



Super Teacher

March 2021 – Issue Thirty

President's Message

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since Covid-19 struck our area. We have moved through all four seasons, often under the shadow of uncertainty, frustration, sadness and loss. This has been a particularly difficult time for those whose well-being has been compromised by loneliness; it is, therefore, a testament to the compassion and strength of our organization that keeping in touch with each other has been a top priority.

Personalized 'Thinking of You' cards sent to each member, weekly chats with those who rely on phone communication, Christmas greetings by email and post, birthday cards, Zoom get-togethers, as well as driveway and porch visits, are just some of the ways in which our members have exemplified our motto of 'Caring and Sharing'.

In addition to supporting each other, we have continued to look outward. Our members have generously offered their time and donations to the charitable organizations that we have supported in the past and which, this past year, have demonstrated an unprecedented need.

While some branches have found it challenging to keep their numbers stable, we have had only one member who chose not to renew her membership this year.

In an effort to build on this success, please consider inviting a retired friend or colleague to join our branch. Both individually and as an organization, we have much to offer!

In Caring and Sharing, Deb Glynn, President

Volunteer Service Awards

In September of 2019, six members of the Peterborough branch of RWTO/OERO received Ontario Volunteer Service Awards at a ceremony conducted at the Holiday Inn, where they were recognized for their many years of dedicated service to our organization. In carrying on this new tradition, six more names were submitted for 2020. Congratulations to the following ladies:



Marilyn Sutherst – 10 years



Heather Touchburn – 15 years



Ann Siddell – 15 years



Sharon Maskell – 20 years



Marilyn Darling – 20 years



Sylvia Simpson – 20 years

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the in-person ceremony and reception planned for last fall was not possible. In order to still honour the 2020 nominees, the presentations will be done virtually through Zoom. The ceremony will consist of greetings from the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries and a speaker on Volunteerism. While they are delivering their messages, the names of the awards recipients will be scrolled on the screen. Anyone interested in viewing the ceremony is invited to join! Please find below the Zoom link and instructions.

The Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries is pleased to invite you to the following virtual ceremony(ies) on Zoom to celebrate your 2020 Ontario Volunteer Service Award recipients:

Date: March 11, 2021

Time: 7:30 PM

How: Zoom: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_w7MJgrPjSjuhCtB-KZ0uwQ (hit Ctrl+link to open)

Zoom is an online service that allows you to connect with others online and by phone.

To attend online, you will be required to register using the link(s) above and respond to question 1.

If you wish to join by phone, registration is NOT required:

1. *Call one of the following numbers at the time of the ceremony:*

+1 438 809 7799 or +1 587 328 1099 or +1 647 374 4685 or +1 647 558 0588 or +1 778 907 2071 or +1 204 272 7920

2. *Enter Webinar ID: 940 2259 0169 followed by #*

3. *Press # again to join the meeting*

If you have any questions, please contact Deb Glynn.

Convention 2021 - An Exciting Opportunity!

Although this year's Convention is being held virtually, it does offer a wonderful opportunity for all members to participate in a wide variety of events and activities previously available only to those attending the Convention in person. Don't miss the March issue of '**Connections**' which details how to participate! -f you have ever thought that you might like to be a delegate, this is an excellent opportunity to learn what goes on over this three-day annual event. And all at no cost!!

Please be sure to mark June 1 - 3 on your calendar; you won't want to miss the tours, the entertainment and the virtual choir, featuring Peterborough's representative, our very own Ruth Anne McNaught!

Deb Glynn

Here's the writeup about the 'Who Loves You' song I learned for convention.

Cheers, Ruth Anne

"Who Loves You" ...🎵..?

Late last year, I responded to our RWTO president, Deb Glynn's request for a volunteer to make a video of a particular song. This video, along with those of thirty-four other singers will be used to make a celebratory compilation video for our RWTO/OERO Convention in June 2021.

My adventure started in early January when I received an email from Judith Bennoch of the 2021 Convention Committee, that included an attachment of the music for 'Who Loves You' from the Jersey Boys Musical and a sound clip recording of a woman singing my Soprano 1 Part. The detailed directions included reminders to wear dark blue and gold, and specific reminders for everything I needed to do to make a successful recording. We were given until February 1st to complete it.

I spent about a week learning 'Who Loves You' which was a new song to me. My part had some unusual timing, a wild leap or two and catchy words like 'bada bada, na na, oo oo and doo doot'. There were enough portions that were similar, but different, that I decided it was not something I could memorize. I chose to do the recording in my bedroom against a blank wall. I moved furniture so that I could stand and take a video of my head and shoulders with my tablet. I set up my computer so that I could see and scroll the music on it. I wore my dark blue jacket and put earbuds in my ears so that I would be the only one to hear the soundtrack coming from my phone.

It took three or four 'takes' before I had a video without any mistakes. Next, I had to rename the video (Ruth Anne McNaught_Peterborough Sop1) and figure out how to send it off to Ethan Snook, the tech person that was going to put mine together with all the rest. I was afraid of accidentally causing the video to disappear and having to do it again. Ethan kindly sent an email with a file ready for the download of my video and as the French would say...Voila. I watched as a little animated person indicated with a big smile that I had successfully downloaded my video to the file. I'm sure all of Peterborough heard my shout of joy that my part was now completed. At this point, I also came to realize that for those couple of weeks, I'd been holding my breath.

Ruth Anne McNaught

Outreach

What a time we are having. I would like to thank the members for their continued generosity to those in need. We find the charities we support are having an especially difficult time during Covid-19 days, so your assistance is even more appreciated.

As seen below, we collected a wonderful contribution of books to donate to the **Salvation Army** Christmas Baskets. They expressed their gratitude for our gifts of the books as well as our monetary donation.

Crossroads sent their appreciation for the donation towards the purchase of school supplies as well as their nutrition program. Included in the newsletter is the information on YMCA Empty Bowls if anyone is interested in participating.

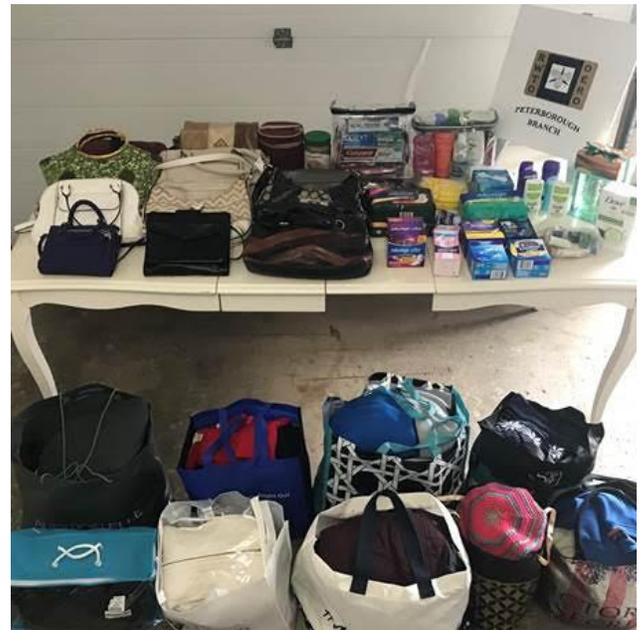
YES, the shelter for youth and families sent an appeal out as the homeless youth during these times are having a very difficult time. They are trying to "set up a drop-in programme so that the kids living in the Emergency Shelter – a bubbled household- can participate in activities to make lockdown a little bearable. Art, cooking, eating good food." The RWTO have given a monetary donation to assist YES.

As shown below, you were very generous in your donations to **Cameron House**, a shelter for homeless women. I am sure they appreciated the toiletries, gently used clothing, stuffed handbags, and other personal care items.

Judy Anne Tumber generously ran a fundraiser making Bits and Bites and selling them. The proceeds were donated from our Branch to the *Treats for Troops* which sends packages with candy and other familiar items to service members to make them feel connected to home. Thanks Judy Anne.

Even during these stay-at-home times, we have managed to make the world a little better place. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Stay well, Karen Howard, Outreach Co-Ordinator



Bookworms

We certainly have proven to be an adaptable group. I think it is unanimous that we would rather meet in person and have everyone present, but zoom is turning out to be the second-best thing. We still keep in touch with our non zoom members, sharing recipes and books.

In January, Ann Siddell hosted the meeting, discussing *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Stroud. In the novel, Olive, a retired schoolteacher, grapples with life's problems, bringing her to a deeper understanding of herself and her life. February's discussion was hosted by Marion Philip. In the book *Becoming* by Michelle Obama, she discusses her struggles growing up, meeting President Obama and eventually becoming the President's wife. March's selection is *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins, hosted by Judy Anne Tumber.

A book that a member has recommended is *Cilka's Journey* by Heather Morris.

Keep reading and be safe. Karen Howard

Insurance News

Here's an outline of the Insurance updates for spring from Manulife.

Members, there's some good news coming this spring from Manulife:

- I. Manulife is issuing Benefits Identification Cards for Hospital and Home Care Participants. Look for them to arrive about the end of March.
- II. The Hospital and Home Care contract will be available on Manulife's Secure Serve Site after April 1, 2021.
- III. Online Claim submissions will be available for members and spouses on the Manulife Secure Serve Site after April 1, 2021. (Paper Claim forms and submissions will continue to be available and will be processed.)
- IV. Members can currently download their tax receipts from the Manulife Secure Serve Site if they wish to do so. Paper copies will continue to be sent out as in the past.

These exciting changes will benefit our RWTO Manulife Insurance Members.

Ruth Anne McNaught, ramcnaught@gmail.com, 705-740-3266

Our Bits 'n Bites Fundraiser

Judy-Anne's letter to Northumberland South Durham Branch

The Executive of the Peterborough Branch approved a fundraiser at Christmas which was Covid-19 friendly. We usually have a Bake Sale at our Luncheon but instead I suggested that I make my usual Bits & Bites and sell them to members through orders taken by e-mail. I then did curb side service to deliver them. (Everyone kindly came out to my car with mask on to pay and collect.) The amazing result was \$200 raised. (And.... I got to see some members in person for a few minutes!)

At yesterday's Executive meeting the unanimous decision was made to send your Branch a cheque for \$200 for your Treats For Troops project since we were not able to support you directly at the Area 7 Luncheon which was cancelled due to Covid-19.

Keep up the good work!
In Caring and Sharing, Judy-Anne

Reply received by Judy-Anne:

Hi ladies,

Good afternoon, Judy-Anne,

You just made my day! Thanks to you, the Peterborough executive and all the generous members who supported your Bits 'n Bites fundraiser. This support will allow me to fill two full boxes with all kinds of goodies for our service members stationed overseas.

I will send you some photos of the items that I purchase, so that your branch will know what their funds went towards supplying.

Thank you once again - this kind gesture truly embodies our motto of "caring and sharing."

Lynne

Lynne is the Communications person for Northumberland South Durham and it is her son who is in the military.

Judy-Anne

Golf

Gabriele Southby shot a hole-in-one on October 23/20



Is this the forecast of things to come?

Let's Do Lunch

The first Tuesday of the month is our Let's Do Lunch day. Where are we going on Tuesday? Well, in Covid-19 time the answer is we're meeting on Zoom. We look forward to spring and a chance to have a Picnic in the Park. Then as things improve it will be Dining on the Patio and sometime in the future we will be back to in-restaurant lunches.

For now, join us on Zoom.

Joyce Fee