

Retired Women
Teachers of Ontario



Organisation des
enseignantes
retraitées de l'Ontario

RWTO St. Thomas-Elgin Branch NEWSLETTER: November 2022

2022-2023 Executive

President: Catherine Gardiner

Past President: Sue Bandeen

First Vice President: Rita Demcheson

Second Vice President: Open

Secretary: Susan Grieve

Treasurer: Millie Gremonprez

Insurance Convenor: Judy De Groot

Communications: Karen Auckland

Caller Convenor: Patti Legault.

Archivist: Sue Bandeen

To All Members: Keeping Our Goodwill Convenors Informed

If you know of a member who is ill or has passed away, please contact the Goodwill Convenor responsible for the area of the county in which the member lives or lived. That way, the Goodwill Convenors can, in a timely fashion, send cards to those members who are ill and to the families of deceased members. The names and email addresses of the Goodwill Convenors are given below.

West Elgin: Ginny Barfett barfettginny@gmail.com

Central Elgin: Lynn Christie christielynnjean@gmail.com

East Elgin: Linda Laforge lindalaforge@hotmail.com

HIGHLIGHTS: SEPTEMBER 2022 GENERAL MEETING

St. Thomas Elgin Branch's 2022-2023 Cora Bailey Recipients

The Cora Bailey Awards are named in honour of Cora Bailey who was the first Executive Secretary-Treasurer of RWTO. The Cora Bailey Award is a RWTO Provincial award but the recipients are chosen at the branch level and are awarded to those members who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to their branch.

Past President Sue Bandeen

In the picture to the right, Sue Bandeen (centre) is posing for a picture shortly after she was presented with her Cora Bailey certificate and pin. Susan Grieve, who is standing to the left of Sue, delivered a heartfelt testimonial about Sue and her leadership abilities. President Cathy Gardiner, standing to the right of Sue, presented Sue with her certificate and pin



Treasurer Millie Gremonprez

In the picture to the right, Millie Gremonprez (centre) is posing with First Vice President Rita Demcheson (left) and President Cathy Gardiner (right) shortly after Millie was presented with her Cora Bailey certificate and pin. In her speech, Rita spoke appreciatively of Millie's excellent stewardship of our branch's financial resources and her leadership skills.



Past President's Pin (2021-2022)

Below is a photo of Sue Bandeen being presented her RWTO Past President's Pin by President Cathy Gardiner.



With her amazing energy and let's get this show back on the road attitude, Sue was the one who brought our branch out of the "Covid Blues" As such, the 2021-2022 year was very successful!

Celebrating the Backpack Project 2022



Twenty years ago, the St. Thomas Elgin Branch established the Backpack Project. The project was designed to help women and children in crisis by providing each child with a backpack full of age-appropriate school supplies. This year, our members donated approximately \$1,100 and the Golden K Club donated an additional \$500.

The photo above is of Gianna (left) who is the St. Thomas Elgin Branch member in charge of organizing the Backpack Project and Liz Brown, (right) who is the Executive Director of Violence Against Women Services Elgin County.

In the photo above, Liz Brown is standing between Gianna (left) and Monique (right) shortly after Liz Brown was presented with a single backpack, symbolic of the many backpacks that will be donated this year to Violence Against Women Services.

**A Musical Surprise
By Our Very Own GBGs
AKA
Gremonprez, Bandeen & Grieve**



Upon entering the room, the GBGs seemed quite dismayed because there was no choir to provide backup vocals for them but then threw caution to wind and invited the members to join them in a sing-a-long. They entertained us with their energy and talent. And as you can see, Sue Bandeen is no stranger to the stage! Thank you so much ladies.



HIGHLIGHTS: OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Lynn Sulman, Area Three

Director



Lynn is the Area Director for Area Three and is a member of the Chatham-Kent Branch. Area Three is comprised of our own branch along with Chatham-Kent, Windsor-Essex, Sarnia-Lambton, and London-Middlesex. In her capacity as an Area Director, Lynn sits on RWTO's Provincial Board of Directors. In her address to our membership, Lynn spoke about Extension of Membership and the Common Initiative. Both of these are designed to increase membership in RWTO. Lynn made it quite clear that RWTO's board of directors is quite concerned about RWTO's declining membership. Today the focus will be on Extension of Membership. In the next newsletter, the Common Initiative will be explained.

At our October 27, 2022 Executive Meeting, the executive discussed the procedure by which our branch will determine whether or not it will support the Extension of Membership Resolution which will be debated and voted on at the Kingston Convention's Annual General Meeting in June 2023.

RWTO has decided that there will be a Main Resolution which, if adopted, will establish constitutionally the principle of extending RWTO membership to retired women educators who are not teachers. Because the rules governing membership are embedded in the RWTO constitution, any change to those rules requires a majority vote of no less than 66%. If the Main Resolution is adopted, there will be a number of pursuant resolutions each of which will identify a particular group of retired women educators whose members are being considered for membership in RWTO. For example, there will be a separate pursuant resolution for retired women EAs, another for ECEs, another for speech pathologists and so on. And like the Main Resolution, each of these pursuant resolutions will require a majority vote of no less than 66% in order to be adopted.

If you have any questions, concerns or opinions on the Extension of Membership Resolution(s), please contact:

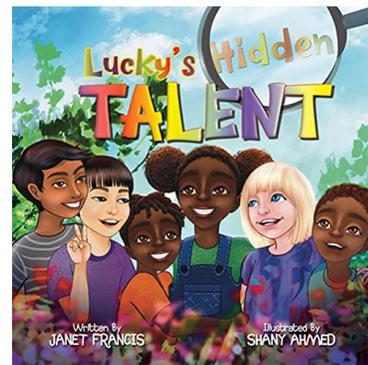


Cathy Gardiner cgardiner6112@gmail.com

Rita Demcheson rdemcheson@hotmail.com

Millie Gremonprez milliegremonprez@gmail.com

Janet Francis, Children's Author



After our luncheon at Lawrence Station, our membership was addressed by Janet Francis, the author of, *Lucky's Hidden Talent*. Janet, originally from Trinidad and Tobago, spent many years teaching elementary school in a suburb located west of Toronto. At an early age, she came to realize that in order to escape poverty, one must be educated. Commitment, hard work and belief in oneself are key components of Janet's teaching philosophy. She not only imparted these values to her students but also incorporated them into her acclaimed book, *Lucky's Hidden Talent*.

HAPPY TRAILS!

CAMERON AND OLIVIA

This past summer, brother and sister, Cameron and Olivia, attended the Sari Riding Camp and as you can see, from the picture below, its motto is “Changing Lives Stride by Stride”. Both children suffer from the same chronic disorder that is, unfortunately, resistant to medication. It was brought to our attention that in order for these dear children to attend Sari, some financial assistance was needed. Our branch’s executive quickly decided to donate \$500.00 so that both Cameron and Olivia could attend, and from all accounts, the kids very much enjoyed their experience at Sari. After Cameron and Olivia had completed their week at Sari, our branch received the most lovely, heartfelt and appreciative thank you letter from their parents. The letter was read aloud by Karen Auckland at our October General Meeting, and I do believe that their kind words of appreciation touched the hearts of all who were in attendance.



FOUR MORE ITEMS

To All Quilters

Patti Legault, our caller convenor, is a most excellent quilter and she thought that making quilts for the Hospice of Elgin might be a good project for our branch. She is willing to lead this project but in order to make it work, she will need some volunteer quilters. If you are interested, please contact Patti at patti2theteacher@hotmail.com

Third Party Liability Insurance

RWTO's liability insurance is Third Party Liability Insurance. This insurance protects all RWTO members who are found to be legally liable for third party bodily injury or property damage while engaged in RWTO activities. Only the courts can determine liability.

It is important to remember that if an incident does occur at an RWTO event, that RWTO and its members must not admit to being at fault (liable) for to do so could negate our insurer's defence.

Christmas Menu

Roast Turkey Stuffing Mashed Potatoes Gravy

Cranberries Turnip Dinner Rolls

Sticky Toffee Pudding

Coffee & Tea Cash Bar

Musical Guest: SusieQ

Before we feast on a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, our members will be entertained by the talented vocalist, SusieQ. With her energetic style, she will help to make our Christmas meeting and luncheon more festive!

