

## **RWTO, Area 13, Niagara Falls Branch Newsletter December 2020**

As we plan for the upcoming holiday season, we know that we must adapt traditions that we may have followed for many years. It is natural to feel a sense of loss and to miss engaging in activities that brought us pleasure in the past. For example, we will certainly miss our traditional December luncheon at Betty's Restaurant. The meals are delicious, and the service, exemplary. Still, rather than dwelling on the loss that change inevitably brings, we can take pleasure in reliving happy memories and then welcome change as an opportunity to create new ways of celebrating. I hope that you will all find ways to stay connected with family and friends, perhaps through modifying some traditions, perhaps by embracing new ways, including taking advantage of technology.

Since the global pandemic began, the Executive of the Niagara Falls Branch has stayed in touch with you through e-mails and regular mail. I hope you thought of your RWTO friends as you read our October newsletter and drank a cup of tea. We on the Executive "shared" a cup of tea with all of you. As of September, the branch also has a group page on Facebook: Retired Women Teachers Niagara Falls Branch. If you are on Facebook, please consider joining. Among the postings, you'll see tributes to members Paisley January-Pool, Carol Mae Maidens, Sheila Hosking, Stephanie Nielsen, and Helen Macdonald.

I am happy to take this opportunity to congratulate our Cora Bailey Award recipient for 2019-2020. We are grateful to Linda Dueck, our Treasurer and Membership Convenor, for her significant contributions to our branch. You can read about those contributions on our web page under Awards. Provincial Office mailed me the award in February, and originally the Executive planned to present it to Linda at one of our meetings/luncheons in the spring. Of course, COVID-19 changed those plans. I found it challenging to keep the secret of the award from Linda, but I still hoped to present the award at a luncheon. It was even harder when Linda, conscientious as ever, noted that we should choose a Cora Bailey winner for 2020-2021, given that we had missed awarding it to anyone in 2019-2020! Finally, the Executive was able to surprise Linda with the award at a Zoom meeting in December. I'm glad the secret is out.

In closing, I want to assure all of you that all members of the Executive miss you. We wish you all the best for a happy holiday season and promise to stay in touch.

Diane Ewen

President, Niagara Falls Branch