



November 2020

R.W.T.O. O.E.R.O. NEWSLETTER

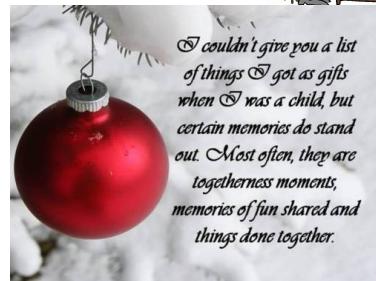
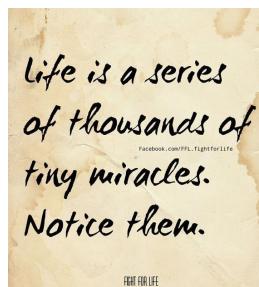


►►► OAKVILLE BRANCH

What a lovely mild autumn we had this year. I was still picking raspberries in November and, to my surprise, my strawberries were blooming in November. Since we are having a very unusual year this year, I have decided to make our final newsletter a different format from our usual newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading the thanksgivings and Christmas memories and getting to know each other. I know I have enjoyed reading them. Sometimes with a chuckle and others brought a tender tear to my eye.

Please stay safe and connected during our COVID time.

Forward this newsletter on to all of your retired teacher friends who are not members
and invite them to join us. *Sharon J.*



Inside this Edition

President's Report, Kerr donation. Tuesday @10 update, Thanksgiving, Christmas Memories, Cora Bailey Awards, Photos .

PLEASE EMAIL OR PHONE ME THE NAMES OF THE SCHOOL(S) AT WHICH YOU TAUGHT. Thank you *Sharon J.*

For Information about the RWTO /OERO check out the following web link at Halton Community Database
<http://search.hipinfo.info/record/OAK3395?Number=0>

Email For Oakville RWTO rwttooakville@gmail.com

+++++

Check us out at <http://www.rwto.org/> See all our lovely photo memories.

Connect with us on Facebook RWTO Oakville Branch

To enlarge photos or printing in this newsletter press ctrl and the + key together.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to everyone! Wasn't it wonderful weather at the beginning of November?

The warmest day was on the 10th, when our PENTA 2020 was supposed to take place. It would have been a great day for getting together; fingers crossed that we can have it in 2021.

Thanks to the Executive for helping me to reach out to those of you who live alone without email. We want to make sure that all of you stay in touch; please let me know if you or anyone you know needs to hear from us by phone. Interest groups are meeting via Zoom calls; we would love to have you join us!

There is usually an opportunity to donate to Kerr Street Mission at our Christmas Luncheon, but this year we invite you to go to their website: kerrstreet.com/christmaswonders-donation, or phone at 905-845-7485 if you would like to make a personal donation.

The Branch will be donating \$200 to Kerr Street Mission for Christmas.

I am pleased to announce that the Cora Bailey Award for this year has been given to Bev T. and Leslie W. I'm sure you will all agree that they are very deserving recipients.

I wish you all a safe, healthy, and happy Christmas season; I hope that we can see each other soon!

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."

Mother Theresa

TUESDAY@10

In this difficult time, happily we've managed to keep this group going.

The exceptionally warm weather has allowed us to keep our spirits up by enjoying each other's company with social distancing measures taken, outside at Coronation Park in Oakville.

We've also started to hold meetings using Zoom technology.

Our first meeting on Nov. 3 was a success with 9 participants.

We re-connected with friends, and planned future Zoom events. On Dec. 1 we will have celebrated the holiday season's arrival with a Christmas Carol sing-along. Other plans for the winter include a Fit For Life Zoom class on Jan 5. If you are interested in joining an event, but need help with Zoom, contact Cathy D.



PHONE CONNECTION

If you know anyone who is in hospital, in bereavement, or if you have time sensitive information please contact Diane S.

GOODWILL

Please notify Nancy W. of members who are ill or grieving.


RWTO OERO


I am thankful for having my husband by my side during this pandemic when so many others are facing it alone.
June M.

I am thankful for my sweet, caring and cooperative husband of 43 years, Wayne. I am thankful for wonderful, healthy and happy children and grandchildren. I am thankful for good books. I am thankful for blue skies and the freedom to pursue our wildest dreams! Deb H.

I am thankful for children because they allow us to see the world through children's eyes. We can see the beauty in the bugs and stones that they think are special. All children are wonderful but grandchildren are the very best. It is so special to show them new things and see them soak it all up.

I love the things that they say. Our granddaughter, 7 years old, made it across all the monkey bars at the playground and said "You just have to believe you can do it!" Chris L.

I am thankful for... my relationship with Christ the unconditional love from my husband the joy my children and grandchildren bring into my life the simple things in lifeseeing a sunrise or sunset, the first snowfall of the year, the colours in autumn, smelling lilacs in the spring, hearing waves on the shore or birds singing in the morning, walking in the sand, feeling a baby's soft skin, the dog's fur after a bath, the taste of vine ripened tomatoes or fresh picked ripe peaches. There are so many simple everyday things for which to be thankful. Sharon J.

Being thankful for the generosity of neighbours & friends who dropped off tasty treats & who called to ask if we needed any groceries or errands done when they went shopping! Rozanne P.

Let's Be Thankful!

I'm the one who broke her leg six long weeks ago. Tomorrow I go to the fracture clinic to see if I can start to put weight on it! I'm so thankful that my daughter has been able to work from home at my condo! My son has helped with groceries and appts!!! Betty D.

I am thankful for..... my family, my home, health, good food, good friends, RWTO activities and the people who organize them.
Bev T.

I am thankful for a healthy, family, and thankful that I live in a wonderful country like Canada. Cathy D.

I am thankful for my mother's long life and that I am now able to give a home to her cat. Linda Mac.



I am thankful for our neighbours who have helped us because of the pandemic. It has been a revelation to see this happen and we are gladdened by it. Nancy W.

I am thankful that on June 15, my husband Don, survived a serious cancer operation close to his spine. In the following months, he survived life threatening side effects of chemo treatments. That kept him in hospital for 15 months.

In August 2020, Don was very fortunate that the OTMH team of doctors discovered he had a cancerous colon tumor and were successful in removing it.

We are extremely grateful that the Oakville Branch of RWTO sustained us with prayers and practical help throughout his long hospital stay. The support was outstanding in so many ways.

I am thankful that my breast cancer operation was successful, and that the cancer did not spread. Thanks to Diane R., who amazingly organized generous gals to drive me to radiation treatments, out of town, during the summer of 2019. Lorette K.

I'm thankful for my relatively good health at my age! Irene M.

One of my most thankful moments during COVID was when my 3 year old great grandson, Hudson, sent a very special Happy Birthday video. He had been practising for weeks to learn the I Love You sign 🖐. It is a difficult hand-shape for a three year old but he had mastered it perfectly by the time my birthday arrived. He sang Happy Birthday and all the while he was waving 🖐 I was thrilled and so thankful for my granddaughter to take the time to teach him something so meaningful and special to me. It warmed my heart then and now. Cathy C.

I am thankful for...my husband, sons, daughter & granddaughter, Bijou & walks & pet therapy, vacation memories, cottage experiences, friends, family traditions, yoga, creative endeavours, nature walks, watching nature, baking/cookie creations, peacefulness, scuba diving, road trips, live sports events, good food & wine, cocktails, garage sales, ... retirement! Laurie M.



Christmas Memories

One of my fondest memories of Christmas is.....

following our family traditions like sitting around the tree in our pj's and opening gifts. Then we'd get dressed and go to visit the grandparents and extended family. Bev T.



One of my fondest Christmas memories was the year my twins were born on Dec. 23rd. I was expecting one baby in January and then on Dec. 23rd surprise !!! What a great blessing that was. I even won the pool to guess the sex of the baby since I had one of each.

One other fond Christmas memory was walking out of church Christmas Eve singing Silent Night by candle-light and the first snow of winter falling on the ground and waking up Christmas morning and everything was white and winter crisp. Sharon J.

Christmas memories ... creating gift bags filled with personalized items & hand painted ornaments . We so enjoyed watching the joy & surprise on the faces of friends & family as they each opened them after Christmas dinner!

Rozanne P.

One of my fondest memories of Christmas was when my mother presented our family with a new baby sister, Yvonne. She is now in her eighties and living in Sarnia.

Stay safe,
Marjorie P.

When I was 5 years old I wanted this special doll that could open and close her eyes. When I unwrapped the gift -I saw a shoe box. How disappointed I was for a few moments!! My sisters shouted -Open it! To my delight it contained the most beautiful doll I'd ever seen. I'll always remember that Christmas morning.

Irene M.

One of my fondest memories of Christmas is ... making personalized ornaments each year for my children & nephews/nieces, then cherishing each as we decorate the tree every year, THEN enjoying my sons/nieces/nephews decorating their trees with these ornaments!! It has been rewarding! Laurie M.

Wishing family and friends a small and memorable Christmas 2020.
Kathy K.

One of my fondest memories of Christmas was the year that I got a stuffed dog that I had asked Santa for. Christmas morning I got a stuffed cat. I was really mad at Santa but later that day I got the requested stuffed dog from my grandparents. Chris L.

Every Christmas my mother would take me downtown to see Santa! I would whisper to him what I wanted and then a picture of us would be taken. I looked so cute with my tonette!!! I still have two little "Punkinhead" books that were given out or bought. We would look at the Christmas window displays at Eaton's and Simpson's. I could have whatever I wanted at the luncheon counter at Eaton's Annex. It was always the same order for me, a hotdog and a honeydew drink!!!

My dad always drove us past the displays at night, while I excitedly pointed out my favourites, which he had already heard about dozens of times before. I cherish this lovely memory every Christmas when I unpack my Christmas boxes and see my "Punkinhead" books!!! MERRY CHRISTMAS To All!!! Betty D.

On of my fondest memories of Christmas happened the year I was six. It took place in Ottawa.

Christmas was a busy, exciting time. The year I was 6 was no exception. But, sadly, soon it was over and 'taking down time' arrived. As we carefully removed the tree decorations (including every strand of silver tinsel) it was time to put it out for the garbage collection. My dad, being very frugal, decided after cutting it in smaller pieces, to stuff them in the fireplace and thus, warm the room up. I was sitting on the chesterfield, decked out for bed--watching. The first match made a huge blaze in the small fireplace.....and spilled out into the living room. I took one look at this inferno, and headed for safer ground. Outside. In 8-10 feet of snow. Temperature below zero. Minus slippers.

No amount of coaxing changed my mind. Finally dad came out carried me in. The living room was intact. The fire was out. He carried me upstairs without saying a word until I was tucked in bed. "Good night. Sleep tight". Never had my bed felt so cozy!! Frances Q.



One of my fondest memories of Christmas is Christmas Eve a few years ago when my son proposed to his girlfriend after church. Linda Mac.

One of my fondest memories of Christmas is when I was a kid and my brother and I would run downstairs in the morning to see what Santa had left under the tree. Everyone was so happy. Cathy D.



Cora Bailey Award Recipients for 2020

The Cora Bailey Award is presented to a branch member who has contributed outstanding service to her branch (long time service - different positions of responsibility; noticeable contribution of service to the branch; dedicated and faithful supporter of the organization; willing to share time and talent for the good of all members and the organization in a positive and encouraging manner).

We have two ladies who are receiving this award this year.....Bev T. and Leslie W.

Great job ladies and we thank you for all you contribute to the group

Bev T.

Bev T. retired in 2009 and joined the RWTO Oakville Branch in November 2009. Since then she has been a very active member, serving on the Program Committee from 2010 until 2014. She has been the Branch Treasurer from 2016 until the present.

Bev has been on the Cora Bailey Committee for 2016-17, and on the Fundraising/Baskets Committee for PENTA 2020. She has sold bags and pouches she has sewn, worked on the table favours for the event, and helped with the Garage/Yard Sale fundraiser.

Bev was heavily involved in two projects that resulted in the Oakville Branch receiving the Feather in Your Hat Award; Sleeping Mats for Haiti and Pillow Cases to Sundresses. She has also knitted many pneumonia vests for Third World countries. Bev is a loyal participant in many interest groups, Book Club, Coffee Craft Club/Thursday/Tuesday @ 10, Out to Lunch Bunch, and the G.A.R.D.E.N. Club.

Bev attends nearly every luncheon, at which she often performs in skits, etc. She has acted in the Murder Mysteries and goes to most branch outings.

She is one of Oakville Branch's volunteers for Food4Kids.

The Oakville Branch is very fortunate to have such a loyal and diligent member.

Bev Thomas is very deserving of the Cora Bailey Award!



To enlarge photos or printing in this newsletter press ctrl and the + key together.



Leslie W.

Click, click SMILE and we all know Leslie is with us. Leslie retired from teaching in 2005 and joined the RWTO/OERO. Soon after, she became a member of the executive and works diligently on the Membership Committee, keeping track of our members and encouraging new members to join.

She sends out an updated membership list each year and updates it for any changes.

She is responsible for our membership name tags.

Leslie has been a dependable, energetic member of the executive and group. She quietly took over another job of Historian and works meticulously to keep our archives up to date. Leslie stores all this information at her house. Without hesitation and being willing to learn a new task, she proceeded to take all our photos digitally.

Leslie shows up for most of the events and is seen at all our luncheons taking photos in the background, calling up groups, recording our memories of all the fun times we enjoy together.

Memories are timeless treasures of the heart. Happy times come and go, but the memories stay forever.

A photograph keeps a moment from running away. A photograph is the pause button of life.

It is hard to forget such strong memories with the best people. Thank you, Leslie.

Leslie also composes and presents our “Celebrations of Life” and birthday greetings.

She sends out our birthday cards and the email greetings of special occasions.

Leslie cowrites Oakville’s articles for “Connections,” our RWTO/OERO provincial newsletter.

Recently with an eye for detail, Leslie has started helping with the proofreading of our branch newsletter. Leslie has served on Cora Bailey Committees for the selection of our Branch recipients since 2013. She also has served earnestly on two Penta Committees for 2015 and 2020. She took on the role of secretary for a couple of years. Leslie participated in the G.A.R.D.E.N. Club, the Thursday/Tuesday @10 group and has attended some Out To Lunch Bunch get togethers.

She enthusiastically joins in the packing of grocery bags for the Food4Kids program

During our COVID 19 Pandemic, Leslie has regularly reached out to members for photos and forwarded them on to members to keep us connected. She has done a fantastic job of collecting photos from the garden club members to show off our gardens as they change with the seasons.

Behind the scenes, Leslie has humbly visited, encouraged and helped various members of our group. The Oakville Branch has been extremely fortunate to be the recipient of Leslie’s willingness to share her time, talent, and enthusiasm. Leslie is a very deserving recipient of the Cora Bailey Award.





PHOTO MEMORIES

Due to the pandemic, groups have not been able to meet. However, the GARDEN Club has sent in photos so we can virtually enjoy the seasonal growth of everyone's gardens.



"Autumn...the year's last loveliest smile."



On September 17th, The Social Distance Club met at Marilyn Mc's House.



**Can you spot the living garden ornament in Leslie W.'s ravine garden?
The answer is at the end of the newsletter.**



Over 300 grocery bags were packed by some members on October 14th for Food4Kids, to be given to Halton students in need.



To enlarge photos or printing in this newsletter press ctrl and the + key together.



On September 29th, the Tuesday@10 Group met at Coronation Park for a socially distanced get together. We played a game of throw the apple in the basket.



Due to the sunny, warm weather, Deb H. hosted an impromptu Social Distance Club get together on November 10th at Coronation Park.



The Tuesday@10 group had a Chair Yoga Zoom session led by Laurie M. on November 17/20. Lots of fun and laughter!



A couple of members, with their husbands, drove to visit the Painted Ladies Cottages at the historic Grimsby Beach in September.



Miniature Painted Ladies on the Morrison Creek Trail in Oakville.



Due to the postponement of the December Luncheon, we'd like to recognize the following birthdays since our September newsletter:

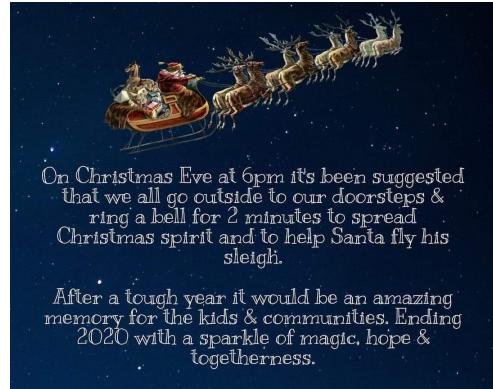
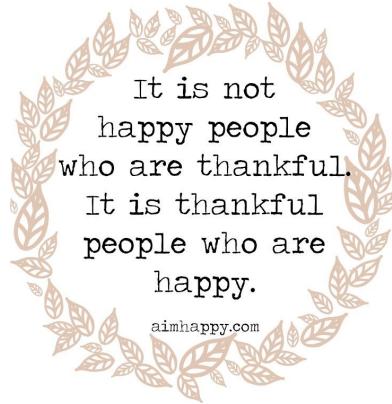
November: Marjorie P., Barb L.,

December : Edith De., Irene M., Pat De., Marilyn Mc.

January: Kathleen K., Sharon J., Leslie W., Gail C.



To enlarge photos or printing in this newsletter press ctrl and the + key together.



PLEASE EMAIL OR PHONE ME THE NAMES OF THE SCHOOL(S) AT WHICH YOU TAUGHT. Thank you *Sharon J.*

The information collected by the Membership Committee will be used by RWTO Oakville Branch to create a database of members.

This database will be used to analyze membership trends, and to identify member interests.

It will not be sold, loaned, or provided in any way to any other individual or organization. Some information will be provided to RWTO/OERO Provincial. RWTO Oakville Branch publishes a newsletter, e-notices, and maintains an Internet Webpage. Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP) permission is needed to print/post images or information on our members.

If you have any objections to your name, picture, or member information being included on our website, e-notices, or newsletter, please contact Leslie W.

**Feb. Newsletter items due on Monday Feb. 1st. 2021
Photos to Leslie by Monday Jan. 18th 2021
Please forward to Sharon J.**

**Please submit newsletter items in a Times New Roman Font Size 12
Thank you**

Note:

Newsletter Item from Executive:

Sharon J. will be compiling/editing the Newsletter and will email copies. She will also, for this newsletter copy and distribute the newsletter by Canada Post.

Answer: ?? It's Miss Jenny.



To enlarge photos or printing in this newsletter press ctrl and the + key together.