

Niagara Falls Branch RWTO/OERO September 2019 Newsletter

As the Niagara Falls Branch of RWTO/OERO looks back on the summer of 2019, we want to acknowledge branch members who attended the 63rd Annual RWTO/OERO Convention held in St. Catharines June 4-6: Margaret Jackson, Helen Macdonald, Mavis Doherty, Diane Ewen, Sherri Stokes, Marion Jonassen, Jackie Sanche, Linda Dueck, and associate members Peggy Allen and Margot Smith. It was a pleasure to see our long-time member Helen again. Helen moved to Ottawa last year, but she maintains her membership with us and stays in contact. She was a lively presence for meals at our members' table.

We also want to thank Linda, Mavis, and Jackie for the excellent work they did as Hospitality Room Convenors for the Convention. Beginning in the spring of 2017, Linda, Mavis, and Jackie worked diligently to set up, obtain food for, and staff the Hospitality Room for both Tuesday and Wednesday, where members from across the province could relax and socialize while they enjoyed tasty snacks and beverages. In addition to Linda, Mavis, and Jackie, Carol Morningstar, Mary Kowalchuk, Ellen Smith, Sherri, and Diane volunteered in the Hospitality Room, greeting nearly 100 members each afternoon. Feedback from those who visited the Hospitality Room was very positive.

In her report on the Convention, Linda noted that at the banquet our branch received one of the Barbara Bain Membership Awards and a cheque for \$200.00 for increasing our numbers by four new members. In addition, at the closing lunch, our members who are over 90 years of age—Isabel Henning, Ruth McDowell, Phyllis McLeod, Shiz Yano, and Margaret Jackson—were recognized for their dedication to teaching and their commitment to RWTO/OERO.

In July, Mary Houston graciously hosted our annual summer picnic at her home. The weather that day was perfect, and those who attended enjoyed a congenial gathering in Mary's beautiful garden. You can see some pictures of the picnic in the link to Gallery.

At our September 30 meeting and luncheon at Betty's Restaurant, Terry Kennedy, Broker with Manulife Financial, gave a very helpful presentation on the insurance plans available exclusively to RWTO/OERO members in good standing. The plans are the Hospital & Home Care Plan and the Personal Accidental Death & Dismemberment Plan. In particular, Terry explained that from September 15 to November 15 members and/or their spouses who join one or both plans will be automatically approved, regardless of any pre-existing medical conditions.

We are also pleased to see that our Associate member Jane Marshall participated in the 2019 Studio Tours hosted by South Niagara Artists on October 5 and 6. Jane works in acrylic painting and frameworked jewellery. You can learn more about Jane at her web site, janemarshallart.ca.

We also congratulate our Communications Convenor, Stephanie Nielsen, on being nominated for best author in the *Niagara Falls Review's* Readers' Choice Awards. Stephanie's seventh book, *The Heart of Niagara*, is due to be released soon.

In closing, the Executive thanks our long-time member Diane Bradley for her service at the luncheons: welcoming arriving members, collecting for the meals, and settling the account with Betty's Restaurant.

We look forward to our next luncheon at Betty's Restaurant on December 2, when Provincial President Karen Clark-Lauzon will join us.