



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario / Organisation des Enseignantes Retraitées de l'Ontario

President's Message

As you read this article, there is a nip in the air and I imagine you are beginning preparations for the upcoming holidays. Do you share any favourite traditions? Our family loves the annual baking of gingerbread and shortbread cookies with grandchildren and sipping hot, mulled apple cider around a cozy fireplace. Celebrating with lively music, delivering hampers and embracing those favourite funny stories, have maintained their appeal, too. Most of all, it is the anticipation of time spent together no matter how small or large the gathering. Whatever your traditions, may you experience this time of peace and joy with those special people in your life.

What makes our RWTO/OERO connections so unique and valued? We enjoy wonderful friendships, inspiring programs, new adventures, and we work together through our outreach activities to support women and children in our midst. As retired women teachers, we share lasting memories of our chosen career and forge ahead with exciting new hobbies, travel, interest groups and the freedom of retirement.

For me, there have been many rewarding connections with our branches as well as working on several Board Ad Hoc Committees. Your support is appreciated.

I urge you to take a turn at sharing the leadership in your branch or at the provincial level. Would you help organize programs, contact members, or assist your local executive, where needed? Let's build a firm foundation for our future.

The exceptional relationships our branches form by supporting unique charities, encompass the true meaning of "Caring and Sharing". Your ongoing contributions and monetary donations to nutritional programs, food banks, bed kits, literacy projects, women's shelters, toys, socks, mittens, coats, backpacks, the arts, along with a host of other worthy charities, are life changing for those in dire circumstances. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Recently, one of our beloved Past Provincial Presidents, Helen Mutton, passed away. Helen demonstrated the importance of strong connections in all aspects of her life. RWTO/OERO members appreciated her leadership qualities, a hard work



Nancy Bell,
Provincial President

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Retired Women Teachers of Ontario Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario

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Publications Mail Agreement No. 40739021
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
RWTO/OERO Provincial Office

*This newsletter is published three times each year
in September, December and March. Send submissions by email to
rwtoconnections@gmail.com • Website: www.RWTO.org*



President's Message – continued

ethic, and yes, a feisty personality! Shortly after Thanksgiving, I had the privilege of attending Helen's celebration of life in Sarnia. Her remarkable wit, love of music and commitment to others throughout her 99 years, was inspiring to hear. May we carry on Helen's legacy of welcoming others to RWTO/OERO, reaching out to our shut-ins, and supporting those members experiencing challenges.

Optimistically, we will be gathering in London for Convention 2022 where "Laughter Lifts Us Up" in early June. The social networking, informative

workshops and camaraderie offer lasting friendship bonds that strengthen the vibrancy of RWTO/OERO across our branches. "Good friends are the jewels of life...difficult to find and impossible to replace." I do hope you consider joining in the fun!

From our family to yours, may your festivities sparkle with moments of love, laughter and goodwill and may the new year ahead be full of contentment, good health and meaningful connections.

Submitted by Nancy Bell, Provincial President

Call for Nominations 2022-2023

1. Provincial Executive Officers

Nominations for the following elected Executive Officers positions for the RWTO/OERO Provincial Board of Directors will now be accepted until January 31, 2022:

- Provincial 2nd Vice-President
- Provincial Program Coordinator

Nominees should have experience at the Board level, as well as at the Branch Executive level and/or in other organizations.

The job descriptions for these two positions are in the RWTO/OERO Provincial Policies and Procedures Manual, which can be found on our website at www.rwto.org, under the title ABOUT, click on Governance. Please look under Article VI, Duties of Executive Officers. You may also contact your Area Director or the Nominations Committee Chair for the job descriptions.

Nominees are to submit their name by filling out the Candidate's Form for RWTO/OERO Elected Position, which has been signed by your Branch President or Co-Presidents. The Candidate's Form can be found on our website at www.rwto.org, under the title ABOUT, click on Governance. The form can be filled out on-line or printed and filled out. A reference letter is NOT required from the Branch.

You will also be required to submit a bio (maximum

200 words) and photo for inclusion in the March issue of Connections. Instructions for what to include in the bio are listed on the Candidate's Form.

Nominations should be emailed or mailed with a postmark by January 31, 2022 to the Provincial Nominations Committee Chair.

2. Appointed Convenors

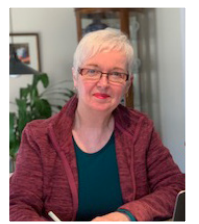
The following position is available:

- Provincial Communications Newsletter Convenor

The final appointment decision will be made by the Nominations Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. If you have an interest in this position, please email the Provincial Nominations Committee Chair by January 31, 2022. Please include a brief description of relevant experience.

Criteria for Communications Newsletter Convenor

The major responsibility is maintaining the content, currency and accuracy of the RWTO/OERO Newsletter, "Connections." The job description is in the Provincial Policies and Procedures Manual Article VII 4. Further information can be found



*Nancy Papiez,
Past President*

Continued ►

Call for Nominations 2022-2023 – continued

in the Constitution Article VII 3. Our current Newsletter Convenor, Jan Murdoch, can also be contacted at rwtoconnections@gmail.com.

A candidate for Communications Newsletter Convenor should have the following experience and qualifications:

- i. understanding of and commitment to the vision, goals, and organization of RWTO/OERO
- ii. previous experience on the Board, on a Branch Executive, or preferably, on the Communications Committee
- iii. good planning and organizational skills
- iv. excellent English composition, grammar and proofreading skills
- v. previous experience with design and preparation of newsletters or other publications
- vi. final newsletter layout is done by a graphic artist

3. Area Directors

Any new Area Directors will be selected or elected in accordance with their Area's protocol (see Provincial Policies and Procedures Manual, Article IV 3.). Once chosen, the names should be sent to the Provincial Nominations Committee Chair before March 31, 2022.

4. Provincial Communications Newsletter and Membership Committees

This is a call for interested persons to fill positions that become available. These are one-year terms, renewable for one more year.

Criteria for Communications Newsletter Committee Members:

The Communications Newsletter Committee edits Connections three times a year. Members maintain consistency of language and punctuation without compromising content or style.

An editor requires the following:

- excellent language skills, particularly grammar and

spelling (style sheet will be provided)

- previous editing experience (please identify these activities)
- solid computer skills in Word, PDF's and attachments, and managing photos
- commitment to online editing in early August, November and February

Criteria for Membership Committee Members:

Membership Committee Members will be expected to have an interest in, and willingness to:

- support existing Branches and assist with needs, if requested to do so by the Membership Convenor
- generate ideas for maintaining existing membership and suggest creative ways of encouraging newly retired teachers to join RWTO/OERO
- help to identify areas of the province that are not currently served by RWTO/OERO and where our organization might be of interest, and if required, assist in forming new branches
- offer workshops or presentations, if requested to do so by the Membership Convenor
- commit to responding to any online discussions promptly and thoughtfully

If you wish to join either of these committees, please submit a letter with a description of relevant experience to the Provincial Nominations Chair by January 31, 2022 either by mail or email.

For further information about any position, please contact any member of the Nominations Committee: Nancy Papiez, Nancy Bell, Connie Morris, Area 1, Suzanne Rondeau, Area 10.

Nancy Papiez,
Provincial Nominations Committee Chair

10-60 Dundas St
Dundas, ON L9H 7M6
npapiez@outlook.com



Together Again - COVID Style



Honorary Membership Award Nominations

I feel privileged to chair the committee this year that will review nominations for the Honorary Membership Award. The recipients of this award will have demonstrated outstanding services at the Provincial Level. This award will be presented at the Annual General Meeting. A description and the criteria for the award are found in Article XII of the Provincial Policies and Procedures Manual located on the RWTO/OERO website www.rwto.org, under the link About and then Governance.

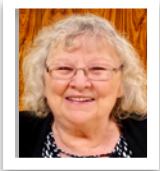
The nomination can be made by a Branch or a member-at-large. To help the committee make the decision as to who is most deserving this year, the nomination letter should include a list of committees on which the nominee has served and highlights of other contributions at the Provincial level such as positions held on the Board of Directors.

Nominations must be received by the Nominations Committee Chair, **Sharron Colter**, by January 31, 2022. Please include nominee's full name, current mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address.

Nominations can be mailed or emailed to:

Sharron Colter P.O. Box 364, Lion's Head, ON, N0H 1W0 or E-mail: dshcolter@eastlink.ca

Committee Members: Sharron Colter – Honorary President, Susan Rose – Area 6 Director, Kathy Smith – Area 13 Director, Evelyn Martin- Area 4 Director.

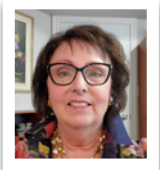


Membership Award Nominations

This is an exciting time for us on the Membership Committee, as we begin to look ahead to the submissions for the Feather in Your Hat Award. Now is the time for Branches to start thinking about making a submission. They may be sent after January 1st, but before March 1st. For the first time, the Board of Directors have agreed that this award should be tiered according to size; small, medium, and large Branches. Branches in each category could receive up to 3 awards. That means that the Membership Committee could be awarding up to 9 Hats! There is also a monetary award with it. This Award was established by the Membership Committee to recognize creative, innovative and successful activities carried out by a Branch or group of Branches who have worked cooperatively on a project that has clearly enriched the programs offered by RWTO/OERO.

It is becoming easier and easier to connect with other Branches across the province. Information technology has helped us to not only hold meetings but run programs of interest for our members, such as coffee clubs, flower arranging workshops, book clubs and many more. No one needs to be alone, if they can tap into social media, Zoom, emails and so much more. I encourage our Branches to learn something new about how to connect with others. Ask a friend for help if you feel unsure. Against the backdrop of the pandemic, we have been able to connect with our RWTO/OERO members province wide.

Evelyn Martin, Area 4 Director, Membership Convenor





Insurance Matters

Manulife Roll-Out of Their New Secure/Serve On-Line Service and the Issuance of White and Green Manulife ID Cards

RWTO/OERO members and spouses who have registered for SecureServe online claim submissions are requested to create an added Manulife ID to log in. This ID is being rolled out across all of Manulife to link several of their websites as a single sign-on credential providing another layer of security.

If you have questions regarding the initial setup, contact the Customer Service Centre toll-free for assistance at 1-877-222-7340. Please note that mail-in claims are still in effect.

Description of the Manulife Card

Card Front: (Manulife Logo)

- Includes your name (please verify)
- At the bottom of your personal card there is the Plan number: 17777C and your 10- digit personal ID number
- If your spouse is insured, he/she has a separate card

Card Back:

- Please disregard information about drugs and dental. The Manulife Contact number can be found here.

Registering Online

- Access your account at Manulife.ca/SecureServe
- On the first page, you will be prompted to enter your email twice
- The next page will have portalmanulife.ca at the top
- The password (your ID number) should also be automatically entered.
- If your personal ID number has not been automatically entered, enter your ID number and the Plan Number: 17777C

Note: There are three categories on the following page of the website:

1. Profile View:

- To check and update your contact information

2. Payment View:

- To check and review:
 - i. details of current and previous billing cycles
 - ii. banking information to receive direct deposits and for automatic fee withdrawals

3. Your Recent Claim History

Submitting a Claim Online:

- Login to your SecureServe claims account
- Make sure you have the service provider's receipt, name, contact information and address ready
- On the home page, click Other Submission
- Follow the on-screen instructions to complete your claim
- You will receive two separate notifications to confirm that Manulife has received and reviewed your claim

Continued ►

Insurance Matters - continued

Submitting a Paper Claim:

- You must pay the service provider and then send your claim to Manulife
- Download the Extended Health Care Claim form (CM5000E) at Manulife.ca/SecureServe.
- At the top of the page: Click on Forms & Documents
- Print and complete the Extended Health Care Claim form including all signatures
- Attach all receipts and necessary documents
- You will receive an email that your claim has been submitted successfully
- When your claim is approved, you will receive a cheque or an email notification of the direct deposit payment
- Your Explanation of Benefits will be posted online at the SecureServe website.

Please mail your claim to Manulife at:

Manulife Individual Insurance Health Claims

P.O. Box 670 Station Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario N2J 4B8

Contract and Benefits Page

- To access the Menu and the various pages on the Manulife website, there is a bar at the top of the page. The Menu is located at the right. Here, you can:
 - a) Download the contract
 - b) Send a note about a claim, as well as any questions. Include a request for response by email or by phone

Important Notes:

1. For the Contract and Benefits, you may need to upgrade Adobe with your PC, Mac, or Tablet to download the PDF files.
2. Please note the two Claim Forms accessible on the RWTO/OERO website (rwto.org/membership/insurance-plan):
 - i. RWTO/OERO Claim Form
 - ii. Prior Authorization Form for Home Nursing Benefit

Manulife Financial Toll free: 1-800-268-3763

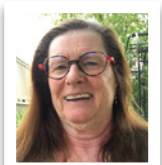


Insurance Convenor

Karin Mussen

519-272-0629

kmussen.rwto@gmail.com

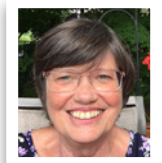


Assistant Insurance Convenor

LeAnne Taylor

905-877-7030

haw_taylor@hotmail.com



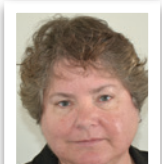
Manulife Financial 1-800-268-3763

Broker: Terry Kennedy

The Dolphin Consulting Group

(519) 583-0098 Fax: (519) 583-2876

tkennedy34@bell.net





Program

Dear Presidents and Area Directors,

Although COVID remains foremost in our thoughts, gradual progress is being made towards a 'new normal'. This is evident in the branch plans I have read about in the notes from your Area President Meetings. Where possible, branch programs are beginning to include 'in person' connections in some very creative ways. It is also enlightening to see how many branches are including other branches in, or planning together, programs and activities, whether in person or virtually.

In mid-January I will be sending out **Membership information** to all branches, compiled by the Provincial Executive Secretary-Treasurer, identifying your assigned number of delegates. This will be followed

by the annual **Convention Bulletin**, providing all the details you need to prepare for our, hopefully, **in person** Convention in **June 2022**. Please save and/or print this document for future reference and regularly check your email as well as rwto.org for updated important information.

This Fall many Ad Hoc Committees have been working hard on their mandates. A huge thank you to all Branch Presidents and Area Directors for your cooperation and support of their work by providing valuable input and information in a timely manner.

Judith Bennoch, Provincial Program Coordinator



Communications

Website Convenor

Check the Communication Website Convenors Page <https://rwto.org/branches/communication-convenors/> for: What, When, and How to send information to rwto cyberlady@gmail.com

Kathy Gallagher, Communications Website Convenor



Newsletter Convenor

If you are not receiving Connections online in PDF format, it may be because the security on your server is preventing it from arriving, it may be going to SPAM or JUNK. Servers do not like mass mailings. Please ensure that Linda Huffman has your updated email address.

Jan Murdoch, Communications Newsletter Convenor rwtoconnections@gmail.com



Sales and Materials

RWTO/OERO has a variety of items available for purchase through the rwto.org website. As Sales and Materials Convenor for RWTO/OERO, I ensure that there is sufficient inventory on hand to meet the organization's needs. Presidents are encouraged to place an order for anyone in their branch by sending me an email at rwto sales and materials@gmail.com and then distributing the items when they arrive in the mail. Please feel free to review the available items on the RWTO/OERO website and make suggestions about possible additions.

Yearly orders for Membership and Cora Bailey pins are facilitated through the Area Director - Membership pins as required and up to 3 Cora Bailey pins per year. The initial pin is free, replacement pins are available at a cost of \$5 each. Potential Gift Items: Notecards, Sticky note pads, RWTO/OERO Pens, Lapel pin holder All of our materials will be on sale at the Convention in London.

Judy Anderson, Sales and Materials Convenor
rwto sales and materials@gmail.com or 905-985-4257



Issues and Concerns

Have you ever been caught in an emergency situation and wished you had been better prepared? What can you do differently? I vividly recall the Blizzard of '77 when my family was separated and unable to get home for a couple days. A colleague and I were stranded on the way home from school and were very lucky to be welcomed into a home where they had lots of groceries, a roaring fireplace where we cooked many meals from a full freezer and enjoyed the warmth of the fire. We were lucky! That was not the case for many others.

Unfortunately there are many events that we can't control. In Ontario we don't have to worry about hurricanes or typhoons but we do experience floods, fires, and ice storms that leave us without power, water mains that break or we encounter emergency issues within our homes.

Experts suggest that we create a "go bag" and a "stay bin" for emergencies. The "go bag" is what you grab quickly when we need to leave the house in a hurry, whether it's to evacuate or go to the hospital. The "stay bin" is a stash of essentials you may need if you have to stay put for a while in your home in unusual

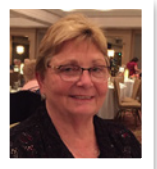
circumstances, such as loss of power, water or heat.

Papers such as your passport, birth certificate and other important documents can be stored in a zip-lock bag ready for pick up in your "go bag". A phone charger would be very helpful as well as medication for a few days. A change of clothing or a couple of items should be considered too. Do you need to add some snacks such as granola bars or water? Keep the bag light and small.

In your "stay bin" you probably have most of what you need in your home but gathering them in one place will eliminate a lot of stress should you need to access them. A supply of water, non-perishable food items, personal hygiene items, pet food, flashlights, candles and firewood will all be very helpful as well as extra blankets. Don't forget to include some hand wipes and sanitizer.

Emergencies are unpredictable but we can sometimes make the situation more comfortable if we do a little planning in advance. Take some time to discuss this in your home. Be Prepared.

Kathy Smith, Area 13 Director



Membership Extension – We Need Your Input!

At the Convention in 2014, a resolution was brought forward to extend membership in RWTO/OERO to Educational Assistants. The resolution was tabled with the request to form an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate the matter. A thorough survey of the membership was undertaken. When the report of this Committee was made to Convention in 2015, the decision was made to revisit the issue in five years.

Accordingly, a new Ad Hoc Committee was formed by the Board of Directors in May 2019 to consider the implications of extending membership beyond teachers to other women educators. Over the last two years, research was conducted on the demographics of our current membership, and the trajectory going forward of how the current demographics will affect our organization over the next decade. Research was considered on the roles of various professional female educators who are not teachers within the classroom, and with the well-being and success of students.

In mid-January, members will receive a letter by email containing this information with a link at the end to a three-question survey. A "Heads-Up" email will be sent the week before to remind you to look for it.

Those members with no email address will receive the letter and survey by Canada Post along with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The completed survey should be submitted by Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

Recommendations based on survey results will be presented to the Board of Directors in May 2022, and to the Convention in June 2022.

Committee Members: LeAnne Taylor, Nancy Bell, Kathy McLean, Nancy Papiez, Suzanne Rondeau, Lynn Sulman

Submitted by LeAnne Taylor,
Committee Chair



News from the Branches – Connecting With Other Branches

Area 5

Rendezvous

Rendezvous Branch has many members who taught in Toronto and want to keep connected to their former colleagues, even when they move outside of the city. I have a long drive to the west end of Toronto, but I enjoy the planning and socializing as we organize activities for our members. At home, I have attended nearby events planned by the local branch such as a Corn Roast or the Area Director's Golf Course Lunch with a 'Show & Tell'. These are activities that might inspire my downtown ladies as we try to come up with fresh ideas. I have made new friends as I get to know the retired women teachers in my town. They have welcomed me to their meetings and outings and consider me a Social Member as I cannot belong to more than one branch. Connecting with other branches is a way to share ideas and expertise.

Judy Anderson, Branch President

Scarborough

Connections with other Branches has not been as successful as those that I have read about in RWTO publications. Our main connection has been the Branch Newsletter. The Communication Team has sent out a newsletter to all members every month since the beginning of the pandemic. The eight or nine pages keeps everyone up to date about Provincial news, Insurance updates, Branch news plus some humour, a recipe or two and an article of interest. It is working! Approximately 2/3 of our members have paid their membership fees for 2021-2022. We will continue to keep the members informed through this positive communication strategy. Everyone can benefit from our creative talents since each of our newsletters was uploaded to the RWTO/OERO website <https://rwto.org/branch/scarborough/>

Carol Nelson, Branch President

Area 6

Blue Mountain

Zoomer, Zoom, Zooming, Zoomed and just Zoom have all become part of the lexicon of many RWTO members over the last while in our efforts to stay in touch with each other and with other branches.

Blue Mtn Branch interacted with other branch members in our Area 6 Presidents and Insurance update meeting. Yes on Zoom.

Also, some Blue Mountain members were able to watch members from other branches participate in various activities during the Annual General meeting on Zoom. This was important due to limitations placed on us by Covid 19. This medium along with email and the telephone have all been used to help us interact with other branches.

Of course, we hope the future will allow more of the traditional types of in person meetings to start again. However, Zoom has its own advantages such as no weather or distance restrictions.

Lois Plowright, Co President. Blue Mtn Branch

Daisy Wilson Coldwater

This has certainly been an interesting and challenging year and a half for the members of the Daisy Wilson Coldwater Branch. As all of our RWTO branches are experiencing, we have been unable to meet for in-person sessions for far too long. As a result, our Executive has successfully encouraged a significant number of our members to adapt to the Zoom technology. This became particularly important as our September meeting approached; we traditionally get together with the Orillia Branch each year for a "pot luck" and camaraderie. Covid had unfortunately interrupted this annual "connection" so we planned a joint Zoom meeting with our closest RWTO colleagues. This was a success and ended with the hope that September of 2022 will allow us to meet in person once again. We have decided that we will hold our first in-person meeting on November 23; all safety protocols and procedures will be adhered to so we are hoping for a great turnout.

Maureen McKinnon, Branch Communications

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News from the Branches – Connecting With Other Branches

East Parry Sound

Connecting with other branches brings fresh ideas for our meetings. Branches in our area enjoy making connections with each other, having taught with or having gone to school with some members. It's always good to see them again, it lifts our spirits. Sharing activities and games on Zoom is always helpful and fun. Although we prefer in-person meetings with our fellow members, Zoom has been an easy way to remain in touch with old friends and make new ones.

In the past we have had luncheons and good conversations together with our branches. Hopefully we will be able to find a safe way of socially distancing with suitable venues to be able to do this again. Sharing conversations about their latest community-minded projects gives ideas for other branches to try. There is lots of value in making those connections.

Susan Rose, Branch President

Orillia/Muskoka

Our Orillia / Muskoka branch has been able to conduct our monthly meetings online using ZOOM. The September 2021 ZOOM meeting was very special as it included our Provincial President Nancy Bell, as well as members from the Daisy Wilson Coldwater branch. In previous years, (prior to the Covid pandemic), we had enjoyed hosting a traditional pot luck luncheon with the same group and this was a nice way to continue to meet together.

Last December 2020 our Orillia / Muskoka group organized a special communications project involving some Orillia area elementary school students and residents from two long-term seniors facilities. Elementary classes from two schools made and decorated 'friend' Christmas cards for all the long-term residents. The children were excited to create the cards which were well-received and appreciated by the residents. We plan to repeat the project this year using different schools and facilities. A wonderful and heart-warming project for other branches at any time.

Yvonne Bromley, Branch President

Area 8

Brockville

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE, INTO UNKNOWN TIMES

"Connecting With Other Branches" is a difficult theme to adhere to during the pandemic, but one that will hopefully become easier in the near future.

Unfortunately, we have not been very successful in this regard and have found it difficult to connect with even our own area's members. Some of us attended the online convention which helped to connect us and entertain us as well.

Our callers, Membership convenor, Goodwill convenor, Insurance convenor, Newsletter convenor and Treasurer have all played an active role in keeping us connected during the past 18 months. A Facebook page has been created and will be updated in the near future to encourage connections as well.

We are welcoming 9 new members this year! We look forward to getting together in person very soon to celebrate our new members and to see each other for the first time in a very long while!! We also look forward to connecting with other branches to share stories and friendship!

Karen Kerr-Kennedy, Branch President

Gananoque

The years 2020 and 2021 were not the best years to make connections in the usual way. Instead of social, in-person gatherings, more traditional ways of staying in touch came into play. Cards, letters, and telephone calls became the norm; all members continue to receive frequent contacts.



Gananoque Branch covers a wide geographical area; we are not next-door neighbours. We took seriously the guidelines from Health Officers and our political leaders. Our members kept their family circle small, stayed in their bubble, and relied on delivery services for grocery and drugstore purchases. At the time of this writing, we proudly claim our County statistics of 97% population having first vaccination, 92% totally vaccinated, the first and highest in Ontario. None of our members contracted Covid-19, even though many

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News from the Branches – *Connecting With Other Branches*



are of an advancing age. An eventual, gradual, move toward in-person events is planned, keeping in mind the comfort and safety of all members.

Mary Ellen Moulton, Branch Communications Rep.

Upper Canada East

Challenging times made keeping in touch, not only with our members, but with other branches difficult. Anxiety about staying safe made so many hesitant about attending in-person gatherings. With lifting of restrictions and by following pandemic protocols, we sent invitations to members and surrounding branches for social gatherings. (In July an outdoor picnic; in August a wine tasting event and in September an indoor Fall luncheon and a Quarter Frenzy). This November, a newsletter will be sent out to members, friends and neighbouring branches inviting them to our Christmas event.

Finding new ways to keep in touch with membership and local branches is ongoing. We feel that "Connections" keeps us informed as to what other Branches are doing and if necessary, we can correspond with them for information regarding their activities. In the coming months, we will strive to connect through Zoom, by phone, emails, newsletters, and hopefully, more in person gatherings.

Diana McKendry, Branch President

Kingston

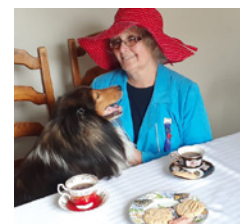
During Covid restrictions, our Kingston Branch found it very challenging to care and share with our members and other branches. We did however share breakfasts and lunches with the Napanee Branch in a restaurant when the restrictions were lifted. We delivered a personal invitation with



a

tea bag in it. We asked everyone to dress up in their hat and gloves while they shared tea in their homes on May 24 at 2:30 pm and then they sent us pictures doing it. The response was great! We are continuing our "Treats for Troops" initiative in cooperation with CFB Kingston who will deliver our packages overseas wherever they're needed. We're planning a special Christmas surprise which we plan to get off the ground in December.

Betty Jeanne Kippen, Branch President



Napanee

Because of the distances between the branches in Area 8 there is little interaction between us. Napanee Branch is at the far western edge of Area 8 and it is a two hour to two and a half hour journey to the branch at the far eastern end. We see the other presidents at presidents' meetings and now as we are prepare for the conference in 2023. Our nearest branch is Kingston and we have had joint meetings when the presiding Provincial President comes for a visit. Our branch members like to meet and visit with each other. We had our first fall meeting since October 2019 and we used some of the grant money to purchase a box lunch for everyone in celebration of our meeting. We hope to meet again for lunch before Christmas, and in the New Year renew our breakfast get togethers.

Beryl Jacka, Branch President

Area 10

Sudbury

"If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change."- Wayne Dyer

By ignoring the barriers, we only see the possibilities. Area 10 has only the Sudbury Branch. Geographically, it is difficult to physically participate with other area activities. We are often inspired by various postings

Continued ►

News from the Branches – Connecting With Other Branches

on the RWTO/OERO website and we hope that other branches enjoy reading Sudbury's activities.

Our experience at the virtual Convention and joining Area 11 for an Insurance workshop via Zoom has given us a new insight on how we can connect with other Branches. Sudbury is currently looking at offering workshops on Bone Health and Fall Prevention, via Zoom, provincially. For Convention 2024, Sudbury will assist Area 11 in every way it can. By changing our perception and exploring different ways of connecting with other branches, our organization becomes stronger.

Henedine Weiman, Branch President



Area 11

Central Algoma

Central Algoma Branch here in Northern Ontario is close only to one other branch, Sault Ste Marie (300 km from Sudbury) and we always share one meeting a year with them, taking yearly turns to host (and make the long drive) when the President comes to visit us both together. We are looking forward to that meeting with Nancy Bell which will happen on January 19.

Can we meet or can't we? Who knows how to extend Zoom invites? The ups and downs we have all experienced through this Covid Pandemic have proven to be both good and bad.

Yes, many of us have learned how to zoom and that it is fun to wear earrings with PJ bottoms. Our well attended Book Club has zoomed through the past year and a half so that is one way many of us have kept in touch. Also, our Hiking Group has kept active in the great outdoors with some amazing trails being discovered and enjoyed. Most exciting is that we were

able to hold our first meeting together in October, showing our proof of double vaccinations at our scenic Bruce Mines Lighthouse. Masks were mandatory and the conversations mask to mask were so much fun after being so long away from our meetings. Our Craft Group and our Games Groups are planning to get together soon as well. We are grateful for the friendships and sharing and caring of all our members. Most of us have maintained our sanity.

Carol Neave, Branch Communication Coordinator

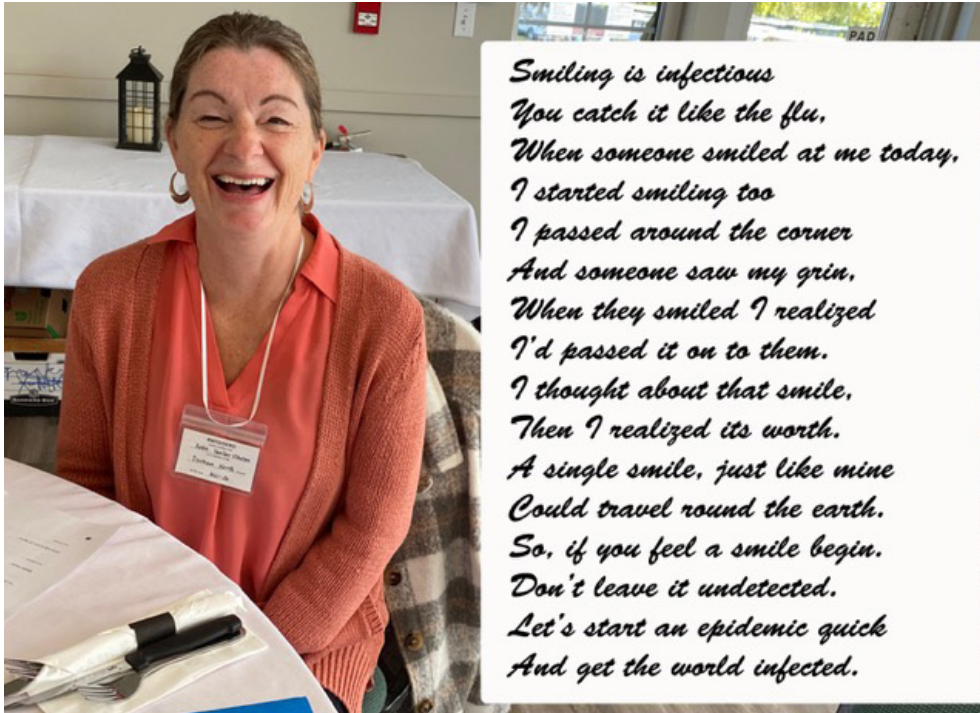
Sault Ste Marie

As there are only two RWTO branches in Area 11, there have been a number of events we have combined over the years, such as the Provincial President's visit and the Insurance workshop. Last year and this year we combined the Insurance workshop to include Area 10 (Sudbury) as well. With the Provincial President's visit we have alternated places and venues and the Insurance workshop has been offered in conjunction with the Provincial President's visit or as a separate event. Last year was the first time that these events were offered via ZOOM. Whether these events will continue to be offered via "ZOOM" or via "Go to Meeting" will depend on the technological services that our members have available to them.

Back in 2012, Area 11, with the leadership of Central Algoma RWTO and with Sault Ste. Marie RWTO assisting, we hosted the provincial convention " North to Algoma". It allowed us to build lasting Provincial friendships and wonderful respect for each other.

Sandy Fulcher, Branch President





Up...Up...and Away!!!

Celebrate a reunion of friends!

- Delicious dinners & lively music to keep your toes tapping
- Silent Auction items to bid on
- Tours to nearby Elgin County - walk the pier, shop, and dip your toes in Lake Erie
- See London's sights or relax by the pool
- Fun, surprises, laughter and more!

FOUR POINTS SHERATON by Marriott
1150 Wellington Rd. S. (just off the 401)
Call - 519-681-0600 ask for
RWTO June 2022 GROUP RATE
Check either website for room layouts/
types and views
marriott.com/YXUEP OR rwto.org

For more information contact Cathy Harrison
Convention 2022 Convenor @ 519-319-3407
OR Email grandmac@hotmail.ca

66th Convention RWTO-OERO



Join Area 3 in London

June 7 - 9, 2022

LET US RAISE YOUR SPIRITS!

Trivia

1. Which branch had the greatest increase in membership at the June 2021AGM?
2. What is the theme of Convention 2022? Where is it being held?
3. Who was the very first Provincial President and from what Branch?
4. If you were interested in applying for a position on the Provincial Board of Directors, where would you find information?
5. What outreach project did the Sudbury Branch initiate that won a Feather in Your Hat Award this year?
- 6 . The 3Rs of Membership are: R_____, R_____, and R_____.
7. Who met at the Bruce Mines Lighthouse in October?
8. If you wish to file a Manulife Claim, the plan number is _____.
9. Some experts suggest emergency planning should include _____ and _____.
10. The new video promotion on our website home page is called _____.
11. What was the average salary of a teacher in 1935?
12. In what year did female teachers achieve an equal salary scale with men?
13. Before maternity leave was established in _____, a teacher who became pregnant had one alternative – to resign. In so doing she lost her seniority, lost the experience of that year, and had to take the chance of being rehired.
14. In 1969 any individual with an honours high school diploma could apply to attend teacher's college in Ontario, to become an elementary teacher. In what year did the requirement change and a full University degree became the minimum qualifications?
15. In the 1970's many teachers arrived at work wearing a_____, a shock to many principals.

Answers can be found on the next 2 pages.



Answers To the Trivia Questions



1 Which branch had the greatest increase in membership at the June 2021AGM?

(Haldimand - 8 new members)

2 What is the theme of Convention 2022?
Where is it being held?

(Laughter Lifts Us Up, in London)

3 Who was the very first Provincial President and from what Branch?

(Bena McGowan, Rendezvous)

4 If you were interested in applying for a position on the Provincial Board of Directors, where would you find information?

**(On the website under ABOUT > GOVERNANCE > Candidate form
OR under pg. 79 of Policies and Procedures Manual)**

5 What outreach project did the Sudbury Branch initiate that won a Feather in Your Hat Award this year? **(sewed pocket pillows for hospitalized children)**

6 The 3R's of Membership are: R_____, R_____, and R_____.

(Recognition, Recruitment, and Retention)

7 Who met at the Bruce Mines Lighthouse in October?

(Central Algoma Branch)

8 If you wish to file a Manulife Claim, the plan number is _____.

(17777C)

9 Some experts suggest emergency planning should include _____ and _____.

("Go bags" and "Stay Bins")

10 The new video promotion on our website home page is called

_____.

(We're not you're average group.)

11 What was the average salary of a teacher in 1935?

(\$550 a year paid each month for 10 months)

12 In what year did female teachers achieve an equal salary scale with men?

(1950's)

13 Before maternity leave was established in _____, a teacher who became pregnant had one alternative – to resign. In so doing she lost her seniority, lost the experience of that year, and had to take the chance of being rehired.

(1970)

14 In 1969 any individual with an honours high school diploma could apply to attend teacher's college in Ontario, to become an elementary teacher. In what year did the requirement change and a full University degree became the minimum qualifications?

(1973)

15 In the 1970's many teachers arrived at work wearing a _____, a shock to many principals.

(Pant suit)



RWTO/OERO

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**PM Agreement
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