



SUPERTEACHER

March 2020

2020-02-10 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's March! My how time flies! It has been quite a while since we had our General Meeting at the end of November. Christmas, Winter (Holidays), Teacher Strikes, Snow Days and even Ground Hog Day have passed! As we approach the last weeks of winter, we look forward to Spring, New Life and Renewed Energy!

Now we look ahead to this next half year at RWTO: Games Day, Birthday Bash, our Annual General Meeting and the RWTO Convention in Kingston.

Our focus will be our members and retention of members and also recruitment of new members. This is every member's responsibility. In addition, the question of membership in RWTO, who is allowed to become a member, will be a major focus.

We definitely hope to enjoy the upcoming events and encourage everyone to join us. In addition, I would encourage members, especially the Executive to attend the RWTO Convention, even if only for one day. Kingston is just a couple of hours further east down the 401!

Esther Kampstra, Peterborough Branch President



January 14, 2020

Dear Karen:

Just a quick note to say 'THANK YOU' for the donation of books from the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario organization.

The many books that your group donated added to the happiness and enjoyment of the many children who received them as part of their Christmas gift through the Salvation Army Christmas Hamper Programme. We bought, collected and had donations totaling close to 4,000 books which allowed a great selection of gifts to about 2,700 children in need this past Christmas.

We, the Peterborough Kawartha Rotary Club, appreciated your thoughtful gift.

Thanks again

John Holmes, Chairperson of Christmas Book Drive.

Thanks to Karen Howard for organizing our book collection.



Donations for Cameron House

Don't blame the lazy ones. They haven't done anything.

FRIDAY GOLFERS

Our golfers are sitting looking wistfully at their clubs, but it won't be long until this fun Interest Group is back on the Greens.

OUR GAMES DAY



Hello Ladies:

*It's that time for our
annual
Games Day*

on Tuesday, March 24, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

at Grace United Church

581 Howden Ave., Peterborough

Elevator available.



\$5 entrance fee

Bring a friend or two

Bring your favorite board games

Dress in layers if you feel the cold

We will be making Easter Eggs again with Judy-Anne!!!!

LIFE AFTER TEACHING

I have boxes of quilt patterns, scads of fabrics in drawers

This is my calling, not household chores.

I'll fight my way through the cobwebs; I'll wade through the dust

For sewing's my passion and quilting's a must.

I've done enough laundry; I've cooking many a meal!

Now, I'll do what I like that's just how I feel.

So, tomorrow I'll sew for as long as I'm able

Today, I'll plan a quilt on the dining room table.

Polly Esther

BRIDGE GAMES

Each month, including the Summer, on the second Monday of the month, teachers and their friends meet together at Grace United Church to play bridge.

Our games start at 1:15 p.m. and we pay three dollars to play. Some of us are excellent players willing to encourage those of us who are learning the game and gaining confidence. We laugh, we chat, we visit, and we have a small snack mid-afternoon. At present, we have about ten people per session.

We would be delighted to have you join us. If you are learning, we are here to answer questions. It is a relaxed, fun environment.

For more information, please call Sharon at 705-741-3313. Our next game is Monday, March 9th. Please join us!



OUR BIRTHDAY BASH



Hello Ladies:

It's that time for our annual

Birthday Bash Celebrations



Tues April 28 from 1:30 – 3:00 p. m

at Royal Gardens in the Atrium Room, 1160 Clonsilla Ave., Peterborough

Overflow parking next door at Westmount Bible Chapel

Musical entertainment will be provided by “Swing Band”

Perfect opportunity to Invite a Retired Teacher Friend to join you!

Dear Members,

If you will be attending our Birthday Bash, please respond to this invitation by **Monday, April 20th** to the following e-mail address: spekampstra@gmail.com. Could the phone tree callers also get their numbers to me by Monday, April 20th at **705-652-6995**

Thanking you in advance, Esther Kampstra

AUTHOR - Eleanor Glover - September 10, 1922 - October 5, 2018

AN INCIDENT IN 1947 - A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

The one-room school where I fell through the floor was the second school of my teaching career. It was a cut above the previous school where I had taught. This one had electric lights instead of oil lamps, a furnace in place of a woodstove, and facilities which, although still not flushable, were indoors, and, Oh yes, my yearly salary was five hundred dollars more.

The furnace was set in a partial, unfinished basement, and there were no pipes attached, only a metal hood over the firebox. Heat from the furnace would simply rise naturally to the underside of the floor above and was vented through a large round grate inserted in the floor at the front of the room. It heated the school quite well and was certainly an improvement over the dangerous and temperamental wood stove in the school where I first taught.

After recess in the afternoon the furnace was allowed to cool down for overnight, and I would stand on the grate to get the last dregs of heat while I dictated spelling to the older children. One day, while doing this, the grate decided to tip sideways, depositing me down through the opening to the metal top of the furnace. Fortunately, the furnace had cooled by that time, so I was no danger of being seriously burned. I escaped with only a badly bruised arm which had hit the edge of the hole as I fell. There was dead silence from the children as I hoisted myself up through the opening. They sat there with their mouths open, exhibiting the shock that I had felt. Once my chin was above the floor, I started to laugh and then the children laughed with me.

The most amusing angle of the episode was what the children told me afterwards. They said I dictated a sentence, which they wrote, but when no second sentence was forthcoming, they looked up to see why, only to find I had disappeared. Apparently, I had fallen quietly, and the noise of traffic on the road outside had masked whatever sound there was. I had a second laugh that night while trying to sleep. I was thinking about some of the difficult assignments I had given those children at times, and I wondered, "Did some of the children feel at times like telling me to go to H**, and were too polite to say so? When they found I had fallen through the floor did they think their wishes had come true?" Maybe.

Previously printed in our September 2005 newsletter

For our younger retired teachers – this was how it was when I was very young. MAS.

A NEW INTEREST GROUP

As a result of our participation with the Reframe Festival, Jocelyn Hunt reached out to our Branch,

A new program has been started at PRHC called **Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP)**. HELP is an innovative, volunteer-driven program that supports older patients and their care partners while they are in the hospital. The main goal is to prevent delirium (confusion) in the hospital for seniors through daily interactions and supports. The team consists of specialized volunteers with extensive training, who have a passion in promoting older patients' independence, engagement and dignity during their hospital stay. Currently the program is being piloted on 1 medical unit at PRHC, but they are hoping to expand this program across the hospital one day. The lead Geriatrician, Dr. Cindy Hobbs heard about our RWTO Branch at the Reframe Festival and learned that we like to support seniors' initiatives in our community. As an RWTO Branch we are considering this area as an interest group. Since we are all Retired and mostly Seniors, this area is of interest to us. More information will be coming at future General Meetings of the Peterborough Branch RWTO. We would also be looking for some members to lead this initiative within our Branch. Also, to learn more, you may contact elderlife@prhc.on.ca and mention the HELP Program.

MERRY MATTRESS MAKERS

I received this note from Angela Kesthely, who coordinates many groups making mattresses from her home in Kleinburg. Happy New Year to all of you! I wanted to thank you for another great year. I was so excited when we reached our goal of 10 thousand mats for the year 2019, but that was a month ago, and now we have far exceeded our goal and have made and sent 10,826 mats. Incredible work, and so much joy on our part to volunteer to produce the mats, and thankfulness and comfort to those who receive them.

Our Peterborough Branch has resumed making mattresses once a month alternating between Deb's home and Theresa's home. Since moving from the river, I have not been able to host these meetings, so I am grateful to them for continuing the project. Since beginning this project, we have started many other groups who are still actively making mattresses including RWTO Trenton Branch, Murray St. Baptist Church, and the Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church in Trenton (Winnie and Ralph). I take milk bags to Winnie and usually pick up 40 – 50 mattresses as well as stuffed pillows.

March 17th and June 16th at Theresa's home.

April 21st and May 18th at Deb's home.

Judy-Anne Tumber.

REFRAME 2020

Once again, our RWTO Peterborough Branch sponsored some excellent films for the 2020 ReFrame film festival. To let audiences, know about us, we set up an excellent display that included our business cards and tri-fold brochures.

Ann Siddell introduced the film **Toni Morrison: Pieces I Am** which uncovered the life and work of this prolific author who made history as the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Ruth Anne McNaught introduced **Magic Numbers**, a wry look at the paradox of a professor who appears to be considerably younger than her colleagues and even some of her students but must face the painful medical reality that her reproductive/biological clock has run out.

Joyce Fee introduced **Town of Widows**, the story of the widows and workers of General Electric in the 'Electric City', Peterborough, and their fight for justice from a workers' compensation system that they say is stacked against them,

Several of the widows and workers appeared on stage to tell the audience about their struggle and the making of the film. The three venues, Showplace, Market Hall and The Venue where our films were shown had near capacity audiences.

Ann Siddell and Ruth Anne McNaught, co-chairs

Bee in a Bus

A bee flew into the bus and began buzzing menacingly against the window next to me and the man seated ahead of me. For several unnerving minutes I debated what I should do until my fellow passenger decided to dispatch the insect with the paperback book he'd been reading. After several unsuccessful swats, one blow hit its mark.

"I'm glad you got it," I told the man.

He smiled sheepishly as he showed me the title of the book he had used: "Random Acts of Kindness".

Towels

When Sam returned to the house one evening, his wife Sarah announced that the new cleaning woman they had hired had stolen two towels.

"Yeah," said Sam very disinterested, and reclining on the sofa, "that wasn't very nice of her to do."

"You're darn right it wasn't," Sarah said. "And they were the two best towels we had you know the ones we got from the Hilton Hotel while we were on vacation!"

OUTREACH NEWS

Hello Everyone! I recently checked into the availability of more copies of The Little Black Book Of Scams, a publication by Competition Bureau Canada that was given out at the November meeting. Maryam Monsef's office has checked into this and did let me know that it is no longer being published in book form. However, the PDF form is available in a number of languages. It can be found on the Competition Bureau Canada website: competition.bureau.gc.ca.

I have received a call from Tina McFarland at YWCA Crossroads Shelter to thank us for our recent donation to their Children's Nutrition Programme. They provide information and instruction to the children in good nutrition and, also in cooking. I am sure that this is very popular! They are always in need of donations and grocery store gift cards to help fund this activity. Tina has offered to come and speak at one of our future meetings to update our members on their programmes and services.

Theresa Cornack

Small Town Emergency

The sheriff of a small town was also the town's veterinarian. One night the phone rang, and his wife answered. An agitated voice inquired, "Is your husband there?"

"Do you require his services as a sheriff or as a vet?" the wife asked. "Both!" was the reply.

"We can't get our dog's mouth open, and there's a burglar in it."

SINGLE

On our way to the ski hill, my friend's children decided to 'find me a man' by the end of the day. The kids did their best to let it be known I was unmarried and to introduce me to anyone who was skiing alone and therefore, in their minds, single. To my great relief they finally got bored with their mission and charged off on their own.

I then made my way to the chair lift. As I moved near the front of the line, a gentleman close to my age said, "Excuse me, but are you single?"

Groaning inwardly, I said, "Yes, but despite what you may have heard, I'm really not looking to get married."

He looked at me oddly. "All I want is someone to share the chair lift with."

HOSPICE PETERBOROUGH

325 London Street, Peterborough, ON K9H 2Z5

hospicepeterborough.org - 705-742-4042 – fax 705-742-0064

February 13, 2020

To the Retired Women Teachers Of Ontario – Peterborough Branch

Dear Friends:

Thank You for your generous gift to Hospice Peterborough.

YOU make our care possible!

As a valued part of our care team, your commitment to hospice palliative care helps provide a safe space where we support families along their difficult journey through life-threatening illness, end of life, and grief.

2019 has been full of incredible milestones - moving into our new London Street home, providing 24-hour end of life care, doubling our staff compliment, and growing into a health care facility delivering excellence in hospice palliative care.

We'd like to share with you how your gift has made a difference. Margaret O'Riley sent Hospice this note after the death of her mother.

I would never have believed that a hospice could be described as a magical, happy place full of love and joy but that is what we have all experienced here over the last 12 days. On the first night, my Mom looked at me and said, 'this isn't like a hospital, it's a hotel for dying people. Within these walls, is a place where both living and dying are honoured and supported. It is evident that everyone here, staff and volunteers, want to be here and have a very special calling to this work. In the days and nights, I spent at Hospice, I have witnessed love, respect, professionalism, patience, humour and caring.

For individuals and families struggling with devastating life-threatening illness, end of life and grief, your kindness extends far beyond your donation. Because of YOUR gift our community has access to excellence in hospice palliative care, now and in the year to follow.

Hajni Hös

Executive Director

BOOK WORMS

Our book club members meet the second Tuesday of each month There is lots of good conversation as we share our ideas and emotions about the book. We meet in our homes and we finish the afternoon with lunch and more conversation. New members are always welcome.

April –The Alice Network by Kate Quinn at Marilyn Challice’s

May –Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout. (Book Bag) at Ann Siddell’s

June – Beartown by Fredrik Backman (Book Bag) at Diane Kilistoff’s

LET’S DO LUNCH

The first Tuesday of the month our ‘diners’ meet at different restaurants. There is always good ‘sharing and caring’ plus a variety in locations and types of food. Mark your calendars and plan to join us. Coming locations will include Crowes Landing, Riley’s Bar and Grill (formerly Water’s Edge) in Bobcaygeon, and Old Railroad Stop in Hiawatha.

Join us in April at Fulford’s at Sir Sandford Fleming.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 09, April 13, May 11 and June 8 – Bid Euchre at Grace United Church

March 10, April 14, May 12 and June 9 – Book Club

March 17 and June 16 - Merry Mattress Makers at **Theresa’s*** - note location change

March 24 - Games Day at Grace United Church

April 07 – Lunch Bunch at Fulford’s Restaurant

April 21 and May 19 – Merry Mattress Makers at **Deb Glynn’s*** - note location change

April 28 – Birthday Bash at Royal Gardens

May 05 – Lunch Bunch at a Secret Location

May 26 – RWTO Annual General Meeting at Baxter Creek – Annual Membership fees will be collected at this meeting and anytime up to our meeting in September 2020

June 02 - 04 – Annual RWTO Provincial Convention at Kingston – if interested in attending whole convention or just one day, contact Esther Kampstra at 705-652-6995

June 09 – Lunch Bunch at a Secret Location

LUNCH BUNCH AT SQUARE PLATES





The owner

(and cook)

is the son-in-law of

Principal Dennis Winch



