

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



**RWTO/OERO
St. Catharines Branch, Area 13
ANNUAL REPORT
2021 - 2022**

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In Memoriam of May 2021- May 2022

May 2022

Submitted by Violette M. Hagerty,
RWTO/OERO, St. Catharines Branch Secretary



Branch President's Report 2021-2022

Kathleen Dussome, President

Our St Catharines Branch consists of 359 members of which eight are Social and seven are Life members. At the May 2022 "In Memoriam" service, we will fondly remember three years of members who have passed and will respectfully, add the nine who are no longer with us this year. Our branch extends a hearty welcome to the ten new members who have joined us this year. Additional Membership details are provided in the Membership Report. Fortunately, our Branch started with a full Slate of Officers this year and if approved at the May AGM of 2022, a full executive will be in place for the next year.

Due to Covid-distancing, maintaining connections with our Branch members continued to be of paramount importance. To order to make this possible and effectively plan, we hosted eight Virtual Executive meetings and two live meetings. We believe that our efforts to connect were met with: the "Caring and Sharing Calls" made by the entire executive; our outstanding website; our professional Newsletters; occasional Branch emails; the kindness of Goodwill; the hand-made "We've Got Your Back" lap-blankets (as needed); the informative Telephone Committee calls; donation initiatives; and, participation in Covid-safe virtual and live Interest Group activities.

As the national reconciliation with our First Nations people was peaking due to previously undiscovered tragic losses of Indigenous children in the residential school system, our branch donated an initial, but renewable, \$200 dollars to the Downie Wenjack Education Fund and began acknowledging the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe people of Niagara at all our meetings. In 2022 and beyond, we hope to also play a role in the celebration of First Nations people in St. Catharines.

Since access to the names of retiring women teachers is private and no longer available to the public, Area 13 Branches are working together to develop different approaches to building membership and increasing awareness of RWTO/OERO. Currently, plans are in the works to jointly post an "Ad" in local newspapers which will illustrate the Provincial RWTO/OERO logo surrounded by the Area 13 Branches. Our Branch established a new PR (Public Relations) Committee within the executive to make use of the grant provided by the Provincial Board for the 3R's (Retention, Recognition and Recruitment). To begin, we hosted a "New Members Breakfast" which was enjoyed by all who attended. In remembrance of our veterans, we purchased and laid a beautiful RWTO Remembrance Day wreath at the St. Paul St Cenotaph. This was coupled with a poignant family wartime story in our newsletter, provided by our Past President, Susan Lewis. We plan to continue this tradition in subsequent years. Our Branch and the Area 13 Committee are investigating other options to raise awareness of RWTO/OERO.

In December, as we saw a break in the Covid restrictions, we hosted a pre-Christmas Luncheon

attended by our Area 13 Director, Kathy Smith. Betty-Lou Souter of the St. Catharines Community Care was presented a generous \$11,000 donation raised by our members. During the Christmas season, RWTO members also donned masks and assisted with the Community Care Toy Bureau. Some members continued to donate to Soles4Souls by adding another one hundred pair of shoes. Our 2nd VP Melanie Kelch presented the Niagara Migrant Workers Outreach program, and Melanie and her helpers quickly collected 78 Migrant Welcome Kit bags. A few Interest Groups were able to continue with modifications as Covid restrictions came and went and as the “roll out” of vaccinations took place. As more Interest Groups came back on board, “Let’s Chat About It, Chapter 2” was created and, the idea of hosting one-time events called “Gigs for Gals” was spawned. At our second post-Covid Luncheon in April, we finally, publicly, congratulated our 2019-2020 Cora Bailey recipients, Patti Malkiewich and Nadine Martin and the Caring and Sharing Award recipients while also, enthusiastically hosting Provincial President, Nancy Bell. We will gladly honour the Cora Bailey recipients of 2021-2022, Susan Lewis, Janis Harlos, and Louise Farquhar at the September luncheon. With the devastating crisis continuing to loom large over Ukraine, members donated to the Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis Fund. As in years past, our members registered for or sponsored the Rankin Run.

Together, we welcome our new President, Linda Gaudet, as she provides her leadership to our impressive, involved, and generous retired women teachers within our Branch.

Insurance Report 2021-2022

Chris Graham, Insurance Convenor

In April 2021, Manulife issued Benefit Identification Cards for all Hospital and Home Care participants with online access available at the Manulife site: [Manulife.ca/securereserve](https://www.manulife.ca/securereserve)

Online updates will require you to follow the instructions and create a new user/pswd.

If you need help with your existing RWTO Hospital and Home Care Account, call: 1-800-268-3763.



Although the site has been up and running, some members continue to use the paper claim forms for their submissions. While Covid presented challenges during the past two years, we have been able to support many of our members through telephone conversations, e-mail and regular mailings of brochures and claim forms. Assistance was often required regarding the new plastic Manulife cards, claims coverage, claim submissions, online access, income tax receipts and pandemic travel coverage. The queries were answered in a timely manner and were opportunities for 1:1 support which is an integral part of our Caring and Sharing RWTO/ERO philosophy. Although the Hospital and Home Care Plan, available through Manulife, does supplement other medical coverage plans, there is another benefit to our membership which is the profit-sharing by Manulife. This financial support to RWTO/OERO for our participation is a win-win situation.



Financial Report 2021-2022

Linda Foster - Treasurer

As Treasurer, I am pleased to report that our branch remains financially sound. We have been fortunate to maintain our large membership and now, for a second year in a row, we did not have any Annual Meeting or Convention expenses. Our income this past year relied on the dues paid by you (\$5.00), the rebate we receive from the Provincial office (\$10.00 per member) and an additional payment of \$1000.00 from Provincial RWTO-OERO. There is a resolution to increase the amount of our Provincial rebate and this will be determined at the Provincial Convention Annual General Meeting in June 2022.

For further information about our finances, feel free to contact me. Linda Foster, Treasurer.



Membership Report 2021-2022

Linda Foster and Clara Warden - Membership

The Membership Committee is assisted by Margo Smith (OSSTF Affiliate) and Donna Painter (ETFO Affiliate). As of May 2022, the Branch membership has 344 members, with 8 Social members and 7 Life members bringing our total to 359 members. Over the year, 9 members passed away, 6 members did not renew their membership and 10 new members joined.

Social Members: Pay their dues to another Branch of RWTO and \$15.00 to our Branch. This amount is the same as that received from our Branch members (\$10.00 Provincial rebate and \$5.00 as part of our fees).

Life Members: Members who meet the criteria, as documented in the Branch Handbook, and do not pay membership dues.

Funded by the RWTO/OERO Provincial 3R's Initiatives (Recruitment, Recognition and Retention), our Branch is continuing to implement strategies to meet these objectives:

- **Public Relations Sub-Committee** - formed to brainstorm, research and work on strategies to promote membership.
- **Caring & Sharing Awards** – Annually, nominations for up to ten members, who have gone “the extra mile” to support RWTO, will be “recognized” with personal “Thank You” cards and a gift of up to \$10.00 or a plant.
- **Affiliate Liaison Representatives** – are key to recruitment and as members of the St. Catharines Branch Executive, they share recruitment strategies and challenges.

WELCOMING our NEW MEMBERS		Mitcheline Oakes	Lori Lehne
		Sandra Shynal	Heather Muir
		Cindy Aris	Sharon Martinello
		Randi Dyck	Lou Zanatta
		Mary Claire McDonald	Barbara Linton

Actual St Catharines Branch Budget Apr. 2021-Mar. 2022/**Proposed Budget Apr.2022-Mar.2023**

	Actual	Budgeted	Difference	Proposed Budget 2022-2023
INCOME				
Dues	\$1885.00	\$1700.00	\$185.00	\$1805.00
Prov. Rebate	\$3476.00	\$3450.00	\$26.00	\$3396.00
50/50				\$600.00
Luncheons	\$151.20		\$151.20	
Prov. Mem	\$1000.00		\$1000.00	
Repayment of deposit	\$500.00			
TOTAL	\$7012.20	\$5150.00	\$1862.20	\$5801.00
Reserves				\$2049.00
Total				\$7950.00
EXPENSES				
Goodwill	\$400.00	\$400.00		\$700.00
Printing	\$716.22	\$800.00	\$83.78	\$800.00
Postage	\$1519.34	\$1000.00	(\$519.34)	\$1200.00
Convention				\$3000.00
Branch	\$517.32	\$500.00	(\$17.32)	\$500.00
Donations	\$1689.00	\$1500.00	(\$189.00)	\$1000.00
Bank Charges	\$106.73	\$50.00	(\$56.73)	\$50.00
Membership	\$1180.52	\$900.00	(\$280.52)	\$600.00
Membership	\$40.00		(\$40.00)	
Archivist				\$100.00
TOTAL	\$6169.13	\$5150.00	(\$1019.13)	\$7950.00



Nominations Report, 2021-2022 Susan Lewis, Past President

As a new executive term of 2022-2023 approaches, we thank four executives as they leave us for their dedication and proficiency in their past roles: Jessica Thompson, Archivist and Communications: Web Convenor, Christine Graham, Insurance Convenor, Chereen Osborne as Honorary President, and Donna Painter as ETFO Liaison. Congratulations to Fern Lackenbauer who successfully navigated her first year with the executive as Communications Newsletter Convenor. We look forward to many more professional publications of the newsletter in the terms to come. A special thank you to Kathleen Bradley who joined the executive mid-pandemic as Interest Group Convenor. Continuing in their valued roles: Linda Foster, Treasurer and Violette Hagerty, Secretary; Louise Farquhar, Social Convenor; Janis Harlos, Goodwill Convenor; Clara Warden, Membership and OECTA Liaison; Margo Smith, OSSTF Liaison; Marg Newby, Issues and Concerns; Sheila Bengler, Telephone Committee Convenor.

New to the executive for 2022-2023 are Susan McLaughlin as Insurance Convenor and Marilyn Emmett as ETFO Liaison. Patt Chivers accepted the nomination of Honorary President. Mary MacLaughlin, a new member, bravely fills the vacancy of Second Vice President, as Melanie Kelch returns as First Vice President and Linda Gaudet will be your new President for 2022-2023. Another new member, Sharon Martinello, will share the roles of Communications: Web Convenor and Archivist along with Anne Dean. Kathie Dussome will continue on the executive as Past President. Leaving after four years on the executive, Susan Lewis, Past President 2021-2022.

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS 2022-2023, RWTO/OERO St. Catharines Branch, Area 13

Honorary President		Patt Chivers
Table Officers	Past President	Kathie Dussome
	President	Linda Gaudet
	1st Vice President	Melanie Kelch
	2nd Vice President	Mary MacLaughlin
	Treasurer/Membership	Linda Foster
	Secretary	Violette Hagerty
Convenors	Membership	Clara Warden
	Social	Louise Farquhar
	Communications, Newsletter	Fern Lackenbauer
	Communications, Website & Archivist	Sharon Martinello; Anne Dean
	Goodwill	Janis Harlos
	Insurance	Susan McLaughlin
	Telephone	Sheila Bengler
	Interest Groups	Kathleen Bradley
	Issues and Concerns	Marg Newby
	Program	Melanie Kelch; Mary MacLaughlin
Affiliate/Liaison Representatives	ETFO	Marilyn Emmett
	OECTA	Clara Warden
	OSSTF	Margo Smith
Provincial Representatives	Area 13 Director	Carol Morningstar
	Provincial Program Coordinator	Judith Bennoch
	Provincial Communications: Newsletter	Jan Murdoch

To be presented and moved at the Branch AGM of May 25th, 2022, by the Past President responsible for Nominations, Susan Lewis.

Goodwill Report 2021-2022

Janis Harlos, Goodwill Convenor



RWTO Goodwill has had a productive and rewarding year. We continued with tradition, sending out 85 Christmas and birthday cards to the *80+members. I have continued to send out thinking of you, get well and condolence cards as needed. I am thankful to all of you who have kept me up to date on members who have passed and those going through difficult times. Sadly, we lost eight members this year. They will be remembered in the 'In Memoriam' portion of the Annual Report and at our AGM in May of 2022. Thinking of you and Easter greetings were sent to our 'Forever Young' members. There are more than 20+ members in this elite group. Fortunately, with the lifting of Covid restrictions, we were able to reach most of these members with Thanksgiving mums. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to meet and chat-up many of these incredible women. We hope to invite the 'Forever Young' members to our September Luncheon. We have continued with our 'We've Got Your Back' outreach initiative, gifting shawls and lap blankets knitted by RWTO volunteers to deserving recipients. It was wonderful to hand deliver to these appreciative members. Now that RWTO is hosting more luncheons with a greater number of participants, I am looking for volunteers to help drive non-driving members to luncheon venues. If you can help with this or would like to contact me concerning any other matter, please email me at jharlos6@gmail.com or call 905 8928203. It has been a pleasure to serve as Goodwill Convenor. Thank you for your kind phone calls and notes of appreciation. Yours in 'Caring and Sharing', **Janis Harlos, Goodwill Convenor**



Cora Bailey Award Recipients 2021-2022

(These recipients will be honoured at the Luncheon of Sept. 28th, 2022).

The September Cora Bailey presentations will focus mainly on the service provided by these deserving members to RWTO-OERO. A version of their Cora Bailey "Bios", filled with interesting and unique personal information and achievements, will be available for you in the Summer Newsletter and then posted to the website (rwto.org - Go to Branch; St. Catharines Branch; click Newsletters).



Janis Harlos



Louise Farquhar



Susan Lewis

In Memoriam

May 2021 – May 2022

Norma Sinclair Hintz

Norma Poole

Mary-Jane Tanner

Pat Umbriaco

Mary Irene Pos

Lynda Carole Gibson

Frances Lovett

Frances Elizabeth Brodhurst

Karen Tolonen

*Memories
of our
friendship
are
lasting treasures.*

