January! What a meaningful month. The word is derived from the Roman god of the gateway, Janus, who is depicted as two heads; one facing forward, the other to the rear, and “ianua”, the Latin word for “door”. And so, here we are, standing on the threshold, looking back on what we’ve accomplished, celebrated and weathered, and facing forward to 2019! Most of our interest groups run all year. We can dine, bowl, sing, play cards, walk, share travel stories, read, and soon, bead. Two spring luncheons (April 24 and May 22), new members and our Provincial Convention are already pencilled in on our 2019 calendars. We can renew our pledge of “caring and sharing” perhaps by volunteering as an elementary reading coach for the new St. Catharines Rotary Club initiative. As always, take every opportunity, large and small, to celebrate! Wishing you a Healthy New Year!  

Patti Malkiewich, President

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

COMFORT KITS
Our campaign to collect small kits of hygiene products for the homeless has concluded. With your generous support, we organized and delivered 250 Comfort Kits to Start Me Up Niagara. They were gratefully received. The many larger containers of these items will be distributed from their drop-in center on Gale Cres. A big thank you goes out to Kathleen Bradley, Marilyn Emmett, Chris Thorne and Pat Wilcox for their help with sorting and delivering the Kits.

Susan McLaughlin, Past President

COMMUNITY CARE
At our Christmas Luncheon, a cheque for $8,000 was presented to Community Care, St. Catharines and Thorold. This total represented the generous donations from our members and a top-up from our Branch. A special thank you to Judy Crompton and her accounting assistants, Jayne Shortill and Ruth Daigle. 

Jan Harlos, First Vice-President

RWTO/OERO CONVENTION 2019
St. Catharines June 4, 5 and 6
The Holiday Inn and Suites Parkway Conference Centre

All members of RWTO/OERO St. Catharines are welcome to join in part or all of the Convention. Registration and information will be available in the March issue of Connections, our Provincial newsletter, and online soon at rwto.org, under Convention/AGM.

Just a “heads up” … There may be room on some of the Wednesday afternoon tours (June 5) for our Branch members. Stay tuned! Marilyn Emmett marilyn.emmett5@gmail.com 905 646-5543
A new year, a new Interest Group!
Learn to bead and make stunning jewellery from artist Genevieve Habib in her home studio on Sunday, January 27, 2019 from 1 to 4 pm.
Make a pretty pearl bracelet, drink tea, and discuss club plans. Kits and lesson $25.00.

Reserve a spot (905 931 6127) or email Genevieve for location and details: genevievehabib@googlemail.com

The other interest groups continue. You can sign up for them at the spring luncheons. Please send pictures of your events to Marilyn Emmett and updates regarding time and dates to Nadine Martin, Interest Group Convenor 905 938-2593 nadinejoanmartin@gmail.com

I am offering one of you a wonderful opportunity to serve on our RWTO Executive. It is a rewarding experience to spend time with the other ladies and get to understand and facilitate our organization. We can only go forward if we have women willing to respond and move our group into the future.

This year, we have the position of 2nd Vice President vacant. Please let me know if you are willing to join us.

Susan McLaughlin, Past President susseandchris@gmail.com 905-935-9966

For those not getting an on-line Income Tax receipt from Manulife, there will a mailing. The expected date is yet to be determined. Chris Graham, Insurance Convenor

And what to our wondering eyes did appear?