



SUPER TEACHER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - September 2019

Today, as I turn the calendar page to September, I am thinking of the years we would be busy, planning and preparing for another school year at this time of the year. Now, being retired, our focus has changed but being teachers at heart, we still are involved with Children and Families as a focus in our organization, especially in our Outreach Activities.

As we look ahead to events for the Peterborough Branch of Retired Women Teachers of Ontario for this year, there are some exciting events to look forward to—the Open Enrollment Insurance Event, our General Meeting at the end of September, our New Member Introduction Activity, and the Area 7 Regional Meeting. In addition, we are all looking forward to catching up with our members, socially after a wonderful summer season, holidays and trips to share about with friends.

In addition, our monthly groups will be in full swing again, (though some have continued through the summer)—Golf and Lunch Bunch, Bridge, Book Club and hopefully our Merry Mattress Makers.

At the beginning of this Season, I would encourage you to share with other Retired Colleagues, with Teacher Friends, some of the enjoyment that we have as we meet with each other.

Esther Kampstra

President Retired Women Teachers of Ontario, Peterborough Branch

LET'S DO LUNCH

September 18 – Canoe and Paddle - in Lakefield

October 1 – Ashburnham Ale House - in East City

November 5 – Ricky's Grill – Monaghan and Lansdowne Sts.

Joyce Fee

BOOKWORMS

September 17 - **The Art of Racing in the Rain** by Garth Stein

October 8 - **H is for Hawk** by Helen McDonald

November 12 - **Little Fires Everywhere** by Celeste Ng

Joyce Fee

3RD ANNUAL AREA 7 RWTO/OERO LUNCHEON

Hosted by Durham North District Branch

What: A Luncheon at Baxter Creek for RWTO members from Area 7.

Why: An opportunity for RWTO members from Area 7 to meet others from our area 7 to share ideas and promote our organization. We are asking each branch to **highlight** their **community's special events, special branch projects, strategies for recruiting new members, and ongoing branch activities**. There will be a card table set up for each branch who wishes to participate in displaying their branch's information.

When: Tuesday October 22, 2019.

Where: Baxter Creek Golf Club – 1702 Cedar Valley Rd, Fraserville, ON K0L 1V0 (coming from the South – Hwy 28 north of Port Hope; coming from the North – Hwy 28 south of Fowlers Corners and 35/115 bypass bridge). **Valet Parking is available.**

Cost: \$ 30.00 per person. **Payment is DUE Tuesday, October 15th.** Cheques are payable to RWTO Peterborough Branch and may be handed in at one of our interest groups or mailed to:

Diane Kilistoff

976 Southlawn Drive

Peterborough, ON K9J 1G2

OUTREACH NEWS

Happy September Everyone! I hope your summertime was good and relaxing. To update you: Our financial support of the YMCA Crossroads Shelter nutrition programme, and the donation of school supplies last year was very greatly appreciated. We are again asking members to bring supplies to the September meeting, including backpacks, and also items for the needs of adult learners, such as day planners, binders and notebooks. The shelter is also in need of women's, children's and youth clothing and shoes. All items must be new. Personal care items and unscented toiletries are also greatly appreciated.

I was in contact with the community educator, and she is very interested in discussing ways that we could support their work this year. I will keep you informed.

Donations of clothing and toiletries to Cameron House and Brock Mission were gratefully received and we will continue to collect these needed items. We will also collect and donate children's books again at Christmas this year to the Salvation Army.

Many thanks to all for your generosity and support!

Theresa Cornack

OUR TRIP TO THE ARCTIC

Derreck and I went up to the Arctic in July. Residential schools were still operating in Inuvik, NWT, in 1990!!! The people seem to be recovering quite well thankfully, have pride in their skills and are venturing into businesses. Many men were away whaling. The arena was somehow connected with the schools, so a new one has been built as part of the Community Centre complex. The arena has been converted to a huge greenhouse and the women and children are proud to raise vegetables and fruit from the plants that come from New Brunswick in March. The long days of daylight enables them to get two crops a year.

Flying into Inuvik. MacKenzie River is brown with the silt. The other water bodies are melting permafrost. To protect the permafrost- roads are built on gravel, 1-2 metres thick. The water pipes and sewage pipes are above ground.

Ann Siddell



Inuvik

BUILDING ON PERMAFROST

Permafrost is solid ground to build on, but if the buildings and pipes give off heat, the ground begins to thaw. As the permafrost melts, the ground slumps, damaging or destroying structures built on it.

To avoid thawing, builders have learned to elevate structures on pilings and construct roads on thick beds of gravel.

UTILIDORS

Unique, elevated metal ducts, utilidors, wind through Inuvik, carrying the town's water and sewage.

These pipes and lines couldn't be buried or they would cause the permafrost to melt and the ground to sag.

Teresa Michelson, GNWT

Phil & Suzanne Knecht, GNWT





ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Orange Shirt Day is an event that was begun in 2013 and is held annually on Sept 30th as a result of residential school survivor Phyllis Jack Webstad's story. She tells how her new orange shirt, a gift from her grandmother, was taken away from her on that first day of residential school when she was just 6 years old.

The slogan "every child matters" on an orange shirt was created to educate people and promote awareness about the Indian residential school system and the impact this system has had on Indigenous communities for more than a century in Canada.

Mary Parulski

ANNUAL BRANCH AWARDS

At this year's Annual General Meeting, Marion Philp and Marilyn Challice were honoured, respectively, with the Cora Bailey Award and the Jean Axcell Award. For the year 2019-2020, the Awards Committee is inviting nominations from the membership at large. If you know of a member of our local branch who you feel is deserving of one of these awards and has not previously received it, we would love to hear from you.

Nominations will be received up until February 1st, 2020 and may be submitted to Deb Glynn.

LAST YEAR'S AWARDS

The Jean Axcell Award is presented annually to a member of the Peterborough Branch of the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario for outstanding service to our branch in many areas and over many years.

This year's (2019) worthy recipient was Marilyn Challice.



It was not long after joining RWTO that Marilyn took on a leadership role on our local executive and served as Vice-President for 2 years. She subsequently went on to become President, as well as filling the role of Past President when circumstances required it. She tackled this challenging dual-role with grace, skill and determination and our local branch thrived under her leadership!

But that was only the beginning of Marilyn's contribution: she served another term as Past President, as well as being liaison with our local RTO executive for several years.

She has been our link to local media outlets as well as photographer for many milestones and special occasions. As Archivist, she recently undertook an overhaul of our vast amount of archival material, a huge job requiring countless hours of sorting and organizing. Marilyn is a tireless worker at our many meetings and events and jumps in wherever and however she's needed - acting as a Greeter, running the Bake Sale or manning the Toonie Chart. Serving on the Goodwill Committee, she was a compassionate visitor, offering time and a listening ear to our members too ill or elderly to attend functions.

Marilyn has graciously hosted many “Muffins and Mimosa” parties, a testament to her dedication to expanding our membership and evidence of her welcoming and inclusive nature. Marilyn loves to socialize at our Let’s Do Lunch get-togethers and is an enthusiastic member of Book Worms; we all appreciate her ability to lead a thought-provoking discussion. She has an open and active mind and loves a lively debate!

The Cora Bailey Award: *Cora Bailey from the Peterborough Branch was RWTO/OERO’s first Executive Secretary-Treasurer. She held this position for eleven years until 1982 and wrote the History Book – OASWT 1956-1976. Beginning in 2003, this award was presented in her honour.*

Criteria for Cora Bailey Award Recipients

- a. The Cora Bailey Award may be presented to a Branch member who has contributed outstanding ***service to her Branch.***



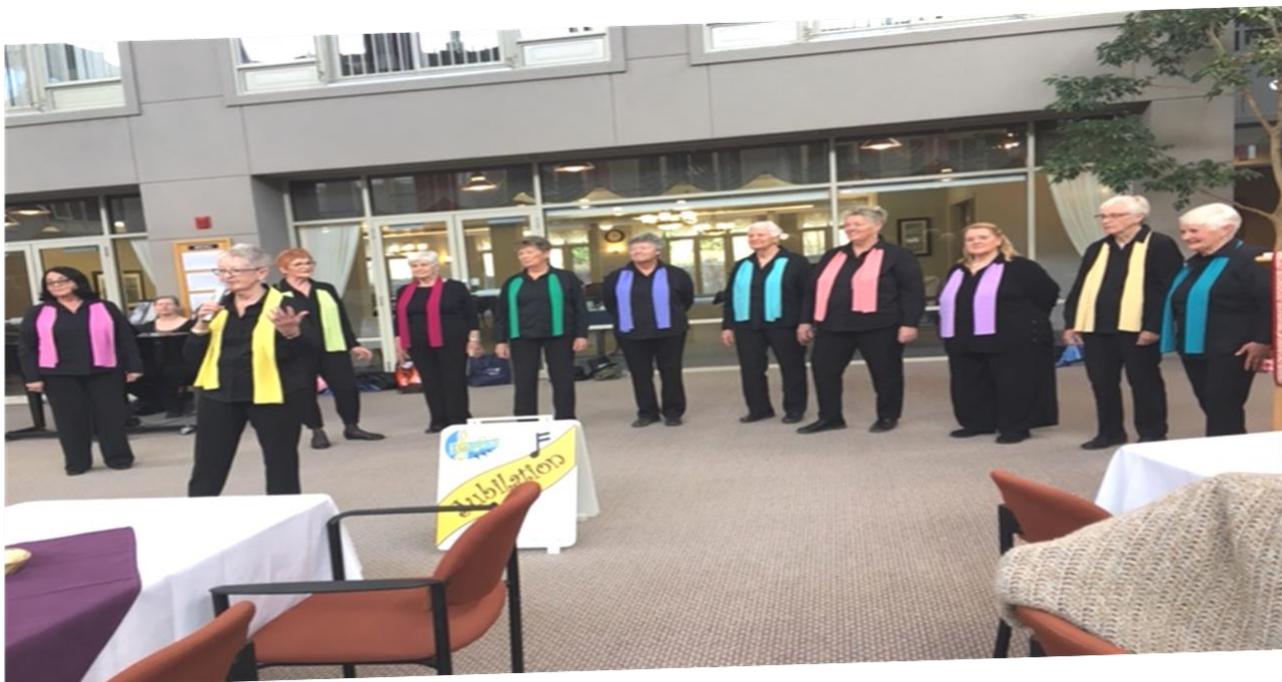
The Cora Bailey Award for the year 2019 was presented in May to Marion Philp.

Soon after joining the Peterborough branch of RWTO, Marion willingly agreed to join the Executive as Secretary, a position she has held continuously for the past 8 years. On the rare occasions that Marion was unable to attend a meeting, it became evident to those who had to ‘sub in’ for her, what a crucial and challenging role she fulfilled! Her calm approach and her keen listening skills enabled her to condense our often lengthy and disparate discussions into cogent, detailed and well-organized minutes.

These records were an invaluable resource when plans or decisions needed to be checked or revisited. In addition to this important work on the Executive, Marion has attended several Provincial Conventions. She has been an avid member and gracious host of Book Worms for several years. She has also participated in our ‘Let’s Do Lunch’ monthly get-togethers, as well as volunteering her time to our recently formed Merry Mattress Makers. Marion, you have been a dedicated member of our Executive and continue to be a valued member of our branch. It is with pleasure that we present you with the Cora Bailey Award for 2019, Peterborough Branch of RWTO.

ANNUAL BIRTHDAY BASH

Close to 40 Peterborough RWTO members gathered in the beautiful Atrium Room at Royal Gardens on May 7th for our annual Birthday Bash. After opening remarks from President Esther Kampstra, we enjoyed a wonderful variety of songs performed by the 12-member vocal group “Jubilation” under the talented and creative leadership of Arlene Gray and Brenda Shield. We were pleased that so many members of the choir, many of whom are retired teachers, were able to stay for refreshments and conversation. Thanks to Sharon Maskell and Mary Parulski for organizing the afternoon, Mena Fulton for the cake and party favours and Ruth Anne McNaught for the ice-cream.



RWTO/OERO CONVENTION 2019



The 63rd Annual Convention of RWTO/OERO was held from June 4th to 6th at the Holiday Inn Conference Centre in St. Catharines. In attendance from our local branch were Esther Kampstra (President) and Deb Glynn (vice-President). Jean Axcell had planned on attending but was unable to because of a bereavement in the family; she was very much missed. Judy Anne Tumber was also in attendance in the capacity of Area 7 Director.

Hosted by the four local branches of Area 13, this year's convention featured workshops on personal wellness and professional development, as well as bus tours,

musical entertainment and an extensive silent auction. Thanks to Jean for putting together the wonderful gift basket which was our local's contribution.

During the business portion of the convention, a number of resolutions were passed. The duties of the newly formed Convention Handbook Revision Committee are now in place in the Constitution. It was also decided that an appointed position, that of Convenor - Sales and Materials, be established to manage and promote the sale of RWTO/OERO materials. The remaining resolutions were of a housekeeping nature.

Through a poignant slideshow, the In Memorium Service honoured those members who had recently passed away. At our final luncheon, many of our over-90s, as well as several mother-daughter duos, were recognized. The Convention wrapped up with a rousing 'Call to Convention 2020' to be held in Kingston. Anyone wishing to become more involved in RWTO would find it a wonderfully informative and enjoyable experience!

OUR FRIENDLY BRIDGE GAMES

Each month, on the second Monday, we play bridge with our women teachers and their friends. We meet at Grace United Church at one fifteen in the afternoon and finish our games just before four. We meet in the basement. There is an elevator for those who prefer not to use the stairs. We pay three dollars to play. The monies go to support the collective kitchen for single moms.

Mid way through the afternoon we have coffee and a snack to refresh us for the rest of the day. All enjoy playing. We are at different stages of ability, but the atmosphere of friendliness dominates our time together. If you are interested in joining us, you would be most welcome. If you are not sure you play well enough, let us reassure you that is not a problem. You are even welcome to sit and watch the first time to get a sense of the game. We average three tables each time. For more information, please contact **Sharon at 705 741-3313**. Thanks.



YULETIDE CHEER



Yuletide Cheer features the Venabrass quintet brass ensemble, organ and PS Choir doing sacred and secular, familiar and new, contemplative and boisterously joyful

music  to put you in a festive mood.

What: Yuletide Cheer Concert with Syd Birrell (organ), Venebrass (quintet)
120-voice Choir

Where: Emmanuel United Church (George St. N.)

When: Saturday, November 30th at 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$35.00

For tickets/information contact: Ruth-Anne McNaught ramcnaught@gmail.com
705-740-3266

Merry Mattress Makers

We're up and running again! Come join us on the 3rd Tuesday of every month for a morning of fun and friendship as we create milk bag mattresses for people in need around the world. Coffee, tea and snacks provided!

Our first meeting will be held on September 17th at the home of Deb Glynn 1290 Hetherington Drive, Peterborough.

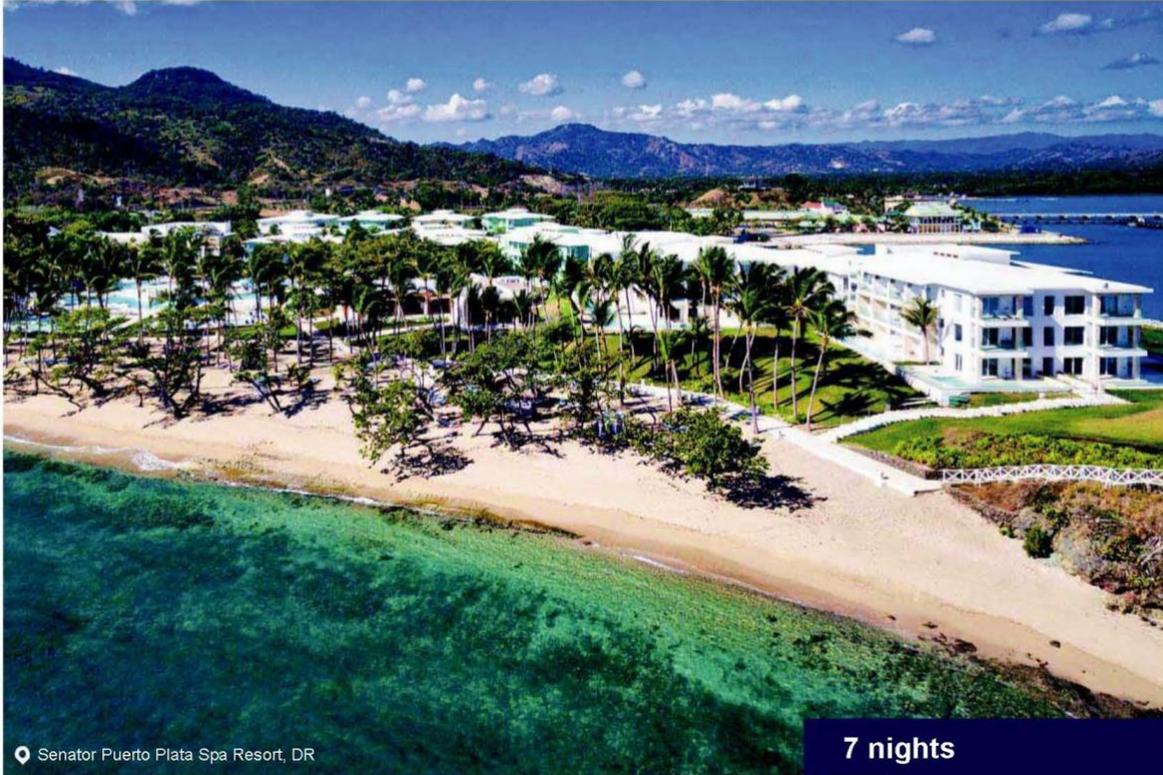
Please give her a call at 705 745 9648 if you plan to attend

New members are always welcomed!

February Trip sponsored by RTO and Merit Travel



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For Concerned Older People - ARE WE THE ONES WITH DEMENTIA? REALLY?

ONE: Recently, I went to McDonald's and I saw on the menu that you could have an order of 6, 9 or 12 Chicken McNuggets. I asked for a half dozen nuggets.

'We don't have half dozen nuggets,' said the teenager at the counter.

'You don't?' I replied.

'We only have six, nine, or twelve,' was the reply.

'So, I can't order a half dozen nuggets, but I can order six?'

'That's right.'

So, I shook my head and ordered six McNuggets. (Unbelievable but sadly true...) Must have been the same one I asked for sweetener and she said they didn't have any, only Splenda and sugar. (And they think they are worth \$15.00 per hour???)

TWO: I was checking out at the local Wal-Mart with just a few items and the lady behind me put her things on the belt close to mine. I picked up one of those dividers that they keep by the cash register and placed it between our things so they wouldn't get mixed. After the girl had scanned all of my items, she picked up the divider, looking it all over for the bar code so she could scan it.

Not finding the bar code, she said to me, 'Do you know how much this is?'

I said to her 'I've changed my mind; I don't think I'll buy that today.'

She said 'OK,' and I paid her for the things and quietly left.

She had no clue to what had just happened.

(But the older lady behind me had a big smirk on her face as I left).

THREE: A woman at work was seen putting a credit card into her DVD drive and pulling it out very quickly. When I inquired as to what she was doing, she said she was shopping on the Internet and they kept asking for a credit card number, so she was using the ATM thingy. (Keep shuddering---there's more!)

FOUR: I recently saw a distraught young lady weeping beside her car.

'Do you need some help?' I asked.

She replied, 'I knew I should have replaced the battery to this remote door un-locker. Now, I can't get into my car. Do you think they (pointing to a distant convenience store) would have a battery to fit this?'

'Hmm, I don't know. Do you have an alarm, too?' I asked.

'No, just this remote thingy,' she answered, handing it and the car keys to me.

As I took the key and manually unlocked the door, I replied, 'Why don't you drive over there and check about the batteries. It's quite a long walk....' (PLEASE just lay down before you hurt yourself !!!)

FIVE: Several years ago, we had an Intern who was none too swift. One day she was typing and turned to a secretary and said, 'I'm almost out of typing paper. Now, what do I do?' 'Just use paper from the photocopier', the secretary told her. With that, the intern took her last remaining blank piece of paper, put it on the photocopier and proceeded to make 25-blank copies. (P. S: She's a Brunette, by the way!!)

SIX

A mother calls 911 very worried asking the dispatcher if she needs to take her kid to the emergency room, as the kid had eaten ants. The dispatcher tells her to give the kid some Benadryl and he should be fine, the mother says, 'But, I just gave him some ant killer.....'

Dispatcher: 'Then, Rush him to emergency right now!' Life is tough. It's even tougher if you're stupid!!!! Someone had to remind me: Don't laugh....it is all true...

Perks of being over 70 and heading towards 80!

- Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
- In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
- No one expects you to run--anywhere.
- People call at 8 PM and ask, "Did I wake you?"
- People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
- There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
- Things you buy now won't wear out.
- You can eat supper at 5 PM.
- You can live without sex but not your glasses.
- Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.
- You can't remember who sent you this list.
- And you notice these are all in Big Print for your convenience.