

'CARING & SHARING'
RWTO/OERO NORTHUMBERLAND SOUTH DURHAM BRANCH
FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER - ISSUE THIRTY-NINE

FALL MEETING

WHEN: Wednesday, September 25, 2019
10:00 am - Registration/Meet & Greet
Silent Auction during social time for gently used **recent** books - donations gratefully received. **Please note: if your donated books DO NOT SELL, please take them back home with you until our next meeting. Thank you!**

WHERE: St. Andrew's United Church, Old Danforth Road, Grafton

MEAL: Harvest Buffet (Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Fall Vegetables & Dessert) \$20
** Please let us know if you have special dietary needs.

PROGRAM 10:30 am - Business
- Memorial Service
- Speaker: RWTO Insurance open window Sept.15 – Nov.15
(This is a mandated presentation by our provincial office)

12:15 pm - Lunch

CHARITABLE DONATIONS: Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre

TREATS FOR TROOPS: At the RWTO convention in June, we learned about an initiative that the Kingston branch has been involved in since 2006. At each of their meetings, they collect cash donations that go towards building a box of treats for troops serving overseas. As our geographical area includes the air base in Trenton, our executive has voted to support this initiative as a branch, in addition to the other charities that we currently support. We will be accepting donations of cash at each of our meetings going forward (loonies and toonies are fine), and will build our own boxes of Treats for Troops. Thank you in advance for supporting this new initiative.

REPLY: **Before September 18th:** Call Elaine Doty - 905 983 5831 or Lynne Snee – 289 927 2307 or email: sneelynn@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

A Gentle Reminder: We are committed to pay for all meals ordered. If you are unable to attend as you indicated to Elaine or Lynne, please cancel by contacting Lynne at least five days before the meeting. Thank You!

If you know of a retired woman teacher who is not a member of our RWTO/OERO Branch, please invite her to come to the meeting with you. Your guest will receive a free lunch that day and you will receive a book for bringing her. Let the person that you contact know the person you will be bringing. All qualified teachers who are retired (including those on Long Term Disability) are eligible to be members of RWTO/OERO regardless of whether or not they are receiving a teacher's pension.

Branch Newsletter: To save postage and photocopying expense, the branch newsletter is sent by email to those who have given us an email address. If you received yours by mail and you **do** have email, please let the editor, Lynne Snee, know by November 1st for the Christmas issue (sneelynn@gmail.com).

BRANCH SPRING MEETING

Our spring meeting was held at Northminster United Church, Oshawa on May 1, 2019. President Jan Engel thanked everyone for coming out on such a dreary day. She introduced Sharron Colter our Provincial President, and Judy Ann Tumber, our Area 7 Director. She also took the time to thank members for their support of her presidency. Sharron brought greetings from the Provincial office and talked about the importance of RWTO being a safety net, not only for its members, but for community charities as well. She believes in taking lemons and making lemonade. Her positive approach to life is evident in her interactions with people, and the volunteering that she does.

The business part of the meeting went smoothly. The treasurer's report showed that the branch finances are in good shape. Julia thanked Joan Smith with a lovely bouquet of flowers, for helping her review and organize the 2018-19 books. Branch membership is now 58, plus two life members.

Jan reviewed the resolutions being put forward at the RWTO/OERO June Convention being held in St. Catharines. Jan Engel, Lynne Snee, Julia Esford and Astrida Chalmers will be attending.

The Cora Bailey award was presented to Linda Hansen, who has been an enthusiastic, contributing member of RWTO for a number of years. Congratulations!

Thanks were expressed to Bunny Wright for the lovely "butterfly" table favours.

Nominations for members of the branch executive and conveners were closed and voting was conducted. Provincial President, Sharron Colter installed the new executive.

Bunny introduced Jim and Sheila Ellis, who joined us to share a presentation on Monarch butterflies. Many members wore butterfly patterned clothing and accessories, in honour of their visit. Jim has a background in zoology, and he and Sheila call themselves citizen scientists. For the past 37 years they have reared and released monarch butterflies. They now tag their butterflies and include a focus on environmental issues in their presentation, to highlight the importance of protecting these beautiful creatures. Jim explained that while one generation of monarchs flies the 4000 miles from Canada to Mexico each year, it takes four generations to make the return trip. He talked about the life cycle of the butterfly and the importance of helping them survive by planting butterfly gardens. Plants such as New England asters, goldenrod, Joe Pye weed, black eyed Susan and milkweed (wild), all help to provide food and habitat.

The meeting concluded with a delicious lunch served by the women of the church, and a singing of Bunny Wright's "Sisters" song.

BRANCH 2018-19 EXECUTIVE & CONVENERS

Executive:

President:	Julia Esford	Past President:	Jan Engel
1 st Vice-Pres.		2 nd Vice-Pres.	Bonnie Brown
Secretary:	Lynne Snee	Treasurer:	Sandra Nolte

Conveners:

Archivist:	Sandra Boyko/Barbara Moorcroft/Joan Smith		
Communications:	Lynne Snee	Website Updates:	Lynne Snee
Goodwill:	West – Vicki Cubitt	East & North -	Astrida Chalmers
	Centre – Shirley Minifie, Shirley Stewart		
Visitation –	Sandra Boyko	Insurance:	Astrida Chalmers
Issues & Concerns:	Jan Engel	Membership:	Joan Putnam
Social: Executive		Program/	
	Table Favours:	Bunny Wright	

OTHER NEWS

From the RWTO/OERO PROVINCIAL BOARD:

A **\$400** cheque was received by the branch to allow it to help continue the important work of the branch either through community outreach in the form of charitable donations or for advertising for the purpose of recognition, recruitment or retention of members.

June Convention:

This year's RWTO/OERO Convention was held in St. Catharines, and was attended by Jan Engel, Lynne Snee, Julia Esford and Astrida Chalmers. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and music, combined with a business agenda. Two of our over 90's members attended the luncheon in their honour on the last day of the convention. Billie Kemp and Phyllis Symons came with their daughters, Liz Gibson and Mary Hope Walker, both of whom are new members in our branch. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and heard some amazing stories of the lives and contributions that many of our over 90's women have made to their families, their communities and their country.

Edwardian Tea:

On July 31st, several of our branch members met at the Bowmanville Museum to enjoy fellowship and an Edwardian Tea. Fascinators and garden tea hats were the order of the day! The weather was perfect, the food delicious and the company most enjoyable!

Membership Fees: If you have not paid your **2019-20 fees**, they will be collected at the **fall meeting, September 25th**. Members involved in the RWTO/OERO group insurance **must** renew membership. Membership cards will be distributed at the meeting. If you are unable to attend, please send your fees to our new treasurer by **September 30th**.

Sandra Nolte, 20 Strathmanor Drive, Bowmanville, Ontario L1C 4L3

Cheques: Make out to **RWTO/OERO Northumberland South Durham**.

Fees: Provincial RWTO/OERO Fee - Members retired **before August, 1980** pay **\$15.00**.

- All other members pay **\$40.00**.

Branch Fee - **\$5.00** per member.

Rebate: The provincial rebate to each branch is based on **\$10.00** per member paying the \$40 fee and \$8.00 per member paying the **\$15.00** fee.

Please Note: Our provincial office has requested that each member provide emergency contact information to their local branch. This needs to include the name and phone number of the person you would like to have contacted, in case of emergency. If you are paying your dues at our fall meeting, please come with this information. If you are sending your dues to Sandra by mail, please include it in your envelope. Thank you!

Provincial Newsletter - To save the cost of postage, the provincial office is requesting that you have your provincial newsletter Connections sent to you by email if possible. Contact Gloria Drake info@rwto.org.

Provincial Website - The website contains a wealth of information about the organization. Make sure you check the Northumberland/South Durham Branch section - Sandra Boyko, past president has a well-written introduction to it (**www.RWTO.org**).

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

September 25th - Executive Meeting after the fall meeting in Grafton.

**December 5th - Christmas Meeting - St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Port Hope
- Executive Meeting to follow.**

**April 28th, 2020 - Spring Meeting – Northminster United Church, Oshawa
-Executive Meeting to follow.**

**Third Thursday of Every Month - Social Event - Breakfast - 9:30 am -
Traditions Restaurant 1053 Simcoe St. N. Oshawa. No business.
Everyone welcome.**

June, 2020- Provincial Convention – Kingston, ON