering - no business. |
| <b>Full Executive Meeting:</b> | <b>Thursday, December 5th</b> - after General Meeting.  |
| <b>Spring Meeting:</b>         | <b>Wednesday, May 7th</b> - Place and date to be announced.   |

**CHRISTMAS RECIPE**

(Evy Reis)

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| <p>1) Take a bit of cheerfulness,<br/>A pinch of laughter, too,<br/>Next take a cup of thoughtfulness<br/>And stir them through and through.</p> <p>2) Add to this tranquility,<br/>A verse of 'Silent Night',<br/>That ever quiet we may be<br/>When God sends his holy light.</p> <p>3) Gently fold in some tenderness,<br/>A hand clasp or smile will do.<br/>Perhaps it could be a fond caress,<br/>Or a rose with a drop of dew.</p> <p>4) Set aside a moment while you go<br/>For spices, herbs, a scent of pine ...<br/>For music and fun, a candle's glow,<br/>And a star that was the sign.</p> | <p>5) Now mix and stir and fold again,<br/>Then add some mistletoe,<br/>A bit of faith, and love, and then<br/>Into the oven your cake must go.</p> <p>6) Where warmth and affection will combine<br/>To make this cake come true.<br/>Garnish with happiness, truth so fine,<br/>Enough for you and you!</p> <p>7) Cut a piece, but save some too<br/>For every day of the year.<br/>Serve with a prayer for peace on earth,<br/>And a heavenly Kingdom near.</p> |
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