



# RWTO/OERO

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



## St Catharines Branch Newsletter, March 2022

### President's Message -- Kathleen Dussome

Dear Members

Only a few weeks ago no one could have imagined that anything could challenge our senses more than two years of Covid 19 or the tragic unfolding of the Residential School history in our country. But now we are faced with an even bigger crisis in the Ukraine which continues unabated, in spite of great heroism of the Ukrainian people themselves, the foreign legions who have joined them, thousands of selfless volunteers, and political sanctions from all over the world. I would imagine many of you have already donated to an organization assisting the people of the Ukraine. For those who have yet to do so, we have placed an ad in this newsletter which provides some direction. In the meantime, our executive asks for your patience while we discuss what further assistance our branch can offer. We will report back in the near future as we know without a doubt that this is the greatest humanitarian disaster since WW II and we all feel the pain.

On our RWTO branch front, regretfully, we have accepted a number of resignations on our executive and welcome all nominations for their positions in 2022 - 2023. I wish to thank Jessica Thomson who served for five years both as Archivist and Communications Website manager. Jessica is willing to train someone for her role. I also wish to thank Donna Painter for representing ETFO for the last 4 years and for being our Archivist for four years before that. Not least, I wish to thank Christine Graham for being our Insurance Convenor for the last nine years. It was very generous of her to devote her time and concern to the membership. As usual, a vote will be taken if there is more than one nomination for a position, otherwise, the position will be filled by acclamation and the new Table of Officers will be presented at our AGM in May. Also, a second VP will be needed due to attrition. Consider, also, that even though we are the largest RWTO branch in Ontario, adopting the same team-player perspective of smaller branches is the ideal. If you wish to assist the executive in any way, let the executive know.

Now the great news is that at least for the foreseeable future, our ability to have luncheons is back. You will want

to take note that at our April 27th luncheon at the Delphi Banquet Hall, in Niagara Falls, we will be welcoming our Provincial President, Nancy Bell. We will also be presenting Cora Bailey Awards (of 2019-2020), and Caring and Sharing Awards, now long overdue due to Covid restrictions. You will meet Past President, Susan Lewis, who diligently skippered our ship when Covid first started. Thank you, Susan. Not least, there will be a little cheerful entertainment provided by the Greek community.



Other good news is that the RWTO Convention, **Laughter Lifts Us Up**, at The Four Points Sheraton in London is a go and will be in person with some events streamed to all. It would be a pleasure to see our members attend. Certainly, consider car pooling to all RWTO events to save the environment and money in gas.

In closing, I want to acknowledge our First Nations people for sharing their ancestral homeland with us in peace. Their lost children are in our hearts. Secondly, let us raise the bar in thoughtful, intentional living, and day to day generate multiple small acts of kindness.

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## Migrant Workers Welcome Project

Submitted by: Melanie Kelch, Second Vice-President

On a cold, windy Saturday at the end of February, Linda Gaudet, Monica Forbom and I were thrilled to meet so many members as they dropped off their Migrant Worker Welcome Bags filled with all types of goodies and essentials. On March 1, 2022, Monica and I dropped off over 75 filled bags to the Migrant Workers Hub in Virgil. They were received by Jane Andres who is the founder of the organization.

I want to send a huge THANK YOU to all the members who gave so generously to fill these bags. They will be shared with workers who are arriving over the next while at the following farms: Langendoen Nurseries on Steward Road, Royal View Orchards at Line 6 and Concession 1 and Vandelaar Orchards on the Niagara Parkway.

In addition, RWTO St. Catharines Branch was featured in an article in the March 2, 2022, edition of the Niagara-on-the-Lake paper, "The Local". The article discussed our contribution to the Migrant Workers Welcome program as well as a brief history of RWTO. The link to the article is attached here:

[https://notlocal.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Local\\_030222\\_Issue9\\_pg1-20-web.pdf](https://notlocal.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Local_030222_Issue9_pg1-20-web.pdf)



**Past President's Report**, by Susan Lewis

**SHOW YOU CARE! Share Time With Your New Executive**

It is my pleasure as Past President to introduce to you the incoming executive for 2022-2023. Your President will be Linda Gaudet, and Melanie Kelch will be First Vice President. Kathie Dussome will be remaining on the executive as Past President. We look forward to the continued expertise and experience of Violette Hagerty as Secretary and Linda Foster in Finance. She will be assisted by Clara Warden in Membership. Clara is also the OECTA Affiliate and is assisted on the Membership Committee by Margo Smith who will continue to connect with secondary teachers as our OSSTF Affiliate. Fern Lackenbauer continues to share new ideas in her creative newsletters. Janis Harlos continues to care for our members as Goodwill Convenor. Regrettably, we are losing the invaluable service of three members that have volunteered their time on the executive over many years: Jessica Thomson, Christine Graham, and Donna Painter. A warm welcome to Kathleen Bradley who rejoined the executive to take care of your interest groups. A thank you to Chereen Osborne for serving as Honorary President 2021-2022. Linda Foster declined the honour for this coming term but hopes to accept the position in the future. Thank you to Patt Chivers. for accepting the position of Honorary President for 2022-2023.

We need members to share their voice and time by volunteering to serve as ETFO Affiliate on the Membership Committee, Insurance Convenor, Second Vice President and to fill the position of Archivist and Web Convenor. These jobs are invaluable. The Second Vice President is an intern who starts with community initiatives and program and advances learning to serve and speak to the members as First Vice President, President, and Past President over four years.

The Archivist's job has morphed into web design and posts, photography and advertising, and technological support with zoom and live meetings. YOU must fill these positions for our executive to effectively offer you luncheons, programs and interest groups.

After four years on the executive, two through a pandemic, I must bow out as Past President 2020-2021. Despite the difficulties of COVID, we have emerged intact with a healthy membership thanks to the determination and caring of your executive, and the support and generosity of our membership. I have enjoyed getting to know more members and cherish debating, laughing, and sharing the stress of the pandemic with the executive. As a member of RWTO, we are never alone. Join the executive and be rewarded knowing you are helping others and that others are supporting you. Thank you. Susan Lewis Past President.



**FINALLY, A LIVE CONVENTION!  
INVITATION FOR MEMBERS TO JOIN US!**

<https://rwto.org>

June 7 – 9, 2022

At Four Points Sheridan, London, Ontario

Theme: ***Laughter Lifts Us Up***

Must preregister for the Convention and Tours/Workshops:

Port Stanley Festival Theatre

Afternoon Exploring London

Evening Entertainment

Magical Hour: Tuesday

Timeless Rock and Roll: Wednesday

## April Luncheon

*O-pah!! ENJOY OUR GREEK-STYLE LUNCHEON!  
JOIN us, and the Greek Dancers, for some FUN!*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
11:00am. (10:30am doors open).

DELPHI BANQUET FACILITIES  
4414 Portage Rd., Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6A7.  
Consider Car-Pooling!

Enjoy a plated lunch of Greek Salad, Chicken Souvlaki,  
Greek Potatoes & Vegetables, Bougatsa dessert.  
Cost: \$40.00/pp.

Cheques are payable to: **RWTO St. Catharines**

And mailed to: Linda Foster,

14 Woodgarden Ct., St. Catharines, ON. L2M 7C9

Or by e-transfer:

[rwstocatharines@gmail.com](mailto:rwstocatharines@gmail.com)

**RWTO/OERO's Provincial Mandatory Proof of Vaccination Protocol will be followed. Proof of full vaccine; a Covid-19 booster dose; social-distancing; masking (other than when eating).**

### General Luncheon Information

1. All meetings begin at 11:00 A.M. Doors open at 10:30 unless otherwise indicated.
2. The name tags are on the table close to the entrance and are displayed in alphabetical order.
3. The cost for the luncheon will depend on what the facility is charging.
4. Payment for luncheons must be received by the Wednesday prior to each luncheon, whether by cheque or e-transfer. If you are late in mailing your cheque, let Linda Foster know that you are planning to attend and that your cheque is in the mail.
5. There are no luncheon tickets. As your payment is received, your name is added to the list of attendees. You should receive a call or an email when the Treasurer has received your payment.
6. **Cheques** are payable to: **RWTO St. Catharines** and mailed to: Linda Foster,  
14 Woodgarden Ct., St Catharines ON L2M 7C9  
For e-transfers, use the [rwstocatharines@gmail.com](mailto:rwstocatharines@gmail.com) address.
7. Luncheon payments will be returned if cancelled by the Wednesday prior to the luncheon. Call 905-935-6182 (Linda) to cancel.
8. You will receive a phone call or email reminder several weeks prior to the luncheon.
9. **Escorts needed.** Sometimes our members need a ride to the luncheon. If you require a ride or are able to provide assistance, please call Janis Harlos at 905-892-8203.

We are a **Fragrance-Free Environment.**



**RWTO/OERO St. Catharines Branch  
Tentative Slate of Officers 2022-2023**



**To effectively function, the following  
Executive positions must be filled.**

Please add your name by contacting:  
Susan Lewis, Past President [hollandhillbillies@hotmail.com](mailto:hollandhillbillies@hotmail.com)

Table Officers	Past President	Kathie Dussome
	President	Linda Gaudet
	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Melanie Kelch
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	?????
	Treasurer; Co-Membership	Linda Foster (Clara Warden)
	Secretary	Violette Hagerty
Convenors	Social	Louise Farquhar
	Communications: Newsletter	Fern Lackenbauer
	<b>Communications: Website and Archivist</b>	?????
	Goodwill	Janis Harlos
	<b>Insurance</b>	?????
	Telephone	Sheila Bengier
	Interest Groups	Kathleen Bradley
	Issues & Concerns	Marg Newby
Affiliate/Liaison Representatives	<b>ETFO</b>	?????
	OECTA	Clara Warden
	OSSTF	Margo Smith

## The Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis

*This is an unprecedented time!*

In support of the growing need facing the brave citizens of the Ukraine, many members have chosen to DONATE immediately, as have many other individuals and organizations.

Until we, as a Branch, learn “what we can do” (if combined with other Branches, Provincial or other Teacher groups), your immediate, individual donations will provide help now.

### Consider donating to:

**Canadian Red Cross** – Scroll to **Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal** <https://donate.redcross.ca/>  
or Call: 1-800-418-1111, Locally – 905-680-4099; or 255 Ridley Rd. W., Unit 2, St. Catharines, ON L2S 0B3

**The St. John’s Ukrainian Catholic Church**, 91 Lakeshore Rd., St. Catharines, ON L2N 2T6

Online: [www.stjohnuc.com](http://www.stjohnuc.com) -Specify “Aid for Ukraine”.

Or through Parish Office: 905-937-3393 (Tues -Fri – 8:30am -12pm.)

**Canada-Ukraine Foundation** – <https://cufoundation.ca>

**Humanitarian Coalition** -- 39 McArthur Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1L 8L7 1-855-461-2154

<https://www.humanitariancoalition.ca>





## Rankin Run for RWTO Members

May 13, 2022

The Rankin Run is a little different this year. 😊 Since the grand event is cancelled this year, people are asked to walk during the month of May. This fundraising event supports cancer care programs in our community.

Please join us for a walk on Friday, May 13th at 1:00.

We will be joining the Friday afternoon walkers and walk on the George Nicholson Memorial Trail on the eastern side of the canal. We'll walk for an hour on a paved walkway. Please let me know if you can join us or if you'd like to donate to the cause. T-shirts are available if we pre-register.

Thank you!

Jessica Thomson

[thomsonjess@hotmail.com](mailto:thomsonjess@hotmail.com)



### Membership Report – Linda Foster, Clara Warden

Welcome Spring and the signs of new hope. We are looking forward to seeing members at our April luncheon. We are happy to welcome three new members to our organization – Barbara Linton, Sharon Martinello and Lou Zanatta. We currently have 345 regular members, 8 Life members and 8 Social members for a total of 361 members. Due to Covid, it has been difficult to recruit new members, but with restrictions being lifted and people being vaccinated, we are hoping we again will be able to offer more to current and new members.

If you know someone who might be interested in joining our Branch, Linda Foster, Donna Painter, Margo Smith, or Clara Warden would be glad to hear from you. Our best advertisement is through word-of-mouth, and we rely on you to help promote our organization.

### Insurance -- Chris Graham, Insurance Convenor

A gentle reminder that insurance information can be found on the [rwto.org](http://rwto.org) website under the membership tab. The site provides all necessary forms which can be downloaded when needed. In addition, there are also PowerPoint slides highlighting an overview of the plan.

Before making a claim, I highly recommend that copies be made of all original receipts as the originals must be submitted with the claim form.

When having difficulty with a claim, our independent broker, Terry Kennedy, works for us and will provide excellent service and knowledge about the specifics of the Manulife insurance plan.

It has been my honour to support you through your insurance inquiries and challenges. Wishing you continued good health.

## Concerns and Issues Report -- Marg Newby

Roll on the Floor Laughing but .... Just don't fall.

Well, I'm 90 now so you can imagine I've had lots of opportunity for fun and rolling on the floor laughing. However, falling down and injuring hips, knees, shoulders and back on various occasions has been NO FUN AT ALL. My orthopedic surgeon says, "Margaret, you cannot fall again!" My cardiologist says, "Margaret, do not fall and hit your head now that you are taking a blood thinner!"

Obviously, it's all about balance. According to Canada's 24 hour movement guidelines for adults, a 30-minute walk five times a week is a simple, aerobic and balance challenging activity. The trick is to stay upright. Some of us can still manage a 30-minute walk without assistance. Others may need a device, such as a cane, Nordic walking poles, or walker. Remember, a person is NOT a device!

I invite you to join me in spirit as I do my 30-minute walk each day. I'm moving so fast in my trusty walker; I might get a ticket for speeding! Stay healthy, stay safe, have fun!

## Goodwill Report -- Janis Harlos

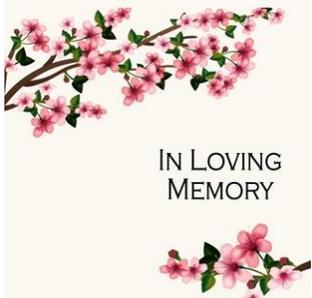
Today we are honouring the RWTO/OERO members who have passed since our 2020/2021 Annual Report. Many of you have enjoyed luncheons and good times with our fallen members. Keep the memory you have of them in your heart. Continue to share your experiences. Some of you were able to take advantage of the Celebration of life at the Butler Funeral Home for Mary Jane Tanner due to the lessening of Covid restrictions; something many of us have been unable to do for our loved ones.

RWTO St. Catharines welcomed Marg Newby to the "Forever Young Club" in January. My hope is that we will see more of these Ladies at luncheons and that I will be able to do more in person visits.

I continue to encourage all of you to contact me at [jharlos6@gmail.com](mailto:jharlos6@gmail.com) or phone (905) 892-8203 if you know of someone who has lost a family member, is in the hospital or in need of a little TLC.

Yours in Caring and Sharing, Janis Harlos, Goodwill Convenor.

## IN MEMORIAM

 <p>IN LOVING MEMORY</p>	 <p><b>Mary Pos</b> March 27, 1943 – July 18, 2021</p>	 <p><b>Pat Umbriaco</b> June 4, 1943 – September 9, 2021</p>	 <p><b>Norma Poole</b> March 12, 1935 – November 30, 2021</p>
 <p><b>Mary Jane Tanner</b> June 16, 1927 – November 29, 2021</p>	 <p><b>Norma Hintz</b> July 28, 1929 – December 29, 2021</p>	 <p><b>Betty Brodhurst</b> October 8, 1938 – February 15, 2022</p>	 <p><b>Francis Lovett</b> February 3, 1917 – February 20, 2022</p>

## INTEREST GROUPS - Spring 2022

Interest groups are very important to our RWTO Membership as they provide opportunities for Caring & Sharing and fellowship. The pandemic has made things difficult but not impossible. Both Walking Groups have carried on throughout the winter as everything was outdoors. The Revolving Book Club faced some challenges but with creative solutions, they were able to carry on with a membership of 80! The Travelogue Group met outside and on Zoom, so they too were able to continue. The Let's Chat About It Book Club was suspended during the winter but continued to read separately. Bowling carried on whenever the alley was allowed to be opened and our Euchre Group (#1) continued to play together within their bubble.



Although our other Interest Groups were halted, Ontario is reopening, and we are all excited to begin meeting again in person. The Dining Divas rejoiced at being out at The Lake House in March. The Golf Group is impatiently awaiting warmer weather. Euchre Group #2 is looking to restart as is the Beading group. We are so very pleased to once again be able to meet face to face in person!

Kathleen Bradley, Interest Group Convenor

### A Snapshot of our Interest Groups – Spring Report 2022

A survey was taken in Feb. To see how our Interest Groups were faring during the pandemic restrictions. These are the results.

**Beading** (Genevieve Habib) – halted, will resume when members feel safe being indoors together. Email if interested.

**Revolving Book Club** (Patt Chivers) - was able to carry on with slight changes in protocols.

**Let's Chat about it Book Club** (Marg Pulford) – met outside when possible but halted in winter with members reading separately.

**Let's Chat About It, Chapter 2** (Jessica Thomson) - A new Book Club recently started. Two openings available.

**Bowling** (Barb West, Bonnie Leistner) – members participated whenever the alley was permitted to open. Restarted in March.

**Bridge** (Helen Self, Sharon Thorne, Alvine Robinson) – Membership lists were provided to participants in September and they arranged their own game following Covid protocols. Looking forward to spring games.

**Creative Cooks** (Linda Thiessen) – membership is intact but no activity and hope to start up again this spring.

**Dining Divas** (Kathleen Bradley) – met in restaurants from Aug. to Dec. and restarted again in March

**Euchre #1** (Elaine Reimer) – continued to meet and play cards in their small bubble. There are 1 or 2 openings in this group

**Euchre #2** (Susan Lewis) - 5 members & a new leader, hope to start up again soon. Membership Opportunity: Looking for two new members.

**Gig for Gals** (Kathie Dussome)– a new group with plans for the spring. A volunteer organizes a one-day event to share with others. Open to all members.

**Golf** (Linda Holmes) – played all last season and looking forward to the spring opening of courses.

**Lunch Bunch** (Peggy Allen) – was halted for the winter, doesn't restart until November. Open to new members.

**Singing For Fun** (Laurie Benson) - Will end for this year in June. Restarts again in September.

**Travelogue** (Marilyn Weber) – continued to meet outside and on Zoom through the winter.

**Morning Walkers** (Sue Burnison) – as it was outside, they continued to meet without a break.

**Afternoon Walkers** (Christine Honsinger) - continued to walk without a break but locations changed with weather conditions. Open to more walkers.

Submitted by Kathleen Bradley, Interest Group Convenor

## Beading -- Genevieve Habib, Leader

Genevieve Habib is a master beader, creating stunning jewellery that you see here. Genevieve is offering to restart beading circle. In view of Covid rules, she can host two masked persons in her home at a time. Genevieve will teach the basic stitches and provide you with at cost kits. You will progress through the basic level and design your own pieces.

Genevieve is hoping to have many sets of earrings to give to Women's Place for Christmas, made by the teachers in RWTO. If you can sew or quilt or crochet or knit, this may be a new adventure for you.

If interested, contact Genevieve by email: [gen3habib@gmail.com](mailto:gen3habib@gmail.com)



Pictures:

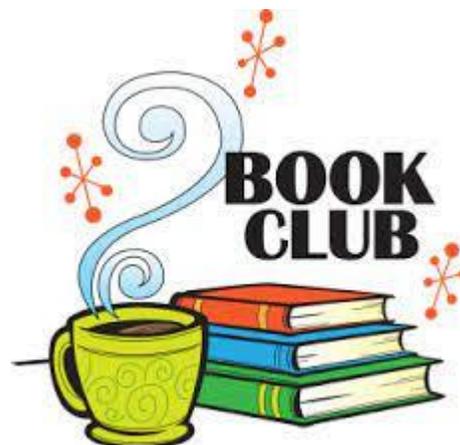
1. Nadia's Maple
2. Blue Marble Collar
3. First Lesson Square Stitch
4. Golden Collars
5. Ukraine Fundraiser

## Book Club -- The Revolving Book Club -- Patt Chivers, Leader

The Revolving Book Club is our most popular Interest Group with 80 members. We are divided into 8 geographical areas, with 10 members each. Members pay \$25, **before June 30<sup>th</sup>**, and read one book a month for ten months from October to July. These books, three non-fiction and seven fiction, are selected at Someday Books, a locally owned, independent St Catharines business. At the end of each month, the book is passed along to a designated member in our area. In July, we each assume ownership of our last book.

Although it didn't stop us, Covid did present us with some challenges. With the cancellation of the September luncheon, each of the 80 books had to be hand delivered. Quite the task in and of itself. As well, in the early stages of Covid, the Health Department recommended that each book be placed in a plastic zip lock bag. Each new reader could then keep the book self-contained for 48 hours to ensure their personal safety. And although we now have a better understanding as to how Covid is transmitted, the zip lock bag remains popular!

The Revolving Book Club -- a great introduction to a wide variety of literature and a way to experience new authors. Read ten books, pay for one. You can't lose!



**Book Club -- Let's Chat About It -- Marg Pulford, Leader**

Our book club met last fall outdoors and then indoors but when the omicron became so infectious, we suspended our meetings. We have now decided to meet in person in April. We had continued to enjoy our reading separately until this time and now look forward to meeting again, keeping in mind safety precautions.

We congregate in a living room (hence ten people) once a month to discuss a prearranged book that we have chosen. Our group also snacks, laughs, and tells many anecdotes in our daily lives. It is a great time and we have developed a wonderful fellowship.



**Book Club -- Let's Read About It - Chapter Two -- Jessica Thomson, Leader**

This new book club has only met a couple of times, and we already have had an enjoyable chat about the book we chose. We just finished a book called **A Town Called Solace** by Mary Lawson and we are now reading **The Last Tea Bowl Thief** by Jonelle Patrick. We meet every month for about an hour. The book that is chosen by one of members also prepares questions for discussion. We are currently having remote discussions through Zoom which works quite well but when the weather improves, we will meet outside in person. Food and drinks will be nice to share at that time. We currently have two openings if you're interested in joining.

**Bowling -- Barb West and Bonnie Leistner, Leaders**

Although covid restrictions shut us down a couple of times, everyone is now back bowling and enjoying the exercise. We are not a competitive league, but we are a very social group. There are usually three people on a lane and each week we bowl with different people, so we get to know everyone very well. We celebrate each other's successes and a high game over 200 earns the bowler a plastic crown. We bowl Thursday mornings at 10:00 at Pla-Mor Bowling Lanes in Port Dalhousie. New bowlers are always welcome, even if you've never thrown a bowling ball before.

These are mostly general pictures. Notice Carol Shore stealing her favourite bowling ball from another alley. Congratulations to Pat Gillap and Laurie Benson, wearing their crown for achieving a 200+ game.



**Bridge** -- Alvine Robinson, Helen Self, Sharon Thorne, Your Bridge Committee

This past September our committee gave all bridge players a copy of the sign-up sheet so that they could arrange games either in person or by using the internet. No score-keeping was needed to be sent to the committee. All COVID safeguards needed to be followed. Over this duration, we know that many of the bridge players have also found that their 'Zoom' meetings, while playing bridge, allowed a safe social connection with others. Another adjustment, that some people enjoyed was to play individual games while competing against the computer.



We are looking forward to arranging our annual bridge luncheon in June. As our COVID regulations change, we can then follow through as we are able.

**Creative Cooks** -- Linda Thiessen, Leader

Creative Cooks is a small group of like-minded ladies who enjoy sharing great recipes, great food, and great company.

It is a Potluck style group that, when permitted, get together once a month in each other's homes. The hostess provided the recipes, and the others do all the cooking. Each member rotates through bringing the appetizer, the salad, the entree, the dessert, and the wine. With the pandemic, Creative Cooks kept in touch but were unable to host meals. It is hoped that with the restrictions being lifted, we will once again be able to meet over our shared love of food this spring.



**Dining Divas** -- Kathleen Bradley, Leader

Once a month the Dining Divas explore the local food scene by dining out together. We share a meal at a nice restaurant, perhaps sip a local beverage and engaging in some good conversation. And although we have our favourites, we're always looking for that new hidden gem!

When Covid restrictions finally lifted last August, we enjoyed our first restaurant experience of the year at **LaTerrazza** in Club Roma. It is a lovely gazebo set amid beautiful gardens. In September, we tried the new **Brazgrill Casual Brazilian Steakhouse** on Hartzel Road. Then in October, a favourite – **My Place** in Fonthill. Our gluten free people were pleased to see an entire page of options here! In November we booked **The Sunset Room at the Dalhousie Yacht Club** (you don't have to be a member to book a group). We were almost the only people there and felt quite safe. In December for our Christmas outing, another new restaurant, **88 South** in Niagara Falls – very nice!

Restrictions reared their ugly heads once again and we stayed home and cooked for ourselves until March. In March we booked a perennial favourite – **The Lake House**. A lovely view, a great menu, even better company – we love it there! And as to April, we'll be looking for somewhere fabulous!



**Euchre Group** -- Elaine Reimer, Leader

Our euchre group has carried on for most of the last two years with a few exceptions. During the worst lock down, we did not continue, but as soon as we were allowed at least five together, we have carried on within our small bubble. During better weather, we met outside on decks, backyards or in gazebos. As things opened, we met in our homes.

Several have dropped out so we could have room for two more ladies to join us since not everyone comes out every time and we need an even number for all to play. Most of our group live in St. Catharines, but there are two in Fonthill. The host always provides some snacks and coffee/tea with a pastry; this is not necessary but is enjoyed by all.

None of us have been ill or contacted Covid. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 9 at 1:00. We meet the second Wednesday of every month.



**Euchre Group Two -- Let's Play Euchre Again!** -- Susan Lewis, Leader

Euchre Group 2 is ready to play, with our first meeting scheduled for Monday, March 28 from 1 - 4 p.m. at Susan Lewis' in Welland. The last Monday of each month we will meet at a different member's home. Next month's meeting will be Monday, April 25, 1 - 4 p.m. in Niagara Falls. We take turns bringing snacks or desserts for the hostess who provides drinks and her home. Several of our members learned to play when they joined. No pressure to perform and no scores kept. Just good conversation, good food and a healthy competition. We currently have six members and would like an even number of eight. Join our group of caring members and share some laughs. Please contact Susan Lewis, Past President.

**Gigs for Gals** -- Kathie Dussome, Leader



**"Room With A View Breakfast"**. Come, join us for breakfast in a "Room with a View" at the **Niagara-On-The-Lake Golf Course**, 143 Front Street, NOTL. **Tuesday, May 10 at 10 a.m.** Anyone interested, should text Kathleen Dussome by May 2 at (905) 321-6517. This is open to all RWTO members. This is your chance to get to know a new friend.



**Golf** -- Linda Holmes, Golf Interest Group Leader

With mostly great weather (a little wet in the spring) for the 2021 season the golf group managed to play 22 rounds of golf at Garden City Golf Club. Our group of ladies were basically the same group who played in 2020.

In 2020 we were stringently following the pandemic rules and it was decided that I would organize each group of four and their tee times. This way it was a safe to be outside, and golf seemed to be the sport that lent itself to being easy to manage. Every Thursday I sent out an email asking each player if they would be playing the following Tuesday. When they responded with their answer I went ahead and organized the four groups. Thank goodness for email as it was a fast way to communicate quickly with the group. We had four tee times booked with Garden City Golf Course. The Municipal Course on Lincoln Avenue St Catharines. This all worked out very well. I would be able to accommodate those who wished the earliest tee times and those who were happy playing a little later. This solved the problem of too many people standing around waiting to tee off. Basically, we were able to keep a safe distance from each other. Each player simply arrived close to their tee time and once they went into the clubhouse to pay, it was usually time to head straight to the first hole. We



wore our masks to enter the clubhouse (this was the rule at the course) where we proceeded to pay for the nine holes we were playing, and those who wished, booked their carts in advance before their arrival at the course. Once we went to the first tee our masks came off as we played our nine holes of golf. When our nine holes were completed, we masked up again as we walked to the parking lot to pack our clubs and carts into our vehicles. Happy to have had some time in the out of doors, some exercise and time to chat with our golf buddies in our group that day. Oh yes and the hope of improving our golf games! I mixed up the players in the groups each week so that we each got to see and chat to a variety of players

over the weeks.

We followed the same procedure in 2021 and I think we will follow this plan in 2022. I haven't communicated with the golfers for the upcoming season yet, so I am not sure if they wish to still be assigned their tee times.

To be decided based on what rules have been lifted and how comfortable the players feel with the current protocols.

Initially we had 19 members sign up in the spring. We enjoyed two Thursday outings playing at two different Niagara Courses. Grassy Brook Golf club in July and Legend's the Chippawa Course in August. By all accounts the members enjoyed the camaraderie of being with each other and happy to be out in the warm weather

(sometimes hot) and what better way to get some needed exercise. Some keep their scores but for most of us it's all about our personal best with like-minded individuals and sharing in the friendships acquired both on and off the course.

The 2022 season has not been organized yet as the golf course hasn't opened at the time of writing this article. We have a full contingent of golfers and two returning players have joined us so unless I can make the 5<sup>th</sup> tee time. I think we will be at our limit for this group.



**The Lunch Bunch** -- Peggy Allen, Leader

The Lunch Bunch meets for lunch at local restaurants for good conversation and food. We like to try different restaurants. Lunches are planned for once a month from November to March. An email or phone call is made to those who sign up with information on the time and location. If you plan to go, please let me know, so that I can make the reservation. If you change your plans, please let me know as well. During the pandemic we only met once due to restrictions. Hopefully next fall we will be able to resume regular lunches. New participants are welcome to sign up at the next RWTO luncheon.



**Singing For Fun** -- Laurie Benson, Leader

During the pandemic, our group reinvented itself with sing along Zoom meetings. We chose a theme each month and gathered a list of old and new popular tunes from YouTube that we could sing together. It also was a great time to catch up with each other, share our stories and laugh!

Our virtual singalong meetings will end in June this year and will resume after the Fall RWTO luncheon. At that time, we will invite new members to join us. By then, we hope to be singing in a real venue where we can also have a guitar as accompaniment and munch on some yummy snacks. We will continue to sing with gusto and enjoy our fun time together! Picture collection submitted by Jessica Thomson.



**Travelogue** -- Marilyn Weber, Travelogue Leader

Travelogue continues to meet on the second Monday of most months at 1:30 PM to share travel experiences with the group. In the past, we have met in the Fellowship Room at First Grantham United Church. However, the church is not allowing outside rentals at this time due to Covid but might be able to do this in April 2022. In the cold months, our meetings have been on Zoom at 1:30 PM and the travel photo presentations have included:

- The War Memorials in France and Belgium (in honour of Remembrance Day)
- Balloon Ride in Egypt – Virtual Tours
- Croatia
- Cinque Terre, Italy
- Christmas Traditions around the World
- Travel Souvenirs
- How to create a Power Point Presentation - Jamaica
- Converting Power Point to You Tube - South Africa
- RVing Across the USA
- Snow Birding in Mexico

In-person meetings have occurred at various locations around the Peninsula:

- Landscape of Nations at Queenston Heights
- Painted Ladies in Grimsby
- Charles Daley Park
- Christmas lunch at Georges Greek Village

New members are always welcome, especially if you have travel photos, stories, experiences to share with the group. Please contact Marilyn Weber if interested in this group.

**Quiz: WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE WE?**

<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p> 
<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p> 	<p>7</p> 	<p>Answers:          1. Cinque Terre          2. Painted Ladies, Grimsby          3. Puerto Vallarta, Mexico          4. Landscape of Nations          5. Grand Canyon          6. Vimy Memorial: "Mother Canada"          7. Croatia</p>

**Morning Walkers** -- Sue Burnison, Walk Leader

Our walking group has continued to walk throughout this pandemic whenever we were permitted. We walked through Port, Piers, Green Ribbon Trail, Michigan Avenue and Jaycee Park. We walked in all kinds of weather, social distancing and wearing masks if required. When the weather was nice, we sat outside bringing our own chair and drink and chit chatted for an hour after our walk.



**Afternoon Walkers** -- Christine Honsinger, Walk Leader

Our Friday Afternoon Walkers have been carrying on as usual with a few modifications.

We were pleased to welcome new members during the pandemic. Our ladies walked every day possible in compliance with the pandemic protocols. Changes were made to our list of walks to promote safety for our members.

A special schedule was created for the summer of 2021 to share walks we had to miss due to the periodic lockdowns. Members of our group joined together, weather permitting, for refreshments after our walks in the great outdoors. In this way we could enjoy a conversation and maintain the safety measures to keep us healthy. We look forward to the variety of interesting walks on the Spring Schedule.

