

Arlene Veitch



Pat Mulvey on the left, Arlene Veitch centre, Linda White on the right

After putting her hand up at an RWTO luncheon over 6 years ago, because as she said to me then “they need our help”, Arlene became second vice-president and threw herself headlong into just about every RWTO activity. One of the first events she became very involved with was the luncheon. She visited different venues personally to ensure that the choice was “just right”, she tried different menus (one of the perks of the job), she hopped in her car to go to Costco or Colasanti’s to purchase beautiful flowers for our centrepieces, bought sweet treats to scatter on the tables, and even scouted out new speakers and entertainers. Certainly, all that check, check and double-checking paid off! During our Windsor convention, Rally by the River, Arlene was here, there and everywhere. Her love of hosting, even 200+ of her closest friends, didn’t phase her. She especially loved making the venue look beautiful for our guests. Arlene purchased the whiteboard, the mirrors, and beautiful vases used not only at our convention, but subsequently at our many luncheons. And it was her idea to

make these items available for our members to borrow. So thorough and thoughtful! Well done, Ms. Check Check Double-Check, it was a beautiful convention! As President, Arlene directed many valuable updates for our branch. She updated every aspect of our membership list, even calling many members personally to ensure that all their information was correct. This will help our branch to stay current and keep in touch with our members. In addition, Arlene oversaw the revision of our memorial service and our library book donations honouring, in a respectful and relevant way, our deceased members. Arlene worked diligently on the newsletter and helped streamline its format. To save our branch costly postage, she tried and succeeded to get many more members to receive their newsletter online. Also, she served with others on the initiative committee attempting to involve our members in new and interesting activities. Finally, she spearheaded new initiatives to help the broader community such as working with the gleaners in Leamington and collecting knickers for Haiti. Excellent effort, Ms. Check Check Double-Check! I would be remiss if I didn't mention how Arlene spiced up our executive meetings with treats like flavoured coffee, homemade scones and tiny gifts of special pencils, and of course, chocolate goodies. Always so thorough, so thoughtful. And yet, after every luncheon and many meetings, Arlene sent special thank-you notes to each member who contributed in any way.

Well, today it is our turn to thank and to acknowledge you, Ms. Check Check Double Check, as an exceptional executive member, past president and a wonderful friend by honouring you with the Cora Bailey Award. It is so deserved! Your daughter's wedding is over as is your presidency. Time to relax. No need to check, check, double check anymore.... But who am I kidding... of course you will!

Patricia Mulvey