



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario

Brockville

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Hello Retired Women Teachers,

Well, summer is officially here, and there is hope, as more of us get fully vaccinated, that life will start to return to normal. It seems like such a long time since we have been able to gather together, face to face, but I feel that there is light at the end of this long COVID-19 tunnel. My flowers are still blooming, the birds are still singing and coming to my feeder, and of course my grass still needs cutting, so I guess I should appreciate all the good things that I have. I hope you will find this newsletter helpful and informative and that I will see all of you before too long.



Thoughts From The President:

I am hoping this finds you all healthy and happy and ready to enjoy the summer! It sure has been a different year with all of the COVID-19 restrictions, lock downs, and loss of physical connections. It looks like there is light at the end of the tunnel and we will soon be able to resume a somewhat normal lifestyle. The executive members are hoping to plan a get-together in the fall when we are able to resume in-person socializing. We will have lots to catch up on!!! Fingers are crossed for lots of fun in our futures!

I would like to thank the executive for continuing to carry on their duties behind the scenes during this difficult time. Your dedication and efforts are greatly appreciated. A special mention goes to Lynda McKittrick for organizing the newsletters and ensuring that all members receive them. Her newsletter was recognized by the provincial office as being an excellent example to follow! Well done Lynda!!

I was able to attend the online AGM and convention which took place on June 1st, 2nd and 3rd. I would like to commend the Board of Directors for their organization and expertise in conducting the online version of meetings, workshops and

entertainment. Everything was top-notch and very efficient and enjoyable. The theme of Caring and Sharing was definitely evident!

Look for the new Policies and Procedures manual to be updated and shared on the RWTO website in October, 2021. The incoming provincial president is Nancy Bell, whom we hope to welcome to one of our meetings sometime in the future.

One of the positive highlights is that RWTO has \$410,344 net assets which include cash, investments and past expenses. Please think about a meaningful charity that we could support in the future. Once we can meet in person, we will have discussion regarding this topic.

I look forward to seeing you in the near future and please do not hesitate to email or phone me if you have any concerns in the meantime.

Karen Kerr-Kennedy

Financial Report:

Our net total in the bank is \$1372.11.

We were fortunate to have had money left to our branch many years ago. It has been invested and in 2019 we sold some of these mutual funds. From this money, we had enough to pay all membership fees for 2020-21. We would like to do this again for the 2021-2022 membership year.

We were given a one-time grant to stay connected during the pandemic. We hope you enjoyed your bookmarks and cards that were sent at Christmas and Easter.

Helen Earl

Membership:

Congratulations to us!!! At the convention, it was announced that the Brockville branch was the recipient of the Barbara Bain award for having the most new members last year! Hopefully, we can expand our membership even further this upcoming year. Please contact our President if you know of any retired women teachers who might like to join our wonderful social group.

There has been discussion about opening membership up to other female women involved in education but this discussion is still ongoing.



Goodwill:

Laura has continue to send cards to our members who are 80 and over, during this past year. If you now fall into this category, please let Laura know and she will add your name to her mailing list.

It is with sadness that we said good-bye to two of our members this year. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the relatives of Bev Clarke who passed away January 27, 2021, and Judie Wolfenden who passed away January 29, 2021. Both women will be sadly missed. You will find below, links to the obituary for each member. If you wish to read the obituary, copy and paste the link into your browser.

<https://barclayfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/3272/Beverley-Clarke/obituary.html>

<https://memorials.irvinefuneralhome.com/judith-judie-wolfenden/4514821/>

We also take time to remember the 215 children who tragically passed away at the Kamloops Residential School. We are saddened by this loss of youth.

Special Note:

RTO-ERO will be having a To Hell with the Bells celebration and morning get-together on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. Save the date. We do not have details yet, but we will get together either virtually or in person, depending on government guidelines.



Enjoy your summer, and hopefully we will able to get together soon!