

Zoom, zoom, zoom! Recognize this term? Our Branch certainly does. It's been a big part of the way we have connected with each other during this 2020-2021 year.

Our Executive has zoomed several times to share ideas. And as a Branch, we have Zoomed once each month since March 2021.

These Zoom meetings have given many of our members a wonderful opportunity to see and chat virtually. We have shared In Memoriam tributes to several of our members, been treated to a visit with our Provincial President Nancy Papiez, listened to beautiful flute music, been motivated and worked out with a Fitness chat and demo, and participated in a tranquil and reaffirming Mindfulness session. Who knew this technology would serve us so well.

Not all of us were able to participate by Zoom, and we needed to find many ways to remain in contact. Our Branch President sent out monthly updates. Members called each other from time to time. Porch visits were a new way to socialize. Three Branch Newsletters were published as well.

And Greeting Cards, that old style communication method came back into service, too, in a very big way. Several of our members shared their artistry and creativity by creating an assortment of beautiful hand-made cards. This activity caught on as more members joined the card-making group.

Beautiful and very personal cards have gone out to our members since Valentines Day. We have all received a Valentine, and Easter card, a Happy Spring card as well as a birthday card from these talented members. The card group has adopted different names during the course of this project. Valentines Cupids, Easter Bunnies, Spring Elves are some of their titles. These members have brought smiles to our faces and warmth to our hearts.

Then, in early June, a small group gathered outdoors to decorate small pots of flowers. Several Executive members volunteered to deliver a flower to each of our members. Impromptu porch chats were an extra special treat when members were at home to receive their plants. And, now, we are all connected with a flower in the garden or on our window sill.

As we wind down for the summer months, we hope that our Zoom days will soon be behind us. Maybe there will be an outdoor meeting event? Who knows what the 2021 Autumn will bring in ways of getting together again.

But, one thing we know, our connection with each other has withstood a huge challenge this year. Caring and sharing and having fun has helped our East Parry Sound Branch carry on. Let's all hope for brighter days ahead!