



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

President's Message

It is an honour to represent you as Provincial President this year. We have a strong, vibrant organization that continues to "Care and Share" in all aspects of our daily lives. This year, as our communities and branches begin to re-open to a more normal way of living, let us rejuvenate our branches, continue to embrace technology and gain new memberships in RWTO/OERO. Over the past nine years that I have served on the Board of Directors, I am inspired by my predecessors who have contributed lasting effects on this organization. The role of Provincial President is busy, but it opens a world of interaction with many capable and caring women across Ontario. It is our members who determine the direction of our organization.

Over the past two years we have learned to use Zoom for communication and for conducting our meetings both at the Branch level and the Provincial Board. We have had parties on Zoom whether for holidays, or a coffee party or a wine and cheese. These activities have drawn us together to make us stronger. It is certainly a cheaper way to do business and we accomplished our work! While experiencing Zoom in our own homes, sometimes we forgot to fix our hair, close the cupboard door behind us, turn off the phone or remember to keep that mute button easily accessible, but the goals of

our meeting were accomplished. One of the experiences I must mention, was after zooming for two years with my colleagues on the Provincial Board, when I met them at Convention in London, they looked different. Some were taller, hair styles were different, earphones had disappeared, but they were all genuine in character.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their dedication and direction in embracing Zoom and managing our fiscal affairs through this program.

I would like to thank Cathy Harrison and her team for a great convention in London. This committee offered their talents, time and organizational skills to produce this memorable convention in a very short time span. "Laughter Lifts Us Up" was what we needed. Your superb efforts were appreciated!

Going forward this year, I want to wish you well in your respective branches. We are all volunteers working together for the goals of our organization. Keep up the great work you do, on behalf of women and children!

Judy Drummond, Provincial President RWTO/OERO



Judy Drummond,
Provincial President

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

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Convention 2022 – “Laughter Lifts Us Up”

We felt “Laughter Lift Us Up” at our first in-person convention in three years! Congratulations to Convenor, Cathy Harrison and Area 3 Branch volunteers, for their terrific organization and hard work to accomplish such a fun-filled convention.

Members were welcomed to the Four Points by Sheraton hotel in London by keen volunteers and a streamlined registration process. The three workshops: “Marketing Strategies”, “Helping Branches Thrive” and a “Treasurer’s Refresher” offered informative ideas and stimulating discussions. A tasty opening dinner followed with interesting movie trivia and the animated London-Middlesex Branch Choir who sang “Just One of Those Groups.” Magician, Ron Gudel, who entertained us with his interactive, friendly style concluded the evening with one of our members being levitated before our eyes!

A huge thank you to the exceptional team of Kathy Gallagher and Ethan Snook, who coordinated all technical aspects including the first ever live streaming of events.

On Wednesday morning the Annual General Meeting focussed on the Ad Hoc Committee Report re Resolution #1 from 2021, Linda Huffman’s comprehensive financial report and proposed budget, committee reports and a discussion of resolutions skillfully chaired by Parliamentarian, Jane Cartier.

An enjoyable afternoon of free time ensued with a choice of “The Crooner’s” production or shopping in Port Stanley, a Drumming Circle, Ageless Grace Yoga, or personal excursions in London. Many bid

on unique items at the Silent Auction or gathered in the Hospitality suite to greet new and long-standing friends.

The Board of Directors was enthusiastically piped into a gala banquet on Wednesday evening. After a sumptuous meal, the Barbara Bain Membership Awards, Feather in Your Hat Awards and Honorary Memberships were presented. Lively music by the Elder Brothers with songs from different decades ended a busy and uplifting day.

Thursday morning began with an inspiring ‘In Memoriam’ service themed “Life’s Journey” led by Susan Rose, Provincial Archivist, Judith Bennoch, and Suzanne Rondeau. Then a substantial Return of Premiums cheque from Manulife was presented by Insurance Broker, Terry Kennedy. Branches from Areas 8 and 9 shared an exciting Call to Convention 2023, “Cruising Down the Waters” to be held in Kingston from June 6th to 8th. We hope you will join us.

Thursday’s luncheon was heartwarming as our prestigious Over 90s members and mother-daughter duos were recognized with special certificates. Honorary President, Sharron Colter, installed the 2022-2023 Board of Directors. As outgoing Provincial President, I expressed appreciation for the outstanding work of our Board. Incoming President, Judy Drummond, was introduced by the Lanark Branch and shared her inviting ‘vision’ speech. “Laughter Lifts Us Up” was indeed a memorable experience!

Nancy Bell, Past Provincial President



Continued ►

Convention 2021– “Laughter Lifts Us Up” - continued



Special Congratulations to Sharron Colter, Wiarton Branch!

On June 27, Branch Secretary Sharron Colter received the Senior of the Year Award presented by Mayor Milt McIvor in the Council Chamber of Northern Bruce Peninsula. Then on July 24, MP Alex Ruff presented Sharron with the “2022 Senior of the Year” award recognized by the Federal Government for the Senior Centre Without Walls program, and the Platinum Jubilee coin and certificate for her volunteer work at the Lion’s Head Legion, Branch 202.



Honorary Membership Award Report

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the five (5) recipients: Judith Bennoch, Jane Cartier, Anne Wilde, Sandie Bender and Nancy Bell who received a well-earned 2022 Honorary Membership Award at the June Convention

Judith Bennoch

(St Catharines Branch)

Judith Bennoch was nominated by the St. Catharines Branch and Marilyn Emmett, Past Provincial President. She has served on the Provincial Board from 2015-2022 and continues as Program Coordinator. As Area Director for Area 4 she helped with the reorganizing of the Area 4 Branches.



Judith served on the following Standing Committees: Honorary Membership, Policy and Procedures, and Membership Committee, which included working with the Membership Convenor. She created a storefront display at the Ajax Convention entitled Recruitment, Retention and Recognition. This resulted in ongoing support to all Branches, known now as the 3 R's of Membership.

Judith also served on the Rocking Retirement Committee, Convention Handbook, and the Voting and Elections Procedures Handbook. Judith continued her service to RWTO/OERO on the following Ad Hoc Committees: Area Director Role Review, Cora Bailey Procedures Review, Convention Handbook Revisions, Constitution Review - Articles VI, VII, VIII and Virtual Convention Handbook.

In 2020, Judith took an active role in the Online AGM and was an integral part of the Virtual Convention in 2021. She is a natural leader, a great organizer and a wonderful support to Branch Presidents and the Area Directors. Judith's many contributions and active involvement in RWTO/OERO at the Provincial level make her a most deserving candidate for an Honorary

following Parliamentary Procedures at Executive, Board and Annual General Meetings. She is required to be fully knowledgeable of the organization of RWTO/OERO and the RWTO/OERO Constitution. Her preparation for the Parliamentarian's role requires Jane to tirelessly review Bourinot's Rules of Order with its intricacies which she skillfully applies at all meetings.

Jane excels in her ability to base her advice on common sense and on the need to move through an agenda expeditiously. Her ability to quickly provide decisions, to make recommendations on points of order, to draft motions and to correct the wording of resolutions at the Annual General Meetings are highly valued by our members and the Provincial Presidents.

Jane has been an active member on many Ad Hoc Committees which have benefited by her collaborative approach, ability to stay focused on the mandate and complete the task using her expertise and knowledge. She actively contributed to "Voting and Election Procedures Handbook" during May 2018 - September 2021, the 2020 and 2021 Virtual Conventions, and all resolutions. She continues to be a most valued member of RWTO/OERO.

Anne Wilde

(Haldimand Branch)

RWTO/OERO Haldimand Branch nominated Anne Wilde for the Honorary Membership Award for her ongoing passion in all that she does both locally and provincially.



Anne was recruited to fill the Assistant Insurance Convenor in 2018-2019, coming directly from her various Branch experiences and followed up as the Provincial Insurance Convenor in 2019-2020. Being a lifelong learner and a very compassionate person, she humbly learned how to navigate simultaneously both the Provincial Board of Directors and the Insurance portfolio. She willingly helped our membership learn how to use our special Hospital and Home Care Insurance Plan. She organized and presented in-person Branch workshops across the province during the Open Enrollment programme in 2019. Then she was able to switch gears through the first months of COVID-19 to present

Continued ►

Jane Cartier

(Chatham-Kent Branch)

Jane was nominated by her RWTO/OERO Chatham-Kent Branch. She brings a thoughtful, diplomatic approach to the role of Parliamentarian. She was appointed to this position in 2017. In her role, Jane assists the Provincial President in



Honorary Membership Award Report – continued

workshops online with Zoom, while continuing to help individual members with their insurance concerns.

Anne served diligently as the liaison with our insurance broker, Terry Kennedy, and provided updates to the RWTO/OERO Board of Directors as well as the members.

Anne's involvement with Provincial RWTO/OERO included interviewing retired women teachers over 90 years of age for the "Chalk, Challenge and Change: Stories from Women Teachers in Ontario 1920-1979", a book celebrating the 50th Anniversary of RWTO/OERO. She also co-edited this outstanding history of our organization.

Anne is recognized for her positive, patient and kind manner in all her interactions.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the RWTO/OERO Honorary Membership Award Committee:

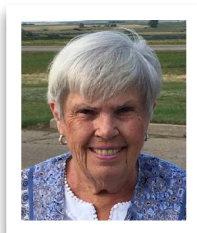
Sharron Colter, Chair, Honorary President; Susan Rose, Area 6 Director; Kathy Smith, Area 13 Director;

Evelyn Martin, Area 4 Director; Nancy Bell, Ex-officio, Provincial President

Sandie Bender

(Hamilton-Wentworth Branch)

Sandie was nominated for the RWTO/OERO Honorary Membership Award by the Hamilton-Wentworth Branch and Nancy Papiez, Provincial Past President.



Sandie joined the Provincial Board in September 2016 when she became the Area 4 Director for a four-year term. At that time, she worked closely with the Provincial Manulife Insurance Convenor to organize yearly training sessions alongside the Area Meetings and to support the Branches in her area.

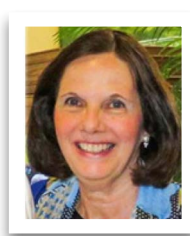
Sandie accepted the Archivist position on the Board. With great care and eagerness, she collected and filed the history of the organization that would later be placed into the archives at York University. During 2020 and 2021 Sandie planned the beautiful and meaningful 'In Memoriam' Services for the Virtual Conventions.

In September 2020 Sandie assumed the Recording Secretary's position. She has worked diligently and conscientiously to record well-written minutes of the Provincial Board Meetings. Sandie also collated the Annual Reports for both virtual conventions in 2021 and 2022.

Sandie is a deserving recipient of the 2022 RWTO/OERO Honorary Membership Award.

Nancy Bell

(London-Middlesex Branch)



Nancy Bell, RWTO/OERO Provincial President 2021-2022 was nominated by the Honorary Membership Award Committee as the 2022 recipient. The nomination was supported by her RWTO/OERO London- Middlesex Branch.

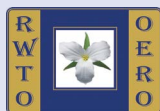
Nancy is deserving to be a recipient of the RWTO/OERO Honorary Membership Award which is the highest award to be bestowed on a Provincial Board Member. She conscientiously fulfilled her role as Chair or Ex-officio of all of the Appointed and Standing Committees during her tenure as Provincial President. She served on the following Standing and Appointed Committees as Chair: Constitution and Resolutions, Convention Handbook Revision, Finance and Goodwill. As Ex-officio Officer she served on the following committees: Honorary Membership, Nominations, Membership and Review with the Performance Appraisal for the Secretary-Treasurer position.

The following Ad Hoc Committees benefitted from Nancy's patient and thoughtful suggestions: Review of Article IX, Branch Organization, Cost Saving Measures, Common Initiative, Marketing, Membership Extension, Review of Resolution #1 as Chair, Virtual Convention 2021 and Convention 2022, "Laughter Lifts Us Up" in London.

Congratulations Nancy for answering the new challenges diligently during 2021-2022. Your leadership and untiring energy saw the RWTO/OERO handle the COVID-19 restrictions, as it presented difficulties meeting face-to-face both provincially and with other Branches. You chaired the Executive and Board Meetings via Zoom, as a new platform, for meetings. Under your leadership, the Board approved consultation with a lawyer regarding a legal opinion addressing the protocol for COVID-19 restrictions.

Meeting by Zoom kept the Board informed and safe. Many special Board meetings this year on Zoom ensured that the business of RWTO/OERO continued. You have been a role model for many as we look to the future which demonstrates that you are a deserving recipient of the 2022 RWTO/OERO Honorary Membership Award.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the RWTO/OERO Honorary Membership Award Committee: Sharron Colter, Chair, Honorary President; Susan Rose, Area 6 Director; Kathy Smith, Area 13 Director



Award Winners 2022

Feather In Your Hat Award

The 'Feather in Your Hat Award' recognizes creative, innovative and successful activities, carried out by a branch or group of branches, that have clearly enriched the programs offered by RWTO/OERO.

Submissions for this award must be made to the Membership Committee between January 1 and March 1, 2023. Submissions should include area and branch name(s), total number of members, number of members involved in the project, clear identification of the project, ongoing photos from start to finish and outcomes of the project. In order to ensure that the submission has been received, please notify the Membership Convenor by email, and send the submission (i.e. hardcopy) by mail. The Membership Convenor will confirm its arrival by email.

2022 Feather in Your Hat Winners Listed Alphabetically

Smaller Branches

Warton - The Senior Centre Without Walls Project

Medium-Sized Branches

Brantford - Sponsorship of Nova Vita Project

Niagara Falls - United Way Back to School Project

Niagara South - The PJ's and Book Donation Drive.

Large-Sized Branches

Haldimand - The Remembrance Day Wreaths Project

Hamilton-Wentworth - The Baby Snuggle Project

St Catharines - The Niagara Workers Welcome Project

Please check the Awards Page on the RWTO/OERO website for details on each project.

Barbara Bain Membership Award

This award is named in honour of our longtime London-Middlesex member, Barbara Bain, who served on the Provincial Board of Directors for 11 years as an Area Director, Assistant Insurance Convenor, Insurance Convenor, 2nd and 1st Vice-President, President, Past President, and Honorary President as well as being our first Membership Convenor.

The formula for calculating this award is straightforward... how many members join your branch minus the number of existing members who do not renew during the April 1st to March 31st period. These calculations are done by our Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, Linda Huffman.

2021-2022 Barbara Bain Membership Winners

Smaller Branches

1st place - \$400 - Brockville

2nd place - \$300 - East Parry Sound

3rd place - \$200 - Daisy Wilson Coldwater

Medium-Sized Branches

1st place - \$400 - Durham North

2nd place - \$300 - Owen Sound

3rd place - \$200 - Lanark

Large-Sized Branches

1st place - \$400 - Hamilton-Wentworth

2nd place - \$300 - St Thomas-Elgin

3rd place - \$200 - Haldimand

Respectfully Submitted, Membership Committee:
Anne Graham (Lanark), Joyce Ratz (Central Algo-
ma), Nancy Strutt (Flesherton), Kathy McLean (Chair,
Ottawa-Carleton)

Fresh from Convention with my spirits buoyed! Congratulations to Area 3 for their fantastic Convention in beautiful London, Ontario this year. The hard work that the Convention Committee put into the Convention was evident from the initial greeting upon arrival with the requisite scan of my Covid vaccine document to the wrap-up of the Convention itself; job well done, ladies!

It was so incredibly wonderful to reconnect with old friends and to make new ones. Being able to finally see each other in person was truly uplifting. And, yes, while everyone tried to adhere to Covid protocols it sure didn't stop any of us from enjoying the terrific entertainment that saw many of us singing along to old favourites and dancing in the Conga Line that seemingly spontaneously formed! I am still astonished at the Magician who performed and levitated an audience member! How does he do that, I wonder? All in all, it was a great time that served to remind us of just how valuable this fantastic organization is, to both body and soul.

As in previous years, this year the Hospital & Home Care Plan generated a profit that was shared between Manulife and the Association. While premiums have seen some decline since last year, our claims have held steady. Due to the declining premiums, it was necessary to release some of the Reserves of the plan as they had become over-funded. Reserves are established in the insurance plan to protect the plan against adverse claims experience and to provide funds to offset claims during the run-off period should the plan ever be terminated by the Association. This release of reserves inflated the amount of the profit to be shared between the parties. This year I had the privilege to present to your now Past President Nancy Bell, a cheque in the amount of \$87,581.86. When the ongoing Administrative Fee is added to this, the total revenues payable to the Association for the year are \$110,696.68. Since its introduction, the Profit Sharing has now generated more than \$1,000,000 to the Association over the years. I

think we can all agree that the partnership with Manulife has been and continues to be a good one.

Just a reminder to members who may be coming home from a hospital stay and requiring the services of a Personal Support Worker, Registered Nurse or Registered Practical Nurse, access to this benefit must be pre-approved by Manulife. There is a Prior Authorization Form available on the RWTO website (www.rtwo.org/membership/insuranceplans) that is to be completed by your family physician. Once approved, Manulife will direct you to the service provider in your locality. If your need for this service is urgent, you can obtain a verbal approval by contacting Manulife directly at 1-877-222-7340. You will have to provide the Customer Service Representative with the Plan Number (17777C) and your unique identification number when arranging this.

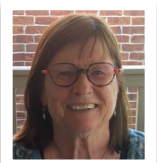
Your insurance team wishes you a very pleasant and safe summer!

Insurance Convenor

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Resolutions for 2022 Annual General Meeting

Resolution # 1

Be it resolved that Policies and Procedures Manual Article XIV, Financial, 4a: "The annual Branch rebate per paid Provincial member shall be twenty-five (25%) of the membership fee, commencing with the 2008-2009 membership year. The rebate on the fifteen dollars (\$15.00) membership fee shall remain at eight dollars (\$8.00)." be amended to read: "The annual Branch rebate per paid Provincial member shall be thirty percent (30%) of the membership fee, commencing with the 2023-2024 membership year. The rebate on the fifteen dollars (\$15.00) membership fee shall remain at eight dollars (\$8.00)."

Carried.

Resolution #2

Be it resolved that the amount of funds held in reserves at the end of the fiscal year will be a minimum of two (2) times the anticipated expenses for the following year.

Carried.

Resolution #3

Be it resolved that when the amount of funds held in reserves exceeds the two (2) times anticipated expenses for the following year, the Board of Directors will examine the feasibility of remitting special grants to the branches.

Motion #4 to amend Resolution #3

"When the amount of funds held in reserves exceeds the three (3) times anticipated expenses for the following year, the Board of Directors will examine the feasibility of remitting special grants to the branches."

Motion #4 to amend Resolution #3 was **Defeated.**

A vote on the original Resolution #3 was **Carried.**

Resolution #4

Be it resolved that when the Board of Directors is distributing special grants to the Branches, these special grants will be paid out equally to each Branch.

Carried.

Resolution #5

Be it resolved that Constitution Article V Duties of the Board of Directors, 2 Board of Directors, be amended by the addition of f, "Wherever possible, ensure that RWTO/OERO Provincial meetings and events take place in a venue or facility that is accessible to all."

Carried.

Resolution #6

That an Ad Hoc Committee be formed to develop viable strategies to have events virtually available at the Annual Convention.

(#5 AGM 2022 to amend Resolution #6) that an Ad Hoc Committee be formed to consider the viability of having events virtually available at an in-person convention. **Defeated**

A vote on the original Resolution #6 was **Carried.**

Resolution # 7

Be it resolved that Constitution Article VII, Section 3, the second a, "manage the Website by communicating all changes to the Webmaster" be amended to read:

"manage the Website by communicating all changes to the Website Consultant"

Carried.

Resolution # 8

Be it resolved that Constitution Article VIII, B, Section 5 c. "liaise with the Webmaster and Communications Newsletter Convenor" be amended to read: "liaise with the Website Consultant and Communications Newsletter Convenor."

Carried.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Drummond, President



Branch Resolutions for 2023 Annual General Meeting

Resolutions for the 2023 Annual General Meeting must be submitted to Sandra Salerno, Convenor of the Resolutions Committee, by November 15, 2022. The intent of every resolution should be clear, concise, and must contain one idea or focus. (Policy and Procedures Article VII Resolutions)

When your branch is preparing to submit a resolution, questions and concerns should be submitted to Sandra Salerno (smsalerno@rogers.com) or Jane Cartier at (acecartier@gmail.com).

Sandra Salerno, 1st Vice-President

Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Membership Extension Survey

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Extension of Membership appreciated the response of so many members, either electronically or through Canada Post. A pie graph illustrating the results of Question 1 appears below. A more complete report, which includes graphs for all three questions from the Survey can be found on the RWTO/OERO website (rwto.org). A “Click Here” Option appears on the ticker tape. The report can also be accessed by clicking on “About” and then “Governance” in the top ribbon on the web page.

It is important to remember the following:

1. Board Motion 74, 2020-2021 – Moved by Lynn Sulman, seconded by LeAnne Taylor that following a positive response from the results of the survey to admitting other educational professional women into our organization, the Board of Directors recommend the following:

- The RWTO/OERO name will remain the same
- The Provincial Membership Fee will be the same for all
- All members will have equal opportunity within the organization at the Branch and Provincial Level
- Insurance Programs will be available to all joining members

2. In the Preamble which accompanied the survey; the following statement was included:

It is the membership who will determine whether RWTO/OERO will welcome other women educational professionals into the organization.

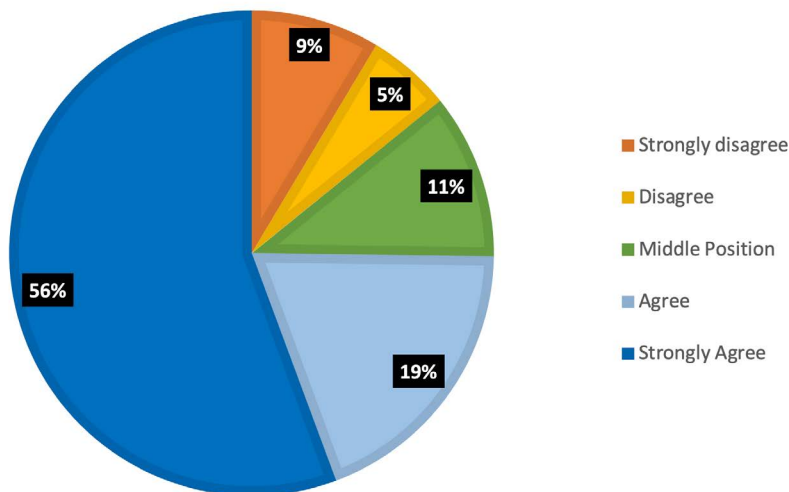
Should a branch, area, or individual wish to bring forward any resolutions to open the door to include other women educational professionals, such resolutions MUST be submitted by November 15 in order to be discussed and voted on at the June 2023 Convention. Since this would require changes to the Constitution, any resolution would need to pass by 66%. Assistance with drafting the correct wording of any resolution and rationale may be attained through the Constitution Committee chaired by First Vice President Sandra Salerno.

The survey received 1662 responses, which is 40% of the number of surveys sent electronically or by post. According to research on the accuracy of survey results, this would indicate an accurate reflection of the opinion of the membership 9 times out of 10.

Submitted by: LeAnne Taylor, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on the Extension of Membership

Responses to Question 1:

I support the extension of RWTO/OERO membership to include retired women educational professionals.



Issues and Concerns

In preparation to write my first 'Issues and Concerns' article, I first reviewed previous topics that were discussed in Connections, I spoke to the authors' of those articles seeking recommendations re: further topics. I then spoke to our editor Jan Murdoch, who suggested that I explore home renovations designed to improve accessibility for seniors that may qualify for government financial support.

I approached this writing task as though I was writing an essay, but some 50 years later rather than going to the library and reviewing books and journal articles, thanks to technology, my research, in a matter of minutes, brought me to the topic of 'aging in place.'

'Aging in place' means having access to services and health and social supports you need to live safely and independently in your home or your community for as long as you wish or are able. Older adults aging in place are more able to be active, engage in social participation and maintain their social networks. Making choices now will give you greater control over your independence, quality of life and dignity.

Most of us, actually 90% of us, 65 or older, want to stay in our homes for as long as possible. To accomplish this, you should be planning and preparing now to enable your safety and independence by taking into consideration quality of life and cost. Staying in your home might not be cheap as there are continuing expenses: maintenance, repairs and upgrades needed to maintain your home's value and function. Over time you're likely to need to hire people to do things you can no longer do. Real estate taxes are likely to increase every year. It is important to re-evaluate regularly and watch for when the tipping point is approaching.

Home modifications, coupled with other interventions, have been shown to be effective in enabling you to maintain a desirable quality of life at a reasonable cost. It is likely that the rigorous assessment of risk factors in the home environment, the implementation of a plan to remedy the situation, and the education of caregivers and older adults in the safe use of assistive technologies, will allow you to age in your home for as long as possible, safely and with dignity.

What types of modifications will reduce accidents and accommodate our aging bodies? Some changes to the home are easy and fairly inexpensive: knobs on doors and cabinets can be changed to levers and made easy

to reach, rugs removed to reduce risk of tripping, strong handrails on stairs, grab bars and chairs can be installed in walk-in showers and tubs as well as interior lights can be brightened and equipped with motion detectors. Wheelchair ramps, stair lifts, automatic garage door openers are also possible renovations.

The Ontario Government Seniors Home Safety Tax Credit is intended to help seniors stay in their homes longer. The credit is worth 25% of up to \$10,000.00 per household in eligible expenses, to a maximum credit of \$2,500.00.

Over the next few Connections issues, I will continue to explore strategies that contribute to the ability to continue living independently at home through the provision of necessary supports and services.

Lynn Sulman, Area 3 Director



En me préparant à écrire mon premier article « Issues and Concerns », j'ai parlé aux autrices des anciens articles afin d'obtenir des recommandations et j'ai eu des entretiens avec l'éditrice Jan Murdoch qui m'a suggéré d'explorer les exigences à rencontrer pour obtenir un financement gouvernemental lors des rénovations nécessaires pour éliminer les obstacles à l'accessibilité.

Grâce à la technologie, ma recherche virtuelle m'a menée au sujet « Vieillir sur place », ce phénomène qui décrit la possibilité pour les personnes du troisième âge de vivre dans leur maison le plus longtemps possible et de façon indépendante car elles obtiennent les services de santé et les appuis nécessaires. Elles maintiennent le contrôle de leur indépendance, demeurent actives tout en entretenant un réseautage et un engagement social. Elles conservent ainsi la dignité personnelle et la qualité de vie.

Étant à 90% âgées de plus de 65 ans, plusieurs d'entre nous désirons rester dans notre demeure le plus longtemps possible. Tout en tenant compte des dépenses que ceci entraîne, nous devrions être en train de planifier et de voir aux préparatifs qui nous permettront de maintenir la qualité de vie de notre indépendance, tout en assurant notre sécurité. La note peut être très salée si nous voulons conserver la valeur de notre maison. Il faut prévoir les adaptations

Continued ►

Issues and Concerns – continued

requis pour que la maison conserve sa fonctionnalité. Il deviendra nécessaire d'embaucher des gens pour effectuer les travaux d'entretien, de réparation et d'amélioration. Dans nos prévisions, il faudra tenir compte de l'augmentation annuelle des taxes foncières et du coût de la vie. Il sera primordial d'évaluer régulièrement le point tournant qui fera tout basculer et mènera à une prise de décision.

Une évaluation rigoureuse des facteurs de risque de l'environnement mène à la mise en œuvre d'un plan de redressement. Ceci comprend l'éducation des aidants naturels dans l'utilisation sécuritaire de l'équipement adapté et d'assistance technologique, les services des préposés aux soins personnels et tous autres services connexes.

Il a été démontré que pour maintenir la qualité de vie désirée, les modifications de la maison et les autres interventions nécessitées peuvent être faites à un coût raisonnable. Il peut tout simplement s'agir de changer les poignées de portes et à des leviers de portes, de

réduire le risque de trébucher en enlevant les tapis et d'installer des mains courantes adéquates des deux côtés de l'escalier. Il est recommandé d'ajouter dans la salle de bain ou la cabine de douche un meilleur éclairage, des barres d'appui et un siège rabattable et de placer à des endroits stratégiques de la maison des lumières avec détecteurs de mouvement. Il faut aussi vérifier l'admissibilité à un financement d'une rampe pour fauteuil roulant, d'un ouvre-porte automatique pour le garage ou tout autre mécanisme coûteux. Le Crédit d'impôt aux aînés pour la sécurité à domicile peut aider à rendre notre domicile plus sécuritaire et accessible. Il équivaut à 25 % d'un montant maximal de 10,000 \$, dont 2,500 \$ maximal par année pour la résidence principale d'une personne âgée en Ontario.

Je vais, pour les prochains articles dans *Connections*, explorer d'autres stratégies et sources d'appui qui contribuent à vivre de façon autonome à domicile.

Suzanne Rondeau, Area 10 Director (Translator)

Provincial Program Coordinator

Welcome to the 2022-2023 Membership year Presidents and Area Directors!

As our journey begins for this Membership year, we must continue to be vigilant as waves of COVID-19 variants try to undermine our best laid plans for meetings and events to be held in person. 'Resilience' continues to be required by all.

September brings the Annual Area Presidents Meetings organized by your Area Director. You received the Timelines for Presidents document sent out in July, providing a chronological guide to follow throughout the year. The Area Directors will review this content at your meetings. That is your opportunity to ask questions and seek clarity as necessary. It is strongly suggested that you print this document and keep it handy as an easy reference, as it also includes references to where to seek additional information in the 'Policies and Procedures' Manual.

Monthly, from October to May, I will also send out an At A Glance Calendar as a reminder of key tasks and important due dates.

These two documents work hand and hand and I encourage you to be sure to read carefully the Special Notes and Additional Suggestions found at the end of the Timelines which include further valuable information that will assist you in your role.

Your Area Director is your liaison with the Provincial Board and is ready and willing to assist you on your journey and, as always, I am here for you as well.

I look forward to making this journey together!

Judith Bennoch



Newsletter

We are searching for a new editor for Connections. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being editor but as my role changes, on the Provincial Executive, I can no longer dedicate the time the position requires. If interested, you could join me when I work on the Dec. 2022 Connections and I can walk you through the process. Once the articles arrive by email they are put into a template in Google. The editors are then invited to examine the content and make suggested changes. The next step is to send everything to the Graphic Designer

along with any pictures that are to be included. In a few days the PDF file arrives back and this is also sent to the editors for refining. The final Proof is then sent to the publisher. Everything is done by Internet, so all you need is a good service provider and an understanding of how to work with Microsoft Word. With the help of Zoom we can work through the process together.

Submitted by Jan Murdoch,
Newsletter Convenor



Archives

Sending grateful acknowledgments to helpers at Convention 2022 who assisted with the 'In Memoriam' service. Thanks to Judith Bennoch and Suzanne Rondeau for respectfully conducting the ceremony, and members who set up the materials. Although disappointed that I could not participate in person, I knew that everything was in good hands.

Appreciation to Kathy Gallagher for her encouraging technical suggestions setting my mind at ease; thanks to Ethan Snook for wonderful technical support. Our goal, always being respectful and thoughtful in honouring our deceased RWTO/OERO members,

was achieved.

Thank you all for submitting photos of our deceased members. We would like to include pictures of everyone when possible. Please send names to Linda Huffman and photos to me. Contact me anytime at mumkat@aol.com or 705-845-0308. I'll send you confirmation of receipt of information by email.

Susan Rose, Provincial Archivist



Member for Members

We would like to extend an invitation to everyone to join other Branches for unique experiences. These will occur with the help of Zoom. If interested in participating you contact the host by email and register your name and email with her. A few days before the session you receive a Zoom invitation.

Genealogy Group: last Thursday of the month Sept-May contact: Jan Murdoch (Durham North)
janmurdoch8@gmail.com

Warton Branch Book Club: contact: Sharron Colter (Warton) dshcolter@eastlink.ca

"Lets do Coffee": Informal chats on various topics contact: Hope Leon (Hamilton-Wentworth)
hopesleon01@gmail.com

News from the Branches – "Caring and Sharing"

Rendezvous

Rendezvous held monthly Zoom Meetings, but we were eager to return to normal. Initially, I connected with my brother and Executive at their homes, then attended the In-Person AGM/Convention. Jean's new apartment was deemed the safest place for an In-Person Meeting, with a full agenda including an every-member mail out of 'Jean's Joke Book'. The material was edited, printed, and stapled together. A bin was filled with envelopes, stamps, labels, an address list, and the joke books and placed at my front door with other bags for the meeting. Finally, the car loaded, I headed out. Later, on the 407, I had this funny feeling that I hadn't brought everything. Then I knew that I didn't have time to go back and start the trip again. Our first In-Person Executive Meeting was a delightful two-hour chat with coffee and cookies, catching up on two years of missed conversation.

Judy Anderson, Branch President

Scarborough

Scarborough has continued to maintain contact with its members through their monthly newsletter. Branch news about members and information from the Provincial Board has always been included. A recipe, a cartoon, a joke and other interesting facts on various topics are included. Membership is always the main concern. The Over 80 and 90 members were recognized in a special tribute message. Every member received a wallet sized magnifying glass which members have appreciated when they have had to read the small print on medications! It is hoped that we will be able to meet together in the fall. In the meantime, our members continue to support the Branch and enjoy our newsletter.

Carol Nelson, Branch President

Daisy Wilson Coldwater

ZOOM offered a welcome opportunity to reconnect with many of our branch members. To see familiar friendly faces across my screen was uplifting. We were especially pleased to connect with one member who had moved away during COVID. I needed help with the technology to connect and then to prepare a

presentation. My daughters were impressed I was taking on a new challenge and they were very helpful. I worked hours to prepare a presentation on International Women's Day to share with our Zoomers. We also borrowed an idea from a neighboring branch to play Zoom Bingo. We mailed a Tim's card to our winner. I am proud of the members who took on the challenge to ZOOM and participated in our meetings. It was disappointing that others were unable to conquer the beast even with the excellent tutorials from our tech wiz, our Branch secretary.

Helen Carstairs, Branch President

East Parry Sound

Zoom, Zoom, Zoom! Our Branch has experimented with Zoom events, namely an 'In Memoriam' service, a Trivia Game and a motivational speaker who shared tips on keeping fit.

Two "In Person Events" have been held as the pandemic waned. These Meet and Greet were held in a very large and accessible room, from 10 a.m. until noon. No speaker, just come out, meet up and enjoy the camaraderie.

Our first Meet and Greet took place in October 2021 with Halloween décor and snacks. Our activity was our Annual Penny Sale. The second Meet and Greet was held in June 2022, with a 'Here Comes Summer' theme and décor. Again, no luncheon. Instead, snacks, tea and coffee were provided. A Trash and Treasures Sale provided some laughs and raised funds for the local Women's Centre. A 'Caring, Sharing and Having Fun' time was had by all who attended!

Peggy Stock, Branch Co-President

Orillia

Our RWTO/OERO Orillia branch continued to have Zoom meetings during this past year. Our Zoom meetings were attended by a regular core group, but by less than half of our members. One good aspect was that some members, who find it difficult to at-

Continued ►



News from the Branches – “Caring and Sharing” – continued

tend in-person meetings, were regulars at our Zoom meetings.

We were able to attract speakers who due to COVID-19 would not have agreed to speak otherwise. Firstly, we sourced Harry (Skid) Crease, a lifelong eco-activist and engaging speaker, from the 2021 Renaissance magazine under Advocacy. Next, we had Chris Allum and Allister Field from the Ontario Securities Commission address the members. They were very informative speakers and reinforced some advice on fraud and personal information security that we all should know.

The June in-person lunch was our only in-person experience.

Yvonne Bromley, Branch Communication Convenor

Blue Mountain

COVID-19 has altered our behaviours in multiple ways, consequently words such as Zoom, “In person”, and “unprecedented” have become part of our daily lexicon. Yes, Zoom was used by some of our members e.g. to enjoy AGM programs. Also, our Book Club which is affiliated with Clearview Library meets using Zoom. We would also welcome members joining us from other branches.

Our Over 90 members, as chosen by the convenors of the 2022 AGM, were honoured by a special Over 90 certificate. We congratulate all of our Over 90 members who have reached that milestone.

We do hope to have another casual outdoors meeting in the near future.

Lois Plowright, Branch President

Brockville

'Best In Person Experience' is a welcomed change from the past two years of pandemic isolation. Area 8 met for lunch twice in the past seven months where we enjoyed delicious food, social-



izing and friendship! We welcomed over 30 members including some of our 10 new members, and shared our Barbara Bain award.



We were able to remember and honour five of our members who have passed away during this time:- Beverley Clarke, Judie Wolfenden, Lillian Maud, Marian Duncan and Rachel Kinch.

Our Callers, Membership Convenor, Goodwill Convenor, Insurance Convenor, Newsletter Convenor and Treasurer have all played an active role in keeping us connected. A FaceBook page has been created and will be updated in the near future to encourage connections as well.

We look forward to meeting together again in September and connecting with even more of our members.

Karen Kerr-Kennedy, Branch President



Gananogue

While Zoom was invented in 2011 it wasn't until 2020 that many of us had even heard the word Zoom, used in this term. Over the past two years our members were able to stay in touch, meeting for coffee, a bit of chit chat, telling jokes, laughing, exercising, painting, taking sewing lessons, virtual retreats, and spending time with friends. We were especially thankful for this program when one of our members told us that she was losing her battle with cancer. Zoom allowed us to talk, laugh and keep an eye on her at a safe distance and hopefully brighten her day. She was proud to be able to attend the 2021 convention

Continued ►

and take part in the voting process through virtual media. Most of all, Zoom has allowed us to continue our motto of “Caring and Sharing”.

Joan Gamble, Branch President

Upper Canada East



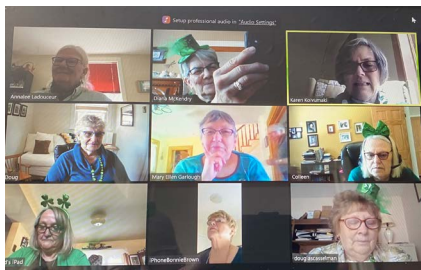
The Zoom license was purchased when COVID-19 restricted our face-to-face gatherings. We used it primarily for Executive meetings when decisions were necessary. Afterwards, in-

formation emails were sent to all members. As some of our ladies don't have Internet, we chose to send cards on special occasions to every member, so they knew that we were thinking about them. A Zoom St. Patrick's Day Tea was planned, and the ladies enjoyed sipping on a little green brew and laughing over stories told. At the next Executive meeting more opportunities to use Zoom will be discussed. (book club, guest speaker or author....)

Meeting for the first time in May 2022, the Provincial President attended. We were delighted to present three Cora Bailey Awards.

For the remainder of 2022 with new strains of COVID lurking, and members concerned for safety, various activities using Zoom will continue to be important.

Diana McKendry, Branch President



Napanee

Napanee Branch has been fortunate to meet four times over the course of the pandemic. The first two

were "To 'ell With the Bell" luncheons at a local restaurant. We were all glad to see each other but were constrained to visiting with those seated at our table. The Fall Meeting in November was held in a church basement and although we followed COVID protocol there was much more freedom to move around. The smiles and laughter were something to behold, much like a classroom full of students back from a holiday break. We all thoroughly enjoyed sharing a boxed lunch supplied by a local restaurant. This meant so much especially for those of us who had spent many lonely meals during shutdown. Similarly our Annual General Meeting in April, was well attended and again we all enjoyed getting together. In June we visited Kingston Branch for a garden party lunch at the home of their president. What a relief to finally be able to move outside our own community and visit our closest branch. Hopefully we will find a way to live with COVID and resume a more normal lifestyle.

Beryl Jacka, Branch President

Sudbury

Sudbury made liberal use of Zoom during the pandemic in order to keep our members informed and especially, connected. Several of our techie executive members assisted others who required that help. Our most informative presentation was by Madeleine Hebert, local lawyer, who gave us extensive information about the necessity for us to appoint a Power of Attorney for personal care, financial affairs, property, in the event we cannot speak for ourselves,

Incapacity Planning and Wills. Who will speak for you?

That was just one excellent presentation to our membership. Provincial President Nancy Bell also addressed us at that February meeting. RWTO/OERO members were also included in our Christmas Zoom activities. Our annual golf tournament was announced by Zoom and a good turnout resulted. Zoom was an essential tool for Area 10 to inform and to keep our members connected.

Erna Fex, Branch Insurance Convenor.

Continued ►

News from the Branches – “Caring and Sharing” – continued

Central Algoma

Our Central Algoma Branch of RWTO is slowly emerging out from under the rock of COVID-19. Thank goodness for Zoom which enabled many of our group of 69 to stay in touch. Our book club sub group which consists of 20 plus members never missed a month of meeting and all of us felt proud that we had mastered one more technological skill we had no idea we would ever need to learn. Considering our branch includes members from as far away as Dean Lake and Blind River and extends over 100 km to Sault Ste Marie, Zoom was invaluable.

As the fear of Covid lessened for some of us, a masked return to meeting in person was held. Members were still able to recognize one another. At our April meeting we reached out to Breton House, a Sault residential home for women in recovery from substance abuse. The Executive Director, Pamela Smykaluk was both informative and inspiring. In June we were delighted to contribute to a silent auction to raise funds for our community donations to schools and rural libraries. Gardening produce, baking and books were generously donated and happily purchased. It was a long Covid drought but we feel and hope we have come out from under.

Catherine Pirrie, Branch President

Sault Ste Marie “Best of Zoom”

Our Sault Ste Marie Branch greatly appreciated the opportunity to participate in a number of learning and contact opportunities provided by our Provincial Board of Directors through the use of Zoom. For the Sault Ste Marie Branch, this was our “Best of Zoom” and greatly appreciated by members who were able to participate. Some of these “Best of Zoom” events included the virtual visit by our 2021-2022 Provincial President Nancy Bell to Branch 11 completed in partnership with Central Algoma, the opportunity for members to participate in a Provincial Insurance

Workshop as well as various training webinars offered by RWTO/OERO Cyberlady Kathy Gallagher. I, for one, extended my knowledge of how to set up and monitor a Branch Facebook Page through participation in one of these zoom sessions. Last year’s ‘Staying Connected’ virtual convention as well as components of this year’s “Laughter Lifts Us Up” convention, made accessible to RWTO members, including some Sault Ste Marie Branch members, who were able to participate. Within our branch, several members formed a Book Club, meeting monthly by Zoom for the purpose of discussing their selected books in a relaxed and social manner while perhaps drinking a favorite beverage and munching a snack.

Barb Perry, Branch President

Trenton

We have emerged from the last eighteen months older and wiser. We have used technology to stay connected with friends and family, order groceries, shop for gifts, seek medical advice, work from home, attend school from home, travel virtually, learn new skills and hobbies and record our thoughts, memories, and pictures. We don’t know what the future holds or the next direction this pandemic will take but we remain confident in our ability to meet any challenges we encounter. Meetings and get togethers have been a challenge but last fall Book Club members met in an outdoor setting at a member’s home. Sheltered by the remains of a couple of stone walls and a roaring campfire the lively literary discussions continued. The stone oven may have been old tech, but the determination and resiliency of our members was on-point.

Nancy Patterson Wickson, Branch President



Continued ►



Kingston

Our Branch in Kingston has been quite active and we're easing gradually into gathering again.

On June 15th we hosted a garden party and luncheon at my home. The Napanee Branch was invited, we had 27 women excited to be socializing again. A highlight was our director Joan Gamble presenting a 90th Birthday certificate to Ethel Kane, a long time active member of our Branch. We also attended luncheon meetings with Napanee Branch. Laraine Clancy and I accepted a kind invitation to join Upper Canada Branch's luncheon at Stonecroft winery in Morrisburg. We enjoyed visiting with old friends there and meeting some of their members.

We're gearing up for welcoming all members to Kingston next June, so stay tuned! Yours in caring and sharing,

Betty Jeanne Kippen, Branch President

Durham North

Durham North has been fortunate to meet in person several times since March. We hosted 23 for a presentation about adding native plants to gardens to attract pollinators.



In April, 51 members attended our annual luncheon. In addition to a spectacular lunch, entertainers were D'n A, a two person ukulele group who had everyone singing along and feeling very uplifted.

In May and June we visited Pegasus Animal Sanctu-

ary and Applewood Winery.

Perhaps our best in person event was in July, 63 guests attended a fantastic garden party/high tea. Members explored the magnificent gardens serenaded by entertainer Irwin Smith, and was served lunch in china cups, silver teapots, tiered plates brimming with an assortment of scrumptious sandwiches, scones and sweets. We honoured our most senior member, Audrey Glassford, aged 96, with a lifetime member award.



As a Branch we have not participated in Zoom meetings. A few of our members participated in Hope Leon's initiative of 'Let's Do Coffee'. It was an opportunity to meet RWTO members from different branches. During COVID and the various lock downs we kept in touch regularly with our members using email to send jokes, thoughtful messages and videos.

Wendy Campbell, Branch President





Your input is needed....let's help each other!

Mardie Panabaker, a former member of the [Communications Newsletter Committee](#) has volunteered to gather information from across the province to create a [Speakers List](#) to share with everyone.

She would like you to send information about any speaker that you have had present at a meeting, whether in person or on Zoom in the past couple of years....and to please [include their contact information](#).

Mardie will be collating this information, with the intention of it being published in an edition of 'Connections' and on the rwto.org website.

Please send your information to: Mardie Panabaker at: mardiepan@gmail.com.

A huge thank you to Mardie for taking on this task!



**CRUISING DOWN
THE WATERS**
SAILING INTO KINGSTON
2023

RWTO/OERO 67th CONVENTION

June 6 -8, 2023

**Four Points by Sheraton
Kingston ON**

Room Bookings: 1-888-236-2427
fpkingstonsales@concordhotels.com

**Hosted by the Eastern Ontario Branches
of Areas 8 & 9: Brockville, Gananoque, Kingston,
Lanark, Napanee, Ottawa-Carleton, Upper Canada East**

For more information, contact Convention Convenors:

Anne Graham 613-259-2207 annegraham2207@gmail.com

Marg Dempsey 613-820-7864 mdempsey2020@bell.net

<https://rwto.org/convention/rwto-oero-67th-convention-2023/>

RWTO/OERO Board of Directors 2022-2023

Past President	Nancy	Bell		n3bell@rogers.com
President	Judy	Drummond	613-275-1354	jjdrum@xplornet.com
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Sales Material Convenor	Judy	Anderson	905-985-4257	rwtoalesandmaterials@gmail.com
Insurance Convenor	Karin	Mussen	519-272-0629	kmussen.rwto@gmail.com
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Issues & Concerns	Lynn	Sulman	519-351-2676	sulmanly@gmail.com
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Comm. Website Convenor	Kathy	Gallagher	519-984-5963	rwto cyberlady@gmail.com
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Director - Area 04	Linda	Sargent	905-575-3831	rwto.linda@gmail.com
Director - Area 05	Judy	Anderson	905-985-4257	rwtoalesandmaterials@gmail.com
Director - Area 06	Susan	Rose	705-384-0164	mumkat@aol.com
Director - Area 07	Lynda	Sommer	613-242-3625	lynsommer@gmail.com
Director - Area 08	Joan	Gamble	613-928-2427	joangamble7@gmail.com
Director - Area 09	Kathy	McLean	613-829-6234	badgerkat2016@gmail.com
Director - Area 10	Suzanne	Rondeau	705-618-4480	suzannerondeau20@gmail.com
Director - Area 11	Jean Emily	Noble	705-253-6106	jenoble@shaw.ca
Director - Area 12	Margaret	Geare	416-988-2810	margaret.mgeare.geare@gmail.com
Director - Area 13	Carol	Morningstar	905-357-3796	camstar4@hotmail.com

RWTO/OERO Calendar 2021-2022

Sept. 1, 2022	*Annual Provincial Membership Fees due - to be sent to the Provincial Office by Oct. 15th. *Fees for new members must be forwarded to the Provincial Office when received.
Sept. 20, 2022	*Executive Meeting.
Sept. 20, 2022	*Area Directors Meeting.
Sept. 20-22, 2022	*All Board Meeting.
Oct. 31, 2022	*Submissions due for December Newsletter Areas: 2, 3, 9, 12
Nov. 15, 2022	*Resolutions due for 2023 Annual General Meeting. Submit to Sandra Salerno. *Resignation of any Directors to Provincial President.
Nov. 30, 2022	*Calculations of branch numbers for 2023 AGM delegates based on official membership count as received and recorded in the Provincial Office.
Dec. 15, 2022	*Board of Directors Zoom Meeting.
Jan. 5-10, 2023	*Annual Report and Branch Membership Forms sent to branches.
Jan. 15, 2023	*Submission of each new Area Director's name to the Provincial President.
Jan. 31, 2023	*Nominations for 2023-2024 Board to the Provincial Past President. *Membership and Communications Committee applications to the Provincial Past President. *Nominations for Honorary Membership Award presented at 2023 AGM. *Submissions for March Newsletter Areas: 1, 4, 7, 13.
Mar. 1, 2023	*Submissions for Feather-in-Your-Hat-Award.
Mar. 15, 2023	*Branch Annual Reports due to Directors.
Mar. 31, 2023	*Director reports due to the Program Coordinator. *Unpaid members are taken off the list. Insurance may be in jeopardy. Financial Year End.
Apr. 15, 2023	*All delegates names are to be in to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer. *All registrations are due for Convention 2023.
Apr. 30, 2023	*Branch Financial Reports are due to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer.
May 9-11, 2023	*Provincial Executive and Board Meetings.
May 15, 2023	*Branch Executive names for 2023-2024 due to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer.
June 6-8, 2023	*Convention 2023 and AGM.



RWTO/OERO

RWTO/OERO Provincial Office
2736 Twelfth Conc,
Tecumseh, ON, N8N 0H9

**PM Agreement
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