

South Bruce RWTO/OERO Newsletter

July 2020



A warm hello to everyone with hopes that you are all well and enjoying this unique summer. I never thought that I would miss meetings but I do! The opportunity for the personal contact with you that they provided is sorely missed. Just a couple of things that I wanted to pass on: I want to send a sincere thank you from all of us to Dianne Simpson. She is doing an amazing job of passing on our best wishes to those having special birthdays and to those who are dealing with health concerns. Dianne has been keeping Christine and me up-to-date with what's happening to the members in our group and it is so appreciated. Thank you, Dianne. Thank you also for voting on line, by telephone and by mail to let us know your position on our donation suggestions. In June Carole Machan sent a cheque for \$500 to Michelle Lamont at the Women's Shelter Serving Bruce and Grey from our South Bruce Branch of RWTO/OERO. Please consider sending a short account or photo to Christine on how you're spending your days during this unique time. Feedback from our members indicate that they are really enjoying the submissions. At this time, we don't know when we can safely meet again as a group. Until we can, we hope that you are enjoying the newsletter that Christine so capably publishes.

Keep well and stay safe!

Pat Emmerton
South Bruce RWTO/OERO President

What's new?



Bev Peterbaugh celebrated her 90th birthday at RVilla in Ripley June 17th. Dianne sent flowers and a card on behalf of the South Bruce ladies.

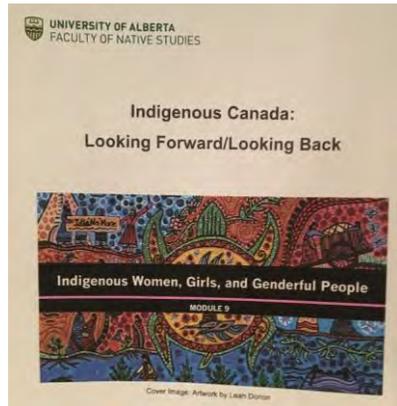
Judy Watt: During COVID-19 Knox Presbyterian Church in Kincardine began to have YouTube worship services weekly. I was



pleased to play piano for 4 of the services. I learned many new pieces that I played for preludes and postludes. I enjoy the piano and this motivated me

to go to the keyboard more often. The church is trying to keep the connection with community and provide similar worship services to precovid times. Our members and many others are finding them worthwhile.

Through the University of Alberta, I took an online course on Indigenous Canada. From the indigenous point of view, their history is explored. From the fur trade which began as a mercantile business to colonialization and assimilation and the deterioration of their way of life their indigenous past is analyzed. Treaty making and broken promises. residential schools, resource extraction, murdered and missing indigenous women, the Indian Act and its effect on women and indigenous art are examined. There were 12 modules. Each module included presentations by video, course notes a multiple choice test in which you must attain 70%. This poster is by Leah Dorion, a Metis artist, who did 6 pieces of art for the course in collaboration with the faculty of native studies at the university. It is rich with indigenous art symbols and carries a number of messages through the imagery. It was a great course.



News from RWTO provincial:



The new provincial president is Nancy Papiez. Go to www.rwto.org to watch her President's message.

RWTO/OERO Annual Meeting

It was certainly a very different experience being your delegate for the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Everything was done on line!

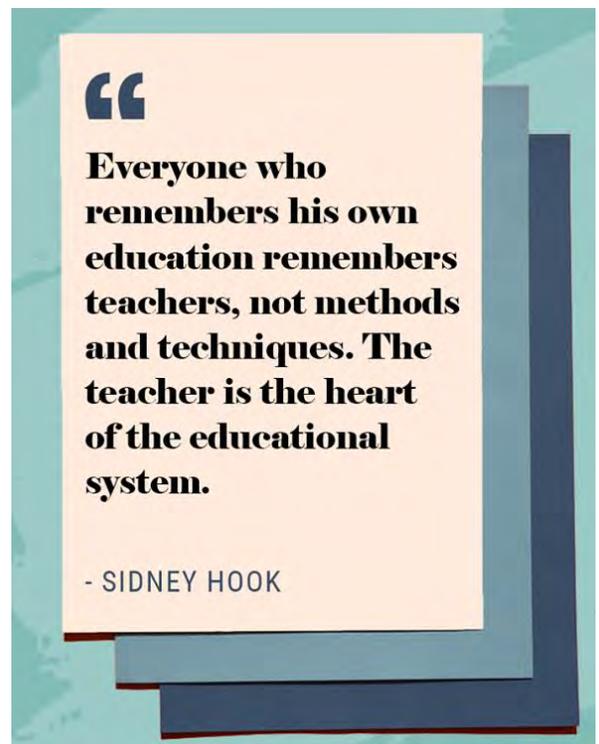
There were no motions other than the approval of last year's minutes, the approval of the committee reports and the approval of a budget for next year. If one had questions about the motions they were submitted in advance to be answered by email.

The Directors worked diligently to make the online experience as easy as possible. All went off seamlessly but the lack of personal interactions was sadly missed.

We are a group that thrives on caring and sharing with all our relationships. No on line experience can replace laughter, friendships and keeping each other close.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our South Bruce Group.

Leslie Uttley



I hope everyone is enjoying the sunshine and warm temperatures this summer. In no time at all, our thoughts will turn to the fall and with it, the start of the new school year. While no one actually knows what that will look like this year, we thought it would be fun to share memories of school years past – specifically, stories from your early teaching years. To get you started, here are 2 examples from early birds Joyce Scammell and Leslie Uttley. You can send your stories and pictures to me anytime.
Christine Roberts

**"GROWING WITH DIGNITY"
1977 EDUCATION WEEK THEME
Joyce Scammell**

My memorable time which I will share takes us back to 1977... at Bluewater School. The special needs students adopted the name joyfully as "Eager Beavers" because they were indeed an eager, happy group.
During the 1977 Education Week, the theme was "Growing with Dignity". It was a memorable week as we invited the parents and volunteers for a special time of viewing the students' work and enjoying some light refreshments.
The highlight was the taking of a group photo, outside the school dressed in their "royal blue graduating attire"...they loved to dress up in their graduating gowns and hats.



We were at the Bluewater School for 13 years and the photo was taken 3 years before entering the newly built North Port Elementary School in 1989.



Leslie Uttley: My First Day of Teaching

I started in September 1967 with the Scarborough Board. I had a grade one class.
By chance my principal was called by the Toronto Star and asked if any exciting events had occurred on the first day of school. He told them that a student in Mrs. Uttley's grade one class had a dentist appointment that first afternoon of school. He also emphasized that I was a brand new teacher. The mom asked her son what his new teacher's name was so that she could send a note regarding the appointment.
He told her that my name was Mrs. Ugly!
She was horrified to start a new relationship with a teacher called Mrs. Ugly. she phoned the principal and he clarified the name.
Needless to say he recounted it all to the reporter. The story appeared on the front page of the Toronto Star.
That is how my thirty-seven year career started and remained very eventful for its entirety.