

'CARING & SHARING & HAVING FUN'
RWTO/OERO NORTHUMBERLAND/SOUTH DURHAM BRANCH
CHRISTMAS 2015 NEWSLETTER - Issue Twenty-Eight

CHRISTMAS MEETING – 2015

- WHEN:** Wednesday, December 2nd
10:00 am - Registration/Social
10:30 am - Brief Business & Program 12:15 pm - Lunch
- 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 special dietary needs.
- PROGRAM:** Diane Rice - RWTO/OERO Provincial President
'Quarter' Auction' – Jean Axcel, auctioneer - description below
Christmas Music Singalong
- Silent Auction during social time for gently used up-to-date books
(donations gratefully received)

NOMINATIONS: Will be received for the Cora Bailey Award for 2015.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS: 'Northumberland Giving Tree' - an unwrapped gift for a child or youth up to age 16 or a monetary donation. If a gift, please let the treasurer know its value as the amount for our total charitable givings are to be recorded in our provincial report.

HOW TO RESPOND: By November 26th - 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.

If you know of a retired teacher who is not a member of a RWT/OERO branch, 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.

QUARTER AUCTION

A few years ago, at our Christmas meetings, we held successful 'quarter auctions'. A variety of items which had been donated were auctioned off by our talented guest auctioneer, Jean Axcel. Bids were taken in increments of \$.25. For any of the items, the participants could bid as many times as they wished. Each time they bid, a quarter was put in the 'pot' and the person was given a number. When the bidding was closed, a number was drawn. The person holding that number won the item. This proved to be a fun way to raise money for special projects. Donations of new, quality items were gratefully received. The executive has decided to reinstate this fun way of raising funds at the Christmas meeting. The monies raised this year will be used towards our 60th Anniversary Tea expenses.

FALL MEETING

The fall general meeting was held at Grafton United Church on September 28th. President Barbara Moorcroft welcomed everyone including a new member and guest to the meeting. After the singing of our National Anthem, Barbara most capably conducted the business, often with a touch of humour. Treasurer, Julia Esford, gave the treasurer's report, and also an update on Barbara Northey's condition at this time. We were pleased to hear that she is improving. We now have 61 members, including 4 life members.

Julia and Barbara reported on the provincial convention which was held in Stratford this year. They felt that it was an excellent, well-organized convention. Each branch will receive \$200 for its Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the RWWTO/OERO organization. See the 2015 fall issue of our branch newsletter for details of the 60th Anniversary. If you are moving, please send your new address to Gloria Drake info@rwto.org or 1 877 607 6696. If you have email, you are encouraged to receive your Connections publication by email. Let Gloria know.

We were pleased to welcome back Karen Rynard, our area director, an excellent speaker. Karen spoke about the organization's Diamond Anniversary, and asked us how many organizations last 60 years. She talked about all the changes that have occurred in teaching in these 60 years – such as, teacher's clothing, prep time, educational assistants, computer-generated report card comments and the 85 factor. She said that we have a great resource of the organization's history in the book Uncommon Women written by Lee Beech. Karen encouraged us to respect our past, and like a diamond we will continue to 'sparkle'. Later in the program, Karen installed the officers of the branch executive as listed in the branch fall newsletter.

The Cora Bailey '2014' award was presented to Astrida Jenkinson-Chalmers by president-elect, Sandra Boyko. Astrida was thanked for all that she has done, and still is doing, for the branch, an award richly deserved. Thanks were extended to Carolle Kennedy-Harding by Astrida for her many years of service as the branch insurance convener and to Bunny Wright for the delightful table favours. Vicki Cubitt announced that she would like to see the branch choir back together for the 60th Anniversary event on June 1st. Probably, only 3 or 4 practices will be needed. Please contact her, if you are interested. Seventy-one dollars was raised for 'The Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre' and \$31.00 in book sales for branch expenses.

Over the past few months, the branch 'Constitution' had been reviewed and updated by Sandra Boyko, Barbara Moorcroft and Joan Smith. It was accepted by vote of the membership, and will be reviewed in three years. Astrida presented Barbara with the past-president's pin and thanked her for her dedication. Sandra expressed that she will do her best to fill the role of president. She has a vision of growth for the future and wishes to increase our presence.

A delicious ham & scalloped potato harvest buffet was enjoyed by all. All in all, it was a good meeting.

TELEPHONE COMMITTEE

The branch executive is always looking for ways to increase attendance at the branch meetings; thus, it has decided to reinstate the telephone committee. The newsletter will continue and will be distributed about four weeks before meetings. Two weeks before the meeting the telephone committee will contact members to remind them about the meeting and encourage their attendance. This begins with this Christmas meeting.

'LET US CELEBRATE 60 YEARS'

In 2016 RWTO/OERO will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary. Each branch has been asked by the provincial office to celebrate the occasion with a special event. Our branch executive has decided to hold a 'Victorian Tea' Party. It will be held from 2 to 4 pm. June 1st at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 131 Walton Street, Port Hope. Special presentations and musical entertainment are being planned for this celebratory event. There will be 60th Anniversary pins available at a cost of \$5.00 each. Additional details will be in the spring 2016 newsletter. Mark the date on your calendars and plan to attend.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

If you have not paid your 2015-2016 fees yet, please send them by **November 20th** 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

Breakfast Club:	Third Thursday of the Month - 9:30 am - Traditions Restaurant, 1053 Simcoe St., North, Oshawa. Everyone welcome to a social gathering - no business.
Executive Meeting:	Tuesday, December 2nd - after General Meeting.
Executive Meeting:	February 2nd, 2016 – 10 am – at Sandra Boyko's home
Spring Meeting:	Tuesday, April 26th – Trinity United Church, Bowmanville
60th Anniversary 'Victorian Tea'	Wednesday, June 1st – 2 to 4 pm – St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Port Hope
2016 RWTO/OERO Conference	June 7th to 9th - Windsor

HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS!