

RWTO Owen Sound and Area

Unfortunate News!

We regret to inform you that due to the Covid 19 outbreak our meeting for Wednesday, March 25, 2020 has been cancelled. All newsletters this month will be sent via email or regular mail to ensure that all of our members are kept up to date. Your executive will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed about our future events.

**KEEP
CALM
AND
be
Optimistic**



In response to the recent news about the coronavirus (COVID-19), our thoughts are for those who are ill with this virus and for those who care for them, especially in countries that have been most affected. We are concerned for health and frontline workers as they face their daily tasks. And we remember those communities and businesses that have been affected and any facing discrimination as a result of the circulation of the virus.

Public Health officials tell us that the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to any virus. General prevention measures include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
- Stay home if you have influenza/respiratory virus symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, trouble breathing).
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then immediately throw the tissue in the garbage and wash your hands.
- If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve or arm.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Wow! Look who is going to be our new Area 1 Director!

Spring Greetings to Everyone

I had hoped to be able to write a cheery Spring message; however, sadly, this is not our usual Spring. Due to the concerns over coronavirus our executive has made the hard decision to cancel the March 25th General Meeting. While we were looking forward to our social time, luncheon and speaker we feel that it is more important to safeguard our members' health. To that end, there will not be a general meeting in March.

There will no longer be a Spring Fling this year. This was the event that brought together retired women teachers from all of Grey Bruce.

As retired teachers we do bring our own set of strengths to this unsettling health crisis. We are resilient, thoughtful and optimistic. We know that, this too, will pass. We will follow all

the recommended guidelines to stay safe. And we know that Spring and Summer will come.

Please consider volunteering for a position on our local executive. There are currently open positions for both first and second vice president. Participating on our executive is both enjoyable and rewarding.

Finally, we are so proud that our own Connie Morris will be installed as Director for Area 1 at the RWTO Annual General Meeting in June in Kingston. I will be attending on behalf of our branch.

Your Executive sends their wishes for your good health.

Yours in Caring and Sharing
Sue Loyst



The Goodwill Reps have been very busy lately.

Welcome to Spring ladies! It will be wonderful to see the flowers pop out of the ground soon. That always gives me such a lift.

Many cards were sent since our meeting in November. Christmas cards and Valentine cards went to our ladies over 90. A Get Well card went to Shirley Sullivan as she deals with broken ribs. A card went to Carol Bradly as she heals a broken ankle. A Recovery card was sent to Nora Jones as she works to come back from a stroke. Birthday cards were sent to Nora Jones, Donaldene Waugh, Beth Graham and Donna Steinacher. Thinking of You cards went to Gwen Nickle, Jerry Parkhill, Mary Monteith and Joan Vasella.

Since our last meeting there have been changes in the lives of some of our members. Sadly, Marilyn Goldie, Gwen Nickle and Mary Monteith lost their husbands/partners. Sympathy cards expressing our sincere sympathy went to them. A Sympathy card was sent to Gerry Parkhill's family at her passing. Cards were sent to Lynn Gibbons whose brother passed away and to Lorraine Dunning whose brother-in-law lost his battle with cancer.

We hope that Spring will bring new beginnings to all.

Yours in Caring and Sharing,
Lorraine Dunning 519-376-5017
Barb Schwartz 519-371-2474



DATES TO REMEMBER



March 25, 2020

General Meeting

Cancelled

April 30, 2020

Spring Fling

Cancelled

May 27, 2020

General Meeting

Georgian Shores United Church

Membership fees for 2020 are due soon.

MEMBERSHIP FEES for 2020/2021 are due earlier this year as payment to the Provincial office is requested by Sept 1. Therefore payment of your dues can be paid at our May meeting or mailed to Margaret before Sept 1. The amount is \$50.00. If you retired before Aug. 31, 1980, the fee is \$25.00.

*If you pay the Provincial dues to another RWTO branch, then the amount for an associate membership with the Owen Sound Branch is \$10.00.

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE **RWTO INSURANCE** , YOU MUST BE A CURRENT PAID MEMBER

OF RWTO FOR THE INSURANCE TO BE EFFECTIVE.

Please make your cheque payable to **RWTO Owen Sound and Area Branch**. It can be paid at the May dinner meeting. If you are not at the meeting your membership card (your receipt) will be at the next dinner meeting; or you may include a self addressed, stamped envelope if you wish it mailed to you. Marg's phone number is 519 376-6950.

Margaret Abra

438 1st St. S.W. Owen Sound, Ont. N4K 6Z8

From Our Archives

My Most Cherished Teaching Experience

There are so many memories from my years of teaching that come flooding back to me. It is difficult to select one. Many years ago I had a delightful experience with a Special Class (at that time called the Opportunity Class). Early in December, with Christmas approaching, the librarian came into our classroom and read the story "Amahl and the Night Visitors".

About that time the music students at the U of T were performing Amahl at the Walter Johnson Hall. So I arranged to take my class to see it. The child who was the greatest behaviour problem was the one who maintained order and quiet in the group while in the theatre.

The children greatly enjoyed this as they revealed in the following days. The next day the same boy, the disciplinarian, wrote a modified script of the story - probably the most writing he did in his entire school career. He assigned classmates to the various parts. They made costumes of sorts - mostly hats and crowns - and performed it on the school stage. They derived great satisfaction from this endeavour.

Written by Nora Jones - from Cherished Moments 1999

Surprises, laughter and wonderful food!

Our meeting on November 27, 2019 was fun for all. This year we had a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Each member received a surprise gift from the members of the executive. Our delightful speaker Jackie Ralph presented her message from the Canadian Mental Health Association with enthusiasm and laughter. We all enjoyed her entertaining presentation on a serious subject.



Thank you for the beautiful decorations.



Gifts for everyone!



A great crowd!



Jackie Ralph
Canadian Mental
Health