Welcome Spring!

Polar vortex, shovelling, and winter clothes are replaced with the promises of April showers, May flowers, two R.W.T.O luncheons and our Convention in June. I’m feeling warmer, already!

Make sure you check out the “Spring Luncheon” information in this newsletter.

As announced at the Fall luncheons, we are asking members to begin using e-transfers for luncheon and membership fees. Linda Foster, our treasurer extraordinaire, will of course accept mailed cheques, but e-transfers will make banking/recording streamlined.

Our Branch, partnered with Culinary Course students from Eastdale Secondary, will be supplying lunch on May 8th for volunteers at the Habitat for Humanity Build in Welland.

Congratulations to Alice Bradnam and Marilyn Weber, our Cora Bailey Award 2019 recipients. Both women are the epitome of caring and sharing.

Wishing all of our members a great spring. So, buy a cream egg, tuck a crocus behind your ear and write your name in the air with a sparkler as you watch the spring flowers bloom. Before you know it, June will be here.

Take every opportunity to celebrate!

Patti Malkiewich, Branch President
A Note from your 1st V.P.

Congratulations are extended to RWTO’s 2018/2019 Cora Bailey Award Recipients Alice Bradman and Marilyn Weber. Their awards will be presented at the RWTO St. Catharine’s Branch General Meeting and Luncheon on April 24th at Coppola’s.

We are also excited to hear the amazing voices of Sing Niagara’s, A Cappella Chorus.

Our Annual General Meeting and Luncheon will be held at the Four Points Sheraton, St. David’s Road, May 22nd. This meeting will include: a BBQ Lunch Buffet, In Memoriam, End of year Review/Installation of Officers, and our Program: Seniors Targeted for Investment Fraud.

There are tons of exciting events happening at our Spring Luncheons. Hope to see you there.

Jan Harlos, First Vice-President

St. Catharines Executive 2019-2020

WE NEED YOU!

We have a number of very capable women who have stepped up to serve on our Executive next year. THANK YOU!

We are still searching for someone to fill the position of Second Vice President. This is a learning experience in the first year and there are many people ready and willing to assist you. It is not difficult and it can be very rewarding.

I urge you to consider volunteering to help sustain our Branch as a vibrant organization that actively promotes community outreach, friendship and If you are interested, please contact: 905 935-9966

susseandchris@gmail.com

Susan McLaughlin, Past President
Insurance Matters

The most recent news from Manulife regarding our RWTO/OERO Insurance Plans is all good.

- The annual fees for both the **Hospital and Home Care Plan and the Personal Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan** remain the same. The monthly premium for the Hospital and Home Care Plan will continue to be $14.49 for the RWTO member. A spouse will continue monthly payment at $15.57.

- There is a change in the **Personal Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan** under the **Home Alteration and Vehicle Modification Benefit**. This benefit was payable when an insured person lost both feet (or the use of both feet), became paraplegic, hemiplegic or quadriplegic. Now it has been changed to the loss (or loss of use) of one foot instead of the loss of both. This benefit pays up to $10000 to make wheelchair accessible a home or vehicle utilized by the insured.

- An important change to note for anyone making a claim: The **address for submitting a claims form** to Manulife has been changed to:
  
  Manulife, Affinity Markets Health Claims
  
P.O. Box 670, Stn. Waterloo
  
  Waterloo, ON   N2J 4B8

- Beginning at the end of February, Manulife will mail the 2018 **tax receipts** to Insurance Plan participants using the address they have on file. If you have changed your address over the past year and didn’t inform Manulife, your tax receipt will be mailed to your former address unless you advise. You can contact Manulife directly with an address change at 1 800 268-3763 or call Terry Kennedy at 1 519 583-0098. When contacting Manulife, you will need the plan number which is 1777C and your own identification number, which you will find on your policy or on last year’s tax receipt.

It is always a pleasure to keep you in touch with news of our RWTO/OERO Insurance Plans.

*Chris Graham, Insurance Convenor*

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In Memory Of

**Bonnie Brown**

**Ruth Hulme**

“A Life So Beautifully Lived And A Heart So Deeply Loved”
A Message from Your Treasurer

It is now possible for you to pay for your membership and luncheons by e-transfer. An e-transfer involves using e-mail as a way to transfer money from one person to another. The e-mail that is attached to the bank account of our branch is rwtostcatharines@gmail.com

If you are not sure how to do this, your friendly banker can assist you. This method of payment requires a security question. Make sure you email me the answer to your security question. I process more than 800 cheques yearly. As some members used e-transfers for fall payments, I found these to be accurate and easy to process. I hope, if possible, that you will look into using e-transfers as your method of payment. Of course, you will still be able to pay by cheque or cash.

The luncheons begin at 11:00 AM. Doors open at 10:30 AM.

Payment for luncheons must be received for:
- The April Luncheon: by Wednesday, April 17
- The May Luncheon: by Wednesday, May 15.

Payment:
- Please indicate the appropriate luncheon month(s) on the cheque.
- Cheques are payable to: RWTO St. Catharines
- Cheques mailed to: Linda Foster
  14 Woodgarden Court
  St. Catharines L2M7C9
- You can e-transfer the amount using this email address: rwtostcatharines@gmail.com

There are no strangers here; only friends you haven’t yet met.

William Butler Yeats
The St. Catharines Branch, along with the other Area 13 Branches, is hosting the annual convention at the Holiday Inn, St. Catharines in June.

Please join in some or all of the Convention.

Registration forms are available:

- In the Last issue of the Provincial Newsletter, Connections
- Online at rwto.org under Convention

In the past, we have run many fundraisers to help our conventions be financially successful. We have not done that for this upcoming convention, but rather are depending upon your support and contributions, especially for the Silent Auction.

How can you help?

- Volunteer your time. (Contact Patti)
- Volunteer to be a photographer for part of the Convention
- Contact local businesses, friends, relatives for:
  - Donation in kind for door prizes or the silent auction.
  - 300 of some useful items, product samples or promotional items to be placed in the Convention package.

Donation request letters are available from Marilyn Emmett. (Email or will be available at the April luncheon)

**Wednesday, June 5 – TOURS**

Priority tour participation is given to Convention attendees. Occasionally, a tour is not full. If you are interested in joining us on tours #1, #2 or #3, please let Marilyn Emmett know. We will keep a list in order of receipt and let you know availability by early May.

**Travel is by bus to and from the Holiday Inn.**

**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)

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

We are requesting that each Interest Group donate an item, basket or gift card(s), for the Silent Auction, minimum value $25.00.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

**Marilyn Emmett,**
**Convenor-Convention 2019**
marilyn.emmett5@gmail.com

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**SUMMER NEWSLETTER**

Please send submissions by **July 1st** to: Marilyn Emmett
marilyn.emmett5@gmail.com
**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

**Rbloving Book Club**
I sure hope that a book or two from the Revolving Book Club has helped you to deal with the weather this winter. There is nothing like a good book to snuggle into as you watch the snowflakes fall outside your window. Or if you are like me, it provided a rest period in between shovelling task.

The Revolving Book Club will be back again for 2019-20. If you are considering this Club, please know that you will receive a book at the beginning of each month to read, and then at the end of the month you will pass it on to the next person on your list. The bonus is the book you receive in June is yours to keep! Sweet Anticipation! All this for the low cost of $25.00.

Plan to join the Club at each of the Spring Luncheons. A table will be set up at the entrance of each venue for you to pay. A receipt for cash will be issued as a reminder to you and me that you have paid.

Any suggestions for potential books to read are welcome. Drop me a note at: pchivers@cogeco.ca. 905 934-6636.

Have fun reading!

Patt Chivers – Revolving Book Club Convenor

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**Beading**
This newest interest Group began in January. Learning a new skill is always fun with such a creative leader. Just look at some of our accomplishments!

To participate contact:
Genevieve Habib
genevievehabib@googlemail.com
905 682-8846

**Dining Divas**

Dining Divas at Weinkeller, Niagara Falls
Peggy Allen has arranged the venues for The Lunch Bunch this year, and has done a great job. Our group met at Cafe Amore on February 20th and shared a delicious meal and fellowship.

Golf
Linda Holmes will be organizing the Tuesday morning golf. She will arrange a luncheon prior to the golf season in April. She has the list of ladies who have signed up and will contact them. If your name is not on the list and you would like to join, contact: Linda Holmes at lholmes7@cogeco.ca or 905 562-4234

Share your smile with the world.
It's a symbol of friendship and peace. Christie Brinkley

SMILING
Smiling is infectious,
You catch it like the flu.
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling, too.
I walked around the corner,
And someone saw me grin.
When he smiled I realized,
I had passed it on to him.
I thought a bit about the smile,
And realized its worth.
A single smile like mine
Could travel round the earth.
So if you feel a smile begin,
Don’t leave it undetected.
Start an epidemic
And get the World infected!

Spike Milligan
Rankin Cancer Run

Please join our branch for an important fund raiser on **Saturday May 25 at 10:00**. It’s called the Rankin Cancer Run. You’ve probably heard of it as thousands of people came out to it last year. This fund raiser raised 1.15 million dollars for Niagara agencies to help those with Cancer. The run committee are all unpaid volunteers.

It is a great morning with entertainment and motivational speakers. After a short walk of either 5 km or 1 km there are refreshments and a barbecue. The years I have participated in this walk have left me feeling energized and grateful for such an amazing community. Last year we had a great group of ladies representing RWTO St. Catharines and we’d love to have you join us this year.

Of course, we encourage you to get sponsors for this worthwhile cause but we would especially love you to come out and walk with our branch. You’ll have a memorable time!

Please let me know if you can join us by email thomsonjess@hotmail.com and include your t-shirt size.

Thank-you,

*Jessica Thomson, RCR Convenor*

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**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The **ONTARIO MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION** (O.M.F.A), a non-profit / charitable organization, will be hosting the Provincial Final Competition in the Niagara Region, June 3-8, 2019. Young musicians from forty-eight local festivals will compete in voice, musical theatre, piano, strings, woodwinds, brass, harp, guitar, chamber music and speech arts. If you are interested in volunteering, contact: Lisa Brillon. niagaraprovincials@gmail.com

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**Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre**

Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara’s volunteers exemplify a special group of people. They are individuals representing our community and they all share in a common quest to reach out and help others. Volunteers of all ages play an integral role in our fundraising, awareness and service activities.

We are looking for volunteers to join our planning committee for our Signature Fundraising event, **Kids Golfing for Kids**. This year marks our 10-year Anniversary and we are looking for individuals to help us plan this year’s event.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested, please contact Susanne at 905-937-5435 ext. 7034 or smccarroll@kristenfrenchcacn.org

Please encourage your contacts to connect with us about **potential volunteer opportunities**. Visit http://www.kristenfrenchcacn.org/volunteer/

"Kind hearts are the gardens; kind thoughts are the roots; kind words are the flowers; kind deeds are the fruits."

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**Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless.**

*Sherry Anderson*