

RWTO

Owen Sound and Area

Have you been missing our wonderful programs?

PLEASE HELP!

It has been a whole year since we've seen your smiling faces at our RWTO meetings. The Covid Lock-down has kept us confined to our homes and has given us lots of time to get into old and new activities. This is where you can help. We would like to put together a slide show for our meeting that highlights all the things you have been doing to help pass the time while in lock-down. Take a picture with your phone or iPad, of an activity you enjoy. Or better yet, get someone to take your picture doing the activity. It might be showing you trying new recipes, quilting, knitting, walking the

dog, reading a new book, cleaning out your closet, etc. Send your pictures to Rebecca Hlynialuk at reb14@rogers.com before March 5th. Also include a very brief statement of what you are doing. Rebecca will put all the pictures together into a slide show for us to enjoy. Thank you for helping us and yes, you are welcome to send in more than one picture! We want lots of pictures.

Louise Lipsett
Program Committee



Slide Show March 24

RWTO ZOOM GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021 1:00 PM

GUEST SPEAKER:

Motivational Speaker, **JUDY SUKE**, will entertain you with her humour and wit.



RWTO Update/Business: Sue Loyst



SLIDE SHOW:

“What I’ve Been Doing to Put in the Time During the Covid Lock-down”

(You will receive an email before the meeting with the number and password.)

We continue to work on your behalf!

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2021. Let us hope that as 2021 unfolds we will have a return to our much missed face to face meetings. It is true that sometimes we have to lose a 'treasure' in order to realize how important that treasure is to us.

Your executive continues to meet via Zoom and we are adapting to this new technology. The Social Committee has planned a stimulating get together via Zoom on what would normally be our March 24th General Meeting. More information is available in this newsletter. The business of our branch continues to be carried out. We

continue to support the charities identified as important by our members. We will be putting forth recommendations for the Cora Bailey Award and the presentations for both 2020 and 2021 will be made when we are able to resume our in-person meetings.

It is very gratifying that we have very full membership numbers this year. We have 63 members including life and visiting members. This number demonstrates all our commitment to our RWTO roots.

In June the Retired Women Teachers Provincial Organization will hold its

annual conference. This year the conference will be held virtually. There is a special feature this year – a choir made up of members from all over Ontario will be singing together, thanks to technology. We are so proud that our own Laurie James will be representing our branch with her participation in the choir.

We wish all our members and their families a very safe and healthy 2021!

Yours in Caring and Sharing,
Sue Loyst



E - POEM, BY AND FOR A SENIOR!

The Covid is raging my life is a mess
I live in pyjamas and don't have to dress
I'm in isolation just stay at home
Would give my last dollar for freedom to roam
I'm seriously at risk or that's what they say
Telling me to stay in and not go out each day
In my head I'm so young though my license reveals
I'm a 70-plus senior (but that's not how it feels!)
When I run out of food and deliveries are late
I have to buy groceries between 7 and 8
So early next morning, out I go to restock
And discover a line up that winds 'round the block
Social distancing seniors all 6 feet apart
Make me wonder just when I became an old fart
My meals are repetitive (a lot like my gas!)
And I'm tired of discussing why Trump is an ass
My latest new outfit is gloves and a mask
And I'm starting to wonder if I'm up to this task
I wash all my groceries all fruit, meat and veg...
Will this added caution tip me over the edge?

My beautiful brown hair has wide roots of grey
No hairdressers around to wash them away
I've been talking to myself, now I'm answering back
Is it Monday or Friday? I've really lost track
I've stopped doing housework it's weeks since I've dusted
And I know with out visitors I'll never get busted
I FaceTime my friends or we group chat on Zoom
And try to pretend we're in the same room
Thank God liquor stores are considered 'essential'
Without daily drinks this would drive us all mental
Every once in a while it is good to reflect
Of what this all means, what we can expect
It's a time to be grateful for all that we've got
Like a warm house and food that others have not
The bottom line here, by the time this all ends
Is that we'll get through it, with family and friends
So even if your partner is a bit of a grump
You can really be grateful you're not married to Trump



THE LOVE HOUSE

By Louise Dobson (January 4, 2021)

The mother gazed upon her daughter in her wedding dress
 Before the ceremony started with the wedding guests
 For one last moment before giving up her parent role
 Of caregiver and guiding mentor to her child now grown
 "I want to tell you one last thing my girl", the mother said
 "There's more to marriage than the pleasures of the marriage bed
 A marriage is like building up a house that's made with love
 It starts with its foundation being blessed by God above
 From there each day the couple adds a brick to build their house
 And each day's brick is formed by what is given by each spouse
 Be sure the composition of each brick is strong and true
 The quality is based upon the things you say and do
 With every passing day you'll build a very special place
 So mix in generosity, encouragement and grace
 Keep out all bitter anger, unkind thought or selfish goal
 And only add ingredients that nourish and won't spoil
 Cement each day together with a kiss of special glue
 And sprinkle sparkles of forgiveness on that mortar, too
 Then one day you'll be thankful for the love house that you've made
 That's filled with joy and happiness from this day 'til the grave"
 The daughter had a tear well up when hearing what was said
 She said "My groom awaits me to join him with what's ahead
 But do not fear for me, dear Mom, I know what it will take
 'Cause all my life I've watched my parents love bricks as they baked
 I learned from master builders how to build a loving home
 That stands now as a testament of what your love has grown"
 The mother and the daughter cried and hugged each other tight
 Trusting that this building code would have her house built right
 With blueprints from her parent's home and license signed that day
 She started building her own home where love bricks soon were laid



Warm greetings to all.

Our current membership is 63, including 3 Life and 3 Visiting Members. We welcome two new members and gladly, and patiently look forward to meeting Mary Slocombe and Sharon Johnston at a future General meeting.

"Be Calm. Be Kind. Be Safe" Penny

Elections 2021

The business of RWTO continues to go on even in these challenging times. Your executive is committed to keeping our organization vibrant and healthy. We are in great need of finding enthusiastic and willing members to fill two positions. We have vacancies for 1st and 2nd vice president. All of the positions on the executive are critical; however, we have had difficulty filling these two positions in particular. Speaking personally, I had wonderful support and encouragement as 1st vice president and continue to experience that support as president. It is truly an honour to serve and work with our organization. Please consider putting your name forward — **we need you!**
Sue Loyst - President



From our Area Director

As our year continues with the pandemic, I want to remind you that Convention 2021 is going to be a virtual presentation. Also, the May and September Board Meetings, which are usually held at a hotel in Guelph, are also going to be presented virtually. Thank goodness for Zoom! Both events will be presented in that format.

You will read elsewhere in this newsletter of a planned Zoom meeting for our membership. If you haven't used Zoom, be sure to let someone know that you need a tutorial or practice session!! Zoom is easy, once it is downloaded to your computer or tablet.

Let's hope that we will be able to meet in person, perhaps in September, but more likely in late November 2021.

This year, 2020-21 is an election year for our Owen Sound Branch. Now is when we start to recruit new members. We currently have no one in the 1st or 2nd Vice positions.

Some are elected positions: President, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, Secretary and Treasurer. Jan Chamberlain is going to continue to let her name stand for Secretary. Marg Abra has served as Treasurer since 2007 and has decided to give up her role this year. We are really excited to share that Mary Hall has agreed to let her name stand for Treasurer.

Our leadership, through the President, 1st and 2nd Vice all have NO candidates or volunteers for 2021-22 at this point in time. Sue Loyst may be unable to continue in her role as President and so we have a very bleak leadership future.

WE NEED YOU TO STEP UP AND PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IF OUR GROUP IS TO CONTINUE

Most of our volunteer committee members are prepared to continue in their roles and would welcome additional help but it is the leadership positions that we desperately need. Some of the committee members have already served as President, Past President and Honorary President.

I can assure you that your Executive will welcome you with open arms and give all the assistance you might need. The President's responsibility is basically to run the meetings, both Executive Meetings and the Business Meeting at our luncheons. Our committee members plan and produce our luncheon meetings and social activities. All executive decisions are made as a group and usually after discussion we reach an agreement or compromise. Our meetings were previously held at the Grey Roots Museum and many of us enjoyed lunch out together afterwards. It's a nice social outing. Currently we are meeting

via Zoom and it is really nice to see each other and to touch base during this lockdown! The 1st Vice responsibility is mainly to learn the President's role, to assist or step in if the President needs help; 2nd Vice is also learning the role. We would, of course, also entertain the possibility of Co-Presidents if you have a friend who you work well with.

If no one steps forward, I am not sure how the group can continue. Apart from being a wonderful social group, we have great learning opportunities from our speakers and make contributions to many local charities in our community. It would be such a disaster to have to fold. As your Area Director, I have let the Provincial Board know of our immediate need for new leadership and I am assured assistance is available for anyone who steps forward.

Let's look deep in at ourselves... can you contribute to the leadership of the Owen Sound Branch of RWTO? Please talk to Sue Loyst or any executive member when you are ready to step forward.

Thanks

Connie Morris Area 1 Director



We hope this finds everyone well. I am sure we are all looking forward to seeing the last of Covid-19. Even with Covid, we must celebrate our birthdays. We sent birthday wishes to Nora Jones and Donna Steinacher. Hopefully you were able to celebrate your special day.

In caring and sharing,

Lorraine Dunning 519-376-5017

Barb Schwartz.

519-371-2474

Cathy McCoy sent these photos of this beautiful Valentine. It is from the 1920s. On the back it says Printed in Germany. It is signed, To Mrs. Poast From Francis

(Editor's Note - I can imagine it being sent to a favourite teacher from her student.)



Almond Rocha

This is quick to make and usually a "hit" cookie with family and friends.

1/4 lb sliced almonds (about 1 cup)
 1 cup butter
 1 T corn syrup
 3/4 cup brown sugar
 Line a 9x13" cookie sheet with graham wafers
 Sprinkle the almonds over the wafers.
 Boil (hard) the butter, corn syrup and Brown sugar for 3 minutes.
 Drizzle the syrup over the almonds.
 Bake at 350 degrees for 8 minutes

From the kitchen
 of Penny McKay



Spinach Brownies

For those who want something chocolate for Valentine's Day but still want it to be healthy.

Preheat oven to 350°F
 Grease 8 X 8 inch pan

In Blender:
 3 cups loosely packed spinach leaves
 3/4 cup milk
 3/4 cup white sugar
 2 Tbsp. coconut oil

In Another Bowl:
 1 1/3 cup flour (I do 1 cup white & 1/3 cup whole wheat)
 1/2 cup (50 g) cocoa powder
 1 tsp baking powder
 1/4 tsp salt

Add blended liquid to dry ingredients and stir.
 Add 1/2 cup chocolate chips and stir.
 Bake for 35 minutes.

From the kitchen of Louise Dobson





We care about you!

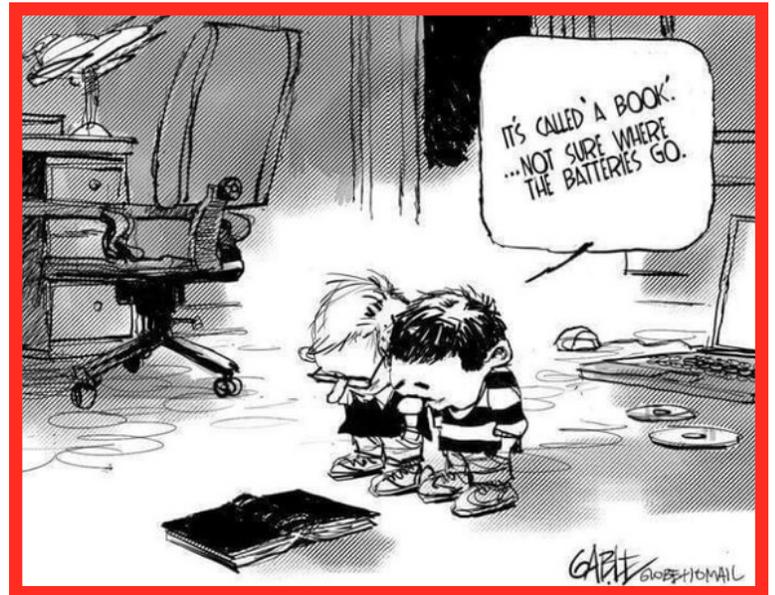
Your executive continues to meet via zoom. This is a photo of the zoom meeting in November where members were invited to join us for a social time. We hope more of you will join our meeting on March 24.



Valentine's Day
 Word Search

K S Q S J I V R T D S R Q G K
 R Q Q T D M A B X U F N Q J J
 K G D A S N L Y E U S F S N S
 S V E E M B E R I G C E V O L
 Q W Q R Q Q N I A W R A O C G
 T Z E T G R T Z R E Y I N Q T
 D Q I E E O I K Z F D R E D J
 H O B N T P N W N O E F T G Y
 X U T H C H E H V X E A L A T
 N A G B P R E E Y B M T C B H
 F O M G T U S A R L R K U T Q
 I M T M Q S K U R A U N P E H
 C A R D S K A A E T W I I G U
 M C D I R R M H H X E P D P N
 W Q K L Y S R E W O L F J O J

- CANDY
- CARDS
- CUPID
- DEAR
- DOVES
- FEBRUARY
- FLOWERS
- FRIENDS
- HEART
- TREATS
- VALENTINE
- SWEETHEART
- RED
- LOVE
- KISS
- PINK
- HUG



♥♥♥ Wishing all of you a very Happy Valentine's Day! ♥♥♥