



RETIREMENT MATTERS



Sharing, Caring and Having Fun



President's Report

I hope that everyone had a happy Holiday season. It is always a time to reflect on the happenings of the year just passed and look forward to the year ahead. The Autumn of 2018 brought many happy memories as well as some sadness. Several of our members passed away during the Fall months. They will certainly be missed. It was during these times that I realized just how important RWTO was to our members., from the luncheons to the variety of events we organize, We heard from bereaved families, how many appreciated the cards we sent to keep in touch and the visits we made to members who are not able to attend the Burlington Branch events. Burlington Branch definitely lives the RWTO motto of "Caring and Sharing."

It is wonderful to see so many of our members attending our luncheons and events. We look forward to the March luncheon when our sisters from Oakville will be joining us. The program planned for that event will be, we hope, most enjoyable and a lot of fun. Our Interest Groups are all thriving and many new members are joining the fun.

There is another way to get involved in our Branch and that is to volunteer. You could volunteer to assist at a luncheon as a greeter, join one of the many committees that exist or even join us on the Executive. You will find the involvement will be rewarding and that it will give you another outlook to our Branch.

I hope that 2019 brings each one of you health, happiness and joy. I look forward to seeing you all at our January, March and May luncheons.

Nancy Parkhill

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Area Director Update - Moira Plexman



In September I attended the Board meeting in Guelph where we had some lively discussion related to issues and concerns sent in by the branches. Considerable time was spent fine-tuning resolutions for the June AGM.

In October I met with the five Area 12 Branch Presidents to share information from the Board and discuss Branch initiatives. This meeting is always a good opportunity to share ideas and work out questions that have surfaced in the Branches. Penta was one of the topics for discussion. In November, I attended PENTA where all 5 branches were represented and president Sharron Coulter brought greetings from Provincial RWTO/OERO.

In December I visited four of the five Branches and the last one is slated for a spring visit to Lydia Snow.



RWTO Blue Pin Ribbons

An attractive blue ribbon made to hang from an RWTO Pin with a magnet behind it has been designed to hold pins. They were first made available at the 2018 June Convention and have proven to be very popular. Some members in our branch have them and a number of you have asked about them. Cost is \$4.

I am prepared to take orders and pick them up when I go to the May Board meeting. They will also be available again this year at the Convention in St. Catharines.

Mohawk Gardens Public School 50th Anniversary Celebration

Rick Goldring was at Mohawk Gardens Public School on October 20, 2018 and made this comment, “ I am thrilled to be at the Mohawk Gardens 50th Anniversary Celebration as the school I went to, Lawrie Smith, does not exist anymore. An unexpected treat was seeing my Kindergarten teacher from 56 years ago, **Jean Wilkinson.** “



Luncheon September 17, 2018 by Joanne Tregunno

Our September luncheon at the Holiday Inn got off to a warm start with the smiling faces of our greeters Mary McCully, Beth Anger, Marlene Thomas and Lynn Haniuik. The convenors were Ruth Miller and Mary Lyons. The basketball themed centre pieces were done by the very capable hands of Carol Martin.

Peel North members updated us about PENTA to be held on Tuesday, November 13th, 2018 with their “Think In Pink” theme. They encouraged those who will be attending to wear something PINK. The guest speaker will be Dina Petty, who is a Canadian television and radio host. Sharon Nemo, who is a talented vocalist also will be entertaining. On the membership news front, Moira Plexman drew our attention to 2 bookmarks at each place. One bookmark was for each member present to keep for themselves and the 2nd bookmark to give to a non-RWTO who might want to join. The bookmarks have the email address for Burlington RWTO and our mandate on the front with the Interest groups and Special Events listed on the back. Moira invited new members Catherine Lanc and Jackie Turingia to receive their membership pins.

Carolyn Hilton won \$50 because she had paid for her membership before August 30th. Claudia Stewart, as our new insurance representative, shared the “Cherry on top” of the RWTO insurance for those new to the plan.

The Euchre interest group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Christopher Terrace on New Street in Burlington. They meet from 12:30 – 3:00 pm with the next meeting being the 16th of October. It is suggested that those attending carpool where possible as parking is at a premium at the new location.

Mary McCully reported that the next “Tea Outing” will be at “The Duchess” in Stoney Creek on September 27th.

Marilyn Park introduced 2 new activities in the form of “Movie Club” and “Working Farm”
The “Movie Club” will get together on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, closest to 7:00 pm at the Power Centre on Brant Street and the North Service Road in Burlington. Just email Marilyn and she will put you on the list. Attendees are responsible for getting their own ticket.

The “Working Farm” group’s first outing is to be at Brantwood Farm on Powerline Road meeting at 11:00 am. Call Marilyn ahead so she can expect you and you can order any baking ahead of time by calling the farm. (Unfortunately this was cancelled due to wet conditions at the farm).

President Nancy Parkhill stated that they are looking for members to fill 2 vacancies on the executive. The offices of Secretary and Archivist are still vacant. Can you help? Sadly the news of the unexpected passing of current member Barbara Gilbert was shared. Condolences have been sent to the family.

Cora Bailey Award pins were presented to Marina Lloyd and Lynn McCulloch. A wonderful buffet luncheon of assorted buns, salads, veggies, meats and squares followed.

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Ruth Miller introduced, with great pride, our guest speaker, Brandon Wagner, who was a gold medalist in wheel chair basketball, at the 2012 Para Olympic Games in London, England, as well as one of her Grade 3 students at Mountain Gardens Public School.

At the age of 17, Brandon was in a very severe car accident that paralyzed him from the chest down. He explained that he owes a lot of his success to his coach, Chris Chandler who himself is a quadriplegic, who encouraged and mentored him. Brandon had a hard time integrating back into sports but once he was seriously committed to basketball he quit his full time job to train for the Olympics. In 2005 he was named to the Junior's team and they finished 6th in Birmingham, England. Brandon really wanted to make the Canadian men's team. He accepted a scholarship at the University of Illinois and made the team in 2007 at the Para Games in Toronto. In 2009 he moved back to Canada and his first Olympic games was in Rio de Janeiro. Every year he has been named to the team, but he explained that he had to train really hard to maintain his spot. Funding for Brandon and other Para Olympians is obtained through Sport Canada. 25 family and friends came to watch and share in his medal win and he wants to share his medal with as many people as possible. Brandon stated, "It is not my medal. It is the country's medal. It takes a village to raise a winner!" He also urged us to "Put yourself out there. You never know where it will lead you!" Brandon retired from the men's national team in 2016, but is still involved in running programs through schools. They use wheelchair basketball as a gym program to raise awareness. He helps coach the Burlington Vipers team as well. Bev Balch thanked Brandon stating that he is an amazing ambassador for his sport.



The "Share the Wealth" winner of \$57.50 was Kay Smoke, with the proceeds going to the Reach Out Centre for Kids.

President Nancy Parkhill closed the luncheon by wishing those attending a safe journey home to enjoy the warmth and sunshine.



We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our branch:

**Melanie Lunn,
Wendy Cudmore,
Teri Caldwell-McCann,
Catherine Lanc,
Christine Kuehnel**

**Pat DeMille,
Jackie Turingia,
Leslie Watkins,
Karen Volpe,
Pat Mifflin.**

Have a retired woman teacher friend? Invite her to one of our events. "Help grow your RWTO"

TRAVEL CLUB



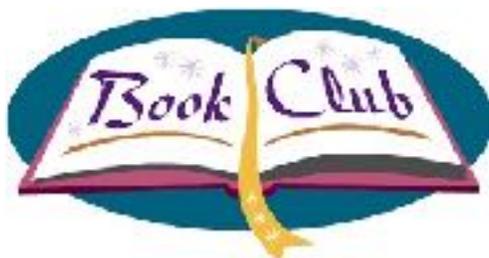
A late start with our get together this year!! In November, Marji Peglar and I shared our adventures in New Zealand. Pictures from top to bottom: Cape Reinga where the Pacific and Tasman Sea meet, the geyser at Rotorua, learning about Maori culture, Hobbiton, and the mountains of the South Island. Sandra Rizek shared her trip to Sea Verde in the American South West. We were enthralled with the beauty of the area.

The Travel club meets on every month on a Monday. The date is determined at each meeting. Next meeting will be hosted by Sharon Ariss on Monday, January 7 at 1:00.

Bev Balch



News from the Book Club



The book club met monthly over the fall. We are looking forward to discussing *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles at our December meeting. Several members have already read it and enjoyed it. This winter we will be reading

- *Best Day Ever* by Kaira Rouda
- *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate
- *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah

by Heather White

Greeting members to our October 29th gathering at the Tyandaga Golf Course was Carol Martin, our Honorary President. The meeting began with congratulations and the presentation of the new Cora Bailey pin to Muriel Peachey for her many years of service with our RWTO Branch. We reflected on the life of Leslie Renfrew whose funeral service several members attended that morning. Leslie was a long-standing member of our branch, and she will be sadly missed. Following announcements by Nancy Parkhill and others and the introduction of our newest member Wendy Cudmore, our members enjoyed a delicious buffet meal prepared by chef Toni Burch.



After lunch, Marilyn Park and Claudia Stewart introduced our guest speakers Mary and Hugh McCully. Mary and Hugh presented “A Different Road to Vimy 100” about their experience on Vimy Ridge in April, 2017. As avid ham radio operators Hugh and Mary, along with other Canadian operators travelled to Vimy, France for the 100-year



commemoration of the battle of Vimy and the loss of so many Canadian lives.

Following initial travel set-backs and difficulty acquiring a building in which to house their radio station, the McCully’s were finally able to begin their work of setting up all their equipment. Through voice and Morse code, four teams of operators communicated in shifts with the world about the historical battles which occurred in France during World War 1.

Mary and Hugh’s slides showed maps outlining where various battles took place and photos of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial. During their nine days there, over 9,000 other ham radio operators were contacted about Vimy Ridge.....about the dedicated Canadian troops, their hardships, their casualties, their victory.

Cecile Leach thanked Mary and Hugh for their very interesting and timely presentation as we approach the 100th anniversary of Remembrance Day.



Communications News



Thank you to all the members who have updated their email, addresses and phone numbers. If you do have a change or are not receiving communications, please let me know at susanedwards@sympatico.ca or at 905-335-9033.

Emails have been sent out before all monthly luncheons and in some cases, for special events such as the races and tearoom tours. Most special interest groups have contact through their leader. Special emails are also sent out in the case of the death of a member, including if possible, funeral arrangements.

Newsletters are also sent out where possible by emails.

Contact info for Ruth Miller is rmiller@cogeco.ca or at 905-634-1268.

Those who cannot receive emails or newsletters by email are called by the phone committee or provided hard copies. This group is capably led by Virginia McKee. Her contact info is ganim@cogeco.ca or at 905-335-8723.

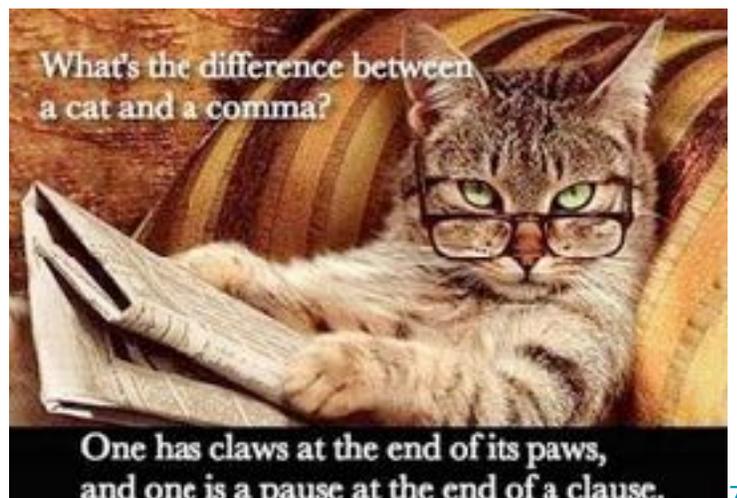


A large, colorful pile of various socks and mittens, arranged to look like a Christmas tree. There are handwritten notes around the pile.

A MOUNTAIN OF MITTENS!

Each Christmas luncheon we look forward to the Penny Auction, and what to buy at the Silent Auction. Many also remember that we collect socks, hats and mittens for distribution to some local elementary schools. This year, you outdid yourselves with donations and we ended up with a mountain of socks, mittens and hats! There were so many that we needed bigger bags in order to deliver them. It was really quite impressive.

The receiving schools - Bruce T. Lindley, Frontenac, Mohawk Gardens, Burlington Central, Holy Rosary and Kings Road were very appreciative of your generosity. Thanks everyone!





January 21, 2019 Tyandaga golf Club

Doors open at 10:45 am

Announcements : 11:30 am

Lunch : 12:00

Speaker: 1:00 - **The History of the Teen Tour Band “ with Rob Bennett**
Join us to learn the history of the beginnings of the world renown Burlington Teen Tour Band . The original Burlington Boys and Girls Band was established in 1947 by Elgin Corlett and eventually evolved into the Burlington Teen Tour Band who are referred to as “ Canada’s Musical Ambassadors “ and have represented Canada all over the world.



March 18, 2019 Burlington Holiday Inn

Welcome to our Oakville Branch guests!

Doors open at 10:45 am

Announcements : 11:30 am

Lunch : 12:00

Entertainment:1:00 - **“Where Have All the Folk Songs Gone “ with Sue & Dwight**



A musical show that pays homage to the duo’s folk heroes like Pete Seeger, Phil Ochs, Buffy Sainte Marie, Ian and Sylvia, and Bob Dylan. ‘60’s Folk Revival - Where Have All The Folk Songs Gone’ tribute show transports audiences back to the coffeehouses of that special time. The era’s songs of hope and social justice still resonate today.

May 6, 2019 Burlington Holiday Inn

Doors open at 9:45 am

Annual General Meeting : 10 am

Announcements : 11:30 am

Lunch : 12:00

Speaker: 1:00 **Dr. Ken Shonk “Jest For The Health of It”**

Dr. Ken Shonk believes that laughter is a universal uniter and wants to educate everyone on the importance of laughter and leading a joyful life to maintain health and well being.



After close to 1000 speaking engagements, he has entertained diverse audiences and brought his wisdom from a 40 year medical practice to share humorous anecdotes and the science of laughter, as he challenges audiences to actively find humour in order to increase their well being.



Papercrafting : We learned several new techniques in our three sessions in the Fall and are looking forward to learning some new and honing some old skills in the remaining sessions for this year.

The following dates have been booked for 2019 , all Thursdays:
January 31 **February 28** April 4

Painting with Paula



We had a great time last year finding our inner painting skills. This year we are going to do it again (with a different) painting.

Cost is \$ 20 a person,

Date : Thursday, February 21, 2019

at Fortinos Community Room Appleby /Dundas St.



Sign up at the January luncheon or contact Bonnie Folkard at bonnie2@sympatico.ca



Drury Lane Theatre 39th Annual Music Hall

Tickets: \$28.00

Sunday Matinee Date:

Sunday matinee Feb. 17 , 24, March 3, 10

Sign up with payment in cheque form at the January luncheon or

contact Norma Brown normabrown2000@yahoo.ca



Tea Adventures by Mary McCully



We started off our Tea Adventures this September by visiting a local tea room that was new to us - The Duchess Tea Room on Gray's Road in Stoney Creek/Hamilton. This mother/daughter new business is doing well and we were glad we found it. We were certainly well fed and some of us took home treats for later. And, there is an interesting "kitchy" shop very close by that many of us took full advantage of.

We have decided to "go local" again in November with a highly anticipated trip to Abigail's Tea Room in St. George. Not only is it a favourite of the group, there is great bakery next door.



Photos from Abigail's

Watch for more Tea Adventures in the spring when driving is more predictable and

We lost some dear friends over the past few months...



**August- Barbara Gilbert
October - Leslie Renfrew
November - Sharron Crawford -White,
November - Marjorie Milligan
December - Betty Stubbs**

Their obituaries will be published in our May newsletter and we will honour them at our "In Memoriam Ceremony at the May General Meeting.

PENTA 2017- by Joanne tregunno

On Tuesday, November 13th, 41 Burlington members found their way to the Garden Banquet and Convention Centre in Brampton to attend the PENTA luncheon hosted by Peel North RWTO. Their theme was “Think Pink” for breast cancer awareness. Pink was everywhere from table décor to wardrobe choices of those in attendance. The table centerpieces were clear bowls with smooth grey rocks and a pink flower artfully displayed. Each luncheon guest received a floral note card with the photography done by Janice Awde. There were 33 unique and beautiful baskets for the raffle. There was lots of mingling and laughter before the luncheon as guests reacquainted themselves with friends in other branches.

Before lunch was served, attendees were musically entertained by a vocal rendition of well know tunes by Debbie Muma accompanied by Sharon Nimmo on keyboard. Lunch included assorted breads, roasted red potatoes, a vegetable medley, stuffed chicken breast followed by a mini cheese cake for dessert.

Sharon Coulter brought greetings from Provincial RWTO. She taught for 40 years in the London area. She talked about “Living in the Pink” and what it means: say no to bullying, birth of a girl. It also means sweet, nice cute, romantic. Sharon challenged us to think about leadership positions and continue to be women who support women.

The guest speaker was Dina Petty who was described as someone who doesn’t wait for change but makes change happen. Dina was best known in her early career.... as the woman in a pink jumpsuit who did traffic reports while flying a pink helicopter at the same time! She felt very lucky. Her mom was first a talent agent who was known for honesty and integrity. Dina was inspired by her grandmother to write poetry and has since published a children’s book in that genre entitled “The Queen, The Bear and The Bumble Bee” which inspires children to “Be who you are, ‘cause there is only one you!” The book was available for purchase with Dina autographing copies. She said the hardest lesson to learn is to “Take care of yourself because no one else will”. The 4 things we need to take care of are “food, water, rest and exercise” a message Dina reiterated several times.

Mississauga Branch invited all to attend the next PENTA luncheon on Wednesday, November 13th, 2019 at the Lakeshore Convention Centre. Their theme will be the “Swinging 60’s” with the entertainment to be the rock band “The British Invasion”. It promises to be a trip down memory lane and a rocking afternoon.

The “Share the Wealth” had 2 lucky winners of \$250.25 each.





Christmas came to RWTO Burlington Branch on December 3rd beginning with the elfin-like smiles of greeters Eleanor Bates, Jane Cooper and Jane Taylor. Conveners for the luncheon were Norma Brown and Mary McCully. Mittens, scarves and hats were collected for distribution to area schools and attendees meandered through the many Penny Raffle and Silent Auction items with decisions, as to their wishes, to make.

President Nancy Parkhill welcomed everyone with news that the Executive is now complete with all offices filled. She reminded members of next year's PENTA entitled "The Swinging 60's". Bonnie Folkard gave the programming updates reminder with our end of January luncheon. The guest speaker will be Rob Bennett from the Teen Tour Band. Checks for the luncheon need to be in by January 3rd.

There will be 2 events in February...1. Painting with Paula and
2. The Drury Lane Theatre- "The Old Time Music Hall" – dates for both to be announced.

Moira Plexman wore 2 hats for her updates. As membership chair, Moira welcomed 2 new members, Christine Camel and Pat Nicholson. Under her director hat, Moira brought Christmas greetings from Provincial RWTO with best wishes for the season. She announced that the next person to take on the director role will be LeAnn Taylor from the Lydia Snow Branch.

Our buffet style lunch included lots of choices of salads, soup, buns, lasagna, manicotti, chicken,

turkey, mashed potatoes, and mixed vegetables, with apple crisp with ice cream for dessert.

Penny raffle winners were announced by Virginia McKee after which, Marilyn Park played a game with everyone with each person taking a wrapped gift out of the table centerpiece and as Marilyn read a poem, you passed your gift (still wrapped) either left or right as the poem indicated. At the end of the poem you could unwrap the gift and it was yours to take home. Bonnie Folkard and Carol Martin were responsible for all the imaginative gifts inside.

Norma Brown lead a carol sing while the winners of the Silent Auction were tallied. Virginia McKee announced the names of those winners who got their checkbooks ready.



Special thanks were sent out to Virginia McKee for all her efforts and time that she has given to our branch and the many years of putting together the Penny Raffles and Silent Auctions

at Christmas. Virginia is passing the torch for these events on to Marilyn Park.

President Nancy Parkhill thanked everyone for coming and wished all a safe and happy holiday with family and friends.



RWTO/OERO 63rd CONVENTION

June 4 - 6, 2019

Presented by: The Area 13 Branches
Lincoln West, Niagara Falls
Niagara South, St. CatharinesHoliday Inn and Suites
St. Catharines, ON<https://rwto.org/convention/convention-2019/>

This year RWTO Convention is being held in St. Catharines in June 2019! Burlington Branch usually sends 3 delegates to Convention. However in the past, we have noticed that ladies from Oakville and Lydia Snow, for instance come as observers not as delegates. Would you be interested in attending some part of Convention this year since it is so close to home?

Did you know that you can attend for 1 single day for \$125.00 (which includes breakfast, coffee breaks, luncheons / banquet) or you could come for Tuesday or Wednesday Banquet only for \$60.00.

Please check Connections which will arrive in March for Convention Sessions, banquets, and prices. The theme this year is “Barrel of Fun” which in itself sounds appealing, does it not? Last year’s Burlington delegates met part of the planning committee for this year’s convention and they were very enthusiastic! Thursday Luncheon is also when we honour Over 90’s and “Mother/Daughter” teachers.

If you are interested, please contact Nancy, Bonnie or Cecile for more information.

**Nomination Committee**

The Nomination Committee is always looking for new recruits to assist us at the Executive Level.

At the moment, we have a full roster but anticipate some openings as members of the executive move up into other posts.

All our committees are always looking for assistance. Program is the only “committee” - they have members who help with the decision-making. All other Convenors work alone and at times require help. One of the areas of concern is Publicity- we need someone to help make us known out there so that we can recruit new members to our organization.

Working on the executive consists of 5 or 6 meetings per year only. Working on a committee with a convener is even less. A lot of business can be done via email or telephone.

If you would like to work with any of us or have any questions, please contact cecile.leach@sympatico.ca or 905-634-8027



