



RWTO/OERO Owen Sound and Area

**Welcome New Members
to our spooktacular Owen Sound and Area Branch!**

We are happy to have you join us!

**Lois Cook, Donna Hemeon, Cynthia Lemon,
Ainsley Lewin, Mary Milne, Laurie Wright**



“MARK YOUR CALENDARS”

RWTO CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 12:00 pm

INN ON THE BAY

Cost - \$30.00(Includes tax & gratuity) for Roast Turkey meal.

Proof of vaccination and photo identity are required.

Please let Louise Lipsett know if you plan to attend.

rlipsett@outlook.com or 519-376-6722



We are meeting once again in person!

Autumn Greetings to all our members!

Well, 2021 has been quite a year! However, as an organization we have persevered and made the best of a very difficult time and the future is looking brighter! We had our first in person Get Together in September at the Walters Falls Inn. After a bit of a rainy start we enjoyed an excellent meal and were able to visit with valued friends. The luncheon was also a wonderful opportunity to welcome new members from the now disbanded Beaver Valley RWTO/OERO branch. The Social Committee has begun planning for our General Meeting in November – the first since 2019! We look forward to being able to celebrate the Holiday Season together.

I am very pleased to report that almost all of our members have returned for the 2021/22 membership

year. We appreciate the support shown to our organization. RWTO/OERO Provincial continues its hard work on our behalf. Please see the rwto.org website for information on upcoming online activities and events. A big thank you goes out to Connie Morris for keeping our branch information up to date!

Once again I must make a plea for you to consider volunteering for a position on the executive in order to fill some vacant positions. The executive is a wonderful group of women with whom it is a joy to work on your behalf.

Until we meet again ...

Yours in caring and sharing,

Sue Loyst, President



Do you qualify to become a Life Member?

It was sad to hear of the closing of the RWTO/OERO Beaver Valley Branch. Many of us have had this happen to organizations that were important in our lives and know it is difficult to move on. We are pleased that Lois Cook, Donna Hemeon, Ainsley Lewin, Mary Milne, and Laurie Wright have joined our group. We also welcome Cynthia Lemon who has retired from the Bluewater Board and was very involved in the FWTAO. (Remember that ladies?) We welcome these fresh faces and new ideas!

Thank you to our new treasurer, Mary. It has been more difficult to collect membership dues this year as we haven't met in person. Wow! There are only two Visiting Members who have not rejoined. 😊

Some of our members may feel that being a Life Member would best suit their needs. Please read the explanation below and contact me if you would like to be considered for a membership change. We like to stay in touch and you will still receive correspondence from Provincial and our Local branch.

1. Regular Members:

Any retired woman teacher is eligible to be a member of RWTO/OERO.

2. Life Member:

- a) A Life Member is one who is unable to manage details of her personal affairs; **OR** who is no longer attending meetings due to chronic ill health, physical impairment, mobility or age. She shall pay no membership fees.
- b) Nominees for this status must first be approved by the Branch Executive and their names forwarded to the Provincial Office. RWTO.org

Looking forward to having a “normal” November meeting!

Penny McKay, Membership Convenor
pogo@bmts.com 519 794 2837



SLOW DANCE

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round?
Or listened to the rain slapping on the ground?

Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight?
Or gazed at the sun into the fading night?

You better slow down, don't dance so fast.
Time is short, the music won't last.

Do you run through each day on the fly?
When you ask, "How are you?" Do you hear the reply?

When the day is done, do you lie in your bed, with the
next hundred chores running through your head?

You'd better slow down, don't dance so fast.
Time is short, the music won't last.

Ever told your child, we'll do it tomorrow?
And in your haste, not see his sorrow?

Ever lost touch, let a good friendship die
Cause you never had time to call and say "Hi".

You'd better slow down, don't dance so fast.
Time is short, the music won't last.

When you run so fast to get somewhere,
You miss half the fun of getting there.

When you worry and hurry through your day,
It is like an unopened gift...thrown away.

Life is not a race, do take it slower.
Hear the music before the song is over.



Covid -19 has forced us all to slow down. We have time
now to enjoy life without the hustle and bustle.
Remember what you have learned from this experience.

A few items from Provincial

This year Provincial has given each Branch \$400 for the 3 Rs. In addition, the Board is passing back in an equitable manner, the funds that were saved at Provincial Level this past year (due to Covid restrictions). Each Branch will receive \$600! That makes \$1000 into our bank account! What a wonderful opportunity to support our members!

Please take the time to explore our Provincial RWTO Website. www.rwto.org It has been updated and easier to use. Check out Branch News for Owen Sound and any other branch in the province.

Workshops are being offered for all members by Kathy Gallagher, our Provincial Website Convenor. Go to Branches, Communications Convenors to register.

October 27 - Working with Images

January 26 - Zoom Platform - become more familiar with how to use it!

February 23 - Branch Facebook Pages - how to set up a Facebook Page

Connie Morris - Provincial Rep

An important message

"If you are enrolled in the RWTO/OERO Hospital and Home Care Plan with Manulife Insurance, please be aware of the following:

As of **October 21st** all new and existing SecureServe customers will be required to create a Manulife ID in order to log-in. This ID is being rolled out across all of Manulife as a single sign-on credential that will give the customer access to all their Manulife products.

The sign-up process is straight forward, however we anticipate that there will be a few customers that have questions while going through their initial setup. Our contact centre is prepared to assist with these questions as this transition to a Manulife ID was successfully completed on another business line. A banner went up on SecureServe on September 30th to give customers a heads-up.

This does not apply to those members who mail in their forms or communicate with Manulife by phone or through Terry Kennedy.



Happy Hallowe'en from your RWTO/OERO executive

CONVENTION 2021 ~ KEYNOTE ADDRESS

What must we do to keep our organization sustainable, alive, and vibrant in terms of membership and goals? Let's build a legacy for the future!

There is a proverb regarding legacy building: "You can't really know where you are going until you know where you have been." We need to think about how the actions of our predecessors affected us. What resources did they leave behind? How did they shape our organization's culture?

Research shows that when we know we have benefited from the legacy of prior generations, that gets us thinking about the positive legacy we want to leave for future generations and we tend to make better long-term oriented decisions.

I am going to briefly highlight some of the history of our organization. I would like you to reflect on the legacies that have been handed down to us.



Nancy Papiez
RWTO/OERO
Provincial Past President

Our Roots

In May 1937, a retired teachers' Bridge group in Toronto formed The Rendezvous Club. They were the first group of retired women teachers ever formed in Canada! Their motto was: To Care and Share. Between 1944 and 1956, the Rendezvous Club was at the forefront of attempts to address women's pension issues. They approached the Teachers' Superannuation commission to make pension changes, without success. At this point, it became clear that they needed a larger provincial campaign. In 1954, a call went out to the province to form local groups of retired women teachers and report back to Toronto. This was a huge undertaking back in those days without email! The response was quick.



Our Organization is Born

In 1956, we became an organization. The women of the Toronto group were chosen as its first Provincial leaders. They had a strong tie to the Federation of Women Teachers' associations of Ontario (FWTAO, 1918-1998) who supported them on their journey for pension improvement. The very first Convention was held in Toronto in 1957. One year later, in 1958, our constitution was established and we became the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers (OASWT), a title which we held for 41 years.

The pension campaign was in full swing for a ten year period, from 1956-1966, and it was immense with letters sent to members, meetings and many briefings to the Ontario Legislature in Toronto. In early 1967, legislation was passed that set the same minimum pension for both male and female teachers in Ontario. It was a long fight! It was also quite complicated. There were still injustices in pensions but overall success was achieved with the pension reform.

The Next 20 Years

During the '70s and '80s the emphasis included growing membership and expanding geographically throughout Ontario. There was also a focus on fine-tuning how the organization functioned at both the Provincial and Branch levels. There were many resolutions at Conventions!

Turning Points

Important "turning points" occurred during the 1990s and 2000s. At the Convention in 1998, a recommendation in a Resolution from a Special Strategic Planning Committee was Carried: "That Membership be open to any retired woman teacher, whether or not she is receiving a teacher's pension." This was big and it opened a door; presently, anyone who has taught in a classroom at any level of education can join our organization.

In 1999, our name changed to Retired Women Teachers of Ontario (RWTO). In 2009, our name became bilingual: Retired Women Teachers of Ontario/Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario (RWTO/OERO).

In 2009, the Preamble in the Constitution was amended to include our Motto (Caring and Sharing), Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Goals. This was significant as it gave direction to the organization and to the Branches, and it defined the culture of our organization.

Where Do We Go From Here?



It is now 2021. What legacies can we develop at the beginning of the 21st Century that will ensure that future generations in our organization will thrive?

First, let's think about our [Membership](#).

1. Should we open our organization to other Women Educational Professionals? We need to consider the following:

- 25% of our membership is age 80+
- 55% is between ages 70 - 79

- 17% is between ages 60 - 69
- 3% is between ages 50 - 59

a) **Is** the percentage of new members compared to the number of members who will pass or become Life Members enough to sustain us?

b) **Education** has changed over the last 30 years or so with the addition of other educational professionals in our schools. They work with children in classrooms, have a vital role as partners with teachers in education and have become our friends in education.

c) **Will** opening our organization to the women educational professionals really change our overall vision and goals?

A decision on this topic will never come from the top down. This needs to be a Branch resolution at an AGM. The membership has the vote and decides.

2. **Should** we encourage women of other cultures to join RWTO/OERO? As mentioned in "Uncommon Women", we have increasing population diversity in Canada. Many cultures have their own clubs and organizations. Surely there are female teachers within these groups who would like to join our organization. This is certainly something for Branches to think about locally.

3. **Should** we strengthen our ties with RTOERO, ETFO, OECTA AND OSSTF at both the Provincial and Branch levels? Perhaps we could find avenues for recruitment within these groups.

4. **It** should be noted that there is a Provincial Ad-Hoc Marketing Committee that is presently looking into professional advertising for recruitment. Committee members have drawn up a list of initiatives. One initiative is 'coming to life' as Provincial will be advertising RWTO/OERO in both the English and French versions of the "Professionally Speaking" magazine this year. We need to get our name out there!

We also need to look at our [Goals](#) as an organization.

1. **Should** we consider a common goal or a social action initiative? Members have been mentioning that they want to support a cause as an organization (e.g., the improvement of Long-Term Care Facilities in Ontario). We may need a provincial Ad Hoc Committee to look at the legalities and feasibility of this and a resolution would also need to be put forward at an AGM. It is something we can all think about for the near future.

2. **Are** we going to continue to 'Embrace Technology' after the Pandemic? Over this past year, we have all learned the wonderful benefits of technology. Being together in person cannot be undermined, however technology has a place in the world of RWTO/OERO. Going forward, how can we utilise technology wisely at the Branch and Provincial levels?

To be sustainable, organizations must always be moving ahead in terms of who they are, what they stand for and what they do.

I believe now is the time to build a Legacy for the Future!

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Papiez
Provincial Past President 2021-22

Note: The history for this article was gathered from: Lenora M. Beech, and Mary Jane Finn (editor) *Uncommon Women*. Willow Publishing Company, Brighton, Ontario, Canada, 2011

There is an interesting word in the dictionary that you have likely not heard before.

Thank you Mary Hall for sharing this with us.

Ablautreduplication is not in my iMac dictionary but this is interesting.
Subject: An inconspicuous rule: Ablautreduplication

Why 'tock-tick' does not sound right to your ears?
Ever wondered why we say: tick-tock, not tock-tick, or ding-dong, not dong-ding;
King Kong, not Kong King...?
Turns out it is one of the unwritten rules of English that native speakers know without knowing!

The rule, explains a BBC article, is:

"If there are three words then the order has to go I, A, O."

If there are two words, then the first is I and the second is either A or O."

Mish-mash, chit-chat, dilly-dally, tip-top, hip-hop, flip-flop, Tic-tac.

Sing-song, ding-dong, king Kong, ping-pong. "

Another unwritten rule at work in the name Little Red Riding Hood, says the article.

"Adjectives in English absolutely have to be in this order:

Opinion - Size - Age - Shape - Colour - Origin - Material - Purpose - Noun

So, you can have a lovely little old rectangular green French silver whittling knife. But if you mess with that word order in the slightest... you'll sound like a maniac.

That explains why we say "little green men" not "green little men,"

But "Big Bad Wolf" sounds like a gross violation of the "bad" (opinion) "big" (size) "wolf" (noun) order.

It won't, though, if you recall the first rule about the I-A-O order...! Got it...?

That rule seems inviolable: "All four of a horse's feet make exactly the same sound.

But we always, always say clip-clop, never clop-clip. "

This rule even has a technical name!

If you care to know it: it's **The Rule of Ablautreduplication!**

But then... Life is Simpler, knowing that we know the rule without knowing it!

New Alphabet:



A is for apple, and B is for boat,
That used to be right, but now it won't float!
Age before beauty is what we once said,
But let's be a bit more realistic instead.



The Alphabet Now:

A's for arthritis; B's the bad back, C's the chest pains, perhaps car-di-ac?

D is for dental decay and decline, E is for eyesight, can't read that top line!

F is for fissures and fluid retention, G is for gas which I'd rather not mention.

H high blood pressure--I'd rather it low; I for incisions with scars you can show.

J is for joints, out of socket, won't mend, K is for knees that crack when they bend.

L'S for libido, what happened to sex? M is for memory, I forget what comes next.

N is neuralgia, in nerves way down low; O is for osteo, bones that don't grow!

P for prescriptions, I have quite a few, just give me a pill and I'll be good as new!

Q is for queasy, is it fatal or flu? R is for reflux, one meal turns to two.

S is for sleepless nights, counting my fears, T is for Tinnitus; bells in my ears!

U is for urinary; troubles with flow; V for vertigo, that's 'dizzy,' you know.

W for worry, now what's going 'round? X is for X ray, and what might be found.

Y for another year I'm left here behind, Z is for zest I still have -- in my mind!

I've survived all the symptoms, my body's deployed,
And I'm keeping twenty-six doctors fully employed!

HAVE A GREAT DAY !

OCTOBER

THE RAINBOW

By Louise Dobson

The novelty
had worn off

The true nature of each child
had emerged

The clown

The bully

The brain

The jock

The musician

The helper

The shy

The lazy

The loner

The leader of the pack

All the masks had melted
to reveal the colours of
their character

The teacher
looked out at the rainbow
of students
and knew with a
little polish
they all could shine



**Had I known in March 2020, that it was the last time I would
be in a restaurant, I would have ordered the dessert.**