



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario / Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario

President's Message

The theme of this issue of Connections, "The Power of Sharing," highlights the strength of the RWTO/OERO Branch programs within their communities. Congratulations to our members for their successful caring and sharing programs throughout the province.

I am looking forward to my visits to Branches during March, April and May. Upon my earlier Branch visits, I could see "the power of sharing" at work in the following areas: the excitement when retired women teachers get together for a fundraiser, the togetherness while listening to the chatter during social time, the learning while listening to an informative speaker, the membership recruitment initiatives while inviting retired women teachers to a luncheon in the hope that they will become RWTO/OERO members, the joy that a goodwill gesture brings to a member who benefits from a call, a card or a visit and the dedication of all of the Branch Executive members who are committed to their RWTO/OERO Branch.

Many Branches are encouraging their members to attend the "Barrel of Fun" Convention 2019 in St. Catharines. Thank you to Marilyn Emmett, as Convention Convenor and her planning committee from Area 13, for their dedication while planning. The registration form is included in this issue of Connections. The Convention Registrar will appreciate a prompt reply if you plan to attend. I am

looking forward to "the power of sharing" at the Convention during the networking opportunities, workshops, tours, meetings and the banquets.

This year has been a busy one for the Board of Directors as we have discussed and carried out business conscientiously with the Branches and the membership foremost in our minds. The Board needs to hear from the Branches when there are questions or concerns. The Area Director will also bring questions and concerns to the Board Meetings for clarification and discussion and then report back to the Branches in her area. It is always heartwarming to have an Area Director report on the events and fundraisers happening in her area.

I understand, in some areas of the province, that members are hesitant in stepping up to the plate to accept a Branch Executive position. For me, "the power of sharing" my energies with RWTO/OERO after I retired has been very rewarding. There is a saying that, "to make yourself happy do something for someone else and make them happy." It is often in the position of volunteering your time to a worthwhile project, after retirement, that happiness is personally enjoyed. I hope



Continued on page 2 ►

Retired Women Teachers of Ontario Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario

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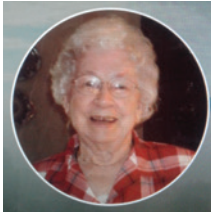
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Goodwill

Remembering Mildred Wideman Scarborough Branch

August 17, 1911 – December 19, 2018



Birthday cards continue to be sent from the Goodwill office. Congratulations to the ladies who turned 100 within the last few months! They are: Miriam Mitchell from Kingston; Beatrice McCutcheon from Dundalk-Highpoint; Evelyn Davidson from Peterborough; Olwen E. Dunets from North York; and, Hazel Faris from Hamilton-Wentworth. Their Branches helped them to celebrate this special day with visits, good wishes with laughter and gifts of flowers and more. Our most senior member, Mildred Wideman from Scarborough, recently passed on December 19th at the age of 107. She will be fondly missed by her RWTO/OERO Scarborough Branch friends. Mildred's son sent an email to express his gratitude by writing that

the family "...wish to express our thanks to you and all of the RWTO Goodwill Convenors who have so kindly and loyally maintained contact with Mom over the many years." Sending birthday wishes, Christmas cards and spring greetings to our members who are over 90 is a wonderful opportunity to show our respect and appreciation. And they certainly appreciate the recognition as many send cards and letters of thanks in return. These ladies helped shape who we are as an organization and they continue to do so!

"Aging is not lost youth but a new stage of opportunity and strength."
(Betty Friedan)

Nancy Papiez,
Provincial Goodwill Convenor
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Membership Matters

"I PROMISE TO SHARE AND BE A FRIEND". "LEND A HAND". "CARING AND SHARING". These three mottoes have played a significant role in my life since the year 2000 when I retired. The first two came from my work with Sparks and Brownies when I first became a Guiding leader. The last comes from when I joined RWTO/OERO as a member of the Ottawa-Carleton Branch. I am still active in both organizations. All were an extension of my work in the teaching profession. As teachers we constantly shared with our colleagues. We shared ideas, supplies, and time, in our schools, at events and at meetings. As retired teachers, we continue to do this within our Branches, our Areas and at Conventions. My own Branch has been able to put into practice new initiatives over the past several

years, from ideas picked up from our sister Branch Lanark and at Convention from Branches like yours. What your Branch does can be meaningful to other Branches and, therefore, it is important to make your ideas known at area meetings, to your Area Director who can share them at the Provincial Board meetings and to those who attend Convention when opportunities for networking are available. Keep those creative ideas coming. So many things can be accomplished when we share.

Suzanne Lanouette-Carswell
Provincial Membership Convenor



President's Message - continued

you will consider volunteering at the Branch, the Area Director or Convention level. Volunteers are needed to plan a future RWTO/OERO Convention.

I want to thank Gloria Drake and the other members of the Board of Directors for their commitment to RWTO/OERO. You have been the spokeswomen for the Branch members who have given of their time voluntarily to demonstrate "the power of sharing."

Sharron Colter
Provincial President

As I write this column we are now in the depths of winter. Days, while short, are beginning to lengthen with the promise of spring and warmer weather to come. It is when we are in the deep of winter that I am reminded how valuable our Hospital & Home Care Plan truly is. For these are the months of icy roads and sidewalks, those treacherous slicks responsible for so many slips and falls. These are the months when we see an increase in claims resulting from these accidents... broken wrists, broken hips and a myriad of other claims arising from car accidents. These are the months when many members or their spouses call seeking assistance with completing claim forms and wondering what benefits they may be eligible for given their situation. They tell me how glad they are that they enrolled in the Hospital & Home Care Plan when they did; hoping to never have to file a claim, but now grateful for the benefits it provides. These shared thoughts always reinforce, for me, how important this plan is to members and their spouses. I'm always happy to help you complete the form.

Some good news to share this month...the Hospital & Home Care Plan and Personal Accidental Death & Dismemberment plan will be renewing again this year with no increase to the rates. The monthly premium for a member for the Hospital & Home Care Plan remains at \$14.49 and for a spouse, \$15.57. There is also no change to the Personal Accidental Death & Dismemberment Plan rates. Also, there will be an improvement made to the Personal Accidental Death & Dismemberment Plan. The Home Alteration and Vehicle Modification Benefit currently provides a benefit only when an insured person has lost (or lost the use of) both feet or becomes paraplegic, hemiplegic or quadriplegic. Effective May 1, 2019, this will be changed to the loss (or loss of use) of one foot or becomes paraplegic, hemiplegic or quadriplegic. This benefit will pay up to \$10,000 to make a home or automobile utilized by the insured, wheelchair accessible.

And, more news to share. This year Manulife is returning to their former practice of mailing tax receipts out to members. Beginning at the end of February, Manulife will mail 2018 tax receipts for Hospital & Home Care Plan participants to the address they have on file. If you have changed your address over the past year but didn't inform Manulife, your tax receipt will be mailed to your former address unless

you advise otherwise. You can either contact Manulife directly at 1-800-268-3763 or Terry Kennedy at 519-583-0098 to make an address change known to them. When contacting Manulife, you will need the Plan number which is 17777C and your unique identification number which you will find on your policy documents or on last year's tax receipt.

Finally, still more news to share. Manulife is centralizing most of their claims in one location, and this applies to the RWTO/OERO Hospital & Home Care Plan as well. Claims should now be sent to the following address: "Manulife, Affinity Markets Health Claims, P. O. Box 670, Stn. Waterloo, Waterloo, ON. N2J 4B8". Any claims received at the former address will be redirected to the new location, but please be aware that there may be a slight slow down in claim payment time due to the redirection. New claim forms are now available. For your convenience you can download the form from the RWTO/OERO website (www.rwto.org/membership-insurance-plan/) or contact Terry Kennedy. When filing a claim, you will receive a new replacement claim form with your claim payment.

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Issues and Concerns - *Do You Really Need That?*

This will be my final column for Issues and Concerns as my term as Director for Area 8 is drawing to a close. Thank you for your kind comments and suggestions over the past two years and please allow me to conclude my series of articles on a lighter tone.



If you are like me, you have accumulated a great deal of “stuff” over the years – pictures, books, dishes, souvenirs etc. Then there are the cherished pieces of memorabilia. I still have my mother’s cherished tea wagon that I have

never used and as I remember, she only used as a plant stand. My silver tea set, a wedding gift from my siblings, sits abandoned in the spare room, to be trotted out once a year, polished and used to serve tea at our annual church bazaar. I have my great aunt’s mink stole that I have worn only twice and on both occasions, it was to an event for RWTO/OERO’s sixtieth anniversary.

Am I a hoarder? Possibly. A romantic? Certainly. But like most seniors I’ve come to realize that I can’t take it with me. So, what does one do with the treasures gathered over a lifetime, things that are of value only to you? I think I’ll start by giving my children their baby picture albums. That will clear out three (only thirty-two to go). But seriously, what should one do?

Japanese home organizer, Marie Kondo, host of a new and popular Netflix series, “Tidying Up with Marie Kondo”, advises this simple method: gather your things

by category, identify and keep those that “spark joy” and discard the rest. It’s the “discard the rest” that gives me pause. Maybe recycle and donate should be added here, particularly if overflowing closets are on your horizon. Many organizations are happy to accept used clothing and even the unusable can often be recycled as rags. Antiques and collectibles can be sold on e-bay or your local 24/7yard sale. Used furniture can also be sold this way or donated.

Swedish author Margareta Magnusson is a tad more blunt. In her just published book, “The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning”, Magnusson suggests we need to take responsibility for our possessions and not leave them as a burden for family when we die. The concept of decluttering before you die, a process called “dostadning” is part of Swedish culture. It comes from the Swedish words for death and cleaning.

My husband and I recently tried to declutter our basement. He would make a discard pile and I would retrieve many of the Items when he wasn’t looking. He did the same to my discard pile.

So, good luck with your tidying up, downsizing, death cleaning or spring cleaning. Whatever you call it, it is harder than you think and although we probably all agree it needs to be done, I think I’ll leave it for another day or another generation.

Teresa Dorey
Provincial Issues & Concerns
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Communications Website

Convention 2019 Workshop



Please submit ideas of what computer skills you would like to learn at the Convention 2019 Workshop.



Your Suggestions To:
rwtocyberlady@gmail.com

Kathy Gallagher
Provincial Communications
Website Convenor
rwtocyberlady@gmail.com



In Memoriam

NAME	CITY	BRANCH	NAME	CITY	BRANCH
Alexander, Ann	Windsor	Windsor-Essex	Glover, Eleanor	Peterborough	Peterborough
Allan, Marion	Toronto	Scarborough	Graham, Jean	Stoney Creek	Hamilton-Wentworth
Anderson, Elizabeth C	London	London-Middlesex	Hands, Marjorie	Petrolia	Sarnia-Lambton
Anderson, Gretta	Durham	Flesherton	Harding, Joan	Owen Sound	Owen Sound
Anyan, Joan	Bowmanville	Northumberland	Harford-McAllister, Durelle	Toronto	Scarborough
		South Durham	Haughey, Ruth	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton
Armstrong, Helen	Arnprior	Ottawa-Carleton	Heinonen, Jan	South River	East Parry Sound
Arnold, Mary	Mississauga	Mississauga	Hill, Phyllis	Scarborough	Scarborough
Arnott, Mary Lou	Napanee	Belleville	Horne, Thelma	Palmerston	Palmerston
Bayes, May	Dunnville	Lincoln West	Hulme, Ruth	Thorold	St. Catharines
Beaver, Mary	Batchawana Bay	Sault Ste. Marie	Insley, Marjorie	Utterson	Muskoka
Beetham, Yvonne	Harrow	Pay Direct	Kalynowysch, Olga	Mississauga	Mississauga
Begemann, Wilhelmina	Mississauga	Mississauga	Kavanaugh, Isabelle	Scarborough	Scarborough
Bethune, Betty	Waterdown	Hamilton-Wentworth	Krocker, Myrna	St. Catharines	St. Catharines
Bettridge-Ashwell, Vera	Guelph	Rendezvous	Lachoski, Stella	Etobicoke	Rendezvous
Blackman, Dawn	Owen Sound	Owen Sound	Lahmer, Clara	Toronto	Rendezvous
Blazic, Marie	Brampton	Peel North	Langford, Cathy	Niagara Falls	Niagara Falls
Blewett, Barbara	Thedford	Sarnia-Lambton	Latta, Gerry	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton
Brechin, Barbara	Coldwater	Orillia	Lillico, Eleanor	Ottawa	Ottawa-Carleton
Brown, Anna	Ottawa	Ottawa-Carleton	Long, Sylvia	Guelph	Guelph-Wellington
Brown, Bonnie	Cambridge	St. Catharines	Macdonald, Mary E.	Toronto	Rendezvous
Buckerfield, Mona	Gravenhurst	Muskoka	Mackey, Donelda	Creemore	Blue Mountain
Carroll, Betty	Brockville	Brockville	Mackie, Joanne	Georgetown	Lydia Snow
Carson, Lulu	London	London-Middlesex			North Halton
Cavanaugh, Leona	Southampton	South Bruce	MacMillan, Alberta	Cobourg	Northumberland
Chapman, Patricia AC	Belleville	Belleville			South Durham
Christakos, Catherine	Sudbury	Sudbury	Manker, Elizabeth Lockhart	Niagara Falls	Niagara Falls
Clark, Lola	Napanee	Belleville	Marriott, Mary	Kingston	Kingston
Clause, Margaret	Hagersville	Haldimand	Maurice, Jeannine	Sudbury	Sudbury
Clay-Pizzolato, Jean	Niagara Falls	Niagara Falls	McAfee, Patricia	Otonabee	Peterborough
Conn, Betty	Stayner	Blue Mountain	McClelland, Ina	Owen Sound	Owen Sound
Copley, Shirley	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton	McClelland, Mary	Bowmanville	Windsor-Essex
Crawford, Florence	Trenton	Trenton	McEnaney, Deirdre	Caledon Village	Peel North
Crawford, Judy	Dundas	Hamilton-Wentworth	McNair, Margaret	Brampton	Peel North
Crawford-White, Sharron	Oakville	Burlington	McRae, Muriel	Peterborough	Peterborough
Crewe, Mary Lou	Blenheim	Chatham-Kent	Meloche, Marguerite	Komoka	Windsor-Essex
Dingwall, Jean	Hamilton	Hamilton-Wentworth	Menna, Christina	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
Duncalfe-Brooks, Marjorie	Smiths Falls	Lanark	Mitchell, Miriam	Kingston	Kingston
Elcomb, Audrey	Brantford	Brant	Moles, Mary	Collingwood	Blue Mountain
Ernst, Gladys	Mount Forest	Guelph-Wellington	Montgomery, Joyce	St. Catharines	St. Catharines
Ferguson, Christine	Scarborough	Scarborough	Moodie, Jane	Shedden	St. Thomas-Elgin
Ferguson, Margaret	Ripley	South Bruce	Nelischer, Irene	Toronto	Trenton
Fisher, Azolyn	Milton	Lydia Snow	Neville, Elaine	Blenheim	Chatham-Kent
		North Halton	Nisbett, Lillian	Sault Ste. Marie	Sault Ste. Marie
Fleming, Mary	Walkerton	South Bruce	Oldfield, Audrey	Dundalk	Dundalk-High Pt
Flett, Bernice	London	London-Middlesex	Pammett, Maureen	Peterborough	Peterborough
Fox, Anna	Bracebridge	Muskoka	Parish, Merle	Welland	London-Middlesex
Fox, Betsy	Welland	Niagara South	Patterson, Dorothy	Meaford	Beaver Valley
Fox, Judith	Meaford	Beaver Valley	Patyk, Joy	Brantford	Owen Sound
Freeman, Clarene	St. Thomas	St. Thomas-Elgin	Philipson, Lola	St. Catharines	St. Catharines
Fry, Florence	Harriston	Palmerston	Phillip, Margaret	Gravenhurst	Muskoka
Gervais, Maureen	Windsor	Windsor-Essex	Plain, Alice	Iona Station	St. Thomas-Elgin
Gibson, Marilyn	London	London-Middlesex	Pomeroy, Marilyn	Havelock	Peterborough
Gilbert, Barbara	Burlington	Burlington			

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In Memoriam - continued

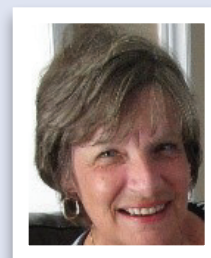
NAME	CITY	BRANCH	NAME	CITY	BRANCH
Post, Elizabeth	Guelph	Guelph-Wellington	Sweeney, Barbara	Caledon Village	Peel North
Preston, Grace Ann	Trenton	Trenton	Sweetland, Ann	London	London-Middlesex
Ratcliff, Gladys	Mississauga	Oakville	Taylor, Janet	Ottawa	Ottawa-Carleton
Renfrew, Leslie	Burlington	Burlington	Trudeau, Joan Agnes	Belleville	Belleville
Robertson, Margaret	Cambridge	Cambridge	Tuckwell, Bertha Kay	East York	Rendezvous
Ross, Mary E.	London	London-Middlesex	Urquhart, Sharon	Wahnapitae	Sudbury
Schultz, Mary Lou	Kitchener	Kitchener-Waterloo	Weese, Rita	Orillia	Orillia
Scott, Doreen	Owen Sound	Owen Sound	Wenzel Stewart, Anne	Kingston	Kingston
Shorey, Lynne	Cannifton	Belleville	Whyte, Mary	London	London-Middlesex
Simpson, Jeanne	Bowmanville	Napanee	Wideman, Mildred	Kingston	Scarborough
Sinclair, Nancy	Guelph	Guelph-Wellington	Wilson, Daisy	Orillia	Daisy Wilson Coldwater
Smith, Mary C.	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Winger, Sylvia	Hagersville	Haldimand
Steinman, Carol	Cambridge	Cambridge	Withrow, Florence	Welland	Niagara South
Stevenson, Rose	Scarborough	Scarborough	Woodliffe, Helen	Chatham	Chatham-Kent
Streeter, Marilyn	Holstein	Palmerston	Workman, Evelyn	Spencerville	Upper Canada East
Stubbs, Betty	Pickering	Burlington	Wright, Ann	Toronto	Mississauga
Sullivan, Isabel	Scarborough	Scarborough			

Communications Newsletter

As my last newsletter is put to bed, I think about how much I have learned in the past two years and how grateful I am to members of the Board of Directors, Branch Presidents and Communications Convenors. It has been a delight to work with RWTO/OERO members across the province and celebrate with you, in recognizing all the amazing things you do for each other and for your community. Thank you to our amazing proofreaders, Martha Summers, Gayle Manley and Linda Huizenga as well as Sandy

Mulveney, our layout artist, who worked along side to ensure our members received the very best.

Cathie MacGillivray
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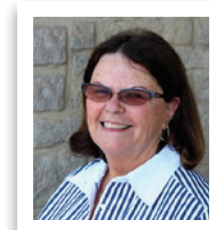
Program

Branch Presidents and Area Directors – Spring Is Coming!!!

As I am writing this, most of North America is involved in either a bone-chilling cold snap, buried in snow or experiencing unusual rain or winds....BUT when you are reading this, March is here and the end of winter will soon be a reality! I have been warmed by my interactions with you over the past few months and thank you for being such good custodians of our members. My January Convention 2019 Bulletin contained a significant amount of information. Please be sure to review that information often to

respond and/or complete all tasks required. Please also remember to respond to the letter requesting information on Mother/Daughter, Aunt/Niece members in order to include them in our recognition celebrations at Convention 2019. See you in June in St. Catharines!

Judith Bennoch
Provincial Program Coordinator
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Celebrating our Branches - The Power of Sharing

The Power of Sharing



Sharing is one of the most important and powerful virtues that bring happiness in life. It is fundamental to the development and nurturing of human relationships. Sharing brings with it inherent joy and happiness within us and also to the person with whom we have shared. To share is to spread joy.

Apart from bringing joy and happiness, sharing also inculcates in us the virtue of caring. It teaches us the importance of taking care of others. Hence goes the famous adage: Sharing is caring.

Sharing is more than a generous act. On a much wider scale, it is about cultivating strong relationships and helps us understand when someone else is in need, without them telling us.

Sharing with people provides a sense of unity and common purpose that deepens and propels our daily short-term and visionary long-term actions. Sharing is a basic component of human interaction and is responsible for strengthening social ties and ensuring a person's well-being. The joy of sharing and giving to others, who genuinely require it, can only be experienced and not be put down in words.

Edited from Rohan

Area 2

Cambridge



Sharing stories and discoveries inspires others to begin researching their own family history. This fall the Cambridge Branch started a genealogy club and has ten enthusiastic members

whose experience ranges from beginner to advanced. Most members have started an online family tree. Two members, who grew up in different parts of Ontario, were amazed to discover they have a common set of grandparents, ten generations ago, who emigrated from Amsterdam to New York and even owned property on Broadway before eventually making their way to Canada as United Empire Loyalists. Even more amazing is the fact that the discovery was made without DNA testing. Sharing information on genealogical resources such as census, historical maps, cemeteries, birth-marriage-death documents, as well as popular online sites such as Ancestry, Family Tree Maker, Findmypast and My Heritage is fundamental to the group.

Guelph-Wellington

Guelph-Wellington retired women teachers generously share their time, their money and their talents, embodying the power of sharing. Our "Joy Group" members share their time: volunteers visit shut-ins and our most elderly members and the Goodwill group connects with other Branch women through notes of sympathy and get-well cards. We also share resources with our community. Each December, we raise thousands of dollars for Sleeping Children around the World. In addition, women who attend the spring luncheon support the Guelph-Wellington "Women in Crisis" with donations of personal care items as well as money. Guelph-Wellington RWTO/OERO offers a variety of enjoyable activities that keep us interacting with one another all year long: our interest groups provide opportunities to share time walking or hiking together, enjoying art and artistic activities, practising drumming or singing, discussing books and so on! The power of sharing our interests and talents with one another enhances retirement for many of our women.

Kitchener-Waterloo

Kitchener-Waterloo Branch, with just over 100 members, has had an interesting year so far! We have four general meetings a year with speakers. In September, we had Joan Tettman, Stratford President, teaching us about "Body Talk", then in November, a Christmas piano and song duo. March will bring Anne Innis Dagg, zoologist and author of **Smitten with Giraffe** and in May, Tom Jeary, an inventor, photographer and children's author of **Chipmunk Fall Fair**.

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Celebrating our Branches - The Power of Sharing - continued



We are most proud of our creative and successful fundraising. Members went home with their Christmas shopping gifts after our silent auction to which members brought in items they wanted to give away. Our interest groups include a drumming circle that we enjoy with the Guelph Branch, a knitting group, cards group, special lunches, a travel club, a walking club with the Cambridge Branch, our newest club, karaoke sing-along and memoir writing.....wow, the stories they have written!

Listowel

Listowel Branch continues to share their talents and care about each other and our community. Donations this year went to SCAW, the local backpack program, buying children's books for the local library, and supporting the Breakfast Program at our area schools. While we are a very small group, we have many talents. These are shared at our annual October Auction. Each year our 'sisters' from Stratford and Palmerston Branches are invited to join us and we have a wonderful time of fellowship. Everyone enjoys the homemade items that we fight over in bidding wars! Local photographer, Gary Moon, spoke at our September meeting about how to take better pictures. There were some terrific questions answered to help us record those special events in our lives that we share with others. We have also welcomed some new members to our meetings.



Retirement gives us more time to share ourselves with others and Listowel has many opportunities to do just that!!

Palmerston

The power of sharing is what Palmerston RWTO/OERO is all about. Every time we get together conversations, mealtime, laughter, music, stories, teaching memories and results of our donations, exhibit how powerful sharing can be! The year started off with our September brunch at Pike Lake Golf Course. Since then we have enjoyed the presentation by a member's granddaughter who had journeyed to Sri Lanka with our charity SCAW. Author member, Margaret Blair, shared her touching memories of life growing up in a Japanese internment camp. At Christmas we shared a visit from Santa and a gift of music from Palmerston Public School Glee Club. As the year progresses, we look forward to sharing with others - an NHL linesman and a County Centre for homeless youth, "We" and our local hospitals. As we share together and with our community, we stay powerful as individuals and as an organization!



Stratford

As children we are taught to share our toys and snacks. As adults we know sharing is so much more. One of our most valuable commodities, as we age, is 'time'. In our RWTO/OERO Stratford Branch, we value our connections in sharing time with members through creating (caps, blankets, octopi for the hospital; card-making workshops), through social activity groups (2 Book Clubs, visiting the cinema, theatre trips, playing games,



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walking, dining) and through visiting members who are laid up or shut in. Through regular donations to our chosen charity, the Emily Murphy Centre, we share our resources with abused women and their children. But perhaps most important are the connections we have built with each other, knowing that we can count on each other to share tears and laughter, supporting each other through our losses and joys.

Area 3

Chatham – Kent



The Chatham-Kent Branch of RWTO/OERO believes in our motto of “Caring and Sharing”. This is the 37th year our branch and the St. Thomas/Elgin Branch have enjoyed reciprocal meetings. This tradition was begun by

our President at that time, Grace Shaw, now 102 years old, and the President of the St. Thomas-Elgin Branch. Many of our members share their time and talents with our community and are recognized by our own “Feather in Your Hat” Award. Annually, we support local food banks, children’s services and the Women’s Centre. This year we are developing a plan to support “Noelle’s Legacy” which provides for needy school children. Supporting a Special Olympic bowler, as well as donating library books in memory of deceased members, adds to our “Caring and Sharing” theme. Shut-ins are also remembered with cards, visits and favours. Each year, our President selects an additional charity to receive a one-time donation to assist their cause. The knowledge that others appreciate our efforts encourages our Branch to help meet the needs of others.

London – Middlesex



© Bernarda Norwood

This past fall, we had three monthly meetings where we were inspired, challenged and entertained. In September, we shared the words of Doug McCarthy who inspired us to share our words with others. We were encouraged to share a friendly word or a sympathetic greeting with our members. In October, we were challenged to understand the hardships faced by women and children in Cambodia and how they are helped by the work of the Tabitha Foundation of Canada. In November, we were entertained by our wonderful RWTO/OERO choir, under the direction of Gillian Laidlaw and Johanna Hurd. These ladies shared with us their wonderful singing talents. Our Christmas Antic drama group, under the direction of Sandy O’Brien and Nancy Bell, shared their hilarious comic and singing talents. Our monthly meetings give us great opportunities to share conversation with each other.

Sarnia – Lambton



We proudly applaud the outstanding generosity of our members. Our September luncheon included four “Caring and Sharing” donations: The Hub, Lambton Youth Drama, Pathways Pool Project and Kelly’s Cupboard. Our presenter was Wes Harding, a marathoner and author, with an inspiring message. We surprised Sandra Smith and Pat LaPlante with Cora Bailey Awards for their long service to the Hospitality Committee. November was our major fund-raising effort for the year, with donated raffle items, cookie plates, baking and crafts. Boxes for the Women’s Interval Home collected pajamas, socks and undies. January’s luncheon saw a fifth “Caring and Sharing” donation to the Cinderella Project. Our presenter, Connie Furtney, spoke of a school for deaf children in Africa where funds go to keeping the lights on. We continue to struggle to find members to join the Executive and Committees, a problem other Branches are experiencing as well. Any suggestions?

St. Thomas – Elgin

St. Thomas-Elgin Branch continues to be a large and active organization. We participate in seven meetings, September to June. Each meeting features a local charity, and we have a variety of luncheon menus, programs and guest speakers. In autumn, our members generously supported the Women’s Shelter. To date, 30

Continued ►

Celebrating our Branches - The Power of Sharing - continued

completed children's backpacks have been presented, in addition to donations to the Sleep Kit Project for children and general personal care products. We also recognize the West Elgin Daffodil Society with financial support. In the winter, we contribute to Christmas Care and local food banks with unwrapped gifts, food items and monetary support. In spring, our group donates to local initiatives and supports a camp experience for three deserving girls. St. Thomas-Elgin members are commended for sharing their time, expertise, friendship and financial support with each other and the local community. We enjoy our regular meetings and our community support programs certainly demonstrate the power of sharing!

Windsor – Essex



Our members have made sharing an integral part of our everyday lives. Not only do we share money, food, toiletries, eyeglasses and books with various organizations throughout our community but more importantly, we also share our time. Many of our members visit our ladies whose

lives have become more isolated in their later years. A visit from a friendly fellow RWTO/OERO member is certainly a welcome antidote to isolation, which can be particularly bad during the lonely winter months. In addition to sharing with our local community, our Branch plans to extend its outreach with a new project to help on an international level, working with the group, Hearts Together for Haiti. Fostering an atmosphere of sisterhood, RWTO/OERO undoubtedly encourages our members to share our many talents with our fellow members, our community and even the world beyond.

Area 9

Lanark

Lanark Branch is in a rural area located near the historic Rideau Canal Waterway. Our meetings are usually in the form of luncheons at restaurants, church halls, golf clubs and once yearly, a cottage potluck. We have an interesting speaker or musical entertainment and a "visit" time at each event. We especially enjoy

a school choir or band presentation from one of our local schools. At each meeting we reward members for wearing an RWTO/OERO pin with a chance to win a Tim Horton's gift card in a draw each month. This year we raised extra money to help support our "Caring & Sharing" projects by holding a "Quarter Frenzy" at one of our meetings, which was a fun event enjoyed by all. Each year we continue to support local food banks and women's shelters, as well as the ladies' church groups that cater a meal for us. We also remember our over 85-year-old members at Christmas time with a small gift and a visit.

Ottawa – Carleton

Taking a look around the room at our recent Christmas luncheon, with its record attendance, everyone could see "the power of sharing" in action.



The organizational skills shared by the committee who planned this busy day, made everything run very smoothly. Past experiences and common interests were shared in conversations during the Mix-and-Mingle, the traditional turkey dinner and piano entertainment and sing-along, featuring holiday tunes. Members shared their generosity and talents by not only donating over 60 items, many of them handcrafted, for the silent auction, but also, then bidding excitedly to purchase these items! The result was an amazing success! Through this community outreach sharing project, many children will have well-filled backpacks next September. The luncheon went on much longer than scheduled, as many members were standing around talking and catching up on each other's news.... a true example of the power of sharing in our lives.

Continued ►

Area 12

Burlington

Winston Churchill stated “We make a living with what we get. We make a life with what we give.” When I read this quote, I immediately thought of RWTO/OERO. With the motto of our organization being “Caring and Sharing”, we are sharing women. In Burlington, we have shared with our members, the community of Burlington and children throughout the world. We regularly visit and share cards, gifts and smiles with members who are not able to attend luncheons. In our community, we share our talents. For example, last year our Knitting Group knit fingerless gloves for the Burlington Teen Tour Band. We have also sent knitted dolls on medical missions to be distributed to children in remote places of our world. I do believe that our greatest sharing is the smiles, laughter, joy and support that is offered to all our members throughout the year.

Lydia Snow North Halton



“The Power of Sharing” can be seen at each of our ten meetings throughout the year as we share fun, food and fellowship amongst ourselves and with others. Through our fundraising book

sales and Christmas luncheon raffle, we raise money to support children in our community and elsewhere. Our outreach donation of \$1500 will go to Food4Kids North Halton, a service that provides packages of healthy food for kids with limited or no access to food each weekend. For many years we’ve collected change at our meetings and have purchased numerous bed kits for Sleeping Children around the World. Sharing continues with donations of toiletries at our June meeting and gift cards and items for teenagers, at our December luncheon, for Halton Women’s Place. At this luncheon our ladies bring sets of Christmas cards, envelopes and postage, to donate to the local “Bread Basket”. We are fortunate to be able to share in so many ways.

Mississauga

The power of sharing is demonstrated in Mississauga as our Executive and members-at-large work together

in planning, organizing and facilitating the events we all enjoy throughout the year. At our June Volunteer Appreciation Tea, we recognized those who gave of their time, talents and creativity in supporting Branch functions, in organizing Trips and Tours and in providing leadership for our more than fifty Interest Groups. Our October luncheon was well attended as members were eager to reconnect with friends. Sharron Colter, RWTO/OERO Provincial President, presented RWTO/OERO pins to our newest members. Moira Jane Plexman, Area 12 Director, was our guest at our December Fundraiser luncheon. Our event raised \$6000 for the Mississauga Food Bank and we donated unwrapped gifts and food items to the Salvation Army. We celebrate the milestone birthdays of our senior members at our final luncheon. Finally, this is our year to host PENTA, scheduled for November 2019. Yes, we are busy planning for the event, but sharing the fun makes tasks easy.

Oakville



“SHARING” connects us to each other and has the power to bind us together. Our small group of dedicated and caring women share our time, talent, resources, homes, common interests, knowledge, fun, and money. We share in all the areas of outreach, fellowship, learning and

supporting each other, through our interest groups such as Book Club, Bridge Groups, Thursday@10, Out to Lunch Bunch, Cinematic Sisters Club, G.A.R.D.E.N. Club and Tea Room outings, our events and outings of Branch luncheons, Velodrome Tour, Springridge Farm, The Weather Network, The Farm Crawl, Zacks Fashion Show and luncheon, Hamilton Fall Garden and Mum Show and Lighthouse for Grieving Children Tour. We share with our charities of Sleeping Children Around the World, Kerr Street Mission, Lighthouse for Grieving Children, Food4Kids, ROCK and Halton Learning Foundation. Sharing brings with it inherent joy and happiness within us and to the people with whom we have shared. To share is to spread JOY.

Peel North

Our Peel North Interest Group members are sharing their knowledge and interests through groups such as Euchre and Bid Euchre, Drumming, What’s Hot,

Continued ►

Celebrating our Branches - The Power of Sharing - continued



Scrabble, a Travel Diary, and Tea and Movie and Theatre outings. Our member, Janice Awde, will be sharing how she turned her interest in floral photography from a hobby into a business creating greeting cards. When we share what we know with

others we open a world of possibilities and become stronger ourselves. Peel North hosted Area 12's Penta

luncheon with a "Life in the Pink" theme and guest speaker, Dini Petty. Our day was filled with great food, fun, and inspiration. Our members generously donate their "change" for change in support of the Journey Neighbourhood Centre in Brampton as well as clothing and other essentials to our "Helping Hampers" for a local women's shelter. Peel North members generously share their time, calling on those unable to attend meetings, dropping off goodies at Christmas, delivering donations and creating an organization that is responsive to the needs and care of retired women teachers. Sharing together we are stronger!

RWTO/OERO



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario / Organisation des Enseignantes Retraitées de l'Ontario

Could you receive your Provincial Newsletter "Connections" on your computer via email instead of mail? This would not only be a cost savings for RWTO/OERO but members find the online version more enjoyable.

To receive your newsletter by email, please email Gloria at: info@rwto.org or call Gloria at (1-877) 607-6696.

Resolutions for 2019 Annual General Meeting

The following Resolutions are being submitted by the Board, for the Annual General Meeting 2019. Please read these Resolutions carefully and discuss them within your Branch. Please note that a copy of the new Resolutions #3, #4 and #5 will be sent electronically to all Area Directors and Branch Presidents. This is due to the amount of information contained in each one. These resolutions will also be

presented verbally at the AGM.

There were no resolutions received from the Branches. Hopefully there will be some discussion generated that will result in submissions for next year. It is the right of each member to have a say in matters of our Constitution.

Continued ►

Resolutions for 2019 Annual General Meeting - continued

Resolution #1

Be it resolved that the following Section 8 be added to Article VIII, Duties of Standing Committees:

Convention Handbook Revision Committee

The Convention Handbook Revision Committee shall:

- a. be chaired by the 2nd Vice President
- b. consist of 1 Area Director and 2 additional current or past members of the Board of Directors
- c. ensure the Convention Handbook is reviewed yearly and revised as needed
- d. ensure a copy of the Convention Handbook is received by the next 2 host Branches
- e. bring recommendations for changes in Policy or Constitution to the Board of Directors as required

Rationale:

At the 2018 AGM, a motion was passed by the delegates to create a standing committee entitled Convention Handbook Revision Committee as a result of the work done by the Ad Hoc Convention Handbook Revision Committee the previous year. The section states the mandate, chair and committee members for the new committee.

Resolution #2

Be it resolved that an appointed position, Convenor-Sales and Materials, be established to manage and promote sales of RWTO/OERO Materials. This position will be appointed from among the members of the Board of Directors.

Rationale:

Currently the Constitution denotes that this is a responsibility of the Program Coordinator. This has posed considerable complications during Convention when sales are highest, most demanding, and time-consuming. The Program Coordinator is responsible for all aspects of the Voting and Election procedures of the Annual General Meeting, creating great difficulty in fulfilling both responsibilities. Also, the Program Coordinator is responsible for keeping a tab on inventory and fill orders throughout the year. Presently, several members of the Board of Directors currently hold Convenor positions (E.g. Archives, Membership, and Goodwill). Therefore, a precedent already exists. This position will have no financial implications to the organization.

Resolution #3

Be it resolved that the existing version of Constitution Article VI, June 2018, be replaced, in full, with the new Constitution Article VI for the purpose of providing accuracy, consistency and clarity.

Rationale:

The changes in this Article are mainly of a housekeeping nature. This included removing items already addressed in the Policy and Procedures Manual thus not required in the Constitution. Additions, combining items and rewording resulted in changes to the numbering and lettering within the document.

Resolution #4

Be it resolved that the existing version of Constitution Article VII, June 2018, be replaced in full with the new Constitution Article VII for the purpose of providing accuracy, consistency and clarity.

Rationale:

The changes in this Article are mainly of a housekeeping nature. This included removing items already addressed in the Policy and Procedures Manual thus not required in the Constitution. Additions, combining items and rewording resulted in changes to the numbering and lettering within the document.

Resolution #5

Be it resolved that the existing version of Constitution Article VIII, June 2018, be replaced in full with the new Constitution Article VIII for the purpose of providing accuracy, consistency and clarity.

Rationale:

The changes in this Article are mainly of a housekeeping nature. This included removing items already addressed in the Policy and Procedures Manual thus not required in the Constitution. Additions, combining items and rewording resulted in changes to the numbering and lettering within the document.

Submitted by:
Karen Clark-Lauzon
1st Vice President





RWTO/OERO CONVENTION 2019

St. Catharines June 4, 5 and 6

Come to St. Catharines and have a Barrel of fun!

Area 13 welcomes YOU!

Lincoln West, Niagara Falls, Niagara South & St. Catharines



The Holiday Inn and Suites Parkway Conference Centre 327 Ontario St., St. Catharines

Take the QEW to Niagara. Exit at Ontario St. (Exit #47). Head South (right). The hotel is on the right-hand side. (About 1.3 km.)

Lots of free parking. Use front door for those with mobility issues.

ROOM CHOICES

- **Standard 2 Queen or 1 King** - \$125.00 per night plus 13% HST and 5% Facility Fee
- **2 Room Suite with 2 Queens or 1 King and a pullout couch** - \$155.00 per night plus 13% HST and 5% Facility Fee
- **Accessible Room** - \$155.00 per night plus 13% HST and 5% Facility Fee

GROUP CODE: RWT

Direct Phone Number: **905-688-2324**

Toll Free Number: **1-877-688-2324 ext. 2**

Email: **reservations@honhotels.com**

Check-In Time - 3:00 PM

Check-Out Time - 11:00 AM

REGISTRATION: Grand Foyer - near Montebello Room

Those with mobility
issues, please use front
entrance.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON TOURS

All tours (except Golf) will be by BUS.

TOUR 1 - NIAGARA FALLS/ CASINO

Enjoy a delicious lunch at George's Greek Village and then travel to The Niagara Falls Casino. You can then explore Niagara Falls on your own or spend your time at the Casino. **Cost \$60.00** (Max. 23 people)

TOUR 2 - WINERY TOUR

Enjoy the wine region of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Begin with a delicious wine tasting and lunch at the Caroline Cellars. Then travel to Pillitteri Estates Winery for a vineyard tour, tasting and shopping. **Cost \$65.00** (Max. 23 people)

TOUR 3 – OH CANADA EH?

Come and enjoy this playful theatre & restaurant featuring a Canadian menu & comedic musical review show. **Cost \$95.00.** (Max. 50 people)

TOUR 4 – STAYCATION

For those who don't wish to travel, enjoy a buffet lunch at the hotel and a fun and humorous discussion on handwriting analysis. **Cost \$35.00** (Max. 40 people)

Tour 5 – GOLF

Join us for 9 holes of golf at Rockway Vineyards Golf Course. Includes lunch and a cart. We will golf in foursomes. Transportation will be provided by members of the St. Catharines Branch. Post golf wine tasting (pay your own) if time allows. **Cost \$60.00.** (Max. 12 people)

CONVENTION WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, June 4th 3:30-4:30 PM

❖ Workshop A: **TREASURER'S WORKSHOP**

Leader: Gloria Drake, Provincial Executive Secretary-Treasurer

❖ Workshop B: **BRANCH WEBSITES**

Leader: Kathy Gallagher, Provincial Communications Website Convenor

❖ Workshop C: **LAUGH YOURSELF HEALTHIER**

Leader: Carolyn Shannon, Laughter Yoga Leader

❖ Workshop D: **CHAIR YOGA and RELAXATION**

Leader: Lisa Dunlop, Certified Older Adult Fitness Instructor

CONVENTION CONVENOR

Marilyn Emmett 905-941-0057

marilyn.emmett5@gmail.com



RWTO/OERO CONVENTION 2019

**Holiday Inn and Suites
Parkway Convention Center
St. Catharines June 4, 5 and 6**

Come to St. Catharines and have a Barrel of Fun!

Area 13 welcomes YOU!

Lincoln West, Niagara Falls, Niagara South & St. Catharines



Organisation des
enseignantes retraitées de
l'Ontario

Name: _____
(Given Name) (Surname)

Address: _____
(Street/PO BOX)

City: _____ ON _____
(Postal Code)

Phone: _____ Branch: _____

Email Address: _____

Check your role at this Convention.

- ☐ Provincial Board of Directors
☐ Provincial Past President
☐ Provincial Delegate (Voting-1 per branch)
☐ Branch Delegate (Voting)
☐ Alternate Branch Delegate
☐ Member ☐ Guest

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Mobility: (Please Specify) _____

Dietary: Please list your dietary needs on a separate 8½" X 11" page and submit with your registration form and fees.

☐ Check this box if you need help in finding a roommate.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON TOURS

Number by Priority

- ___ Tour 1 Niagara Falls/Casino - \$60.00
___ Tour 2 Winery Tour - \$65.00
___ Tour 3 Oh Canada Eh? - \$95.00
___ Tour 4 Staycation - \$35.00
___ Tour 5 Golf - \$60.00

CONVENTION REGISTRATION	COST	MY COST
Full Convention Package Early Bird Rate – Received by April 15 3 Day Registration, Coffee Breaks, Hospitality, Wednesday and Thursday Breakfast, Tuesday Dinner, Wednesday Banquet, Thursday Lunch, AGM meetings and Workshops. (Does not include Tours)	\$275.00	
Full Convention Package – After April 15	\$300.00	
Wednesday Single Day Registration (Breakfast, AGM, Break, Hospitality, Banquet)	\$145.00	
Thursday Single Day Registration (Breakfast, AGM, Break, Luncheon)	\$105.00	
Tuesday Dinner	\$60.00	
Wednesday Banquet	\$70.00	
Thursday Luncheon	\$40.00	
Wednesday and/or Thursday AGM and Coffee Break – 8:30-11:00 a.m. (per day)	\$50.00	
Wednesday Tours (Descriptions on previous page. Number by priority. Pay for first choice. Adjustments later, if necessary.)		
TOTAL ENCLOSED - (No Postdated Cheques)		
Tuesday Workshop (Descriptions on previous page. Indicate by letter A, B, C or D.)	\$ 0.00	

CANCELLATION: Registration fee refundable, less \$25.00 service fee, on receipt of written notification before May 1st 2019.

I understand that I may appear in some Convention photos posted on the RWTO/OERO website or in Provincial Newsletters.

Please complete the registration form and include your cheque made payable to: **RWTO/OERO Convention 2019** and send to:

Mail: **Linda Foster, Registrar**
14 Woodgarden Court
St. Catharines, ON L2M 7C9
Phone: **905-935-6182**
Email: **lifoster35@gmail.com**

RWTO/OERO 63rd CONVENTION

June 4 - 6, 2019

Presented by: The Area 13 Branches
Lincoln West, Niagara Falls
Niagara South, St. Catharines



Holiday Inn and Suites
St. Catharines, ON

<http://rwto.org/convention/convention-2019/>

Contact: Marilyn Emmett (Convenor)

marilyn.emmett5@gmail.com

905 646 5543



RWTO/OERO

RWTO/OERO Provincial Office
19730 Four Rod Road.,
Blenheim, ON N0P 1A0

PM Agreement
40739021