In early June, RWTO/OERO Area 13 hosted the 2019 Convention in St. Catharines. We welcomed almost 300 RWTO members from all over the province. It was an incredible success. The positive conference evaluations indicated that the participants had a “Barrel of Fun”. Our success was also realized by winning the Feather in Your Hat award for the second consecutive year for our outreach projects. Kudos go out to Susan McLaughlin and Kathleen Bradley for spearheading the ‘comfort kit’ initiative.

I was very pleased to hear that we now have a full slate of officers on the executive. Kathie Dussome has decided to join the team in the 2nd Vice-President Position. What an awesome way to start my term as president!

Please mark on your calendar the dates and locations of the four luncheons coordinated by Susan Lewis and Lou Farquhar (First Vice-President and Social Convenor). Susan Lewis has planned a diverse program throughout 2019/2020 starting with hand writing expert and funny lady Elaine Charal for our September gathering at St. John’s Activity Centre. Elaine presented at Convention this year and everyone rated her A++. We will also hear from our new Provincial President, Karen Clark Lauzon, welcome new RWTO members, and have the opportunity to nominate RWTO members for the Cora Bailey Award. We will also have interest group sign-up sheets available.

We can look forward to interesting venues with great eats throughout the year thanks to Lou Farquhar. Please note that Lou has introduced a new venue, Lookout Point, in Fonthill for our October meeting.

There is so much to look forward to as we head into the fall. Besides the excellent programs and venues, we have the Toy Bureau and gift wrapping for the Arthritis Foundation to get us in the holiday giving mood. RWTO St. Catharines donated $8,000.00 to Community Care in 2018. Let’s keep up the good work.

Before our September luncheon you may have attended the Insurance Seminar on September 24th at the Meridian Centre in Fonthill. The information on this event is outlined later on in the newsletter. Hope you take advantage of this opportunity.

I do encourage all of you to join us for lunch in September. It will be a great opportunity to visit with friends and make new ones.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

Janis Harlos - President
We are looking for a pianist for our singalong at Christmas. Please pass along the names of members, friends or associates who might be suitable. They would accompany us for half an hour for a small honorarium. If they could lead us in the singing, too, all the better!  Contact: Susan Lewis
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Convention Report

“We Rolled Out the Barrel - and planned your convention this year. We rolled out the barrel, with tours and dinners and cheer.” As a voting delegate, I enjoyed the fruits of the labour of an excellent convention committee chaired by Marilyn Emmett. I also had the pleasure of singing “Roll out the Barrel” at convention 2018 to invite the delegates to come to St. Catharines and to thank the delegates of convention 2019. A thank-you to Susan McLaughlin for her many revisions and tireless efforts to get us to smile.

I received a unique, theme-oriented convention bag and a beautiful favour of a wineglass pendant designed by Beth Kent and a wine cork key chain created by Diana Bujas. I dined on stuffed chicken, prime rib and quiche Lorraine all served beautifully by Holiday Inn staff. I approved agendas, minutes, budgets, committee reports, nominations and constitutional revisions; and invited the incoming president, Karen Clark-Lauzon to our September luncheon. In the evening, I relaxed to the jazz duet of Juliet Dunn and her husband, and sang along with the performance of duelling pianos. I enjoyed a networking workshop “Laugh Yourself Healthier” and heard great reports about the staycation presentation on handwriting by our guest speaker for September’s luncheon, Elaine Charal. Others enjoyed a wine tour and a great performance at Oh Canada, Eh?

Many delegates posed for photos in shower caps in the wine barrel before the backdrop of the falls (thanks to Patti Malkiewich ‘s ingenuity). Once more we received The Feather in your Hat award for our outreach programs, the generous donations by members for the comfort kits and the donations received for Community Care. Credit goes to Susan McLaughlin and Kathleen Bradley for organizing and delivering our donations.

The Thursday luncheon ended with a wonderful tribute to 17 provincial members over 90. Carol Bell shared how much these ladies appreciated being interviewed and how inspiring their stories are.

The tables and wine barrels in the hallways were decorated with beautiful flowers and the theme-oriented table favours were a hit. Thank-you to our affiliates in Area 13, Lincoln West, Niagara Falls and Niagara South who ran a welcoming hospitality suite, organized a highly successful silent auction and presented nightly door prizes.

Everyone on the Multi-Branch Convention Committee helped out in countless ways; however, special recognition must be made for our excellent volunteers who were always visible in their grapevines, and always so helpful. I would also like to recognize all those members who chose to observe the convention and attend workshops and dinners.

We all left humming “Cruising Down the Water” after Kingston delegates provided a preview of Convention 2020. We had a “barrel of fun”! Thank-you Marilyn Emmett and the Convention Committee.

Outreach

Dutifully reading my handbook, I found this in the Vision Statement. “RWTO/OERO nurtures and supports retired women teachers who are ill, bereaved, shut-in or elderly.”

My proposal would augment the excellent work of our Cora Bailey Winner and Goodwill Ambassador, Alice Bradnam, who calls, visits, sends cards and flowers to members in times of illness, bereavement or for special events. We are an aging population, and many of our members are unable to attend our luncheons or interest groups.

On average, 135 of 392 members attend our luncheons. “We’ve Got Your Back” would require us to share in the creation of shawls or blankets and the collection of items for bags to address the needs of our “invisible” members and to show we care. I need your help collecting a list of names of members we should visit.
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (Continued)

The Three “R’s” of Membership: Recruitment, Retention and Recognition

The First “R” – Recruitment: Overall, provincial membership is down 75 members since the end of March 2018 (This excludes 152 deceased members). The St. Catharines Branch did not receive any provincial membership awards this year though our membership increased with 15 new members; however, 18 ladies did not renew. Privacy concerns limit our ability to contact newly retired teachers. If we are to increase our membership, you must contact your newly retired friends and invite them to join and relay their names to our EFTO, OECTA, and OSSTF reps: Donna Painter, Clara Warden, and Margo Smith. Thank-you to Clara Warden for this year’s luncheon lottery initiative.

THE CORA BAILEY AWARD

Each year, we recognize and honour 2-3 members of our organization with the “CORA BAILEY AWARD” for outstanding service for the St. Catharines Branch. Cora Bailey taught for 42 years for the Peterborough Board of Education. When she retired Cora joined OASWT (the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers) now known as RWTO/OERO. She was the Provincial President in 1962. She became the first Provincial Secretary-Treasurer and held this position for 10 years, “retiring” in 1982. Beginning in 2003, The Cora Bailey Award was established to recognize branch members who have contributed outstanding service to their Branch. Nomination sheets for Cora Bailey Award recipients will be at our first and second luncheons or you could send your nomination(s) to me via e-mail.

Susan Lewis - 1st Vice President

Cora Bailey Award Recipients 2018-2019

Area 13 Director, Kathy Smith and Jan Harlos, President present Cora Bailey Awards to Alice Bradnam and Marilyn Weber.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LUNCHES 2019

After hearing Dawn Cavasin speak at our May 2018 Luncheon about the different ways to help Habitat for Humanity – Women’s Build, our executive decided to supply lunches for the women volunteers at a build in Welland. The Culinary students at Eastdale S.S. prepared the lunches for the women volunteers from Clarion Hotels and RWTO St. Catharines funded and delivered the lunches! Leftover lunches were put in the fridge, feeding a crew the next day! Eastdale’s Teacher Chef came in so far under budget that an “on the spot” decision was made to give the Culinary course a donation to their scholarship fund. Two of the three sons, who will live in their new Habitat home with their single Mom, will attend Eastdale in the Fall. A perfect fit all round.

For more photos and information, check out the website: rwto.org
• Click on Branches, then Branch News
• Scroll past the map.
• Click on St. Catharines under Area 13
Introducing 2 New Members of The St. Catharines Branch Executive

Cathy Terrio-Lakeit

Hi Everyone! My name is Cathy Terrio-Lakeit and I am your New Interest Group Leader!

I retired from teaching in June of 2017, after enjoying a 35-year career in Elementary Education. I taught at Pine Grove, Lockview, Jordan, Harriet Tubman, Maywood and Princess Elizabeth Schools I started teaching when my son was 3 months old and I retired when Jeff went to York University for his Ph.D. at age 30.

At first when you retire, you wonder, how you will fill up your time. Then, you join RWTO/OERO and the Interest groups and before you know it, you are bowling, singing, playing euchre and learning to make jewellery.

In my spare time, I volunteer for the Festival of Lights, work in the local, provincial and federal elections and at Cherry Avenue Pick your own fruit Farm in July, August and September. I meet people from all over the world, explain farm procedures on the tour buses and direct the many thousands of people that visit the farm during the summer.

I have had many experiences organizing events. I truly believe that networking and being social is of the utmost importance in this next chapter of our lives. We need to provide venues where we can network and be social with others. One way this can be accomplished is to join an Interest Group. See you there!

Kathie Dussome

I grew up in Welland Ontario and attended Welland High where my mother taught Spanish and French. Little did I know that I would eventually study languages like my mother.

When I am not studying Hungarian and Spanish these days, I am swimming or cooking for my husband Rick, son Thomas, and Mexican student Rufino, or practicing my singing, walking our little dog Monty, landscaping a big lot or gardening our smaller one.

I am looking forward to the convention in Kingston because I started my teaching career in Gananoque, the little town beside Kingston. I also taught in Elliot Lake, Deep River and Perth, Ontario, before coming back home to the Niagara Region in 1983 to work at Merritton, then Grimsby, Beamsville, Lakeport and Eden Secondary Schools. I taught in several departments and was the department head in Art several times. English, Drama, Yearbook/Marketing, Civics, and Law, were some of my other subjects. Last but not least is Special Needs which I did from the start of my 34-year career until full time at Eden at the end of my career. My contribution to the schools where I worked was:

- ski club at Grimsby where I was taught to ski by Henry Epp,
- the outdoors club in Perth which compelled me to purchase a lot in Sharbot Lake last year,
- helping Violette with sets and advertising for her fashion shows and being yearbook photographer and editor for 12 years at Lakeport

So . . . If you see me buzzing around taking photos, it is because I do it in my sleep. Just smile!
INSURANCE
At this year’s Convention it was announced that Manulife is once again opening a window for Open Enrolment for our uninsured members and/or their partners/spouses.

- Commencing September 15th, 2019 until November 15, 2019 members (or spouses) can enrol in the Hospital & Home Care Plan and their acceptance is guaranteed!
- There is no medical questionnaire to complete regardless of pre-existing conditions or if you’ve previously been declined coverage.
- There is a pre-existing condition limitation, but it is a limitation – not an exclusion. If you have a condition that existed in the 90-days immediately preceding your effective date of coverage, that particular condition will not be covered until you have recovered, or until you’ve been insured under the plan for a year. After that time the limitation drops off and all conditions are covered.
- Should you develop a new condition after your effective date, that new condition would be covered.
- All uninsured members can take advantage of this opportunity.
- Plant to attend The Open Window Insurance Seminar

Chris Graham - Insurance Convenor

Insurance “Open Window” Information Seminar
Who? Any uninsured RWTO/OERO member and/or partners/spouses
When? Tuesday, September 24, 2019 10:30AM – 12:00PM
Where? The Meridian Center, 100 Meridian Way, Fonthill, ON L0S 1E6
Why? To present the details of the Open Window Initiative
Presenter: Anne Wilde, Provincial Insurance Convenor
RSVP by September 17 to:
Jan Harlos 905-892-8203 jhalos6@gmail.com
Chris Graham 905-646 2167 christine.graham794@gmail.com

INTEREST GROUPS
Special thanks to Nadine Marten for her service and dedication to the role of Interest Group Convener for the past two years. It is now my turn to take on this new role and I look forward to keeping everyone informed about our amazing Interest groups.

- A new group has been formed; Beading run by Genevieve Habib. I was part of the beading group and am now the proud owner of a pearl bracelet, earrings and a necklace.
- Linda Holmes has assumed the role as leader of the golf group. Contact her if interested in participating in this fun activity.
- Interest group leaders, please ask members of your group to provide information to Cathy for Alice Bradnam. This information may include members who are ill, have had surgery or suffered the loss of a family member. Cards offering congratulations are also always welcome. Goodwill needs your input as Alice does not have access to info for all our group.
- Also, please keep in mind that only members who have paid their RWTO membership are eligible to participate in the Interest Groups.
- Please check the brochure included with this newsletter for all the Interest Group information.

Thanks to all the leaders of our Interest groups, for your job making our Interest Groups run so smoothly. All your assistance does not go unrecognized. New leaders to start up and run new groups are always welcome! Sign up for the interest groups at our Luncheons as a sign-up area is always available. See you in September!
Cathy Terrio -Lakeit – Interest Group Convenor
GOODWILL

Seventy years ago, on August 6, 1949, Mary Jane and Bill Tanner were married. At the turn of the millennium, Mary Jane decided to start quilting. Bill, an engineer by trade, enjoys cutting and organizing fabric while Mary Jane sews the pieces together. Their partnership has produced over twenty quilts plus runners, place mats, etc. The attached photo is a baby quilt prepared for their grandson and wife who were married this summer. It’s never wrong to remain hopeful and plan ahead. What a precious gift of love and time for generations to come!

It’s not hard to think about the many varied fabric pieces arranged in patterns and stitched together to create a complete, balanced and complex quilt masterpiece that provides beauty, warmth and comfort. What a tangible representation of all that RWTO can strive to be! Let’s continue to encourage each other to welcome our rich and varied “patchwork” of friends old and new as we gather together at luncheons, interest group meeting and other events.

Request from Goodwill

Please remember to contact me if you know of anyone that might appreciate a get well, sympathy, thank you or “thinking of you” card.

Alice Bradnam - Goodwill Convenor

Rankin Cancer Run

On May 25th, 2019 fourteen thousand people came out for the Rankin Cancer Run and raised one million dollars! Our branch also helped out with this worthy cause and raised $5,230.00! We had 22 people register to participate in the Run/Walk and many more people who made donations toward this event. The pictures show us before the race in the rain with umbrellas and raincoats. The second picture shows us enjoying the sunshine once the storm moved on. Thanks to everyone who supported this great cause!

Jessica Thomson – Archivist
Rankin Run Convenor
GENERAL LUNCHEON INFORMATION

1. All meetings begin at 11:00 A.M. Doors open at 10:30 unless otherwise indicated.
2. Each luncheon costs $30.00. Luncheon prices are determined by our cost to provide the meal (including the room, taxes, and gratuities and equipment rental).
3. Payment for luncheons must be received by the Wednesday prior to each luncheon, whether by cheque or e-transfer. If you are late in mailing your cheque, let Linda Foster know you are planning on attending and that your cheque is in the mail.
4. Membership and luncheon(s) can be paid in 1 cheque.
5. Cheques are payable to RWTO St Catharines and mailed to
   Linda Foster
   14 Woodgarden Crt.
   St Catharines ON  L2M 7C9

For e-transfers use the rwtostcatharines@gmail.com address.

6. Luncheon payments will be returned if cancelled by the Wednesday prior to the luncheon. Call 905-935-6182 (Linda) to cancel.
7. You will receive a phone call or email reminder several weeks prior to the luncheon.
8. Escorts needed. Sometimes our members need a ride to the luncheon. If you can help out, please call Alice Bradnam at 905-934-7108.

ATTENTION: DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

Members MUST advise Linda Foster of their DIETARY RESTRICTIONS when reserving their luncheon ticket/s.

Meal substitutions or accommodations will NOT be made at the venues, unless they have been pre-ordered.

We want your luncheon to be pleasant, needs appropriate and ready. We also want to be fair to our venues and their staff. Some venues may not lend themselves to special dietary requests as easily as others.

Do not contact the venue directly.

Upcoming Luncheons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Lunch</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 25, 2019</td>
<td>St. John’s Activity Centre 91 Lakeshore Rd. St. Catharines</td>
<td>Perogies, Chicken, Salad, Pie</td>
<td>Elaine Charal Handwriting Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 23, 2019</td>
<td>Lookout Point 209 Tice Rd, Fonthill</td>
<td>Asian Buffet</td>
<td>Steve Fulton, UE, Ontario Geological Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 4, 2019</td>
<td>St. Catharines Golf Club</td>
<td>Christmas Buffet</td>
<td>Carols and Christmas Fun</td>
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Let’s Improve Our Meetings!

- We are fragrance free.
- Share your space. (Overuse of reserved signs does not make others feel welcome)
- Take time to meet someone new. A smile and simple “Hello” goes a long way.
- When someone is speaking to the group, please give them your full attention.