



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario

Brookville

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Hello Retired Women Teachers,

It is good to be communicating with you again. Spring is here, and I am sure that for many of us, it has come none too soon. COVID is still with us, but we have been learning how to cope with it, and still get on with our daily lives. For many of us, this has been a very isolating experience, but with the warmer weather, hopefully we will be able to get together more easily with family and friends. Spring flowers are blooming and birds are singing, so let's enjoy the longer days and warmer temperatures. I hope that we will be able to get together in person before too long.



Thoughts from the President

Welcome to Spring with thoughts of fresh air, beautiful flowers, and lots of sunshine! Who would have thought we would still be concerned with a pandemic, mask wearing, obtaining booster shots and continuing to socially isolate!?!? I really was hoping we could get together again this Spring and am still hoping for a get-together and short business meeting in May. Stay tuned for further updates!

It was wonderful to see 30+ members at our luncheon at the Barley Mow on December 1st, 2021. We were able to celebrate ourselves and share in some stimulating conversations. A special thank you to Crystal May for creating the beautiful centrepieces and colourful balloons and treats!

I would also like to thank our callers, Pat, Stella and Marcia for phoning the members regarding the luncheon and again before Easter! Thank you to Laura MacAfee for ensuring that we stay connected with thoughtful phone calls, cards and treats. A big thank you to Helen Earl for recruiting many new members this year and for keeping our finances in order. Also, I would like to thank and welcome Kate McLean who has taken over the Membership Officer/Auditor responsibilities and ensured that we all received free membership again this year! Thank you to Andrea Ruston who looked after this role for many years previously. Another big thank you is being sent to Lynda McKittrick for continuing to put together amazing newsletters for our enjoyment.

I encourage you to check out the RWTO website at www.rwto.org and our Facebook page which continues to be updated.

The upcoming convention in London, Ontario is entitled Laughter Lifts Us Up. Kate McLean and I will attend the convention as your Provincial and Branch delegates. If you are interested in attending the social events, please check out the website for more information. The new Policies and Procedures Manual is also available on the website.

We are very fortunate to have many assets in the bank and continue to pursue an appropriate charity to support. One suggestion is a geriatric chair for BGH. Please feel free to contact me if you have other appropriate suggestions. We will also discuss this at our next business meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Karen Kerr-Kennedy

Treasurer's Report

We have a net total of \$5057.24 as of March 31st, 2022.

In Memoriams



We respectfully acknowledge the passing of three of our beloved members: Lillian Maud, Marian Duncan, and Rachel Kinch.

Rachel was our most senior member and Laura MacAfee wrote this fitting tribute on the funeral home's wall:

We send our condolences on the passing of our treasured and most senior member. Rachel was a woman of great faith, quiet strength, incredible tenacity and part of our founding history. It was always a pleasure to visit in her lovely country home, to be warmed by her wood stove, to share laughs and treats, and to discover our connections through present and past acquaintances. We admired her adjustment to her move and are sorry we had to miss our visits these past two years.

May our former friends and colleagues rest in peace. They will be missed.

Message from Contact Co-ordinator

There is a need for another caller please! Three members have volunteered to help us out but we could use at least one more to lighten the load. Right now we are calling over 20 people each. If anyone is interested, please contact Pat at 613 342 2436, or email her at bpfrankcom@gmail.com.

Christmas Luncheon

On December 1, 2021, we met at the Barley Mow restaurant for our Christmas luncheon. It was wonderful to be able to meet in person and share our thoughts and experiences, after being apart for so long. The following are pictures of some of the members who were able to come out and share in this event.



Good food! Good friends! Good conversations! What a wonderful Christmas treat!

Goodwill

Laura has been busy and has sent out over 40 cards to our members since December, including Valentines, Easter and COVID get well cards. She has been doing 'keeping in touch' calls as well. Laura sends birthday cards to members who are 80 and over, so if you, or some member you know, fits that category, please let Laura know so the name can be added to her list. She also did birthday visits with Marilyn Hendry and Muriel Jones.

New Members

We are pleased a number of retired teachers have joined our organization recently. Sadly, there has only been one opportunity this past year to get together. To introduce you to some of these members a short bio of 4 of them follows. More will be included in future newsletters. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in person in the not too distant future.

Dianne Adolf

Dianne grew up in England. Her teaching career of 33 years was spent at Westminister and Lansdowne schools mostly in the primary grades. She has now been retired for 16 years. Dianne is an avid flower and vegetable gardener. In retirement she has been working part time for 16 years at Home Hardware in Brockville. Her home is outside the village of Greenbush.

Kathy Adolf

Another new member, Kathy was born in Nova Scotia, lived in Newfoundland until grade 3 and then moved to Brockville. She taught at Delta, Lyn and Athens schools mainly in the primary grades. She enjoyed teaching art to grade 7-8 students during her career. Kathy has been retired for 22 years and lives outside the village of Addison. Like her sister-in-law Dianne she is an avid gardener. For 5 years she ran her own garden centre, at one point in front of what is now Ritchies. Kathy also volunteers at the Habitat Restore.

Anna Alexander

Anna grew up in Brockville and now lives just east of the city limits. She has been retired for 10 years. Her teaching career started in Toronto. Moving to Brockville she ended up in the Bottom 100. As a result she ended up teaching every grade from K to 8 in many different schools. Thirteen years were spent as a classroom teacher, 5 as a vice -principal, and 10 as a principal. Anna retired from Westminister School. During her career she was president of the local F.W.T.A.O. as well as chief negotiator for several years. In retirement she enjoys camping in Ontario as well as the U.S.A. A trip to the east coast is planned for this summer. Quilting, reading and genealogy also keep her busy.

Judy Forrest

Judy grew up in Athens and retired from elementary teaching in 1999. Ten years were spent at Prince of Wales and 23 at Pineview. Following retirement, she began doing supply and contract work at Athens and Rideau High Schools. In total, she taught for 53 years - an amazing accomplishment! Recently she celebrated a birthday and received 90 emails - 3/4 of them from former students. Judy has lived at Charleston Lake for 15 years. She enjoys gardening and entertaining her grandchildren in retirement.

Special Information Note

In the newsletter Connections March 2022, an error was made. There is an article about our RWTO region, submitted by Karen Kerr-Kennedy. It was labelled as being from Area 3 Chatham-Kent. If you are interested in what Karen had to say, please check out this section. We will try to have this error corrected. Thanks to Helen Earl for spotting this mistake.