

An update from your GWRWT Executive

Greetings from President, Joan Berry

I hope everyone is safe and anticipating better times ahead. I am looking forward to spring, getting the vaccine, planting my vegetable seeds and continuing to find new walking trails in Wellington County.

The following items indicate what the executive and some interest groups are doing. If you or your interest group is doing something special during this difficult time, please let me know and we'll include this information in our next report.

SCAW

SCAW was absolutely delighted with our Christmas contribution this year. Linda Webb, Executive Director of Sleeping Children Around the World, wrote:

"Your members are the salt of the earth! It is so inspirational that GWRWT found a way to support Sleeping Children in spite of the lockdown. To receive \$6,535 is a Christmas miracle! We are deeply grateful. Peace and joy at Christmas and always."

Guelph-Wellington Women In Crisis

Every year at our Spring luncheon, we collect supplies for Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis. These toiletries and gifts are delivered to the shelters in Guelph and Wellington County and are very much appreciated. This year, of course, we can't collect our usual items but we know that the needs of women and children in crisis are even greater during this pandemic. With this in mind, the executive voted to **donate \$1,000** of the money which we collected from you in membership fees and which we would have normally spent on subsidizing luncheons this year to Women in Crisis.

Interest Groups

Book Clubs

- *The Happy Bookers Book Club* - Cheryl Banks, Carol Christie, Lynn D'Alton, Eleanor Findlay, Betty Jordan, Darlene Kelterborn, Brenda McGinnis, Linda Moore, Sandra Sharpe, Marilyn Small, Anne Smith, Wendy Thompson, Lynda Urwin - keep in touch every second Tuesday of the month by emailing each other about the book(s) they have read that month. Carol came up with the idea of one of us choosing a theme each month. These themes have included books by authors whose last name begins with "B", a non-fiction book about a real event, a book about women for women, a Jane Urquhart work, and a biography or autobiography. Half the fun is researching and locating a book that fits the theme. The first part of our email is always an update on our lives and the second part is commentary on the book we've read. We find this a great way to keep in

touch with each other even if we can't meet in person and enjoy delicious snacks along with our books and good company.

- Joan Berry's Book Club is still going strong on Zoom.
- What are some of the other book clubs doing?

Wellington Women Walking: In addition to participating in her book club, Joan has started this group. They have only 2 or 3 women at a time right now, but they pick a different trail in Wellington County every week.

The Walking Group, led by Shelley Sheridan, is still active through emails and people walking on their own. They are interested in getting started again but, unfortunately, Shelley broke her leg recently! The group will revisit their plans in a month or so depending on what zone our community is designated. Best wishes for a speedy recovery, Shelley!

The Travel Club is currently, and temporarily, known as The Pandemic Travel Group. Carol Christie sends members a link to a Rick Steves video or any other travel video that she can find where someone is talking about a travel topic. Carol asks members to watch it and then share their thoughts with the group during a specified response timeline. It is not a Zoom get-together. Members email each other with ideas/responses/tips etc. If members send Carol anything travel-related that they would like to share with the group, she'll pass these along.

The Hiking Group: Jane Shifflett emailed the group that, once we move into the yellow zone, she will set up a hike. In the meantime, she hopes everyone is finding someone to walk with and that everyone is trying the wonderful trails around Guelph, Fergus and Elora.

- A simple but beautiful trail is the Speed River trail between Woodlawn and Victoria Road.
- Need some hills? Try Smith tract along Watson Parkway or Stanley Hill.
- The walk along the Eramosa River from the Boathouse to Victoria Road and back is both easy and scenic.

If you want hiking ideas or information, please contact Jane and she will try to help.

The Guelph Wellington Drumming Club has combined its efforts with the Waterloo Retired Teachers Drumming Club and it has been a wonderful success. Sandra O'Connor writes that,

- in the fall, they met at Breitaup Park in Kitchener every Wednesday at 2:00 pm. They start with basic warm up beats, then more advanced beats, dancing, traditional African beats and then Tai Chi to relax at the end.
- In November, they decided it was too cold so they started doing it on Zoom. They now meet every second Wednesday and have the same format. They have themes and, for example, for the week of Family Day they dressed up like kids. It was a lot of fun.
- Over the past 4 years, good friendships have blossomed. Four years ago, they started with 8 members and now they have 20 members.

Bridge Base On-line: Joan Chamberlain plays bridge on-line with three different groups. It is a very popular site where thousands of people from all over the world play on-line. One time, when they needed a fourth, they played with someone from Wales. The groups Joan plays

with also talk on the phone while they play. They use a conference call which makes it more social and they can share a few laughs together.

[The Singing Belles](#): Marg Wiley reported that the Singing Belles agreed that it was too hard to sing together on a Zoom call but they missed each other. So they decided to have a zoom call just to chat with each other. They had such a good turnout that they did this three times, and then, once the weather improved, they met twice in Riverside Park to sing together while socially distanced. They are looking forward to when they can sing outside again.

[Potluck Group](#): Barb Smith reports that shortly after the lockdown last March, the potluck group had two Zoom calls just to connect and talk food. When the weather permitted, the group had brown bag lunches, sometimes accompanied by soup and dessert, on the large properties of a couple of their members. Able to socially distance, they had bonfires to keep warm in the cooler fall weather. At the end of February, missing each other again, they organized a Zoom call with an Italian theme where they could cook an Italian meal or talk about a favourite Italian meal.

Goodwill

Kerry Detlor continues to send get well and condolence cards to our members and birthday cards to members over 80. If you know of anyone who needs some good wishes or cheering up, please let Kerry know.

Our Provincial Website - Marion Kelly

If you want to access our Branch news on the Provincial website:

1. Login to RWTO.org.
2. At the TOP RIGHT of your screen find a narrow line in blue with the direction GO TO BRANCH and click on that.
3. Search among the list of branches that appears and click on Guelph Wellington. A beautiful picture of Elora and all the tabs you need to connect you to our branch news and information will appear.

If you are want:

- to know **what is happening** in our branch?, click on our HOME tab to find a link to our brochure;
- to read the **obituaries** of our members who have passed? Click on IN MEMORIAM;
- to view **branch photos** of people and events? Click on GALLERY - Over the next while, Marion Kelly will be posting pictures and stories of what our interest groups have been doing over this COVID period. You will find them in the GALLERY;
- to find **interest group** info? Click on EVENTS;
- the names of **Cora Bailey Award winners**? click on AWARDS or
- to read the latest **provincial newsletters**? Click on NEWSLETTERS.