



RWTO/OERO Owen Sound and Area

Happy Birthday to all our February and March birthday members

February birthdays are represented by **violets or irises**, flowers that suggest loyalty and faithfulness. The three upright petals of an iris bloom can indicate courage, faith and wisdom, or friendship, hope and compliments. 'Clarence' is a tall, bearded iris with pale blue standards and violet-blue falls.



The February birthstone is Amethyst. It is a purple quartz and is a beautiful blend of violet and red that can be found in every corner of the world. The name comes from the Ancient Greek, derived from the word methustos, which means "intoxicated." Ancient wearers believed the gemstone could protect them from drunkenness.



March birthdays are represented by **daffodils** like 'Love Call', sometimes called jonquils or narcissus, are the birth flowers for March. Because they often bloom in early spring, they symbolize new birth, beginnings, happiness and joy.



March birthstones are **aquamarine** and **bloodstone**. March's two birthstones, are very different when it comes to appearance, but they share a similar reputation for protecting one's well-being. The aquamarine birthstone evokes the colours of the sea.



Congratulations **NICE GOING!**
GREAT! *Way to Go!*
Yea! **FELICITATIONS**
CHEERS *Take A* **BEST**
BOW! **WISHES!**

We collected \$415 for the Food Bank at the RWTO Christmas luncheon.

President's Message

Greetings and Happy Valentine's Day to everyone! During this cold and dark winter we need some chocolate and flowers to brighten our days!



We had all hoped that our Covid restriction days would be behind us now. However, your executive is continuing to monitor the situation and will plan events accordingly. Personally, I continue to marvel at the dedication of our teachers and all other staff during these days of continuous disruption and change. How different school life is now from when I began my career!

This year RWTO/OERO will once again hold a provincial conference on June 7, 8 and 9. Connie Morris and I will be the delegates from Owen Sound and Area. We are hoping that the conference will be held in person in London at the Marriott Four Points Sheraton Hotel. However, the decision to hold the conference virtually or in person has yet to be made. The theme of this year's conference is 'Laughter Lifts Us Up'. An overview of the convention's activities and resolutions will be in the March edition of 'Connections'.

As ever, I continue to invite you to consider becoming a volunteer member of our local executive. We believe our work on behalf of all our members is important and rewarding. Please consider joining this group of wonderful, dedicated women.

Yours in Caring and Sharing,

Sue Loyst, President Owen Sound and Area



Hello RWTO/OERO Members, I hope that you are enjoying the winter season and looking forward to spring!

Since our last Newsletter, many cards have been sent to our members.

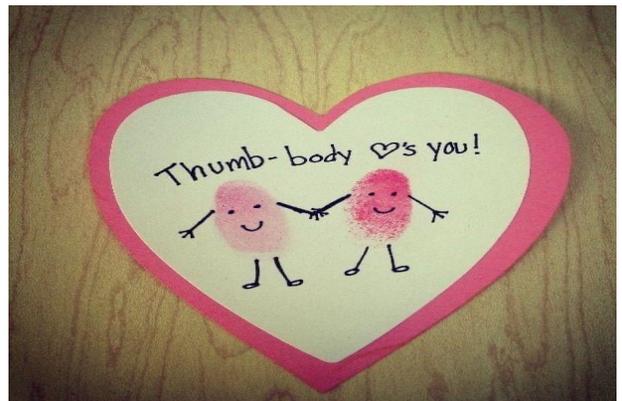
Our over 90 members, received Christmas cards. Birthday cards went to Donaldeen Waugh, and Armintha Belback. We hope their day was special. A Thinking of You card was sent to Ruth Kaufman. Sympathy cards were sent to Marg Abra at passing of her niece, Carol Bradley at the sudden passing of her brother-in-law, Cathy McCoy at the passing of her sister and Ruth Kaufman at the passing of her husband.

Again, our sympathy to all,

Yours in caring and sharing,

Lorraine Dunning 519-376-5017

Barb Schwartz 519-371-2474

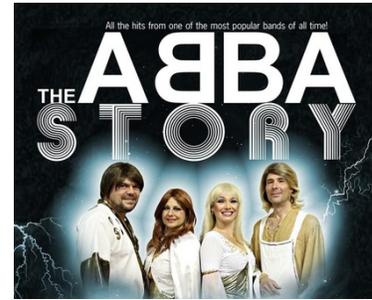


From our archives

In 2006, plans were made to raise money to build a replica, one-room schoolhouse in the Grey Roots Historical Village. Laurie James spearheaded the idea for a fundraising project. A quilt in the Bear Paw pattern would be made and then raffled. Twenty RWTO/OERO, RTOERO members & friends volunteered. At first, they met at Bayview School where the quilt top was assembled with the help from students. Then it was moved to Grey Roots Museum. Many visitors to the museum enjoyed watching as the volunteers quilted. Before the quilt was raffled, it was entered into the Meaford Fall Fair. There it won 1st Place in its category and Grand Champion Reserve. At the Chatsworth Fall Fair, it won 1st Place in its category. Linda Murray arranged for the raffle license and got the tickets printed. Linda and members helped to promote and sell tickets. We would like to thank these members of our RWTO/OERO group who gave freely of their time.

Laurie James, Linda Murray, Diane McLean, Marilyn Goldie, Nora Jones, Donna Steinacher, Lois Cook, Pauline McCutcheon, Donelda Robinson and Marie Vaughan

Submitted by Mary MacKenzie - Archivist



May 25, 2022

An invitation from RTO

RTO is hoping to return to their theatre outings on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, (depending on the Covid situation) with a trip to Bingeman's Matinee for a buffet luncheon and musical production featuring the ABBA Story. Dance in your seats to the wonderful songs that made ABBA the "supergroup" of the '70's. Enjoy such favourites as *The Dancing Queen*, *Fernando*, *Mama Mia*, *Knowing Me Knowing You*, *Waterloo* and *Money, Money*.

Proof of double vaccination will be required before boarding the bus.

Lunch includes bread, buns, salads, 2 hot entrees, potatoes, vegetables, desserts, coffee & tea. Cost TBA

If you are double vaccinated and interested in attending this event please contact Jan Chamberlain at:

shop_a_holic@rogers.com





Sharon Johnston is one of our new members. She retired from St. Basil's School. The highlight for her during her career was looking forward to meeting the new group of kids each year. Now in retirement she is hoping to keep active. She is looking forward to meeting and socializing with old and new friends. Activities that she enjoys include cards (particularly bridge), bowling, shuffling, crokinole, and Y activities. Now that she is retired she is hoping to learn how to swim. We are happy to have you join us Sharon!

Mary Slocombe joined our group during Covid. She retired from St. Basil's School in Owen Sound. During her career Mary loved the variety of teaching both Special Ed and Primary. In her retirement she is looking forward to doing outdoor activities and traveling. She plans to visit with family and friends. Now that she is retired she is hoping to join a book club. We welcome you Mary and are glad to have you as a new member.

Please remember to respond to the All Member Survey on RWTO/OERO Membership Extension. It is important that ALL members take the short time it takes to respond. Most members will receive the Survey via email, but those who do not have email, should watch the mail for their copy of the survey. Please complete and return it!



FEBRUARY – LIGHTS

By Louise Dobson (March 2008)

The teacher walked past streetlights shining on the schoolhouse wall
And thought of how the love of teaching clearly was the call
That brought the teacher down the path enlightening the way
Of younger hearts and minds and to this task was meant to stay

It wasn't just the lessons that were taught from all the books
But rather when the students gave those very special looks
'Twas then the teacher knew the spark of teaching had ignited
The love of learning something new and students were excited

And so a special kind of love was shared within the class
From teacher unto student the knowledge lamp was passed
It was the joy of lighting up their path mile after mile
That made the teacher realize the effort was worthwhile

