

Honorary Membership Award Recipients 2021

This Provincial Award is the highest honour that RWTO/OERO bestows. We received three nominations this year and the committee was delighted to present all three to the Provincial board. All three of these recipients exhibited outstanding service at the Provincial level. We are pleased to honour Karen Clark-Lauzon, Teresa Dorey and Donna Hemeon for their dedication to our organization.

The Honorary Membership Award is the highest honour that RWTO/OERO bestows. It is given for outstanding service at the Provincial level. This year we are pleased to honour Kathy Gallagher and Nancy Papiez.

Kathy Gallagher (Windsor-Essex Branch)

Kathy started her Provincial journey as Communication Website Convenor in 2016. She exemplifies dedication, leadership, and forward thinking. Her creativity and enthusiasm have resulted in several improvements to Branch websites, and also, a very impressive Provincial website. She shared her skills willingly, performing tasks that, in the past, were referred to a professional. We appreciate her efforts to minimize our spending costs.

During her time on the Provincial Board, she promoted, and created, “Members Rocking Retirement”, a feature on the website that provides a format for showcasing some of the outstanding talents that our members have brought to their retirement years. In addition to her other duties, she agreed to chair the “Social Media Ad Hoc Committee”, tasked with developing guidelines for our online content.

Her technical presence at Conventions is obvious as it is part of every aspect, from agendas to presentations to the Memorial Service. When Covid interrupted our 2020 Kingston plans, Kathy was instrumental in taking our AGM online. More recently she volunteered to be Convenor for this year’s, first ever, Virtual Convention, complete with tours and entertainment.

Kathy is rocking her retirement and will always be “Cyberlady” to us.
Congratulations Kathy and Thank you!

Nancy Papiez (Hamilton/Wentworth Branch)

Nancy started her Provincial journey as Convenor of the 2013 Convention, hosted by Hamilton-Wentworth. Her leadership and organizational skills, as well as her commitment to keeping processes efficient, were evident. During that year, she also volunteered to chair the “Convention Handbook Revisions Committee”. She has since chaired several other Provincial committees, including “Guidelines for Branches”, “Duties of Area Directors”, “Voting and Election Procedure Handbook”, and a few more not listed here.

In 4 years of service as Program Coordinator, she created timeline documents for Branch Presidents and Area Directors to help them organize their responsibilities. Her contributions to the AGM were evident to everyone involved, as she worked endlessly to make the whole meeting process run smoothly.

More recently, Nancy has served as Second Vice President, where she was Goodwill Convenor, and First Vice President, where she chaired the Resolutions Committee. This year, as Provincial President, she faced the challenges of Covid and Zoom. She kept a positive attitude and encouraged others to do the same. She learned and shared with grace and patience.

Nancy has proven herself to be a hard-working leader, dedicated to caring and sharing. Congratulations Nancy and Thank you!

Respectfully submitted by the Honorary Membership Award Committee,
Evelyn Martin
Kathy Smith
Susan Rose
Lois Lockhart (Chair)