

Guelph Wellington Retired Women Teachers of Ontario



rwto.org

May 2021

Thank you to Joan Berry

Our executive would like to thank Joan for her service to Guelph-Wellington Retired Women Teachers.

Joan was president during a very difficult, unprecedented time. Our executive appreciated her very positive, upbeat manner as she tried very hard to maintain contact with both our executive and our members in ways that were unimaginable a year earlier. Zoom, for example, has become an integral part of our lives.

In spite of the pandemic, she motivated us to contribute to two of our favourite groups, SCAW and Women in Crisis, and to reach out to our older, more vulnerable members through cards and personal contact.

Thank you for caring and sharing, Joan. We look forward to your continued participation on our executive as Past President.

Incoming President's Message

As we travel through the year 2021, it is with the hope that the 'covid19 crisis' is slowly coming to an end. While it is prudent to be mindful of the fact that we still need to be careful and uphold all the measures that have made us safe thus far, there is a glimmer of hope that the new normal is on the horizon.

Hello, my name is Mary Gittins and I will be your president as of July 1st, 2021. I will be filling the shoes of Joan Berry whose presidency has been a great success. For a good part of her term, the global pandemic has taken away so many of the functions in which we would normally have been able to participate. Joan has always been positive and encouraging through it all. It would take more than a pandemic to restrain Joan's spirit or sense of humour.

None of us know what lies ahead for 2021/22. I, for one, am looking forward to resuming all our activities, particularly the luncheons that we have all enjoyed so much. I would like to speculate that we will be able to go ahead with the fall luncheon in September or October. Our events are always so well attended, and we enjoy meeting and greeting everyone who comes. Let's hope we can celebrate that fellowship sooner rather than later.

We have a remarkable executive team at the Guelph Wellington Branch of RWTO/OERO. Being on the executive is a great way to volunteer your time and we are looking for more ladies to join us. There are executive positions which have become available and I will list them below. In another part of this newsletter, you will be able to see in more detail what these positions involve. Even if you don't feel ready to take on an executive position, you can still join our team. Give it some serious thought!

The executive positions which need to be filled are as follows:

- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- Secretary
- Membership Chair or Co-Chairs
- Website Communications Chairperson

On a personal note, let me tell you something about myself. Although I am a Canadian citizen and have lived in Canada for 31 years, I am Scottish born and bred! I love Canada and all that it has to offer but you know what they say....'you can take the girl out of Scotland, but you can't take Scotland out of the girl!' This is very true of me. I taught in England for 14 years before we came to Canada to join my husband who had been transferred here from England. I have two children, Philip and Alison, and four grandchildren. For 20 years of my teaching career in Canada, I taught at Sacred Heart School in Guelph. I loved the school and although I had many opportunities to go elsewhere, my heart

belonged to The Heart! I retired in 2012.

We are a group of hard working, enthusiastic, and dedicated women on the Guelph Wellington Branch of RWTO/OERO. We would love to have you join us. You will fit right in.

My email on the list is not correct. My email is mary@grandflags.com.

Executive Nominations Report

Hello Members,

Please consider joining our GWRWT Executive for 2021-2022. The following positions are available: 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Recording Secretary, Membership Chair(s) and Website Convenor. You can call Pat Foster at 519-824-2353 or any member of the Executive to volunteer. Our emails are also provided on the GWRWT website. The proposed Executive is listed below.

GWRWT Proposed Executive, 2021-2022

President	Mary Gittins
Past President	Joan Berry
1st Vice President	Available
2nd Vice President	Available
Treasurer	Mary Hermann
Recording Secretary	Available
Insurance Convenor	Sandra O'Connor
Membership	Available (1 or 2)
Social Convenor	Brenda McGinnis
Interest Groups	Carol Christie
Website Convenor	Available
Decorating	Julia Burns
	Judith Steer
Goodwill	Kerry Detlor
Joy Partners	Lynda Gilham
Archivist	Mary Cunningham
	Donna Rawbone
Telephone Convenor	Alison Rainford
Nominations Committee	Joan Berry
	Pat Foster

Thank you for considering a position,
Pat Foster

Women in Crisis Donation

Guelph Wellington Women in Crisis sent us a lovely thank you for our \$1,000 donation. As you know,

every year we collect supplies for Guelph Wellington Women in Crisis at our spring luncheon. This year, we couldn't do this but we wanted to continue the tradition of supporting this important cause so we donated some money from our funds which would normally have been used to subsidize our luncheons.

"Thank you for your continued support of Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis through your most recent donation of \$1,000. We truly appreciate your generous contribution which helps ensure that we can continue providing effective programs and excellence in service to the women and children we support. Each year, through our continuum of service, we support more than 1500 women and 100 children; respond to over 3000 calls to our 24-hour Crisis Line; and provide public education promoting awareness of issues of woman abuse and sexual violence. Thank you for your outstanding support in these challenging times. With deep gratitude." *Sly Castaldi, Executive Director and Justine Morgan, Resource Development and Communication Manager.*

Job Descriptions for the Vacant Positions

1. 1st Vice President
2. 2nd Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Membership – 1 or 2 positions
5. Website Communication Chairperson

Listed below are brief descriptions of the above positions. Should anyone want more details please refer them to a member of the executive:

1st Vice President

- Assume the President's duties at her request or in her absence.
- Serve as a member of the Nominations Committee.
- Attend RWTO convention as branch delegate.
- Greet and welcome new members at events and functions.
- Arrange and present a gift to the president at the end of her term.

2nd Vice President

- To stand in for 1st Vice Present and assist

her and the President when requested.

- Serve on Nominations Committee.
- Greet and welcome new members.

Secretary

- Maintain accurate records of all meetings of the Branch.
- Maintain records of all correspondence to and from the Branch.
- Assist the president in preparation of Annual Report and forward to RWTO.
- Ensure all policies, guidelines, handbooks, and by-laws are secured and stored in the archives.
- Perform other duties as requested or assigned by the Executive.

Membership

- Membership Dues
 - Send an email to all current members in April or May advising them of the procedure to renew their membership by September 1st. Send a reminder in early August and mid-September to those who have not yet renewed.
 - Those who do not have emails are phoned to give them this information.
 - Membership dues can be paid at the registration table at the April/May luncheons. Cheques and eTransfers may be sent to the Treasurer.
- Membership Directory
 - Work with the Treasurer to maintain a complete membership list with names and contact information of its members.
 - Request that members send the Membership Chair any updates to their information.
 - Create a Membership Directory to be emailed to members in early December. Have printed copies made for those without email, to be given out at the December luncheon or sent by mail.
 - Send updated contact information to the membership to change in their directories.
- Membership Contact
 - Send out emails reminding

members of upcoming luncheons four weeks and two weeks prior to the date.

- Send out eBlasts, newsletters or other communication from the president/executive as required.

Website Communications Chairperson

- Secure and post updates to the following website pages:
 - Home Page Introduction to Website
 - Current contacts for questions about GWRWTO
 - Current brochure including current and new executive titles and contact information.

In Memoriam

It is with saddened hearts we share the names of our members who have passed away:

Margaret Ewen	April 23rd, 2019
Beth Taylor	November 21st, 2019
Judy Jones	December 31st, 2019
Glenice Brown	April 26th, 2020
Coralie Corlett	December 31st, 2020
Audrey McEachern	February 13th, 2021

Membership

As for this past year, your payment options are:

- to mail your \$45 cheque, made out to GWRWT, to Mary Hermann, 109 Parkinson Dr., Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0. Cheques may be postdated for September 1st and sent at any time prior to that date.
- to send an e-transfer to Mary at gwrwto@gmail.com. Send a preliminary email advising her that you are sending an e-transfer for your membership dues to maryhermann@rogers.com. DO NOT SEND THE E-TRANSFER TO MARY'S PERSONAL EMAIL. The e-transfer will auto-deposit so no password is required.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary.

The 2021 'Staying Connected' Convention

ALL of our Members are invited to attend the first ever Virtual RWTO/OERO 65th Annual Convention to be held June 1, 2 and 3, 2021.

There is no registration fee. This is a Virtual Convention taking place completely on ZOOM. All Open Events will be in a Webinar format, typically used for presentations.

As attendees you will not be seen or heard - only those who will be presenting or speaking. Observers cannot be accommodated at the AGM sessions this year.

However, here are the events that you **WILL** be able to **Register** for by going to the rwto.org website. The registration directions are at the end of this article:

- Tuesday morning; Opening of the Convention
8:45 AM– 9:15 AM Opening Virtual Song and Keynote Address
- Tuesday evening: 6:50 PM Evening Entertainment: LIVE! WITH COMEDIAN JOE PILLITTERI
- Wednesday afternoon -

SESSION 1 WEBINAR CHOICES 1:30 – 2:30

Canada: Rocky Mountaineer

OR

International: Northern Ireland

SESSION 2 WEBINAR CHOICES 2:45 – 3:45

Canada: The Wild North

OR

International: Egypt Yesterday and Today

SESSION 3 WEBINAR CHOICES 4:00 – 5:00

Women, Wine and Fashion – Anne's on the Avenue (Windsor)

Visit her at <https://annesontheavenue.com/>

OR

The Jerusalem Challenge - A Dance Demonstration by RWTO Members – Mardie Panabaker

- Wednesday evening
Entertainment 6:50 pm
Webinar with Jerry Boyer (questions after)

THE LIVERPOOL4 – CANADA'S BEATLES TRIBUTE!

- Thursday afternoon
1:00 pm Closing Events Webinar
Includes In Memoriam, Award Presentations, Call to Convention and more

Before making your choices, you can visit the rwto.org. Click on the red convention banner at the top of the page. It will take you to the promos for all of the events.

You can register on the rwto.org website (Each session requires a separate registration):

1. Go to rwto.org
2. Click on the 'CONVENTION' tab
3. Choose 'MEMBERS CONVENTION DETAILS' from the dropdown menu.
4. You will be asked for the password. Enter the **MEMBERS password** which is **MCD500** (*Be sure that you type the password all in CAPITAL letters.*)
5. The Registration Information will pop up. Follow the directions provided. PLEASE BE SURE TO ENTER YOUR BRANCH NAME (Guelph-Wellington) when requested.

Please note:

- *The links to register on the website document are embedded in the word REGISTRATION for each event.*
- *A recording of all Workshops and Tours will be available at a later date on the RWTO website and a notice will be sent to all Branch Presidents when they are posted.*

