

RWTO Owen Sound and Area



Lest We Forget!

On Monday, November 11, 2019 a Remembrance Day service was held at the Cenotaph in Owen Sound to commemorate the soldiers of past wars. Connie Morris was in attendance and watched as our wreath was laid down to honour the fallen.

**If you need a ride to the meeting call
Suzanne. 519-376-1454**



**Plan to attend our
November 27 meeting.**



Jackie Ralph and a student from OSDSS will be on hand to inform and entertain us. Jackie works at the Canadian Mental Health Association - Grey Bruce. She was raised in Priceville and is dedicated to doing what she can to create positive futures for all youth in Grey Bruce. She is a wonderful singer and will be singing for us and with us along with telling us about the work she and her student helper, Josie, do for Mental Health First Aid and Safe Talk programs in our community.

There will be Christmas surprises too.

NOVEMBER A TIME OF REMEMBERING

By Louise Dobson (June 29, 2016)

Grey days and more work for the class
November 11th they think of the past
Of those who died so they'd be free
The lessons learned from history
The teacher hands out poppies to wear
To show respect for those not there
These soldiers once were students, too
Who looked at books and wrote and grew
But now they lie beneath the ground
The students stop and make no sound

Another Spring Fling is being planned!

Greetings and Well Wishes

Our Christmas and Holiday General Meeting and Luncheon will be held on November 27 at Georgian Shores United Church. This is in lieu of meeting at a dining facility at another time. The social committee always presents a beautifully decorated setting and interesting entertainment. This is an excellent opportunity to bring a guest - all teachers of all levels and from anywhere in the world are welcome. We will be accepting cash donations to support the Salvation Army Food-bank.



News from Area 1

On October 8 the presidents from Area 1, which includes Owen Sound, Wiarton, Flesherton, Dundalk-Highpoint, Thornbury, and South Bruce, met to share news from the provincial office and local organizations. We are so pleased that our past president, Connie Morris, will be our Area Director for the 2020-2022 term. Plans are underway for a second Spring Fling, a gathering of members from all of Area 1, on April 30, 2020. Save the date! The venue will be Georgian Shores United Church. The Spring Fling will be a wonderful opportunity to meet with old friends and colleagues from throughout Bluewater.

RWTO is Special

Occasionally I have been part of discussions as to the relevance of RWTO in our modern world. Lately, as I read our local archives full of pictures and commentaries, I am struck by the contributions and legacies to our communities made by our members. RWTO is a celebration of the support and service of community building in Grey Bruce. Our RWTO mission of caring and sharing is absolutely relevant in today's world.

Many good wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2020!

Yours in Caring and Sharing

Sue Loyst - President

Insurance Update

More good news! The Open Window for enrolment in our RWTO Manulife Hospital and Home Care insurance program has been extended to December 15, 2019. If members (and spouses) wish to take advantage of this top up insurance plan without having to complete a medical questionnaire - now is the time! This Open Window is a rare occurrence and is a wonderful opportunity for our members. For more information please contact Rhonda O'Reilly at 519-371-9240 or at rtoreilly@rogers.com



DATES TO REMEMBER



November 27, 2019

General Meeting

Georgian Shores United Church

March 25, 2020

General Meeting

Georgian Shores United Church

May 27, 2020

General Meeting

Georgian Shores United Church

Cherished Memories

“To teach is to touch a life forever.”

At the ripe old age of 17 years, I began my teaching career in a rural school in Bruce County with an attendance of about 20 students, including a “large” entrance class consisting of 5 students, two of whom were 14 years old. Although there was a well on the school property the children did not like the taste of the water, and carried all the drinking water from a farm across the road. The school had a garden, tended by the students. The vegetables were raised in the fall and stored at the teacher’s boarding house. They were used, along with other purchased foods, for “hot lunches” in the cold days of winter.

Since I had attended a rural school myself, I tried to carry on the same traditions. I joined the outdoor games at recess, and I engineered a “Christmas Concert” with all the children taking part. This concert also included a skit by the young people of the area.

Because I loved our nature studies, I arranged a “Bird Hike” for one morning in May. The older students and I set out at 6 A.M. to walk through the fields and woods identifying birds, plants and animals that we found along our way. At 9 A.M. we were back at the school ready to carry on the work of the day. The hike was very successful, but by 4 P.M. of that day I had some really tired students!

In another school, this time in Sydenham Township, I experienced “Lock-out Day”. Fortunately I had been warned that this might happen, and so I was not entirely unprepared. When I reached the school that morning, the children were all inside with the door locked. The plan was that the teacher would try to get in, but if she was unsuccessful, the children would have a holiday that day. Of course I tried but the doors and windows were secure, and coaxing did not help. There was nothing for me to do but to turn around and trudge back to my boarding house with the cheers of the children echoing behind me.

There are many other memories: Hallowe’en parties to which mothers and younger brothers and sisters were invited; tobogganing down a steep hill by the school, during which time a small boy had his leg broken, necessitating several weeks of visiting him after school to keep up his school work;

pulling hot coals out of the old box stove onto the damper, so I could toast the students cold sandwiches with an old-fashioned wire toaster; (they loved that!) the Christmas concert with the school so packed with people that the floor sagged, allowing the stove pipes to pull apart (fortunately there was very little fire in the stove); and visits to the pond and snowshoe hikes with my Science classes in the central School.

Most of all I remember the happy faces, and the spirit of co-operation in the rural schools. Older girls helped little ones with their coats and boots in winter. The boys carried in great sticks of wood so that I could keep the fire going. Students who finished their work early were allowed the great privilege of listening to the younger ones read, or helping the little ones with counting or other activities. These were children who walked long distances to school, some as much as three miles, and who may have had chores to do in the morning, and/or after school. I remember them as helpful and cheerful, and I have conveniently forgotten those who caused problems in our school family. Most of all I treasure those who, though they may be grandparents themselves, come up to me today and say, “I remember when you were my teacher”.

Marjorie Woods 1923 - 2019



This article was taken from the book “Cherished Memories”. It was produced in 1999 to honour the Year of the Older Person. Submissions for the book came from retired teachers in the RWTO Owen Sound Branch.



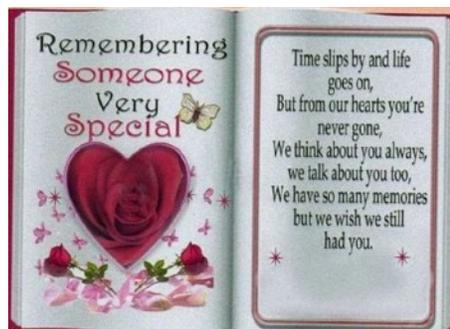
We will miss two longtime members.

Barb visited with Marjorie Shaw shortly after our September meeting. Unfortunately, we lost two of our members in October. Marjorie Woods passed away on October 10 and Marjorie Shaw passed away on October 25. Barb Schwartz and I attended visitation for Marjorie Woods, and along with Marg Abra and Ruth Kaufman, we attended the funeral for Marjorie Shaw.

We hope that everyone is in good health and looking forward to the Christmas season.

Yours in caring and sharing,
Lorraine Dunning 519-376-5017
Barb Schwartz 519-371-2474

A Thinking of You card was sent to Orla Cathrae as she deals with her vision problem. We hope it will be back to 100% soon. Sympathy cards were sent to Jim Shaw at the passing of his mother, Marjorie, and to Dianne Carlson at the passing of her brother-in-law.



Our September meeting was enjoyed by everyone!



Thank you Marilyn Goldie for the beautiful fall table decorations that adorned our tables at our September meeting. The Georgian Shores ladies prepared us a wonderful lunch of ham and scalloped potatoes with rhubarb cake for dessert. Orla Cathrae received well earned recognition as she accepted her Cora Bailey Award. Our meeting concluded with a fascinating talk all about the Greenock Swamp. Shannon Wood entertained us with folklore and history about Bruce county's famous swamp.