



## RWTO/OERO Ottawa-Carleton Branch JUNE NEWSLETTER June 2022

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We hope that everyone is doing well after the devastating May 21 storm. The damage has been extensive and challenging for some of us. The telephone committee will be reaching out to you in the next few weeks. Our focus continues to be on the well being of you, our members.

For the 2021-2022 membership year, Ottawa-Carleton has 105 members, 1 associate member and 9 life members. 56 of our members are over 80. 8 members have turned 90 since 2019 and 3 will turn 90 in July. Congratulations to these members who have achieved this milestone. There are now 306 ladies across the province in this elite club, 23 of whom will be over 100 in this calendar year. Those of you over 90 can look forward to receiving a certificate from the Provincial Goodwill Convenor to celebrate your dedication to our organization.

We are fortunate to have a new executive member. Welcome to Irene Cameron who is our Second Vice-President. She has already shared ideas for activities and outreach which will help our branch thrive. Please consider joining the executive.

We are pleased to have been able to start in-person activities in April and May. Provincial President, Nancy Bell, joined us in April, and brought words of encouragement. In May, we held our Annual General Meeting in conjunction with a delicious luncheon. Thank you to those who responded to our survey at the luncheon on which you gave us ideas for future activities. They are helpful.

During the summer, plan to join fellow members for lunch at the **Canal Ritz** in July, and afternoon tea at **Tea and Cake** in Almonte in August. Back by popular demand are *Breakfast and Conversation* on the patio at Chances 'R and the fall picnic in the park, *Under the Gazebo*, in September. Mark December 5 on your calendar for our Christmas luncheon. Other activities are in the planning stages. Watch for the September newsletter.

We will continue to use the Zoom platform in the winter months for virtual workshops and presentations and *Coffee and Chat*. We have been encouraged to embrace technology by our provincial organization. You can view our video, "Helping RWTO/OERO Ottawa-Carleton Thrive", on our new branch YouTube channel.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrTIep8Pr6Y>

As we look forward to future in-person events, we will be able to fulfill one of RWTO/OERO beliefs "to improve the lives of all women and children" through fund-raising activities such as Priscilla Pig, our Quarter Frenzy and the Silent Auction at Christmas. Our community outreach will continue to support women and children.

Enjoy the summer and all the beauty of nature it brings.

In caring and sharing,  
Sharon Chop, President



*We are grateful to live on the traditional unceded, unsundered territory of the Anishinabe Omàmiwinini/Algonquin Nation whose presence on this land goes back thousands of years.*

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

President, Sharon Chop: rwto.ottcar.sharon@gmail.com  
Insurance Broker, Terry Kennedy: 519-583-0098 tkennedy34@bell.net  
Manulife Financial: 1-800-268-3763  
Provincial Office: 1-877-607-6696 info@rwto.org

## 2022 - 2023 EXECUTIVE

<b>President:</b> Sharon Chop	<b>Insurance Convenor:</b> Margaret Dempsey
<b>Past President:</b> Kathy McLean	<b>Social Convenor:</b> <i>Vacant*</i>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President:</b> Margaret Dempsey	<b>Goodwill Convenor:</b> Marilyn Adair
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:</b> Irene Cameron	<b>Archivist:</b> <i>Vacant*</i>
<b>Treasurer:</b> Barbara Edwards	<b>Communications Convenor:</b> <i>Vacant*</i>
<b>Secretary:</b> Patricia Taylor	<b>Members-at-Large:</b> Linda Willman, Martha Summers
<b>Membership Convenor:</b> Suzanne Lanouette-Carswell	<i>1 vacant</i>

**Provincial Area Director:** Kathy McLean

\* These vacant positions are awaiting members to step up to take them on. In the meantime, Barbara Edwards is the acting Archivist, and Martha Summers, is acting Communications Convenor. If you are interested in helping out, with any of these positions, please contact President, Sharon.

### Additional Volunteers:

**Telephone Committee:** Margaret Granville, Brenda Mercier, Noreen Murphy, Beth Sharp, Suzanne Wilson-Marjerrison, Barbara Edwards, and Linda Willman, Anne-Marie Ellis, Joy Phillips-Johansen, Viola Caissy,  
**Book Club Co-ordinator:** Joy Phillips-Johansen  
**Directory Co-ordinator:** Suzanne Wilson-Marjerrison

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Included with this newsletter is the Renewal Form for the year 2022-2023. If you have not yet done so, we encourage you to send the forms in to Barb Edwards with your cheque to be ready for next year. To maintain your RWTO/OERO Health Insurance Plan, you must be a “member in good standing”, i.e. have paid your fees. Remember that if your fee is received by Sept. 1, you are eligible for the Early Bird Draw... you might win it back

**The provincial organization** is encouraging each branch to try to get 5 new members this year. You can help us reach this goal by approaching a retired teacher friend to see if she would like to “try us out”, or just by giving her information about RWTO/OERO.



## 2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION REPORT

The RWTO/OERO 66<sup>th</sup> Convention and AGM, “*Laughter Lifts Us Up!*” was held in London from June 7-9, 2022. Sharon Chop, Suzanne Lanouette-Carswell, and Marg Dempsey represented our Ottawa-Carleton Branch as delegates. Kathy McLean represented Area 9 as Director. Approximately 190 members were in attendance.



There was a great deal of laughter as we re-connected in person to members across Ontario. Along with the Sudbury delegates, with whom we shared a table for meals, we won the “movie trivia with an education theme”. We won spoons!

Delegates engaged in lively debate on the Resolutions. The In Memoriam Ceremony based on deaths for 2021-2022, bilingual, was very moving. Three of our late local members were honoured.

At the Installation of Officers, Judy Drummond, from our sister Branch of Lanark, was installed as Provincial President. How proud we are to have a President from our area to preside over the 67<sup>th</sup> AGM and Convention next June in Kingston. Kathy McLean was installed as Director for next year for Area 9. Marg Dempsey, by virtue of co-chairing the 2023 AGM and Convention with Anne Graham, Lanark, was installed as Convention Convenor, 2023. Sharon Chop has joined the provincial editing team for the **Connections** Newsletter

Next year’s convention, the 67<sup>th</sup>, is being organized by Area 8 (Brockville, Gananoque, Kingston, Napanee, Upper Canada East) and Area 9 (Lanark, Ottawa-Carleton) who had done much of the work for a 2020 convention which was cancelled at the last minute. They have maintained the theme, *Cruising Down the Waters* ....sailing into Kingston. The dates are June 6-8, 2023 at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Kingston. On Thursday in London, members of these branches presented a “Call to Convention”, singing a delightful invitation to all to attend next year. The co-chairs are Anne Graham and Marg Dempsey. Several other members of Ottawa-Carleton Branch also serve on the Planning Committee. They will be recruiting volunteers to assist at this Convention, daily or for the 3 days. For the Thursday, June 8, luncheon, members who are over 90 years will be honoured. It is our hope to have a photo of every member over the age of 90 and a brief write-up of her teaching experiences. If you would like to assist with this project in our Branch, please reach out to Marg.



*Jokes were a highlight of the Convention, and appeared everywhere. Here are a couple of examples*

- *I am only as strong as the caffeine I drink, the hair spray I use, and the girlfriends I have.*
- *How to frighten the new generation: Put them in a room with a rotary phone, an analog watch and a TV with no remote. Then leave them directions, in cursive writing, on how to use them!*

## *In Memoriam*

We mourn the loss of members who have passed away in recent months, Jenifer Slack and Isobel Bryan. Memorial donations have been made to charities in their honour.



Jenifer Slack died April 21, 2022. Jenifer was born in London, England and began her teaching career in Ottawa when she was just 19 years old. One of her assignments with the Ottawa Board of Education was at R. Byrns Curry School. After retirement, Jenifer became a very active and instrumental member in RWTO/OERO. Jenifer and her husband were outdoor enthusiasts, introducing their son and daughter to many of their favourite pursuits. At the same time, “Jenifer expressed her innate creativity through tole painting, gardening, and cooking, and took great joy in hosting get-togethers with her dearest card-making friends.”

Isobel Bryan died May 1, 2022. Isobel was a dedicated and loved primary teacher, a mentor to her Sunshine children. Later she was a well-respected Primary consultant and a staunch lifetime supporter of RWTO/OERO. At the time of her death, Marg Dempsey recalled: “How vividly I remember her attending our last over 80’s luncheon and winning a crafted item created by a member.” I would add to that : “.... wearing a beautiful turquoise sweater and skirt that, she informed me, she had knit herself!”



## *Cora Bailey Awards*



At this year’s branch AGM, three Cora Bailey awards were presented to members for their great contributions to the organization.

Kathy McLean, our Past President and Pprovincial Area Director, received her award last year, but because we were not meeting in person, it was decided that the actual presentation would be made this year.

Patricia Taylor, our current secretary, came to us from the Oakville Branch, where she had served for many years on the executive. She was the Recording Secretary for several years, and President in 2011-2012, 2014-2016. Pat was a member of the PENTA 2009 Committee and was the Secretary for the PENTA 2015 Committee. She also served on the Cora Bailey Committee from 201 - 2016. This award was made on behalf of both branches which she has served with dedication.



Our 2022 award was presented to our president, Sharon Chop, for her tireless efforts on our behalf. She started as secretary, and then took over the presidency just before the Covid pandemic came crashing in. Needless to say, she has had a lot of extra challenges carrying out her responsibilities when we were not able to have in-person gatherings, and adjusting to electronic communication for many things.

## SPRINGTIME MEMORIES



Our branch was happy to have two in-person events this spring. 25 members met Provincial President, Nancy Bell, at the *Meet the President Luncheon* at CoBrie Restaurant on April 17. She inspired us to retain a steadfast spirit of Caring and Sharing. The Quarter Frenzy fund raiser created a lot of laughs and helped us get started on our community outreach for the year.



35 members enjoyed being together at Falcon Ridge Golf Club for our AGM and Spring Luncheon, *Together Again*, on May 16. It was nice to see a number of our over 90s in attendance. Shirley McBride, Frances Pike and Vicki Ash were presented with certificates to celebrate this and express our appreciation for their long time commitment to the organization.



Marilyn Adair presented a poignant *In Memoriam* moment to celebrate the lives of 13 of our members who have died since the 2019 AGM.



## TEACHERS' TEATIME BOOK CLUB

The Branch Book Club has had a great year, and look forward to being able to meet in person. The reading list has been prepared, and is provided below. Final decisions as to where the group will meet will follow when confirmed. In the meantime, if you are interested in joining the group, you can start your reading! Please contact Joy Phillips-Johansen to let her know you would like to join the group.



July 11, 2022 – **The Diamond Eye** by Kate Quinn  
 August 8 – **Five Little Indians** By Michelle Good  
 September 12 – **The Return** by Nicholas Sparks  
 October 3 – **The Christie Affair** by Nina De Gramont  
 Nov. 7 – **The Woman With the Blue Star** by Pam Jenoff  
 December 5 – No meeting since on that date the  
 RWTO Christmas Luncheon is scheduled

2023  
 January 2 – **American Dirt** by Jeanine Cummins  
 Feb. 6 – **The Paris Library** by Janet Skeslien Charles  
 March 6 – **The Tuscan Secret** by Angela Petch  
 April 3 – **The Paris Apartment** by Kelly Bowen

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



We look forward to having events in person through the summer, especially since we can take advantage of outdoor venues. Into the next year, we will keep our fingers crossed that all will go well and we can go back to our usual programming. Further details for the fall and into 2023 will be provided in the September newsletter. Numbers are limited at some locations, so we urge you to register early. Remember to check your directory for contact information for those who are handling the registration for all activities. Keep your Rewards cards and RWTO/OERO pins handy for when you attend.

### SUMMER 2022

#### MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2022 BREAKFAST AND CONVERSATION

Meet at 10:00 a.m. on the patio at Chances 'R Restaurant.

**Registration:** Kathy McLean An excuse to go out for breakfast and chat with friends.



#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2022 A WELCOME SUMMER LUNCH

Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the patio at the Canal Ritz, 375 Queen Elizabeth Driveway

Free parking is available across the street. Register early, as space is limited.

**Registration:** Erin Linnen Please register by July 5. Visit with other members and enjoy the view on the canal.



#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2022 TEA AND CAKE IN ALMONTE

Gather at 2:00 p.m. at the Tea and Cake Restaurant, 19 Bridge St., Almonte

Enjoy wandering and shopping in picturesque Almonte before you join the group.

Cost for the Tea service is \$22.00, with an extra \$2 for clotted cream or lemon curd. Tax and tip will be added. All is payable on the day.

**Registration:** Sharon Chop at [rwto.ottcar.sharon@gmail.com](mailto:rwto.ottcar.sharon@gmail.com), or by telephone.



### FALL AND WINTER 2022

The following activities/events are in various stages of planning, and will be described in more detail in the newsletter at the end of August. In the meantime, we suggest you mark your calendar to reserve the dates.

#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 UNDER THE GAZEBO

Join friends at Andrew Hayden Park, 3169 Carling Ave., at 11:00 a.m. for a late summer picnic.

Bring a picnic lunch, drink, and lawn chair.

**Activities:** a nature scavenger hunt, a prize for the best-decorated lunch bag, and an ice cream bar for dessert! **Registration:** Marg Dempsey



#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2022 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Centurion Centre

Silent Auction, Visit from our Provincial President. More details later.

