



Central Algoma 2019/2020 Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As I sit down to write this message, I am overwhelmed by the honour and responsibility of serving as the President for Central Algoma RWTO/OERO for the next two years. This is such a wonderful group of women and I am proud to represent them in this position.

Our membership this year totaled 62 including 6 Life Time Members and we were pleased to add two new Life Time Members this year, Kay McMaster and Ruby Vaughn. Several new members joined us this year and we welcome the new ideas and enthusiasm they bring.

Our Special Interest groups continue to meet regularly, weather permitting! This year a Caregivers Support Group was added. Under the leadership of Carol Neave, this group's objective is to support members who are the caregiver or the individual member in need of support where the need has been identified or requested. A second Games Group was added so members living in the Sault can attend despite the weather.

It has become clear that acquiring a portable sound system would be of great benefit to our members. Trial runs have shown members that it is easier to be involved in meetings if one can hear easily. A final decision on the best model will be made in consultation with the Hearing Society at the September meeting.

The joint winners of this year's Cora Bailey Award were Cathy Bennett and Anne Wildman. Congratulations to them both. Their contributions are greatly appreciated.

Looking back over the past year, Central Algoma has demonstrated its commitment to Caring and Sharing for both the local students and the community. The Literacy Awards to students in

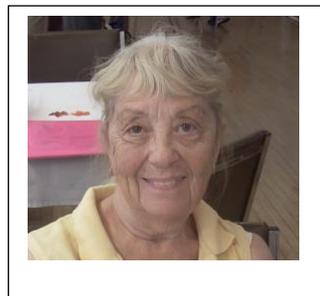
the Thessalon Primary School and the CASS Intermediate School recognized the efforts of local students. We also continue to support the local Libraries and this year we provided the Thessalon Library with a fundraising contribution. At our annual Silent Auction meeting members brought contributions for the local food bank which does essential work supporting the community.

The 2019 Annual Convention was held in St. Catharines and the 3 members who attended reported having a good time. Next year's Convention is being held in Kingston, where the Cruising Down the Waters theme promises to be awe inspiring. There are so many wonderful historic and cultural sites to visit in this lovely city on the St. Lawrence. The rooms have already been reserved so think about attending.

The big news is that the 2021 Convention will return to Algoma. Central Algoma, with assistance from the RWTO/OERO groups in Sudbury and the Sault, will once again host the Annual Convention. Joyce Ratz, Area Director, is beginning the planning process and is looking for help from one and all. Please see Joyce to give her your support or volunteer when asked.

The 2019/2020 Year promises to be a good one. Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing everyone in the fall.

Jean Campbell



EXECUTIVE 2019-21

Past President: Marg MacKay
President.: Jean Campbell
1st Vice-President: Cathy Pirrie
2nd Vice-President: Mary Jane Thompson
Treasurer: Anne Wildman
Secretary: Maureen Gooderham
Insurance: Marlene Falls
Publicity: Carol Neave
Social: Suz Humphreys
Cathy Bennett
Jane Vienneau
Telephone: Joyce Duncan
Newsletter: Nancy Konzuk
History: Mary Jane Thompson
Goodwill: Glenis Johnstone
Area 11 Director: Joyce Ratz
Phone callers: June McDonald
Marny Pollard
Mary Eaton
Heidi Marrato
Elaine Brown



WHAT'S ON OUR WEBSITE www.rwto.org

You will find information about all the branches, what is going on at convention, insurance issues and most importantly, a copy of this newsletter. You can also read the Provincial newsletter, **Connections** !

Easy to use and full of information! Try it! You may even find a picture of yourself on our Branch News page



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

If you have any questions about RWTO, our branch or your insurance, please contact one of the following:

Central Algoma Branch

President: Jean Campbell 705-248-1612

Insurance: Marlene Falls 705-256-1681

Goodwill: Glenis Johnstone. 705-782-6349

Provincial

Area Director: Joyce Ratz 705-842-6135

RWTO Provincial Office 1-877-607-6696

Email: info@rwto.org

Website: www.rwto.org

Manulife Insurance Insurance Broker

Terry Kennedy: 1-519-583-0098

tkennedy34@bell.net

RWTO Insurance Convenor: 1-519-538-3707

Donna Hemeon

donna.hemeon@gmail.com

CORA BAILEY AWARD WINNERS

Honouring exceptional contributions to our branch

- 2006 Marg Snider
- 2007 Shirley Kent
- 2008 Martha Summers
- 2009 Glenis Johnstone
- 2010 Ruth Juhola
- 2011 Marny Pollard
Alice Ward
- 2012 Ruby Vaughan
- 2013 Nancy Konzuk
- 2014 Joyce Ratz
- 2015 Marlene Falls
Carol Neave
- 2016 Verna Lapish
- 2017 Muriel Hornby
Kathy Greening
- 2018 Gayle Manley
Nina Warnock
Ruby Buck
- 2019 **Cathy Bennett**
Anne Wildman



SHARING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

\$500 scholarship CASS: Nick Purnis
\$300 Book Board: Thessalon Library
\$100 Book Board: Jean Campbell
\$200 Literacy Award: Thessalon Public School
\$400 Literacy Award: CASS
\$300 Kristi Hartley Leadership Training

RWTO 63st ANNUAL CONVENTION St. Catherines, Ontario June, 2019

Roll Out the Barrel

What a barrel of fun to go to St. Catherines in the Holiday Inn which they reserved mostly for us. Marg MacKay, Joyce Ratz, and I attended along with Sandy Fulcher from the Sault Branch. Sandy and I traveled together leaving Sunday to arrive in Sarnia. Then Monday we arrived in St. Catherines to be the first guests to be photographed. See us on RWTO/OERO soon.



The next day was an Insurance Workshop for the Northern branches. Terry Kennedy gave a scintillating power point presentation about insurance.

For example,
1. Put the Plan number at the top of each page on your

application sheet for insurance,
2. Rental of special equipment offsets benefits up to \$200 per year
3. Travel insurance is available as well.
Call Terry and /or me if interested in more information.

Later in the day, I went to the Tuesday workshop on "Yoga in a Chair" and Marg went to the Laughing workshop. LOL. Tuesday 's supper was delicious.

Wednesday was the Annual General meeting time. The resolutions were presented and passed. They were mostly housekeeping items. After, I went on a wine tour with our area director Joyce Ratz as tour director filling in as needed. She did an awesome job. The Wednesday dinner was scrumptious. The Board and Head table were gracefully piped in by a bagpiper. Here is where we were awarded a

\$200 Barbara Bain Award for having 4 new members join. Barbara Bain herself attended.



Thursday was the memorial service for members who have passed away. It was fitting that Marg MacKay was playing the violin with another violinist and

a piano player during this service. The AGM was finished early so we socialized with other RWTO members till the lunch. There were many (19) "Over 90" members for lunch. All was enjoyable. Plan to attend a convention sometime.

Submitted by
Marlene Falls

RWTO/OERO 64th **CONVENTION**



June 2 - 4, 2020

CRUISING DOWN THE WATERS

SAILING INTO KINGSTON

**Ambassador Hotel & Conference
Centre, Kingston ON**

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

**CLICK ON CONVENTIONS ON THE WEBSITE
BELOW FOR COMPLETE DETAILS**

www.rwto.org

INSURANCE MATTERS

Good News: An open window for joining the Manulife Home and Hospital insurance begins Sept. 15-Nov.15, 2019. No medical is required.

An insurance power point presentation will be held in the afternoon of the joint meeting at the Sault branch in Sault Ste Marie.

If interested, check out the insurance section at RWTO/OERO.org. Terry did an excellent presentation at the Northern Insurance breakfast meeting.

Submitted by Marlene Falls

GOODWILL CONVENOR

As I am new to the post of Goodwill Convenor, I would appreciate the help of all members to keep me up to date about the people who need a card. I will try to read my emails daily so I will not get too behind in responding to any messages sent. I would like to thank Carol Neave for donating her lovely cards so the ones I can send out will be a work of art.

Submitted by
Glenis Johnstone
Johnstone.glenis@gmail.com
705-782-6349

ARCHIVE AND HISTORY CONVENOR

I stopped by the museum in Bruce Mines and the workers there have confirmed the fact that by the fall the binders and historical material for RWTO will be transferred to the Mariners Cove in Bruce Mines. All members are welcome to visit this site throughout the year and reminisce and study the history of the RWTO. This will be more convenient because usually the museum is closed in the winter. If you have any pictures or biographies, please email them to me and they will be added to the collection.

Submitted by
Mary Jane Thompson
705-842-2101
Mjthompson.thessalon@gmail.com

*To my friends from the Central Algoma Retired Women Teachers:
I would like to thank all of you for your thoughts and prayers as Mike and I went on his journey. Although the result wasn't what we had hoped for, the support of our friends made the journey easier. Thank you.*

Kathy Greening

INTEREST GROUPS

CATS (Caregiver and Teacher Support)

Carol Neave
705-575-8383
gcneave@live.ca

CATS meet the 4th Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m., usually at a member's home.

Some of our retired women teachers are "elder elders" and the CATS group may offer volunteer visiting time at seniors' retirement homes, or provide rides to doctors' appointments or other outings. Others of our members are caring for relatives or friends who have dementia, physical disabilities, etc. It is exhausting and stressful to be a Caregiver. The CATS try to offer a safe, confidential, and caring environment where members may share their stories and vent as required, hopefully providing them with support also. For those who always intended to assist seniors, this group gets you motivated to do just that. Or if you are a Caregiver, you will receive encouragement and support.

The first meeting will take place Wednesday, September 25 at 10 a.m. at Carol Neave's home.

Craft Group

Joyce Ratz
705-842-6135
ratzdj@gmail.com

The "Crafty Group" meets on the last Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m. (except December, June, July and August) We work on our own personal crafts at a different volunteer's home each month! We enjoy pleasant chatter, help from others, beverages and treats as well as accomplishing our craftwork. We plan a special lesson, agreed upon by the group for one of our meetings. **Our first meeting is on September 26th at the Sowerby Hall.** (Hwy 17 - turn left at Basswood Lake Rd - white

building on right, one block North!) We will plan our meeting venues then.

We welcome all new members to join us!

Games Group #1 **Connie Bennett**
705-785-3508
conniebennett44@hotmail.com

Our group met ten times over this year despite snow storms, flooding and other weather situations. We are a courageous group of nine members. Some of us are often off on excursions but even with only a few in attendance we manage to have rousing competitions and lots of fun. One of our members received the Cora Bailey Award this year and the Games Group got together and presented a little skit based on the game "Mexican Train", one of her favourites.



We meet the first Tuesday of the month and at our June get-together we set the dates and decided on the host for each month. We also discussed the possibility of a get together with Games Group #2. This might be in April and will be further discussed their coordinator.

Games Group #2 **Marlene Falls**
705-256-1681
marfal@sympatico.ca

Our group started out with 6 members. We met 4 times this past year.

Our first meeting will be on Sept. 10 at 1:30 p.m. at Marlene Falls' home on 88 Broadview Drive. Give Marlene a call after September 4 if you are interested in joining. See you then.

Book Club **Linda Prodan**
705-575-1519
lmprodan@hotmail.com

The Book Club meets the third Monday of the month from September to June at 1:30 p.m. Some members invite us to hold meetings in their homes or some host meetings at libraries or other facilities. We have a large and active group, with many lively discussions. At our meetings, we discuss the most recent book and then socialize over coffee, tea and goodies.

The first meeting will be Monday, September 16 at 1:30 upstairs at Romes. At this inaugural meeting we will be deciding on the books for the year, the dates we will meet and the hostess for each month. New members are always welcome.

Theme Dinner Group **Carol Neave**
705-575-8383
gcneave@live.ca

Our theme Dinner Group meets 4 times a year, twice before Christmas and twice after the snowbirds return when winter is over. We attempt to have varied and interesting menus by setting a theme for each dinner. The group members decide the theme, date and location and determine who will organize and host each one. Some prefer to host in their homes while others will reserve a local hall and the cost, usually minimal, is divided among the group. These dinners are participatory potlucks and you make what you want in the context of the **theme**.

Responsibilities of the Host and usually Co-Host (Partnering is more fun and less work)

1. Arrange for a hall if necessary well ahead of time.
2. Set the time and email group members (call if member does not use a computer) 2 weeks ahead of the date to remind folks what the Theme is, ask them to RSVP, and let you know what dish they will be bringing.
3. Three or four days before the event, send out another email notifying **how many** will be attending, what dishes will be coming, and whether there will be any hall costs.
4. On the day of the dinner, set up tables, chairs and decorate as you wish.

We always have a great time, and enjoy a myriad of tasty foods. In addition, it is one activity that spouses or friends are most welcome to attend.

The first Theme Dinner will take place Thursday, October 3 and the theme is Hawaiian/BBQ. Bettyanne Plaskett and Maureen Gooderham will co-host. We'd like to have you join us!

Hiking Group Nancy Konzuk
705-785-3385
nanckonz@sympatico.ca

The RWTO Hiking Club meets at 10 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month, except February, July and August. Usually 1½ - 2 hours on an easy trail or streets and back roads satisfies us. Our speed or lack of it varies each time. We have had historical tours, window shopping tours, nature tours, but always good conversation and lots of fresh air. Sometimes we have lunch afterwards. Last year Mother Nature disrupted our schedule too many times. Spouses, friends (two and four legged) are welcome.

The first hike will be 10 a.m., Thursday, September 19 exploring Rock Lake area. Mary Jane Thompson is the leader that day.



Hiking in Richard's Landing in June

MEETING DATES

Thursday, September 12, 2019

"We Hear You"

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Bar River Hall

Cost: \$15

Speaker: Kerri Tuckett, Canadian Hearing Society
Members bring a potential member who will receive a free lunch.

Sign up for interest groups

Caterer: UCW/WI

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Joint meeting with the Sault Group

Time: ?.

Place: Sault Ste. Marie

Cost: ?

Speaker: Provincial President: Karen Clark-Lauzon, Insurance Convenor: Donna Hemeron
More details to follow.

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Christmas in Technicolour

Time: 11: 00 a.m. (possibly 10:30 to distribute meat pies)

Place: Zion United Church, Thessalon

Cost: \$15

Bring a contribution so we all can do some Christmas shopping at the Silent Auction.

Wear your most colourful Christmas sweater.

Bring an article of food for Thessalon Food Bank also.

Caterer: Zionettes

Wednesday April 22, 2020

On Safari

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Grand Gardens North

Cost: \$15?

Speaker: Director of Breton House Bank

Caterers: Grand Gardens North

More details to follow

Thursday, May 21 2020

"We will welcome Will"

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Sowerby Hall

Cost: \$15

Speaker: Will Samis on Amish / Mennonite communities

Caterer: Fred Falls

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

Tiptoe through the Tulips

11:00 a.m.

Place: Bruce Station Hall

Cost: \$15

Speaker: Anne Cranston: Flower Arranging

Bring vases and flowers from your garden and we will make flower arrangements to donate to shut-in members

Wear: your gardening gloves and hats

Renew membership.