LOOKING BACK AT 2019 – A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JAN HARLOS

What a year it has been! Amazing *luncheons*, enthusiastic *new members*, and stimulating *interest groups* have made The St. Catharines Branch of RWTO/OERO the place to be.

We also convened an incredibly successful *Provincial Convention and AGM*. We rolled out the barrel and had a barrel of fun! Thank you to the more than 100 volunteers who made this possible!

Our fall/winter *Community Outreach Initiatives* were very successful. I would like to thank all of you for your incredibly generous contributions to Community Care – St. Catharines and Thorold, The Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre gift bags and for your participation with the Arthritis Gift wrapping at the Fairview Mall and the Community Care Toy Bureau.

Betty Lou Souter was overjoyed to receive RWTO/OERO St. Catharines’ cheque of $8,000.00 (member donations topped up with convention surplus from Branch funds) and the gift bags for Shaver were very much appreciated.

*We should be proud of all that our Branch accomplishes each year!*

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our most recent new or returning members.

- Carol Burke
- Elizabeth McGregor
- Jean Oprendek
- Marlene Walther
DECEMBER LUNCHEON and COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Susan Lewis, 1st Vice
Thank you to our guest pianist, Ruth Mac Vicar, from Chorus Niagara and Curtains Up Productions, for leading the ladies in a carol sing at the Christmas Luncheon at the St. Catharines Golf Club December 4. The ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future Presidents made an appearance in chains, furs and grim reaper’s robes. Their warnings about being charitable were unnecessary as the ladies of the St. Catharines RWTO/OERO generously donated $8,000.00 to Community Care.

Susan McLaughlin, and her mother Margaret, were the first recipients of a blanket knit by Marie France Marcie, one of the volunteers knitting for the community outreach project: “We’ve Got Your Back”.

Forty-two handmade totes (from Convention), each containing gifts of socks, nail polish, hand sanitizers and creams, candies and cookies, brought joy to the female patients at Shaver. They were delivered to Christine Manley of the Shaver Foundation by five members of our executive on December 5th.