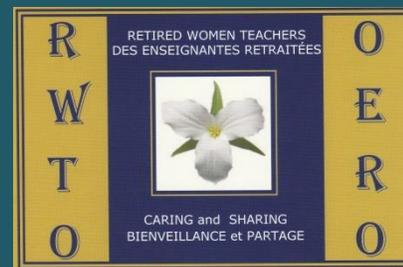


# South Bruce RWTO/OERO Newsletter

## October 2020



My favourite season is here again! I love the beautiful colours of the fall, the cooler temperatures which encourage bundling up, the soups and stews which bring comfort... I could go on. October is also the time for giving thanks for the many blessings we enjoy, even while fighting a pandemic. Reflecting on my blessings took me back to the classroom when I would have each child trace his/her hand and create a turkey from the drawing. The palm of the hand became the head and body of the turkey and the fingers, the tail feathers. On each of the five feathers the students were to record something for which they were thankful. With that in mind, I would like to take the opportunity to share which five blessings I would be recording on my "feathers" this Thanksgiving. Number 1- I am grateful that no one in my family or in my close circle of friends has contracted Covid 19. Number 2- I am grateful that I have a good pension so that I have not had to worry about paying bills, buying groceries and keeping a roof over our heads. Number 3- I am grateful that our children have kept their jobs and are able to work from home and thus, stay safe. Number 4- I am grateful to live in the community that I do where there have been so many displays of generosity of spirit shown to those who live and visit here. Number 5- I am grateful for having met so many wonderful, accomplished women in my retirement. They are true blessings to me! What would you choose as your five blessings?

Pat Emmerton  
South Bruce RWTO/OERO President

### Meetings:

The executive met August 31<sup>st</sup> and welcomed Lynda Cerson as Vice President.

Carole Machan reviewed finances which included membership renewal and donations.

The October 2019 meeting in Ripley featuring the supplemental insurance presentation by Karen Mussen resulted in many new enrollees.

**\*Reminder:** You must be a paid up RWTO member to have supplemental insurance.

Eva Wilken and Jane MacDougall were chosen to be Life Members as of September 2021.

Other discussion centered on ways to promote connection within the membership, future events and possible donation recipients.



### South Bruce RWTO: together but at a safe distance

Sixteen ladies gathered on Pat Emmerton's lawn September 29<sup>th</sup> for a BYOE (Bring Your Own EVERYTHING) lunch. It was lovely to visit

with friends and former colleagues face to face, albeit carefully.

President Pat introduced VP Lynda Cerson and announced new life members Jane MacDougall and Eva Wilken.

Treasurer Carole reported after expenses, membership dues and donations, a bank balance of \$1,742.40.

Probably the best part was going around the circle hearing news, updates about family and health and voicing opinions. The slight chill in the air was easily countered by the warmth of companionship among caring friends.



Pat also asked those present to weigh in on the prospect of conducting meetings via Zoom video-conferencing. RWOT/OERO's provincial leadership is sending a 3R's grant of \$400 to each branch. This stands for Recognition, Recruitment and Retention and is intended to assist branches with maintaining and increasing membership. A one year Zoom subscription of \$200 would eliminate the time constraint of the free version and include more features to facilitate meetings.

Before we can spend branch money, we need to have members' support. Therefore, we need a member to make a motion to purchase a \$200 subscription to Zoom. We also need a seconder and for each member to vote on the motion either by emailing Christine

([roberts@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:roberts@hurontel.on.ca)) or by phoning Pat at 519-396-1120.

## 2021 RWTO/OERO Convention News:

The Covid-19 Pandemic has resulted in our living in a very unsettled time. We have recently heard on the news that surges of this illness are recurring now. Within the last few days, the Provincial government has increased restrictions on social gatherings in some areas.

The future is uncertain and the safety of our members in RWTO/OERO is paramount!

At the Board of Directors Meeting this past week, a **Motion** was **Carried** to cancel the 2021 Convention in Sault Ste. Marie. In its place, the Board of Directors will be creating a **Virtual 2021 Convention**.

This year, we will have the time to expand the Virtual Convention to include a) an interactive Annual General Meeting whereby Resolutions can be discussed on Zoom and b) other elements outside of the AGM that will resemble our traditional Convention.

I would like to thank Convention Convenor Joyce Ratz and the Convention Committee for all of the planning and work that was completed in preparation for the 2021 Convention in Sault Ste. Marie. It is much appreciated!

Nancy Papiez

RWTO Provincial President

## New RWTO/OERO members:

Do you know a newly retired teacher or retired teacher who is new to our area? Invite her to contact Pat Emmerton (519-396-1120, [randp@bmts.com](mailto:randp@bmts.com))

## What's new?

### Betty Johnson:

What does one do to celebrate a milestone birthday in the time of covid-19? I turned 80 on September 1 and my friend on September 2.

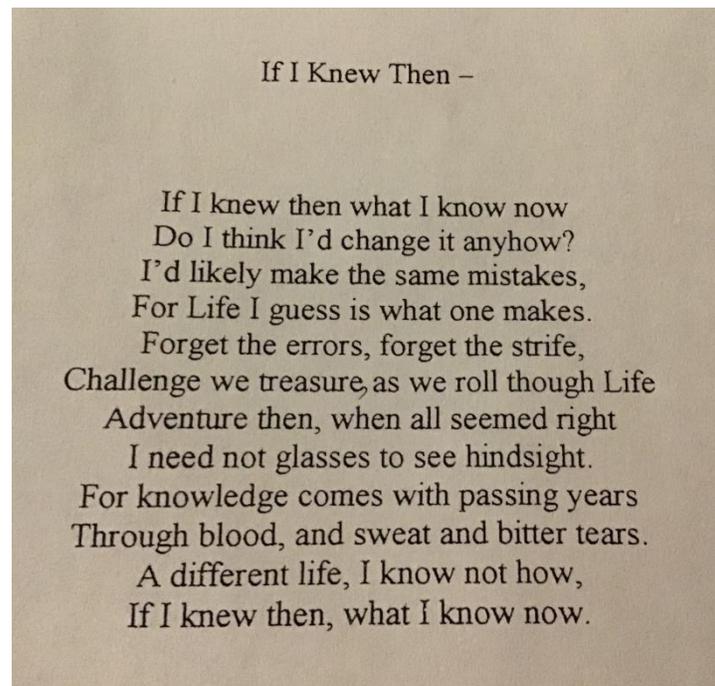
After much thought we decided to be brave and hold a honk, wave and drive by celebration. On a beautiful sunny afternoon we were delighted to greet our friends as they cautiously drove by. We had requested that donations for the food bank would be appreciated. I am happy to say we collected \$200 and many non-perishable items. As a thank you each guest received a special cookie treat. It was a fun time.



I know there are other members turning 80 this year so I would like to extend happy birthday greetings to you. It is a blessing to reach this decade.

### Eva Wilken:

Cheryl Wilken sends this update on Eva: Eva is now in Brucelea Haven in Walkerton and is hoping to move to Trillium Court in Kincardine. She has been diagnosed with Dementia and is also in a wheelchair. Covid has been very difficult on her. Cheryl also graciously shared one of Eva's poems:



We know there are some terrific teaching stories out there and perhaps some of you just need a little nudge... Well, we "nudged" Audrey MacDonald for this one... 😊

### Storm-stayed – An Experience from My Teaching Days

When January 26 rolls around each year I recall where I was on that date in 1971. I was at Kinloss Central Public School when I received a call from our Bus Operator. He informed me that he was sending the five buses out from Lucknow Central School with the senior students to pick up our primary and junior students. He warned there was a severe

**The devil whispered to all the 2020 teachers, "Your not strong enough to withstand this storm." And the teachers simply whispered back, "You're"**

winter storm coming and thought we should get the children home.

That was at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 26. Fortunately those buses never left the school in Lucknow because the weather immediately turned serious. That meant 5 staff members and 140 students were going to have to stay at our rural school until the weather conditions improved. There we were from Tuesday morning until late Thursday afternoon.....3 days and 2 nights at school.

The hydro went off Tuesday afternoon. We did not have heat! We were so thankful that our telephone worked and we had a transistor radio.

The gym mats were put on the floor in the gym at nights and we all "slept" there.

The county snow plough from the Bruce County shed brought us food from the Holyrood General Store and the gas stove from the Scout Hall.

I think the men cleared some of the shelves at the store for us. We had chocolate bars and cookies at 2 o'clock in the morning if we wanted to! Soup, hot dogs, peanut butter and jam sandwiches were on the menu.

Very few tears were ever shed by our young children; the older ones were so good at entertaining them. The children seemed to like the experience... I could not say the same for the staff.

Staff members at that time usually wore suits, ties, dresses or skirts to school. That was the way we had come to work Tuesday morning and we went home that way Thursday. I never wore the dress again that I had worn for three days and two nights!

We were so thankful that our children were safe and well throughout this experience...

Other than the number of years I taught, I believe this is the most chilling and lengthy experience I had as a teacher.

Audrey MacDonald

### South Bruce RWTO Next Meeting:

Mark your calendar (remember those?) – Thursday, November 19, time TBA. Cheryl Cottrill will talk to us via Zoom about the expansion at the Huron Shores Hospice and her work as an End of Life Doula.

We will tailor the meeting depending on whether or not we obtain a Zoom license. In the event we have that capability, we will schedule a practice session at an earlier date.

### Before you go... some homework:

- 1) Please indicate your vote on the proposal to purchase a Zoom subscription for \$200.
- 2) Think of ways we might take advantage of Zoom to stay connected.
- 3) We'd love to share more news and teaching stories. Please send them to

[roberts@hurontel.on.ca](mailto:roberts@hurontel.on.ca)



1975 KINLOSS CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL 1976  
Mrs. A. MacDonald - Principal

