



RWTO/OERO

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



St. Catharines Branch Newsletter – October 2019

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

October is almost gone. Time does fly when one is having fun. We had a fabulous turnout at the September luncheon. Elaine Charal dazzled us with her handwriting analysis and Father Anton and his crew at St. John’s Ukrainian Activity Centre made sure that we left full of perogies and other good eats. Thanks Father Anton.



**Branch President, Jan and
Provincial President, Karen.**

In the spirit of “Caring and Sharing”, there were sign-up sheets for members to become involved in a wide array of activities including: euchre, bridge, bowling, travelogue, book clubs and dining groups, just to name a few. Our Interest group Convenor,

Cathy Terrio-Lakeit, hinted that we may introduce a dance group at the next luncheon. I’m in! There was an opportunity for members to sign up to help with the Arthritis Gift Wrap and the Toy Bureau. These December activities coincide with our Community Care Christmas fundraiser.

Susan Lewis introduced a couple of outreach initiatives specific to our RWTO Branch. “We’ve Got Your Back” and Gift Bags for convalescing women at The Shaver Hospital are two ideas. Some members have already signed up to do the crocheting and knitting. It appears that we are well on our way to fulfilling our motto, “Caring and Sharing”.

Lou Farquhar has arranged a new venue for October, Lookout Golf Country Club in Fonthill. This is definitely the venue to view the fall colours and gain insight on how to get in touch with our genealogy.

I am encouraging the interest groups to take and submit your photos to RWTO/OERO Happenings to Marilyn Emmett at marilyn.emmett5@gmail.com. Please share your memories with us.

In the spirit of “caring and sharing”, I would like to share this Quebecois recipe for Carmel Pudding, that my mother handed down to me and me to my children.

Jan Harlos, Branch President

CARMEL PUDDING

Oven 350° F Cook time - 35 minutes

Ingredients:

Syrup

- 2 cups water
- 3 cups packed brown sugar

Cake

- 1/3 cup butter
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 1/4 cup flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3/4 cup milk

Method:

Syrup: Bring water and brown sugar to boil then turn down to simmer while you make the cake batter.

Cake: Cream the butter and white sugar in a large bowl.

Beat in egg and vanilla

Sift dry ingredients and add alternately to the creamed mixture with the milk.

Put batter in a 6-quart casserole dish and pour the syrup over. Encourage the cake to float to the top with a spoon.

Bake in a 350° F oven for about 35 minutes.

**This is a decadent dessert and deserves to be served with table cream or vanilla ice cream.

FIRST VICE SUMMARIES

CORA BAILEY

Thank you for the nominations submitted for the Cora Bailey award recipients at the September luncheon. Please continue to nominate candidates at the October luncheon or by contacting me. The nominee must have shown leadership and dedication to the Branch in a variety of interest groups, activities or have served in an Executive position.

LUNCHEONS

The entertainment secured for our October luncheon is Steve Fulton UE, president of the Ontario Genealogical Society - Ontario Ancestors. He will discuss the rich family history of the Niagara Area and how to continue your own search of your family history.

At Christmas, Ruth McVicar will lead and accompany us in our carol sing.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Shaver Totes

- Please bring to the October and December luncheons items for the totes to be delivered to Shaver. Include: hand creams, hand sanitizers, specialty teas, sugar-free candies or cookies, soft socks or socks with non-slip treads, note papers or cards and pens, nail polish and emery boards, Kleenex packets.
- Each patient will receive a tote with five of these items.
- I will provide bins to divide up the items between edible comforts and practical items.

We've Got Your Back

- Five generous members have volunteered their time to knit or crochet lap blankets or shawls along with several donations of wool and items for their work.
- I have few nominations of who would appreciate a visit and a gift, and these names will dictate the scope of this project.
- Please continue to nominate members who are house bound, ill, depressed or alone who we can share our time with and can show we care with our shawls or blankets.

We need Your Help!

- As Christmas approaches, don't forget to sign up for the **Arthritis Gift Wrap** and the **Toy Bureau**.
- Please bring your cheque book and your generous spirit to the Christmas luncheon for **Community Care**.
- Please bring donations of wool or knitting needles or money for the shawls and items for the "Shaver Totes".

Susan Lewis, 1st Vice-President.

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MEMBERSHIP

Thank you! As of October 2nd, I have received membership payments from everyone who wished to remain a member of our organization. Over the past several years, our membership has remained constant, between 380 and 390 members. Every year we have ladies who do not re-join, but fortunately, through your help, we do have 13 new members this year.



As an incentive, our executive agreed to offer a free luncheon to one of the new members attending in September. Lorraine Giroux won the draw.

Congratulations, Lorraine!



We would like to welcome new members to our Branch.

Marian Belelie

Theresa Carnegie

Susan Dobell

Emily Lomas-Gale

Lorraine Giroux

Olga Grcevic

Maureen Keogh

Marilyn Lorenz

Mary MacLaughlin

Anne McCloskey

Phyllis McIntosh

Violet Priddle

Tay Shiner

Linda Foster, Membership Convenor

The St. Catharines Branch is privileged to have many "FOREVER YOUNG" members. We are proud to honour these women for all that they have contributed to their families, their communities and to our organization.

Gloria Breithaupt

Bev Davies

Frances Lovett

Marion McKnight

June Nordstrum

Mary Jane Tanner

Agnes Wieler

Victoria Brett

June Howard

Anne Macdonald

Rosemary McNamee

Joan Rothman

Anna Thwaites

Geraldine Young

In Memory Of



Anita Halaiko

"A Life So Beautifully Lived And A Heart So Deeply Loved"

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

It was nice to re-connect with many of you at the September luncheon, to meet some of you for the first time and to finally put a name to the voice. What a welcoming time! Thanks to the many active members of the St. Catharines Branch, we are able to offer a wide variety of Interest Groups. Looks like a great year to belong to an Interest Group or two! With Thanksgiving fast approaching, we give thanks for all of these wonderful opportunities, friendships and Interest group leaders who help make these experiences possible. Some of our Interest Groups are now at capacity. We are trying to offer additional groups and are in need of **members interested in leading an Interest Group**. Please contact me as soon as possible.



Eat, Drink and be Merry is now at capacity but we will still accept names to be notified in case of cancellations.

We are looking to offer a new Interest Group, possibly Dance. Please check our Interest Group Sign-up at the October Luncheon.

In order to take part in any of the Interest Groups, you must have paid your 2019-2020 RWTO/OERO membership.

Cathy Terrio-Lakeit, Special Interest Group Convenor

INSURANCE

- If a member has a spouse and both are insured under the Hospital and Home Care Plan and/or the Personal Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan, in the event the member should pass away the spouse's coverage will continue **as long as s/he continues to pay premiums when they come due**.
- Premiums are paid either by pre-authorized monthly withdrawals directly from a bank account or credit card or billed annually or semi-annually.
- There is no requirement for the spouse to pay a membership fee to continue insurance coverage.

Keep in mind our branch itself has no knowledge of individual policies held. Other than sending condolences, the branch has no way of knowing personal information.

Chris Graham, Insurance Convenor

Your **ST. CATHARINES BRANCH MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY** will be available for pick-up at the October Luncheon.

Change of contact Information?

Contact: Linda at 905 935-6182 or

rwtostcatharines@gmail.com

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, table centres, gratuities, entertainment 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 Court
 St Catharines ON L2M 7C9

For **e-transfers** use the rwtoستcatharines@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.

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.



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.

Frances Lovett - Artist at 102

If you look carefully, you will see the shadow of the artist's hand reflected on the neatly framed vinyl LP record of Chopin's piano pieces played by the husband of Frances Lovett. Even at 102 years of age, Frances stands poised in front of her charcoal life study portrait of her beloved Gordon sitting at their grand piano.



Frances started teaching visual art in Hamilton schools in her forties, and after retiring, volunteered to teach visual art for sixteen years at a maximum-security prison. It is truly a captivating experience to be surrounded by Frances' beautiful oil paintings, pastels, acrylics, print making, sculptures and wood carvings, etc. A copy of the print "Morning", donated to the Hamilton CFUW for greeting cards, depicts her daughter wearing the nightie sewn by Frances. Her son is the source of inspiration for the plaster cast sculpture of the boy playing his flute. Family matters; life matters. Art mirrors and inspires.

A quote from Picasso in Frances' art studio reminds us that "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life". Thank you, Frances, for graciously sharing your artistic gifts with so many people. In Frances' words, "Life is for sharing. What good is a song if it's not sung?"

Alice Bradnam, Goodwill Convenor



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

Thanks,

Alice 905 934-7108

alicebradnam@aol.com



SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING – 2019

The St. Catharines branch started another year at St. John's Ukrainian Centre known for their amazing perogies and accompaniments. We had a full agenda with discussions about our interest groups, outreach ideas, insurance details and an entertaining speaker about handwriting analysis.

Our new Branch president Jan Harlos introduced five new members to our branch with a beautiful yellow rose and a membership pin.

Chris Graham spoke about the opportunity to enrol in Manulife for uninsured members. Manulife currently has an "Open Window" for supplemental insurance. This is available now through November 15, 2019. Elaine gave examples about her positive experiences with Manulife.



We also recognized our over 90's group, many of which attended this meeting.



Karen Clark-Lauzon, our Provincial President, spoke to the group about many things and informed us about all the new RWTO materials like a postcard, brochure and promotional materials. Susan Lewis, our Vice President, was

encouraging members to nominate people in RWTO St. Catharines that would be deserving of the Cora Bailey Award. Forms were placed on the tables for members to fill out. The other area of discussion was Susan's Outreach program for this year. Members are encouraged to donate items such as *sugar free candy/cookies, nail polish and emery boards, blank notes or pens, hand sanitizer or hand cream, specialty teas, and Kleenex packs, or soft top socks or socks with treads.*

These items will be put into tote bags and will be given to patients at the Shaver hospital.



The other Outreach initiative involves knitting, crocheting or sewing a shawl or lap blanket for seniors. Susan is calling this program "We've Got Your Back"! We want to remember the women who aren't able to attend our luncheons or interest groups. Ladies who would enjoy a shawl or lap blanket would be identified by our members and then would be visited with this kind gift.

The Arthritis Wrap program will operate again this year in December at the Fairview Mall. Ladies were asked to sign up for this volunteer work at our meeting.

Cathy Terrio-Lakeit is our new Interest Group Convenor and was reminding people to sign up for interest groups and was also looking for new leaders for several new groups. There is a new group called Eat, Live and Be Merry.

We thank Rose Stacey for starting us off for our National Anthem and our Grace.

After our wonderful lunch we enjoyed listening to Elaine Charal who is an expert on Hand Writing Analysis. She not only gave us some ideas about what to look for in someone’s handwriting but also was very funny and had us all laughing! Elaine is also available to speak at parties and other group settings. She certainly would be a lot of fun to have at a party.



Sheila B. kindly organized the 50/50 draw and one of our members was able to take home a wonderful cash prize.

It was a wonderful start of a year that I think will be full of fun and worthwhile activities.

CALLING ALL PICTURES!

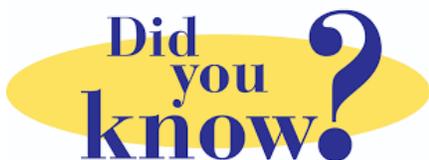
A picture tells a million words so we would really appreciate any pictures you take of things you are doing with your RWTO friends. We like to share these great moments and great people with other members of RWTO at luncheons and publish them in the Annual Report and the Annual Photo Book. Now we usually have a camera with us with our cell phones, we can expect lots more of pictures coming in!

Thank You.

Jessica thomsonjess@hotmail.com

Jessica Thomson, Archivist

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- ✚ That RWTO/OERO has a Facebook page? *Check it out and post your pics/ideas etc.*
- ✚ That the RWTO/OERO web-site (rwto.org) has an extraordinary amount of information about our organization? *Check out **Rocking Retirement** that highlights one of our own members, Christine Thorne and under Convention, Convention 2019 - many pictures of last June’s Convention.*
- ✚ That the St. Catharines Branch has their own section on the Provincial web-site. Check it out!

Search: rwto.org
Click on: Branches - then Branch News
Scroll: Past the map
Click: St. Catharines under Area 13 (*Find Pictures, Membership Information, Recent newsletters and In Memoriam*)