



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

President's Message - Karen Clark-Lauzon



Gardens—beautiful places that bring stillness and peace, yet show growth. Even the word itself can sound exotic. They can be any size from just a container to acres of land. Most of us have visited a garden such as the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton or my favourite, VanDusen Botanical Garden in Vancouver, British Columbia. These gardens are arranged so that the visitor wanders through different sections that highlight certain plants. It's like travelling around the world in a small corner of ours. Some of us have grown our own gardens in our retirement. My husband and I have landscaped our front and back yards so that there is no grass to cut, just periwinkle ground cover, day lilies and coral bells. It certainly lessens the annoying sound of a lawn mower! Others have even tried growing vegetables so there is always something fresh and healthy at the dinner table. Whatever they look like, gardens seem like the perfect respite for people who have busy working lives. They give us some relief and breathing space.

Why are gardens so attractive? One reason is colour. Blooms come in every colour and hue of the rainbow. Even shrubs, trees and bushes without flowers have their own shades of green. There's always a surprise when flowers bloom at different times during the

season. Looking into a flower can make us appreciate its complex and symmetrical design.

Another feature is fragrance. The sense of smell is a strong memory trigger. Sweet aromas of a lily or a tulip can present strong emotions. Laughter, sadness and contentment can all bring a reprieve or reconciliation from an otherwise complicated event.

Another trait is sound.....water cascading through rocks, birds chirping and the gentle splashing of fish. It beckons and welcomes us to a new experience. Harmony is in the air when the sounds of nature come together. Even the silence and quietness can be refreshing.

And yet another characteristic is growth. It takes much preparation and planning to produce a garden. It's not enough to just put a seed in the ground. There's watering, sun, shade, protection—all involved with supporting the development of that seed. The result is that plants will return each year.

Gardens remind me of our organization, RWTO/OERO---such a variety of members, the excited conversation at a luncheon or AGM, fresh scents

Continued on page 2 ►

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

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Convention 2019

The theme for the RWTO/OERO Convention 2019 was “Barrel of Fun.” Marilyn Emmett, as Convention Convenor and her planning committee representing Area 13 Branches are to be commended for their hard work to accomplish a wonderful, fun convention in St. Catharines. The opening of the Convention 2019 began on Tuesday June 4 at the Holiday Inn and Suites in St. Catharines. At registration, we received a handmade cloth bag that held the important convention information. We were met by greeters with smiling faces to give directions and answer questions. In the afternoon, the workshops were well attended as we learned more about the Branch treasurer’s position from Gloria Drake or the Branch website development from Kathy Gallagher. Some members attended the Chair Yoga and Relaxation by Lisa Dunlop or the Laugh Yourself Healthier by Carolyn Shannon. After the Tuesday evening banquet, a talented jazz duo entertained us. Then we had an opportunity to peruse the Silent Auction room full of wonderful donated items and to bid. Thank you to the Niagara South Branch for organizing and hosting the Silent Auction. Wednesday and Thursday mornings held the business of RWTO/OERO which included the resolutions, the committee reports, the nominations and elections of the new Board of Directors, the audited financial report, Manulife Insurance report with the presentation of the Manulife Return of Premiums cheque by Terry Kennedy. On Wednesday afternoon, the tours included either wineries in the region of Niagara-on-the-Lake, a theatre production and lunch or a Staycation at the Holiday Inn for lunch with a handwriting analysis. Wednesday evening was full of excitement as the head table and the Board of Directors

were piped into the banquet room for another delicious dinner. It was wonderful to see and greet many RWTO/OERO Past Presidents who attended the banquet. After dinner, thirteen Barbara Bain, two Feather in Your Hat and three Honorary Member awards were presented. The recipients of the Honorary Member awards were Sharron Colter, Hénédine Weiman and Dianne Winkler. The Duelling Pianos created a walk back through memory lane with songs from earlier decades. Thursday morning began with a thoughtful memorial service for all of the retired women teacher members who passed on during this past year. Appreciation goes to Sandie Bender, Provincial Archivist, for her In Memoriam program and to Suzanne Rondeau for her shared bilingual program. Later in the morning, Branches from Areas 8 & 9 presented an exciting “Call to Convention 2020, Cruising Down the Waters” to be held in Kingston Ontario at the Ambassador Hotel June 2 to 4. Now is the time to plan to attend. On Thursday afternoon, appreciation certificates were presented to the special guests over 90 and the mother-daughter pairs. The newly elected executive and Board Members were installed by the Honorary Member, Dianne Rice. The Windsor-Essex Branch introduced the incoming Provincial President, Karen Clark-Lauzon. She addressed the members and then adjourned the “Barrel of Fun, Convention 2019.”

Sharron Colter,
Past President



President’s Message - continued

of centerpieces or homemade pies, and recognizing the Branches that expand with new members. We can appreciate the moments of stillness and reflect on our blessings. We can also rejoice that the seeds of friendship are planted and sown. Just as seeds need nurturing and care, let us continue to present a garden of Caring and Sharing to present and future members.

Wishing all of you a beautiful season of growth in every dimension!

Karen Clark-Lauzon,
President

Convention 2019



Caring & Sharing

Honorary Membership Award

This Provincial Award is the highest honour that RWTO/OERO bestows. We received three nominations this year and the committee was delighted to present all three to the Provincial board. All three of these recipients exhibited outstanding service at the Provincial level. We are pleased to honour Sharron Coulter, Hénédine Weiman and Dianne Winkler for their dedication to our organization.



Dianne Winkler, Sharron Coulter and Hénédine Weiman

Sharron Colter

After retiring from teaching, Sharron moved to Northern Bruce Peninsula and joined the Wiarton Branch of RWTO/OERO. Sharron demonstrated innovative and excellent leadership skills in the way she undertook any task. Presently Sharron is RWTO/OERO Past Provincial President, but has held many other Provincial positions. She was Area 1 Director for two years. During that time, she served on the Provincial Membership Committee and was an editor for our Connections Newsletter. Sharron was the Provincial Archivist before accepting the position of 2nd Vice-President in 2017. With each position, Sharron has been committed, open minded, creative and demonstrated a caring and sharing attitude.

Hénédine Weiman

Hénédine has been a member of RWTO/OERO since her retirement in 1998. She has supported and actively

worked with the Sudbury Branch. Hénédine served as Area 10 Director. During that time, she served on the Honorary Membership Committee and assisted the Provincial Archivist with the French translation of the Memorial Service. Following this, she served as Provincial Archivist. As Provincial Archivist, she introduced many innovative ways to honour our fondly remembered members. Hénédine also served on the committee that revised the Cora Bailey Award and reviewed the Archivist job description. In addition, she worked on the committee to design the Past Presidents Pin with French wording. Hénédine has devoted herself diligently to our Provincial Organization and her service exemplifies her dedication and skilled leadership.

Dianne Winkler

Dianne was nominated by both the Kitchener-Waterloo and Cambridge Branches. She is a member of Cambridge Branch. Provincially Dianne served as Area 2 Director for four years. With a calm and cheerful manner, Dianne attended Branch luncheons and guided executives past some difficult times. As director, her knowledge of RWTO/OERO Constitution and Policy and Procedures as well as her strong leadership skills have assisted branches many times. Good people skills and the willingness to pitch in are exemplified by Dianne. She served on two AGM Committees in 2006 and 2015. Her dramatic flare was evident in the planning of these events. Dianne is a tiny dynamo and has shared her time and talents freely with RWTO/OERO. Congratulations to all our recipients and a huge thank you to the Committee for their assistance.

Dianne Rice,
Honorary President



Award Winners 2019

Feather In Your Hat Award



St. Catharines Branch

This Branch decided to help out less fortunate people in their own community through two of their community-based programs – “Community Care”, a local food bank and the “Out of the Cold” program.

They began a two part program. “Comfort Kits”, containing hygiene products that would fit in a backpack (toothbrush and paste, deodorant and shampoo, etc.), were assembled from member donations at the September and October luncheons. 250 “Comfort Kits” went to the “Start Me Up Niagara” organization that oversees the “Out of the Cold” program.

Part two was to collect donations for the local “Community Care” food bank. A donation of \$8,000. was announced at the Christmas Luncheon to thunderous applause...and tears to the “Community Care” representatives in attendance!

Congratulations to our St. Catharines Branch!

Upper Canada East Branch

This Branch decided to help out the less fortunate on an international scale in disaster-ridden countries of the world. The “Crisis Gown” initiative has sent 60 gowns to NAS (if you have Nothing, Anything is Something), a Florida-based organization that distributes the gowns where they are needed most. ‘Crisis Gowns’ range in size from 5 months to adult and are sack-shaped with a drawstring neck and slits for the arms. In true teacher creativity, some added pockets or trim or shorts to the gowns! Over 20 members had social “gown bees” - with potluck luncheons and loads of camaraderie! Others members donated fabric and some worked on kits at home!

Congratulations to our Upper Canada East Branch!

Membership Committee – Marilyn Bancsi,
Jennifer Davis, Joyce Ratz, and
(Chair) Suzanne Lanouette-Carswell.

Feather in Your Hat Award

Submissions for Feather In Your Hat must be made to the Membership Convenor after January 1st and before March 1st. Mail a hard copy via Canada Post to:

Joyce Ratz, Box 487, Iron Bridge, ON P0R1H0 ratzjd@gmail.com

Cora Bailey recipients

The Cora Bailey recipients are listed on the website at www.rwto.org/awards.asp. Please scroll to the bottom of the main page and click on “Cora Bailey Recipients 2019”

Continued ►

Award Winners 2019 - continued

Barbara Bain Membership Award



This provincial award is named in honour of our long-time London-Middlesex member, Barbara Bain, who served on the Provincial Board of Directors for 11 years as an Area Director, Assistant Insurance Convenor, Insurance Convenor, 2nd and 1st Vice President, President, Past President and Honorary President as well as being our first Membership Convenor.

Tier 3, the Smaller Branches

- 1st place – \$400 – Orillia, net increase 15
- 2nd place – \$300 – Daisy Wilson Coldwater, net increase 5
- 3rd place – \$200 – Gananoque, net increase 2
- 3rd place – \$200 – Napanee, net increase 2

Tier 2, Middle-Sized Branches

- 1st place – \$400 – Durham North, net increase 14
- 2nd place – \$300 – Lydia Snow North Halton, net increase 7
- 3rd place – \$200 – Central Algoma, net increase 4
- 3rd place – \$200 – Lanark, net increase 4
- 3rd place – \$200 – Niagara Falls, net increase 4
- 3rd place – \$200 – Sudbury, net increase 4

Tier 1, Largest Branches

- 1st place – \$400 – London-Middlesex, net increase 19
- 2nd place – \$300 – Peel North, net increase 15
- 3rd place – \$200 – Stratford, net increase 12



CRUISING DOWN THE WATERS

SAILING INTO KINGSTON
RWTO/OERO
CONVENTION 2020

RWTO/OERO 64th CONVENTION

June 2 - 4, 2020

**Ambassador Hotel & Conference Centre
Kingston ON**

Room Bookings: 1-800-267-7880

reservations@ambassadorhotel.com

**Hosted by the Eastern Ontario Branches
of Areas 8 & 9: Brockville, Gananoque, Kingston,
Lanark, Napanee, Ottawa-Carleton,
Upper Canada East**

For more information, contact Convention Convenors:

Judy Drummond 613-275-1354 jjdrum@xplornet.com

Anne Graham 613-259-2207 annegraham2207@gmail.com

<https://rwto.org/convention/convention-2020/>

RWTO/OERO Resolutions 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Board Resolutions for 2019 AGM

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

Carried

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.

Carried

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.

Carried

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.

Carried

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.

Carried

Please note that a copy of the new Resolutions #3, #4 and #5 was sent electronically to all Area Directors and Branch Presidents prior to AGM 2019. This was due to the amount of information contained in each one. Delegates were encouraged to read and compare the changes with the Constitution so as to be informed voters.

Branch Resolutions for 2019 AGM

No resolutions were submitted from branches for this year's AGM. **Carried**

Respectfully submitted
by Karen Clark-Lauzon,
President



Resolution Submissions for the 2020 Annual General Meeting must be submitted to Nancy Papiez by November 15, 2019. The intent of every resolution should be clear, concise and must contain one key idea or focus. (Policy and Procedures Article VII Resolutions). You'll find the newest edition of our Constitution on the www.RWTO.org site, specifically at <http://www.RWTO/OERO.org/pdf/RWTO%20Constitution%20June%202016.pdf> When your branch is preparing to submit a resolution, questions and concerns should be directed to Nancy Papiez 905-979-3391 npapiez@outlook.com or Parliamentarian Jane Cartier (519) 676-4495 acecartier@cogeco.ca



Issues and Concerns - Know Your Plan

Whether it be a Retired Teachers' Insurance plan through OTIP, RTO, RWTO/OERO or an alternative plan, know your coverage. Singularly, or in combinations, these plans offer an amazing variety. With the open window for the supplemental Hospital & Home Care Insurance plan, offered through RWTO/OERO between Sept 15 to Nov 15, 2019, it seemed an opportune time to bring forth this discussion. During this open window, any uninsured member or her spouse may enrol in the plan and acceptance is guaranteed. You cannot be refused coverage...even if you had previously been declined.

So how can you familiarize yourself with the plan you have chosen or are about to choose? I personally suggest a flow chart with each insurance company at the top. Then choose the features that are most relevant to you, that are offered by these plans. One plan might have better coverage for items such as: semi private coverage, convalescent care, prescription drugs, paramedical practitioners, surgical services, eye vision, aids and appliances, medically related education plans, dental, accidental dental, out of province and out of country travel. Which plan most closely meets your needs?

After you have compared and chosen which plan or plan combinations fit you, read and know the features and how these features are accessed. This includes giving due diligence to the perusal of brochures that are mailed at the beginning of each year or throughout the year. There are often changes and upgrades in coverage amounts or deletions that are imperative you know.

Now, once you have made an informed decision and chosen your coverage, let's discuss some tips on managing usage. Many claims can be submitted

through your health care providers, for your convenience. There is usually a sign posted at reception but if not, be sure to ask. If you still have receipts that you must submit on your own, this can be done online. Not computer savvy, then find someone who is and ask for help. Please bear in mind that the RWTO/OERO Hospital & Home Care Plan claims cannot be submitted online. The claim form must be completed by the insured or their representative and receipts (where required) must be submitted with the claim form.

If you are traveling, be sure to refer to the most recent rules and regulations, as these seem to change frequently. I recommend reading the article, Top Three Travel Myths from the summer 2018 edition of OTIP Retirement News. www.OTIP.com I also recommend an article from RTO Communique 2019 pg. 2 discussing Best Doctors Services available. www.bestdoctorscanada.com/rto-ero

Finally, leave a copy of all your insurance information with your power of attorney, legal representative or inform that person of the location of these important documents. So often, we hear from our Insurance Representatives that features of the plan are not being used, as the plan member is not able to handle their affairs and the caregiver is unaware of coverage.

Hopefully, this article has been informative and encourages you to read, compare, be informed, and be up to date with one of your most valuable assets.

Leslie Carroll-Frey,
Area 3 Director



Goodwill

Welcome back to another great year with RWTO/OERO friends! It is my honour to be your Goodwill Convenor during 2019-2020. On behalf of RWTO/OERO, I am excited to connect and network with our Over 90 members and Provincial Past Presidents by sending Birthday, Christmas and Spring greetings throughout the year. Along with our 25 centenarians, there are 7 members who celebrated or will celebrate their milestone 100th birthday in 2019 and 2 more members

during 2020. Congratulations! Keeping our database current is important, so please contact Gloria Drake, our Executive Secretary-Treasurer, regarding any changes in personal information and birthdays.

Nancy Bell,
Goodwill Convenor
n3bell@rogers.com



Mirror, Mirror On The Wall...there's a window opening this fall!

Our Members have been asking, and so we've delivered! Manulife Financial has agreed to open the window for another Open Enrolment Period. Effective September 15th, the window opens and will remain open until November 15, 2019. This means that during this period, Members and/or their spouses can enrol in the RWTO/OERO Hospital & Home Care Plan and their acceptance is guaranteed. That's right...no medical questions to answer, your application will not be declined, regardless of your medical history or any previous declination.

Under the Hospital & Home Care Plan there is no age limit, so all Members and/or their spouses are eligible for the plan. Premiums are \$14.49 a month for a member and \$15.57 a month for a spouse, and that rate hasn't changed in over 19 years! To be eligible, you must be a member in good standing, living independently, and covered under a Provincial Health Insurance plan such as OHIP.

This plan is a wonderful supplement to your current Extended Health Care Benefit plan – whether that's with RTO-ERO, OTIP or even a spousal plan. Where there are duplication of benefits (such as Home Nursing), you can claim under both plans by coordinating the benefits of both. Simply submit your claim to your primary insurer (RTO-ERO, OTIP, or other plan) and when you have received your benefit statement from that insurer, submit a copy of the benefit statement with your Hospital & Home Care Plan Claim for reimbursement of the balance of the charge, up to the allowable limits of the plan.

Consider some of the benefits of this plan...

- A Convalescent Benefit that will pay \$350 a month for up to 6 months while you recover from an injury or illness that required hospitalization of 3 or more days. If you've had out-patient surgery or hospitalization of less than 3 days, you can claim \$72.50 per week for up to 4 weeks to help you with your recovery. You can use this money to pay someone to cut your grass, shovel your driveway or clean your home while you're regaining your health.
- Cataract Surgery Benefit that pays \$100 per eye for pre- and post-operative medical supplies, including medications, sunglasses, lenses & frames and even cataract testing not covered by OHIP

- A Fracture Benefit that pays a lump-sum depending upon which bone is fractured (e.g., a hip fracture pays \$200, a pelvis pays \$350)
- Home Nursing Benefits pay 80% of the expense for nursing services at home as a result of sickness or injury, up to \$1,500 for the services of a registered nurse, practical nurse or a personal support worker.
- Comfort Care Benefits pay \$25 a day for each day you are in hospital. You can use this benefit to pay for such comfort items as a television rental, reading materials or a telephone.
- Transportation Benefit that will pay for your taxi or private passenger vehicle (at a rate of \$0.35 per kilometre) following a period of hospital confinement or outpatient surgery. This benefit will also pay for your parking expense! Benefit maximum is \$350 for any one injury or illness,
- And many more benefits....

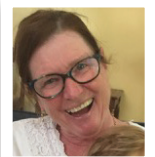
For an application form for you, your spouse or both of you, please contact your Branch Insurance Convenor, the Provincial Insurance Convenor, Anne Wilde (905-774-8330 or wildeanne.wa@gmail.com), your Assistant Provincial Insurance Convenor, Karin Mussen (519-272-0629 or kmussen.rwto@gmail.com) or Terry Kennedy, our Broker (519-583-0098 or tkennedy34@bell.net).

We encourage you to act quickly. The window is only open until November 15, 2019.

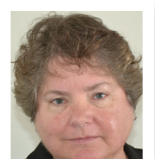
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Manulife Financial 1-800-268-3763
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(519) 583-0098 Fax: (519) 583-2876
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Archives

I have truly enjoyed my first year as the RWTO/OERO Archivist. The Awards list has been updated as a result of the Convention. A case to display RWTO/OERO pins has been completed. It will be held by the Archivist and updated as required. Thank you to everyone who assisted with the In Memoriam at the Convention. I would appreciate any suggestions for next year's service. A reminder to all branches: the names for the In Memoriam are sent to Gloria Drake

but the photos come to me. You can email them to sbender1@cogeco.ca. I would be pleased to accept them anytime before March 31, 2020.

Sandie Bender,
Archivist



Program

September ushers in a new membership year for RWTO/OERO, and the beginning of entertaining and informative programs, projects and events for all branches. A thankful welcome to all the new presidents and those whose term may be continuing – your contribution to your branch and our organization as a whole cannot be stressed enough. Please join me in welcoming the new Area Directors who are beginning their term in Areas 5, 6, 9 and 12.

Area Directors are there to support you and provide a liaison with the Provincial Board. Do not hesitate to call on them or myself to assist or answer any

questions. Enjoy your Area President's meetings and keep your timelines for Presidents handy. I will provide you with reminders and updates monthly beginning in October and at other times when necessary.

Have a wonderful year!

Judith Bennoch,
Provincial Program
Coordinator



Communications Website Convenor



Check the Communication Website Convenors Page <https://rwto.org/branches/communication-convenors/> for: What, When, and How to send information to rwto cyberlady@gmail.com

Kathy Gallagher,
Communications Website Convenor



News from the Branches – Nurturing our Gardens

Area 5

Rendezvous

When John and I moved to Canada from Australia we decided to create an indoor garden in our townhouse basement. It grows and blooms 12 months of the year with African Violets and other Gesneriads. While teaching we found caring for our garden very relaxing. Plants responded to our loving care of water, food and light without talking back.

In retirement our garden continues to give us joy. John has hybridized about 200 new varieties. The basement is full of light and beauty and hanging from the rafters are many rosettes won at flower shows. By attending conventions across Canada and the U.S.A., we have made friends all over the world. In retirement every day can be different but the garden keeps us grounded. Every 4th day the 'W' on our calendar means "watering day". We are fortunate our good friends take on the task when we take a vacation.

Doris Brownlie, Rendezvous

Scarborough

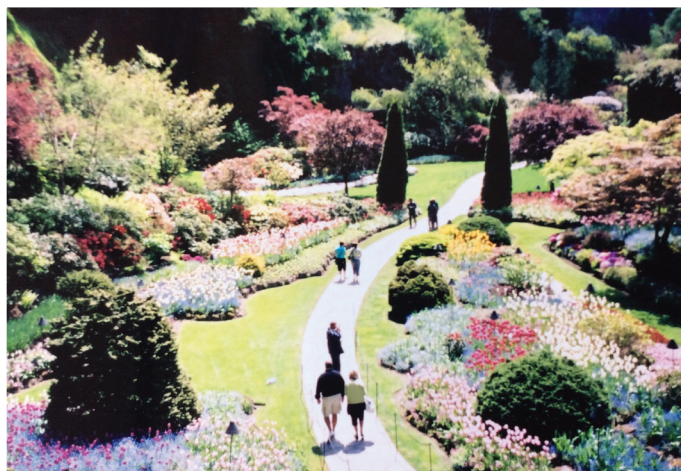
Spring was celebrated in May and the weather did cooperate with our plans. The gardeners shared their plantings and they were sold at the annual plant sale. Betty Pump and Susan Rowe were presented with their Cora Bailey awards. This 2019-2020 executive was introduced to the membership who attended the luncheon. Already the Programme Committee has been working on plans for the coming year. The Scarborough Branch is ready and looks forward to another busy and entertaining year.

Carol Nelson, Scarborough

Area 6

Daisy Wilson Coldwater

If you have never been to Brentwood Bay just outside of Victoria, British Columbia, a visit to Butchart Gardens will most certainly make the trip worthwhile. While touring the more than 55 acres representing flora from across North America and the world, you are immediately overwhelmed with a sense of awe and tranquility amid a bouquet of fragrances and colours. The gardens were developed at the turn of the century by Robert and Jennie Butchart, originally

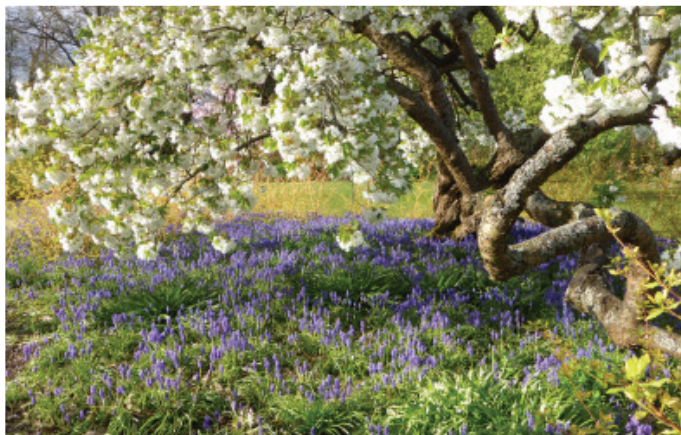


from Owen Sound, Ontario and with the help of their Japanese gardener turned the former gravel pit into arguably one of the most beautiful botanical havens on the planet. In addition to many other attractions too numerous to mention, the site also offers a Children's Pavilion featuring the Rose Carousel with a menagerie that includes thirty exquisitely carved animals. From the bronze statues displayed randomly throughout the gardens, to the many elaborate birdhouses, the Japanese Garden, the Ross Fountain, or the phenomenal fireworks shows, it is no wonder that over a million visitors explore the grounds each year and that it has been deservedly designated a National Historic Site of Canada.

Maureen McKinnon, Daisy Wilson Coldwater

East Parry Sound

Gardeners will tell you the healing value of connecting with the Earth. A garden can be a place to sit and contemplate, or wander among the plants and trees,



Continued ►



News from the Branches – Nurturing our Gardens - continued

and be a wonder-filled experience. Size is unimportant; whether it's a large formal botanical park or a tiny space in our yard or balcony, we cultivate a sense of peace. When the outdoor growing season rests, even a tiny indoor garden can be rewarding.

Many of the East Parry Sound Branch members enjoy a special garden at their homes or have appreciated gardens on their travels. When asking newly retired colleagues about pursuits they plan to undertake, a popular answer was, "To enjoy gardening".

Gardens give us fulfillment, hope and promise; each term they continue to evolve, and we develop with gardening seasons. Wherever we find a garden we will find enrichment in our lives and restoration of our soul.

Julia Breckenridge, East Parry Sound

Orillia

Orillia Branch is sowing seeds of change in its garden this year. Since members from Muskoka have now joined us, we are planting seeds of inclusiveness and teamwork.

Our seedlings will need tending by many members, with a master gardener overseeing the care of the garden. It is an ongoing difficulty to find a plant willing to take on the role of vice-president, knowing the commitment involved, so Orillia is trying a totally different approach. The Master Gardener will ensure that all seeds are nurtured appropriately. Each section of the garden will grow 3 seeds that are compatible. As the seeds grow, that group of three plants will provide one month's show of colour. They will be responsible for welcoming and chairing the gathering, providing program and recording the minutes. The team of 3 will decide which plant does what. We are excited to see how successfully our garden grows!

Kay-Anne Broger, Orillia

Area 8

Brockville

At our June meeting we discussed the garden theme. The following are "the sprouts" of our collective minds: We are beautiful like a spring blossom. We bloom where we are planted, water and food ensure

our growth. We are colourful, smell good and come in all shapes and sizes. Sometimes we look fresh and just occasionally a wee bit wilted!

People enjoy working with us. We grow in the warmth and friendship of others. Over time changes occur. The weeds, rocks and pests often takes their toll. It is like friendship and illness we grow around each other for love and support. We bloom doing all kinds of jobs, travelling to different places, sharing our "plants" with friends far and wide. We heal and comfort others and like rainbows, we help cheer the garden after a shower.

And yes..... our outer skin may have spots!

Betty Bates, Brockville

Gananoque

Do you believe in miracles? I do. Many of our members do, too. Miracles are shown forth daily as we plant seeds, nurture young plants, and eventually harvest the gifts of our vegetable and flower gardens. Most of us remember, as children, helping to plant the family garden. Sadly, today, many youngsters miss out on the experience of seeing tiny seeds sprout and grow juicy tomatoes, crispy beans and fresh green cucumbers. Gardens reflect the influence we as teachers have had on our students, regardless of age. Seeds of curiosity, acceptance, forgiveness and success, planted in fertile young minds, have matured to produce scientists, tradespeople, medical specialists, and, yes, even teachers. The pride we have in our gardens is magnified many times when we learn how our students have taken their turn at sharing, caring and planting in the minds of the next generation. Every class is a "Kindergarten", a garden of children, and we were part of it!

Mary Ellen Moulton, Gananoque



Upper Canada East

At our June gathering, the members of Upper Canada East greeted summer with bouquets of colourful blossoms from our flower beds. We were asked to

Continued ►

consider how we are like these flowers. Welcome to our Garden of Caring and Sharing.

Our Upper Canada East RWTO membership and our projects are as varied and numerous as the flowers in our gardens. Our younger members are like blooms just opening, the body of our membership represents the colourful annuals we plant to embellish our gardens and our valued leaders are our reliable, consistent perennials we love and count on to sustain our Upper Canada East region. Gardens as well as Associations require tending but as our UCE treasurer reminded us, our many subcommittees share the load to keep us informed and viable.

Oscar Wilde said, "A flower blossoms for its own joy." May we all continue to blossom with joy.

Diana McKendry, Upper Canada East

Kingston

Our Kingston Branch delegates very much enjoyed our Convention 2019 in St. Catharine's. Our Call to Convention 2020 in Kingston was well received and we look forward to hosting everyone in the Limestone City. We are planning some wonderful surprise for you! At our Spring Luncheon, Napanee and Kingston Branches were honoured to host our Provincial President, Sharron Coulter, at Peyton's Place in Deseronto. We really enjoyed her presentation and friendship. Our Fall luncheon date has not yet been set but I look forward to reconnecting with our members for lovely food and lively conversation.

Betty Jeanne Kippen, President Kingston Branch

Napanee

Napanee Branch continues to meet regularly with lunches and breakfasts. It is a great opportunity to come together and catch up on all the events in our busy lives. Our 'Tales and Tunes for Tots' continues to seed the fertile minds of young children with a love of books and reading. From the Fall of 2005 we have delivered 2,068 kits to new babies in Lennox and Addington County with the help of the local health unit nurses. As of June 2019, 217 volunteer hours have been donated by branch members in assembling the kits. The Lennox and Addington Community Foundation generously supported this project with a donation of \$2,500. Also this year Napanee Branch supported Family and Children's Services in its

Christmas Campaign. We stretched our wings and ventured out into the community and became one of the sponsors for the Greater Napanee Area Art Association annual art show in November. As we become more open in the community hopefully we will attract new members.

Beryl Jacka, Napanee

Area 10

Sudbury photo 4

The concept of Community Gardens is very similar to the motto of RWTO/OERO – caring and sharing. Perhaps that is why I love my raised garden so much.



These gardens were built totally by volunteers, another connection to what we do in our wonderful organization. The fact that the gardens are high means that seniors can enjoy gardening without having to bend down. Everyone grows vegetables of their choice and it is interesting to just walk between the beds and observe the growth. The other great fact is that gardeners happily share their radishes, zucchinis, tomatoes, carrots, potatoes, etc. with others. Residents who don't have a garden of their own leave with produce just the same.

Working in the garden is a lovely way to socialize. We all have this in common and discuss the development of our plants. We learn from each other too! So many ways that this connects to RWTO/OERO's concepts.

Erna de Burger Fex, Sudbury

Continued ►

News from the Branches – Nurturing our Gardens - continued

Area 11

Central Algoma

I like to think of our Central Algoma RWTO group as a Garden of retired friends and colleagues who are bright and cheerful. We are blooming women who support one another and take different turns during the year to help and support one another to grow. In times of winds and storms we are there for one another. In all weathers we celebrate each other's hobbies with a craft group whose projects are often inspired by the beauty of gardens around us. We appreciate the great natural outdoor gardens in our hiking club outings, taste the garden produce during our theme dinner potlucks, read about people and gardens in our book club, and play games of bocce and crokinole on well kept lawns in our Games club. In all four seasons, our members cultivate friendships and help each other flourish. Best of all, we have a lot of fun in our Central Algoma RWTO garden!

Carol Neaves, Central Algoma

Sault Ste. Marie

A flower garden is a great metaphor for our Sault Ste. Marie branch of RWTO/OERO.

A flourishing garden requires a good foundation. Just as drainage rocks, fertile soil and fertilizer provide the basic groundwork for a productive garden, our board of executives, convenors and members at large provide the structure for a productive year together. Our annual goal setting and planning are based on answers and ideas which members provided on a questionnaire



handed out in the spring asking what they want to focus on in 2019-2020. The seeds planted in a garden symbolize our members who will stretch and grow in body and mind from our year together. Our diverse group of members will be the beautiful blossoms which will grow from the seeds and thrive together again this year.



Our Welcome Back meeting in September focuses on learning from an expert about Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia. Just as flowers provide beauty and nectar for further growth, our branch garden will make donations to the Alzheimer Society. In October, along with the Central Algoma Branch, we will host our Provincial President and Insurance Convenor. We will make donations to Sleeping Children Around the World in their names. At our November meeting, we will be



creating miniature Christmas trees for seniors living in a nursing home who are identified as "isolated" and lonely because their families live out of town and they do not know many other people. In February, we will be learning the art of paper quilling. March will see us participating in stretching exercises. Games of all sorts will be the focus of our meeting in April, and our Annual Branch meeting will take place in May.

Our Sault Ste Marie Branch "flower garden" will give us fun and pleasure while we care and share for others as well as ourselves.

Brenda Gallander, Sault Ste. Marie

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RWTO/OERO Calendar 2019-2020

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|----------------------------|---|
| Sept. 1, 2019 | Annual Provincial Membership Fees due – to be sent to Provincial Office by October 15th. Fees for new members must be forwarded to the Provincial Office when received. |
| Sept. 10 – 12, 2019 | Provincial Executive and Board Meetings |
| Oct. 15, 2019 | Membership fees due September 1st for 2019-2020 and should be forwarded to the Provincial Office by October 15th and must be received on or before November 30th |
| Nov. 1, 2019 | Submissions due for December Newsletter – Areas 2, 3, 9, 12 |
| Nov. 15, 2019 | Resolutions due for 2020 Convention in Kingston |
| Nov. 15, 2019 | Resignation of any Directors to Provincial President |
| Nov. 30, 2019 | Calculation of branch numbers for 2020 AGM delegates based on official membership count as received and recorded in the Provincial Office |
| Jan. 5 - 10, 2020 | Annual Report and Branch Membership Forms sent to branches |
| Jan. 15, 2020 | Submission of each new Area Director's name to Provincial President |
| Jan. 31, 2020 | Nominations for 2019-2020 Board to the Provincial Past President |
| Jan. 31, 2020 | Membership + Communications Committee applications to the Provincial Past President |
| Jan. 31, 2020 | Nominations for Honorary Membership Award at AGM |
| Jan. 31, 2020 | Submissions due for March Newsletter - Areas 1, 4, 7, 13 |
| Mar. 15, 2020 | Branch Annual Reports due to Directors |
| Mar. 31, 2020 | Director Reports due to Program Coordinator |
| Mar. 31, 2020 | Unpaid members are taken off membership list. Insurance may be in jeopardy. |
| Mar. 31, 2020 | Financial Year End |
| Apr. 15, 2020 | All delegate names are to be in to Executive Secretary-Treasurer |
| Apr. 15, 2020 | Registration due for Convention 2020 in Kingston |
| Apr. 30, 2020 | Branch Financial Reports due to Executive Secretary-Treasurer |
| May 5 – 7, 2020 | Provincial Executive and Board Meetings |
| May 15, 2020 | Branch Executive names for 2020-2021 due to Executive Secretary-Treasurer |
| June 2 - 4, 2020 | Convention 2020 and AGM in Kingston |



RWTO/OERO

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PM Agreement
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