

Chalk Talk - FEB. 2020

RWTO/OERO London-Middlesex Branch Newsletter

Website: rwto.org/branch/london-middlesex

Editor: Janice Thielenhaus



President's Message

Our organization of Retired Women Teachers of London and Middlesex makes it very possible for us to achieve happiness in retirement. We are socially fulfilled by our outreach programs such as The Book for Every Child, The Women's Rural Resource Centre and My Sisters' Place. All these organizations have been blessed and are very grateful for our donations. As well, following our tradition established in 2017, our Branch members donated \$200 to the Salvation Army Christmas Program instead of purchasing little Santa gifts for ourselves.

Some of the speakers, we have invited this fall, have enlightened us about our city in new and various ways. In September, Dorothy Downs enthusiastically shared with us information about the **Forest City Film Festival** to be held in London in October. Our October luncheon enabled us to learn about our supplementary Hospital and Home Care insurance and we were introduced by Jamie Lee Arsenau to the marvellous work **Youth Opportunities Unlimited London** does for youth who need help in our city. In November, our wonderful RWTO choir entertained us with delightful music and I'm sure all of us appreciated the talent and practise that the conductors and members shared with us. The entertaining presentation of the re written song, "Nuttin' for Christmas" provided great enjoyment.

In the spring, we look forward to hearing from the **London Children's Museum** in March and **ReForest London** in April. These are two other aspects of London we can highlight and learn more about. Our Spring Banquet and Annual General Meeting in May will highlight the RWTO choir again. **Remember to register to attend a lunch and please send in your money 14 days prior to the lunch. If you have pre-paid and need to cancel for any reason you can have a refund if you notify us prior to 7 days before the lunch.**

As you read this newsletter, you will realize that there are many executive members and heads of committees who are involved in many areas of our branch. I thank them for all that they do. We have the wonderful opportunity to work together and have fun. We continue to plan activities for the interest and involvement of all. We always welcome people who may be interested in joining our executive, so please contact any of the current executive. If you have any ideas for Friendship activities, feel free to share them with the executive.

Yours in caring and sharing,

Mary Maxwell



LUNCHEON DATES TO REMEMBER

Please remember to return the Book Bags in March and April

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Thursday, May 28, 2020

The London Children's Museum

ReForest London

Spring Banquet & Annual General Meeting

AWARDS RECEIVED in 2019

Shining Star Award

In 2019, two members, **Pat Malone** and **Janet Wombwell** were chosen as recipients of the Shining Star Award. They have both been very busy members for more than five years showing that they are committed to the activities of our Branch. They have helped to carry out our mandate of Caring and Sharing by supporting programs and members, while also being active volunteers in the community. Both Janet and Pat have enriched our Branch with their dedication, enthusiasm and helpfulness. We are fortunate to have these talented women in our Branch and we thank the membership for their nominations. Congratulations!



Pat Malone displays her Award.



Janet Wombwell is presented with her Award.

Barbara Bain Award

For the third year in a row in 2018/19, our London-Middlesex Branch in Tier 3, the Large Branch category, had the greatest increase in members (+19) and was presented with the Barbara Bain Award at the A.G.M./Convention last June.

This award brings a \$400 contribution to our Branch funds this year.

There were no nominations made from our Branch for the Cora Bailey Award this year.

Patricia Savage

OUTREACH PROGRAM



Mary McNabb-Lutz and Donna Newcombe collect items for the Outreach program at each luncheon meeting.

My Sisters' Place

Our November luncheon Outreach Program was collecting personal items for women at **My Sisters' Place** which is a safe, welcoming and inclusive centre that supports vulnerable women through drop-in and wrap around services. They see anywhere from 100 to 150 women daily. The centre promotes a non-judgmental culture to women who may have experienced gender-based violence, trauma, chronic mental and physical health challenges, homelessness, substance use and extreme poverty.

The centre operates within the mother agency of the Canadian Mental Health Association and women can be connected with mental health services, clinical services and community programs. The centre addresses practical needs, delivers specialized services and educational/skills development.

The nutrition program that includes coffee, snacks and a nutritious meal may be the draw that gives women the courage to visit My Sisters' Place for the first time. Women can take care of daily practical needs such as laundry, showers, day beds, personal hygiene supplies and find support by connecting with peers as part of a sisterhood.

The programs that are offered have a focus on learning and life skills that range from art therapy, theatre, music jam, sewing and more. An on-site Nurse Practitioner Clinic provides primary services such as annual physicals and chronic disease management,

There are a number of rewarding volunteer opportunities available to which individuals may offer skills, time and talents. **My Sisters' Place gratefully accepts donations** of a practical or monetary nature. A Wish List can be found on their website. Items can be dropped off at 566 Dundas St. during open hours (weekdays 9:30am - 8:00pm and weekends 10:00am - 3:00pm). The centre is unable to accept clothing or household goods.

Mary McNabb-Lutz

IN MEMORIAM

It saddens us to announce we have lost these wonderful ladies during the past year. We were privileged to have known them and extend our condolences to their families, friends and colleagues.

Marilyn Gibson on January 6, 2019
Doreen (Mia) Poole on January 9, 2019
Marguerite McRoberts on May 28, 2019
Florence Kelly on December 24, 2019
Joan Molnar in 2019

Nancy Bell

CHANGES?

Any member who moves address or changes their email/phone number should **inform Jane Williams** as soon as possible.

It is also helpful to the Branch if a member has a caregiver or friend who acts for them in case of incapacity or death, who will contact Jane Williams janeandowen@sympatico.ca or phone 519-473-5160. Jane will then forward the information to the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer.

Please do not contact the provincial office directly yourself with changes of address/email or phone numbers.

Jane Williams

NEW MEMBERS in 2019

We welcomed 18 new members in the Fall.

Barbara Barten	Muriel Guthrie
Bonnie Black	Marlyn Loft
Michelle Murphy	Tracey McIntyre
Catherine Connors	Sandy Stead
Jacqueline Shields	Mary Ellen Zabehaylo
Cathy Savage	Janet Fleet
Hilary Charles	Ruth Ann Morley
Nancy Grady	Susan Manz
Charlotte Turner	Dianne Dempsey

Karen Tierney, Membership

RWTO/OERO CONVENTION 2022

This annual event held each year in the first week of June is not just an AGM but a reunion of sorts for RWTO/OERO Branches across Ontario. Members reconnect, catch up on the work and achievements during the year and have fun! As well, they have a chance to explore a part of Ontario during their visit.

In 2022, it will be our turn once more - previously Area 3 hosted in 2010. It is early days but the planning has begun. Our venue will be the Four Points Sheraton by Marriott on Wellington Road near Hwy 401. A renovated, bright, spacious, well-appointed hotel that is accessible to all. Their staff are experienced and very helpful.

Sandra & Vera introduced the Convention at the September Luncheon.



Two and a half years to "show-time" but that time will move quickly as there is much to organize! First steps involve inviting our Area 3 Branches to become involved, creating a theme and logo, setting up a bank account and gathering volunteers for the Convention Planning Committee.

Conventions are a wonderful way to get involved in your Branch by putting your organizing and creative skills to work, having fun and making new friends. We will be together again in March and speaking to you about our progress. We are looking forward to working with our members as this project develops.

Cathy Harrison, Convenor

*Nancy Bell, Sandra O'Brien, Vera Rowland,
Steering Committee*

RWTO SUPPLEMENTARY INSURANCE



Helen Munce says -

Members with the Supplementary Insurance should know this when making a Hospital and Home Care Plan Claim:

1. Hearing Aid and Cataract claims don't require an Attending Physician's Statement - just receipts.
2. Transportation Claims should indicate the following: date, starting address, address of Hospital or Doctor's office, number of km travelled, and attach parking receipts.
3. Claim forms should be submitted approximately 30 days **after the date of your FULL recovery**.
4. Attending Physician's Statement should be completed by your family doctor.

Remember to send in your original receipts. Be sure to photocopy everything you are sending to Manulife for your own records.

F.Y.I. The mailing address changed in December 2018 so be sure to have the new Waterloo address if sending in a Claims form.

Helen Munce (519-473-2050) has claims forms if you need it and they are also available on the RWTO website (www.rwto.org). Click on Membership, then Insurance, then Forms.

Please inform Manulife 1-800-268-3763 if you have a change of address.

Helen Munce

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

A major attraction for members joining RWTO London-Middlesex Branch is the wonderful luncheon gatherings. We have excellent meals in a very attractive setting at a most reasonable cost; an important Outreach Program that helps our community beyond the teaching profession, and all this is made possible by **over 70 volunteers**, some working behind the scenes, some doing several tasks for the six luncheons that we have each year.



Sandra McKeen is the Luncheon Coordinator with multiple tasks to perform. She ensures the meals are ordered, the name tags and allergy tags prepared, the registration desk has the correct information and volunteers are in place.

Behind the scenes are the phone callers and the crafty people making the table centrepieces; then at each luncheon we have Door Greeters; Registration; Donation Receivers; Name-tag, Allergy tags & Gate pass Distributors; Book sales, Draw ticket sales, Finances and Photography all provided by volunteers to make our Branch Luncheons so enjoyable and successful. A big **Thank you** to all!

Janice Thielenhaus

FIRST THURSDAY BOOK CLUB

In 2019 the first Book Club to form in our Branch, chose to read nine interesting fiction and non-fiction books plus a biography, a mystery and an author study on Canadian author Jennifer Robson. The group meets once a month for lunch at our host's home on a rotating basis. They are a small but diverse group of women who enjoy lively talks having been together for eight years. **They are currently looking for new members.** If you are interested please contact Pat Savage at 519-472-9256.

Debbie Kaiser

THE FRIENDSHIP GROUP LUNCH

On Monday, December 9, 2019, the Friendship Group had a Christmas lunch at Sunningdale Golf and Country Club. It had been thought that this tradition would lapse but thanks to Vera Rowland and Nancy Bell it was organized and very much enjoyed by the 68 members who attended.



Maureen Tipping and Jane Williams led the group in carol singing while Irla Stewart played the piano.

SECOND WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB

This Book Club enjoyed two books from the LPL Book Club in a Bag list. The first one was ***The Cellist of Sarajevo*** by Steven Galloway. This book is extraordinarily well-written and a sensitive historical fiction. The other was by Terry Fallis, ***The High Road***, which is a deeply funny Canadian political satire.

The group also enjoyed genre themes particularly historical and geographical ones. In a different direction, the differences between banned and challenged books - the American and Canadian approaches were explored. They learned that the Americans were more apt to ban a book whereas the Canadians preferred to "challenge" a book - e.g. Margaret Atwood's, *The Handmaids Tale*.

Quote from Lena Dunham, "Let's be reasonable and add an eighth day to the week that is devoted exclusively to reading".

From the Group

FRIENDSHIP ACTIVITIES

- Mon. Feb. 10, 9:30 am. Breakfast, Katie's Kitchen, Oxford St. E
- Wed. Feb. 19, 11:15 am. Lunch at Milestones followed by a Silver City movie. Call Mary Maxwell to join the group.
- Thur. Feb. 27, Lunch at the Hungarian Restaurant, Arkana Csarda, 7447 Longwoods Rd.
- Tue. Mar. 10, 9:30 am. Breakfast at Katie's Kitchen
- Wed. Apr. 15, 9:30 am. Breakfast at Katie's Kitchen
- Mon. May 11, 9:30 am. Breakfast at Southside Grill, Exeter Rd.
- Sun. Jun. 7, afternoon, Heritage House Tour - walking
- Tue. Jun. 9, 9:30 am. Breakfast at Southside Grill
- Tue. Jul. 7, A musical, **42nd Street** at Huron Country Theatre
- Wed. Jul. 8, 9:30 am. Breakfast at Southside Grill
- Mon. Aug. 10, 9:30 am. Breakfast at Malibu Restaurant, 3339 Wonderland Rd. South
- Tue. Sep. 8, 9:30 am. Breakfast at the Malibu Restaurant
- Wed. Oct. 7, 9:30 am. Breakfast at the Malibu Restaurant

The Executive

CHRISTMAS CHOIR 2019

Mary Maxwell informed us that our Branch is unique in having an RWTO choir. In November we were entertained once again with Gillian Laidlaw conducting while Johanna Hurd played the piano for the choir's rendition of Christmas songs and carols.



This was followed by the comedic Merry Makers' skit on teachers being taken to task by the principal for their various misdeeds during the year and so were - "Getting Nuttin' for Christmas".

FINAL NOTE:

Please remember to inform **Debby Albin** (Keeping in Touch) 519-641-2823, if you know of a member in a Nursing Home or is homebound with a caregiver and cannot attend meetings. Inform **Sharon Riley** (Courtesy/Goodwill) 519-672-3620 if a member is ill, in hospital, has experienced death of a family member, or has a special celebration.