

**Retired Women Teachers of Ontario,
Organisation des enseignantes
retraitées de l'Ontario**



RWTO/OERO
St. Catharines Branch, Area 13
ANNUAL REPORT
2020 - 2021

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June 2021

**Submitted by Violette M. Hagerty,
RWTO/OERO, St. Catharines Branch Secretary**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020-2021

Susan Lewis, President

After a shaky start because of the uncertainties of Covid restrictions, our first distanced meeting on June 18, 2020, was held on my deck, with a reduced number of executives to meet Covid protocols for outdoor gatherings. Initially, it was proposed that we maintain the Executive from 2019, in hopes that we could resume luncheons and hold a general meeting to approve a new executive after the first wave. With continued lockdowns the norm, I stepped in mid-June as President when Janis Harlos moved to Past President and Linda Gaudet joined the Executive as second Vice President. Marilyn Emmett donned two hats as Honorary President and Communications Convenor.

In June, the 2020 Convention in Kingston was cancelled and on June 2-4 we participated on Zoom. We welcomed Nancy Papiez as Provincial President, and Judy Drummond as new second Vice President. We approved resolutions to create a Convenor of Sales and Materials to manage pins and sales and inventory; and the creation of a Communications Website Committee to ensure websites are maintained and updated. I also proposed that our branch reduce the number of Table Officers during Covid and created three standing committees of Communications, Membership and Program. The executive voted against a reduction of Table Officers when we return to live meetings. In compliance with Covid restrictions, this reduced group of Officers met twice in June and October in distanced outdoor meetings. We returned to a full executive for our Zoom meetings in March and May and for two motions voted on by Zoom in October and February.

Most memorable at the 2020 Convention was my acceptance of the “hat trick” of the “Feather in Your Hat Award” for the third year, recognizing the collection from the branch members of personal care items for 40 totes delivered to Shaver Hospital before Christmas 2019. The province also supported the branches with a grant during Covid with the intent to encourage and maintain membership. This money paid for most of our initiative to mail greeting cards to each of our members in February to provide a virtual hug when we were not allowed personal contact. A Valentine ad

was placed in the newspaper to thank our district teachers on the front line. We also stayed connected through a phone chain where members called the next member in the directory or phoned a friend, and through our newsletters and emails. The over 90's members received plants in lieu of honoring them at a luncheon in September. We have retained a membership of 366 members. We donated to Rankin Run in memory of our deceased members. Our members generously supported Community Care at Thanksgiving donating \$12,000. This spring our second Vice President, Linda Gaudet, collected over 900 pairs of gently worn shoes for "Soles4Souls" and intends to continue this community project in September. Another initiative "We've Got Your Back" that started in 2019, has seen 14 lap blankets delivered to ladies who are ill or lonely. I would like to thank the members who volunteered to knit and crochet, especially Marie France Marcie and Jean Munson, who have continued the project through 2020-2021. Another accomplishment this year was our introduction of a new "Sharing and Caring" award to show our appreciation in September to up to 10 members who have shown their care for members. The collection of nominees and selection of recipients is to be the role of the Past President. This new award will follow the recommendations of the sub-committee struck last year consisting of Patti Malkiewich, Sheila Benger, and Violette Hagerty. Our Interest groups have been suspended by Covid restrictions, but we have been able to read our books in the Rotating Book Club, play cards, sing on zoom, travel virtually, take distanced walks, and wait in line for our vaccines. We look forward to another virtual convention and face to face meetings soon.

I am proud of how the Executive continued their duties to the membership and the province and look forward to re-establishing the Interest groups, luncheons and speakers and entertainers we could offer the members in the past. Two long-standing members will be absent from the executive in September and will be sadly missed: Alice Bradnam and Marilyn Emmett. Janis Harlos will carry on as Goodwill Convenor and we welcome two new officers, Honorary President, Chereen Osborne, and Second Vice President, Melanie Kelch.

I will continue to serve the executive next year as the Past President and will support the incoming President, Kathie Dussome, as we return to our new normal for 2021-2022.

Submitted by Susan Lewis, President 2020-2021

IN MEMORIAM

2020-2021

We mourn the members that have passed this past year
(Mid-May 2020 to the present).

In Memoriam

2020 - 2021

Rosemary McNamee

Anne Marie Brady

Anna Thwaites

Heather Schram

Marilyn MacDonald

Pauline Bosco

Marie MacPherson

Marlene DeRose

Diane Bradley

Louise Minniti

*Memories
of our friendship
are lasting
treasures.*



GOODWILL REPORT

Janis Harlos,

Past President/Goodwill Convenor



Janis Harlos

I assumed the role of Goodwill Convenor, beginning in late December, replacing the outstanding and compassionate former Convenor, Alice Bradnam. We thank Alice, who earlier in the year, had sent more than 70 Christmas, Birthday and Get-Well greetings to our 80+ members; along with condolences to families of members who have passed and to members who have lost a loved one.



Alice Bradnam

Following Alice's gracious example, I have continued to send Birthday, Thinking of You, Get Well and Condolence cards as needed. I am thankful to all of you who have kept me up to date on members who have passed and those going through difficult times, be it illness or the loss of a loved one. Sadly, RWTO lost ten members this year. CoVid restrictions have limited RWTO's ability to reach out to our members in 2020/2021. However, recently, we were able to gift seven members lap and/or shawls knitted by our talented and tireless volunteers serving in our successful Outreach Project, **'We've Got Your Back'**. Let's hope that we will be able to resume a more extensive Goodwill program in the Fall.

*Yours in 'Caring and Sharing',
Janis Harlos, Past President & Goodwill*

NOMINATIONS REPORT

Janis Harlos, Past President

As the Past President of 2020/2021, I, along with Honorary President, Marilyn Emmett and the Area 13 Director, Kathy Smith, would have been pleased to present the Proposed Slate of Officers for 2021-2022 to the membership at the AGM of May 2021. Unfortunately, for the second year in a row due to Covid 19 restrictions, the Branch Annual General Meeting was cancelled. The Proposed Slate of Officers for 2021-2022 was presented to the membership in the Spring 2021 Newsletter. Members were encouraged to speak up and to contact me directly if any objections or other nomination suggestions existed. Seeing as objections have been non-existent at this time, the Slate of Officers for 2021-2022 was approved by the Executive at the May 26th, 2021 Executive Meeting. They will be formally presented at the next scheduled luncheon and will continue to support our Branch as we

navigate through these uncharted days ahead. Despite difficulties reaching out to members without face-to-face contact, we will continue solicit to fill positions, as needed, through Newsletters and the website.



**RWTO/OERO ST. CATHARINES BRANCH
SLATE OF OFFICERS 2021-2022**

Honorary President Chereen Osborne

Table Officers	Past President	Susan Lewis
	President	Kathie Dussome
	1st Vice President	Linda Gaudet
	2nd Vice President	Melanie Kelch
	Treasurer/Membership	Linda Foster
	Secretary	Violette Hagerty

Convenors	Membership	Clara Warden
	Social	Louise Farquhar
	Communications, Newsletter(Unfilled)
	Communications, Website	Jessica Thomson
	Archivist	Jessica Thomson
	Goodwill	Janis Harlos
	Insurance	Chris Graham
	Telephone	Sheila Bengert
	Interest Groups	Cathy Terrio-Lakeit
	Issues and Concerns Program	Marg Newby Linda Gaudet and Melanie Kelch

Affiliate/Liaison Representatives	
ETFO	Donna Painter
OECTA	Clara Warden
OSSTF	Margo Smith

Provincial Representatives	
RWTO/OERO Area 13 Director	Kathy Smith
RWTO/OERO Provincial Program Coordinator (Branch Member)	Judith Bennoch
RWTO/OERO Provincial Communications: Newsletter (Branch Member)	Jan Murdoch

*Presented by the Past President, Janis Harlos, at the Executive Meeting of May 26, 2021
Moved by: Janis Harlos; 2nd: Linda Foster Carried*

*Submitted by,
Janis Harlos, Past President*



FINANCIAL REPORT 2020 – 2021

Linda Foster, Treasurer/Membership

Who knew that Covid would still be affecting us at this time?

Although our activities and especially, our luncheons, have been cancelled for more than a year, our Branch continued to receive income and have expenses. Our meetings were held virtually and as a result, we did purchase Zoom.

The Provincial rebate of \$3546.00, \$1920.02 from your \$5.00 dues, and \$800.00 from Provincial to use for membership and Covid provided an income of \$6,266.02. Our expenses have totalled \$5,535.75. These expenses included: Goodwill, postage, printing, and donations (Thanksgiving Community Care and Rankin Run In Memoriam contributions) as well funding for other Branch expenses (initiatives). As a result, we ended up in the black by more than \$700.00. Fortunately, we did not have Convention expenses this year as they normally cost around \$2000.00. We do have some money in the “reserves” which can be used in the future to cover items such as Convention costs.

The Financial and Membership Reports, normally presented at our May AGM, were presented to, and approved by the Executive at the virtual Executive meeting of May 26th, 2021. The full Financial Report will be filed as an Appendix to the 2021 – 2022 Annual Report in the Branch Archives. Inquiries, if any, may be addressed to Linda Foster.

Submitted by Linda Foster

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2020 – 2021

Linda Foster, Treasurer/ Membership

The role of Membership is assisted by Donna Painter, Clara Warden and Margo Smith.

Our current membership of 366 is less than the previous year (2019-2020). By the end of 2021, we will have 18 members, aged 90 or more, and over 290 members, aged 70 or more.

- 5 New Members
- 17 members did not renew their memberships.
- We mourn the 10 members that passed (May 2020- May 2021).
- 9 *Social members; 5 **Life Members.

***Social members** - Pay Membership dues to another RWTO Branch of RWTO and \$15.00 to our Branch. This amount is the same as that received from our Branch members (\$10.00 Provincial rebate and \$5.00 as part of our fees).

****Life members** - Those who meet the criteria as documented in the Branch Handbook and do not pay membership dues.

Our Branch hopes to maintain our membership numbers despite being unable to provide the programs and activities as in previous years. Despite this lull, Membership continues to develop recruitment strategies as Ontario emerges from CoVid restrictions. We will continue to follow the provincial guidelines as to when we will be able to resume our activities and, especially, our luncheons.

Submitted by Linda Foster



INSURANCE 2020 -2021

Chris Graham, Insurance Convenor

As this has been a year for Covid, Manulife provided pandemic “Travel coverage” for COVID-19 medical emergencies while travelling, which were retroactive to October 1, 2020.

The Insurance responsibilities for our RWTO representative have been just a phone call or email away. The number of contacts this year has been less than 20 and focused on questions about coverage, assistance in completing forms for claims, the availability of the actual forms and specifics regarding claims after major surgery. There were four referrals to the Manulife representative Terry Kennedy.

In April 2021, Manulife had an issuance of new plastic Insurance Cards for members with the Hospital and Home Care coverage. Although paper Claim Form submissions may continue to be used, Manulife streamlined a faster process by instituting a secure site ([Manulife.ca/securereserve](https://www.manulife.ca/securereserve)) for submitting claims electronically. At the appropriate time of year, we will post instructions on the Branch Website and in the Branch Newsletter for downloading Tax Receipts (although hard copies are mailed to you).

Manulife Home & Hospital Insurance Plans are valid only when members are deemed to have an “active” paid membership. Manulife premiums for the supplemental Hospital and Home Care plan, remain unchanged at: Members -\$14.49/mth; Spouses-\$15.57/mth

Submitted by Chris Graham

The Cora Bailey Award 2020-2021

Our Branch has delayed action on the CORA BAILEY AWARD until our members can meet again at luncheons and have FULL membership participation.

*Respectfully,
Kathie Dussome, 1st Vice President 2020-2021*

SNAPSHOT of 2020-2021!

Far from being business as usual, our Branch carried on!



Our Branch
NEWSLETTER
kept us
connected!
Thank you,
Marilyn
Emmett



ZOOM!!!