



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario

Brookville

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Hello Retired Women Teachers,

It has been a long time since I have organized a newsletter for you and I hope this finds you safe and well. It has been a very unusual, and at times difficult, spring and summer that has seen many changes to all our lives. Covid-19 has shaped what has been happening, not only in our country, but the world as a whole, and we are all adjusting to the "new normal". I hope this newsletter will help bring you up to date on what is happening with our local RWTO, and take you back down memory lane to our Christmas Dinner in December 2019.



Thoughts From Our New President:

Hello RWTO members,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and safe during this difficult time of Covid-19. I am sure we have all missed our get-togethers and are looking forward to gathering again when it is safe to do so.

An outdoor, socially distanced meeting of the executive was held on August 11 and it was decided that I will relieve Betty Bates of her organizational duties in keeping us connected. Betty has been a tireless leader, and experienced resource, who has led us for many years. She, along with Sherril Mitchell, and Helen Earl have shared their knowledge and expertise with us, and have been dedicated workers behind the scenes to keep us connected. I would like to thank them personally for all of their assistance during this transition.

I will try to fulfill my duties, but I am in the learning process, and appreciate the guidance and suggestions from other members. Please feel free to contact me any time with questions, suggestion, or concerns.

I would also like to thank Andrea, Laura,, Pat, Marcia, Stella and Lynda who work diligently to keep our group running smoothly.

We have enjoyed four social activities per year which have been organized by different members, and hopefully we can return to this format once we can do so safely. When many of us are involved, it lessens the load, and provides more interest and variety in our gatherings.

We have a new Director for Area 8 named Joan Gamble who many of you know as an energetic retiree from Pineview Public School. Joan will be meeting with the various presidents in October and I will relay the information I receive then, to you.

I look forward to seeing you all in the near future! In the meantime please take care of yourselves and stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,
Karen Kerr-Kennedy

Membership:

Helen Earl will distribute an updated list of members and their contact information to our Telephone Contact Committee. Our callers will then phone each RWTO member to ensure the contact information that we have is correct.

We have cash in our bank account, and it was decided at the executive meeting to use these funds to cover the costs of our 51 members' fees for the coming year. There are still sufficient funds invested to carry us through for quite a while. We are hoping to discuss ideas for meaningful donations at our Spring gathering.

Goodwill:

During this difficult time, in which many of us have felt very isolated, Laura MacAfee has been making phone calls and sending cards to our members, especially our more senior members. This is very important, especially during Covid. Laura does need our help, though. Please contact her at 613 345 5108 and let her know if any of our members are ill, or if they would benefit from a friendly phone call or card.

Christmas Dinner December 2019:

We had a great turnout - 49 RWTO members and guests - celebrated an early Christmas dinner on December 8 at the Brockville New Hope Community Hall with a tasty turkey dinner. The festive decorations provided by the church's decorating committee were augmented with our own Christmasy-red, holiday attire. Once again, a special shout out goes to Sherril Mitchell, who brings the term, "Light Up The Room" to life.





Our guest speakers, authors David and Sandra Wells, entertained us with anecdotes based on their historical research on the Front of Yonge township and the village of Mallorytown. It's always fun to learn things about our community that we just hadn't heard before, even if we have seen the historical plaques. Our RWTO chapter, and several members, made donations to support the Coach House in Mallorytown.

Well, that wraps up our first newsletter for 2020.
Take care and stay safe. Enjoy the sunshine
and warmer temperatures while we have them.

