



# RWTO/OERO

The Retired Women Teachers of Ontario /  
Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario

St. Catharines Branch Newsletter – March 2021



## HELLO SPRING!

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CALL TO ACTION

My plea, as we enter the red zone, as the snow melts, as the first days of spring arrive and daylight savings time begins, is that we all wake up and get up from this forced hibernation we have been locked into for more than a year. First, we must all register to be vaccinated as soon as it is offered to protect ourselves and others in the community. We must continue to assist those less fortunate and give generously of our time, our abilities and our wealth. Please pick up the phone and call a member, or send names of those who are grieving or ill to Janis Harlos, our Past President and Goodwill Convenor. Let me know if there are member who would appreciate a blanket lovingly knit or crocheted by Marie-France Marcie and Jean Munson. Thank you to our Vice Presidents, Kathie Dussome and Linda Gaudet, for the hundreds of shoes collected for our community project of Soles for Souls.

We must also continue to support the health of our RWTO/OERO organization. We need to show our appreciation to those members who have continued to serve our Branch in outstanding ways and have shown leadership during this pandemic. A thank you to all the interest group leaders who have been able to adapt to pandemic restrictions and still provide us with reading, singing, walking and Zoom meetings. A thank you to all our executive members who continue to meet in person and virtually to make decisions and to represent your interests. We need you to volunteer or to nominate someone to fulfill the duties of Second Vice President for 2021-2022. We will continue to plan for the opportunity to meet again when COVID restrictions are lifted and to represent you virtually at the June Convention.

When researching an image of Uncle Sam to use to get more members involved with the slogan: "WE WANT YOU" to nominate, volunteer, to serve, I came across an historical image of a woman of action known as Lady Columbia. She first appeared in 1738 (pre USA) but her use declined as a national personification in favor of Lady Liberty. She was abandoned once she became the mascot of Columbia Pictures in the 1920's ([https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uncle\\_Sam](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uncle_Sam)). So, our call to action is to raise up the spirit of Lady Columbia, to support each other and the executive by rising up from our easy chairs, nominating, volunteering and serving others.

" May we never again take for granted: Friday nights with friends, family gatherings, birthday celebrations, the roar of a stadium, mornings at the gym, packed dance floors, coffee with a friend, crowded concerts, LIFE ITSELF." (Twin Flames Studios)

**Susan Lewis, President**

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## FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am looking forward with enthusiasm to being your president and working with our dynamic and creative executive in the 2021-22 year. It is an understatement to say we missed all of you. I am sure that like me, you would like to brush aside this past year and come into full swing again, breaking bread together at our luncheons and returning to our community endeavours. There is so much we can and need to do.



As an art teacher for 34 years, I am never short on ideas. Of the several goals that first come to mind, reconnecting with you and facilitating reconnecting with each other is the first priority. Towards this I would like to launch a COVID 19 storytelling project where you have the opportunity to share something very GOOD or HUMOROUS during your COVID year and a half. I am confident we will not only reconnect more quickly this way, but will enjoy the stories we hear and inspire each other. With your permission we will print your stories for a special COVID newsletter edition.

My own COVID 19 experience came as a surprise. No sooner were we locked down last March 13th when I went into full nesting mode and made my first loaf of bread and yeast donuts. The photographer in me kicked in shortly thereafter so that I was not only baking and cooking up a storm to the delight of my family, neighbours and acquaintances, but also keeping a running photo journal of it all. Up to the present day the process of becoming a baker and chef of some worth has been delightful. And now the biggest surprise...Both my grandmothers cooked professionally. I have in effect become "my own grandmas!" So now please send your stories to me at [niagarasgraceland6@gmail.com](mailto:niagarasgraceland6@gmail.com) (don't forget the 's' or the '6') or write to me at Kathie Dussome, 24 Meadowbrook Crescent, St. Catharines, L2M 7H1. If emailing please send a fun selfie also.

***Kathie Dussome, 1st Vice President***

## 2nd VICE PRESIDENT'S OUTREACH UPDATE

### Soles4Souls Final Report

The collection of Gently Used Shoes for Soles4Souls has ended for this year. In all, 720 pairs of Women's shoes, 152 Men's and 40 Children's were collected from all over the area, including Welland, Fonthill, Niagara Falls, Vineland and St. Catharines. A special shout-out to Lynne Fedor who roped her neighbours into donating three separate times. A special thank you to Joan Learmonth, who passed on our need for shoes to Deste Kuhn at Grantham United Church, which had cancelled their annual flea market. RWTO was the beneficiary of 80 pairs! Marilyn Weber, thank you for collecting from your Travelogue group. Thank you to Beth Kent who gave me a coffee and a muffin, and invited me to sit in my car in her driveway next to her in hers, for a lovely chat. And thanks to Donna Ward who gave me a chocolate boost on my pickups. Thank you to all those members who stood on their porch and had kind words for me and this project. If you couldn't be home when I dropped by, thank you for bagging the shoes and leaving them for me. I had a blast, and hope to do this again in the fall!



***Linda Gaudet, 2nd Vice-President***

### PAST PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Here is the proposed slate of officers for RWTO St. Catharines 2021/2022 Executive:

President	Kathleen Dussome
First Vice President	Linda Gaudet
Second Vice President	This could be YOU!
Treasurer	Linda Foster
Secretary	Violette Hagerty
Past President	Susan Lewis
Honorary President	Chereen Osborne
<b>Convenors</b>	
Archivist	Jessica Thomson
Communications	
Newsletter	Marilyn Emmett
Website	Jessica Thomson
Goodwill	Jan Harlos
Interest Groups	Cathy Terrio-Lakeit
Issues and Concerns	Marg Newby
Membership	Clara Warden
Social	Louise Farquhar
Telephone	Sheila Bengier
Insurance	Chris Graham
OSSTF	Margo Smith
ETFO	Donna Painter
OECTA	Clara Warden

**We are still searching for a Second Vice President. If you are interested in this position or have a recommendation or have questions concerning the proposed 2021/2022 Executive please contact me at 905 892-8203 or [jharlos6@gmail.com](mailto:jharlos6@gmail.com).**

**GOODWILL REPORT**

I was asked in early December to take on the responsibility of Goodwill Convenor due to the resignation of Alice Bradnam. She was amazing at this job and I will do my best to try and maintain her high standards. Alice took care of the past Christmas season and I have been enjoying sending out Birthday wishes to our 80+ members beginning in January. We have 73 members in this category.

Sympathy, get well and thinking-of-you cards are sent to all members. If you know someone who has lost a family member, is in hospital or needs a little TLC please contact me at 905 892-8203 or email [jharlos6@gmail.com](mailto:jharlos6@gmail.com).

Yours in Caring and Sharing,  
**Jan Harlos, Past President**

*In Memory of*



*Marlene DeRose*

*Pauline Bosco*

*Marie MacPherson*

**“A Life So Beautifully Lived And  
A Heart So Deeply Loved”**

**SUMMER NEWSLETTER**

Please submit articles and pictures  
to me by July 1.  
Thank you.

*Marilyn Emmett, Newsletter Convenor*  
905 646-5543 [marilyn.emmett5@gmail.com](mailto:marilyn.emmett5@gmail.com)

### BRANCH OUTREACH

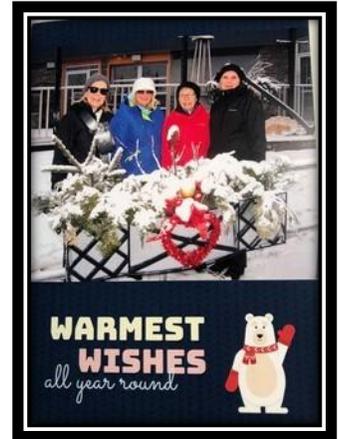
A greeting card was sent to all members in February. The Executive felt it was time to reach out to say we are thinking of you and look forward to seeing each other soon. Our thanks go to Jessica Thomson and members of the Executive.

The poem in the card said it all:

*While we all wait for this pandemic to end  
This card brings greeting from your RWTO friends.  
Though we'd like to hug we social distance instead  
But hope to be with you in better days ahead.*

Written by Chris Graham and Susan Lewis

Some of the cards were accompanied by a gift card to Shoppers Drug Mart. The winners are Pat Biro, Mary Blaikie, Donna Brown, Margot Fraser, Linda Kenny, Coby Koene, Jane Marshall, Francie McGlynn, Joan Rothman and Tay Shiner.



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This appeared in the St. Catharines Standard on February 13, 2021.

Thank you, Jessica Thomson for this great idea.

### Revolving Book Club

The 2020-21 Rotation of Books is about half over. I hope that something you have read over the last few months has tickled your fancy. My goal is always to select a variety of books that appeal to the reading interests of many.

I would appreciate it if you could indicate to us, your intentions for next year. Will you be staying in the Revolving Book Club or not? The cost for next year will remain at \$25.00. Please plan to pay before June 30<sup>th</sup>. Cheques can be mailed or dropped in my mailbox.

Enjoy your books!

**Patt Chivers**

8 Johnston St., St. Catharines L2N5K4

909-934-6636 [pchivers@coqeco.ca](mailto:pchivers@coqeco.ca)



## INSURANCE UPDATE

The following positive changes by Manulife will be announced in the forthcoming edition of *Connections*.

- Manulife is planning to issue Benefit Identification Cards to all Hospital and Home Care participants. They are hoping to get these sent out to insured individuals by the end of March.
- Manulife is simplifying all contracts to reflect “plain language”.
- The hospital and Home Care contract will become available on Manulife’s Secure Serve Sites starting April 1, 2021. They will also be making online claim submissions available to insured members/spouses on the same site. The tentative date for this is also April 1. Paper claim forms and submissions will continue to be available.
- Members can currently download their tax receipts from the Secure Serve Site if they wish to do so, however paper receipts will continue to be sent out as in the past.

*Chris Graham, Insurance Convenor*

## MEMBERSHIP

We have been living with COVID for more than a year. During this time, most members in our branch have stayed safe. According to information I was given, we had one member pass away due to the virus. As a branch, we are so fortunate and things could have been much worse. Of the 369 members we have, almost 300 of us are in the age bracket of 70+ years. As our branch is aging, we do need to encourage younger members to join our branch. Because of privacy issues, it is very difficult for the executive to know who recent retirees are and so we really need your assistance in attracting new members. We realize it is difficult to recruit new members right now, but we are all hoping things will be better once most people are vaccinated and we again have more to offer, both to current and new members. If you know someone who might be interested in our branch, Clara Warden, Donna Painter, Margo Smith or myself would be glad to hear from you.

*Linda Foster, Membership Chair*

### HOW TO ACCESS OUR BRANCH WEB PAGE

*Do you want you see great pictures and read lots of information about the St. Catharines Branch including past newsletters, membership and an In Memoriam section? Then check out our local Branch Web Page on the Provincial Website:*

- Go To: <https://rwto.org>
- Click on Branches, Branch News and then St. Catharines either on the map or under Area 13.

For those of you new to Zoom., check out the extra attachment **Zoom Cheat Sheet for Beginners.**

(Reprinted with permission from CARP.)

## VACCINE UPDATES:

- Ontario website is <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca>
- Call centre phone # is 1-888-999-6488
- You will need information from both the front & back of your green health card, birth date, Postal Code and email address and/or cell number (with texting capabilities). You may need access to a printer.
- If you only have a red & white health card, you must phone to book.
- You can register for any clinic in the region. See list of clinic locations & dates/times they will be open at the Niagara Region Public Health website – <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/clinic-schedule.aspx>
- St. Catharines residents taking transit for COVID-19 vaccination clinics will be able to travel for free to Brock University Public Health Vaccination Clinic once it opens and to pharmacies and doctor's offices for inoculations as they become available. Accessible shuttles will be available from Brock Transit Hub to the clinic. Riders will need to show proof of their appointment when boarding and proof of vaccination on return trips. Users will also be required to wear a mask on the bus. Information about bus schedules can be found at [yourbus.com](http://yourbus.com) or by calling 905-687-5555
- You can now register for a vaccination at Shopper's Drug Mart either online, by phone or in person. [shoppersdrugmart.ca](http://shoppersdrugmart.ca)
- You will need a couple of forms. You can get them at the vaccination site or print and fill them in them ahead of time. [COVID-19 Vaccine Screening and Consent Form \(gov.on.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccine-screening-and-consent-form)



### For your appointment:

- Wear a mask
- Bring your Ontario Health Card.
- Bring your booking confirmation number or QR code from the provincial booking portal, preferably a printed version.
- Have something to eat to prevent feeling faint while receiving the vaccine.
- Be sure to wear a comfortable shirt which is loose along the arms (so you can receive a vaccination in the upper arm).
- Arrive no more than 5 minutes before your appointment.

**If you would like any assistance from RWTO St. Catharines,  
please contact Linda Gaudet 289-687-4367**

*The “April” School Break and Summer will soon be here!*



Whether you are connected virtually or are visiting the “kids” in your life within your “bubble”, our toolbox of App’s, TV programs, games and activities may help you to keep them engaged, learning or simply entertained as the School Break and summer approaches. If you wish to share additional ideas, your suggestions are welcome.

Contact: Violette Hagerty ([vmhagerty@cogeco.ca](mailto:vmhagerty@cogeco.ca)).

*Disclaimer: The following have been based on recommendations. Please use the online apps or sites at your own discretion. Some links are free while others may require fees.*

**ONLINE APP’s (Some Downloadable):**

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| KHAN (ACADEMY) KIDS            | Free – Math & Multiple Learning Activities   |
| TEACH MONSTER                  | Free; Award-winning Reading and Phonics games.   |
| ENDLESS READER (SUITE)         | \$\$ - Cost for the Suite - Numbers; Letters   |
| KIDDOPIA – ABC TODDLER GAMES   | Ages 0-5yr; Parent’s Choice Winner– Various Skills My Pet Buddy; \$\$.   |
| PAPUMBA LAND: TOWN             | Age 2-7yr; Free; Imagination; Creativity; Discovery; Download iPad/iPhone.   |
| SAGO: MINI-WORLD               | Ages 0-5yr; Some parts are free; Can download - \$\$/yr. for Full collection. Editor’s Choice Winner – Read Privacy Notes.                           |
| SAGO: MINI-SCHOOL              | Also, Mini-Road Trip; and more; Preschool ABC Games  |
| YOU TUBE KIDS                  | (BLIPPI) Also: <b>YT KIDS App</b> for iPhone or iPad.  |
| TOCA BUILDER                   | Free; How to Grow a Garden; Build a Red Cottage; and much more.  |
| K-5 SCIENCE FOR KIDS – TAPPITY | #1 Educ. Science for Kids 4-10. Experiments, Games; 30 free; then, cost. Downloadable to iPad/iPhone/ iPod.  |
| 1-2-3 Fun Numbers              | “Go Math”; Pre-school number activities – Math Skills – Free.  |
| BUDGE WORLD                    | Play, Learn, Create, Discover; Endless Activities; \$\$ Cost Month/Year; Free for first 7 days: Unsubscribe to end subscription.                     |
| HOPSCOTCH                      | Ages 9 – 16 – Design own programs/games; coding; publish creations. privacy is high priority. Approx. \$79.99/year; can cancel anytime; hassle-free. |
| PLAY KIDS STORIES              | Interactive E-books; Narrated; Audio.  |
| NIGHTY NIGHT KID               | Bedtime stories/songs for toddlers; some free, others modest cost \$\$   |

**SCHOLASTIC** has wonderful books! Right now, my grandsons, Landon, 6, and Callum, 4, love the “Who Would Win?” series. It pits two animals’ size, physical features, skills and adaptability to judge which one would win in a fight. It sure beats the Schleich toy animals going at each other! Another company that really knows kids is **MELISSA AND DOUG**: They have great puzzles, magnets, and reusable sticker books.

*Linda Gaudet, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President*

## TV PROGRAMS/ BOOKS/ MAGAZINES:

TREEHOUSE TV	TV programming for kids
OWLKIDS	Kids Subscription Magazines - Chirp; Chickadee; Owl
EPIC BOOK / SKILLS SERIES	Children’s Books – Read-a-long and aloud; Crafts; Pay monthly
Pre-School /Gr 1 Stories:	Starfall; Starfall ABC’s; Elmo’s ABC’s; Lunchbox; Duplo Trains; Alphabet Zoo; Alphabet Tracing; ABC ya! Games; Sight Words; First Words.
Grade 1 and Up:	Storyline Online (All Ages - Books read by Movie Stars); Lego Junior; Sock Puppets; Khan Kids (Math); Duo Lingo (Languages),

## TOYS, GAMES, BOARD GAMES

LEGO	Manual skills development; Creativity; Imagination.
QUIDDLER:	Card Game; Good for beginner readers and builds Vocabulary.
Any and All Card Games:	Reinforces Memory, sorting, classifying, Math skills
Games:	Dominoes; Scrabble; Cribbage; Chess; Other Board Games; Upwords. Puzzles; Memory Activities
The “Teacher Stores”	Any Educational product
All Arts and Crafts projects	
Simple Piano Keyboard	

## UPCOMING EVENTS: SPRING 2021

1. WNED KID FEST AT HOME – Canada (2021) Age 2 - 6yr (others are welcome; register for Canada) Launching April 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am (until the end of the month).  
**A \$10.00 Virtual ticket** will get you “access” to a web page with all the on-demand videos and activities designed to “enlighten, inspire, entertain and educate”.  
Engage at any time! Use as often as you would until May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021.  
Some of the features include: Toronto Zoo; Nick Presents Magic; BeeBop the Clown; ChopChop Family Cooking demos; Kidding Around Yoga (with Erin); Reading with Clifford; theater, arts and crafts, and more!
2. **LOCAL LIBRARIES:** Provide free Movies, books, magazines, activities, workshops.
  1. Pelham Library - [www.pelhamlibrary.ca](http://www.pelhamlibrary.ca)  
**March (April) Break Virtual Workshops (Mad Science Series):** Must Register in advance.
  2. St. Catharines Library - [www.myscpl.ca](http://www.myscpl.ca) - Check upcoming events/activities.
  3. Craft Kits (Take & Make)
  4. **HOOPLA\*** Register online at <http://hoopladigital.com>
  5. Bookshelf Picks: E-books; Audiobooks; Music; Magazine & Books
  6. TUMBLE BOOKS E-Books & Audiobooks (Kids Selections, too).
  7. KANOPY KIDS Kid’s Movies, TV Series, Documentaries.
  8. CREATIVE BUG Arts & Crafts Workshops.

**Violette Hagerty, Recording Secretary**

