

Cambridge Branch



Sept. 2020

Newsletter #29



Cambridge R.W.T.O. Executive

2020-2021

President: Mary Jane Novak 622-0415
Past President: Terry Hamilton 622-2298
1st Vice-President: **Vacant**
Secretary/Archivist: Pat Taylor 623-5854
Treasurer: Anita Mullin 622-9231
Lunch Co-ordinator: Cheryl Oliva 623-1536

Goodwill Convenor: Mary L. 653-3097

Insurance Convenor: Sheila Wittie 745-1884

Callers: Area Code 519

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Bonnie M. unlisted

Jean S. 653-1257

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Rhonda rhondamccoy-16@msn.com

The Executive urgently need a V.P., assistant lunch-co-ordinator to collect money at the meetings and another emailer. Thanks. There will be an October meeting of the Executive.

Please contact your caller about **EACH** meeting.

Membership Fees of \$40.00 are due as soon as possible and before September 30th. Please pay your fees to Anita Mullin, Treasurer.

Make cheques out to: **RWTO Cambridge Branch**. As there is not going to be a September meeting, cheques be mailed to Anita at 47 Hillcrest Dr., Cambridge N1S 3M3. You may also pay your fees by e-transfer to:

rwto.cambridge@gmail.com

There is a section on the form where you can leave a message. In this space you should type your name, so Anita knows the fees came from you. Anita's email address is reerth@sympatico.ca if you want to confirm your transfer, however, you should receive a confirmation # from your bank.

The fee for a member who retired on or before Aug. 31, 1980 is \$15.00.

You must continue your membership if you have RWTO health insurance.

TENTATIVE MEETINGS

November 17, 2020 – Silent Auction

April 20, 2021 – speaker – Dr. Sharon Livingstone, gerontologist

If you have changed your address, email address or phone number, please let us know. Current information is kept on file at the provincial office.

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Caring and Sharing
Mary L.
519 653 3097



As your Goodwill Convenor, I send sympathy, get well, thinking-of-you and congratulatory cards for special birthdays and anniversaries, new grandchildren, etc., to our members. Please contact me by phone at any time if you know of anyone who should receive a card on behalf of our group.

President's Report 2020:

Mary Jane Novak, Interim President



It's hard to believe that it was only a year ago the Executive met at Dianne's church to plan the 2019-20 year. At that time the main topic of discussion was possibly changing

the venue to Wesley Church and the RWTO insurance plan "open window"; which would be explained by Terry Kennedy, provincial insurance rep. Two days before our Sept. 17th meeting, Dianne collapsed at church and the downward spiral began. She was so disappointed she couldn't be with us; however,

she continued to plan our meetings and was able to attend the Oct. 18th Executive meeting and our Nov. 19 meeting where she led the traditional carol sing. In January Dianne was first admitted to the Juravinski Cancer Centre in Hamilton for chemo and she was there in February when she celebrated her 75th birthday just before Covid-19 hit. Dianne was able to live at home for much of the Spring and early Summer with help from PSWs; however, her health was rapidly declining. She became a patient in the Freeport Palliative care unit at the end of July where she passed away on August 7th. I know many of her former colleagues, choir, church friends and her extended family were saddened they couldn't visit her due to the pandemic. Dianne was thankful for the "thinking of you" cards sent by our members during her illness. I am grateful to Bonnie Fach, one of Dianne's "Ch'chl't" choir friends who kept us informed of Dianne's condition throughout her battle with brain cancer.

Our first (and only) meeting of the new year was on February 18 which I chaired as Past President Terry Hamilton broke her leg two days beforehand. Our speaker was June Anderson, spiritual director for the Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank. June described many programs and services provided by the food bank such as classes in nutrition, a community garden which produces 10,000 lbs. of food annually, a clothing room for children and adults, a grandparents group, and providing twenty agencies such as the Bridges with groceries. All these programs are in addition to their primary function of providing 11,000 food

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hampers annually. The women from Ancora House sold jam, meat pies and butter tarts from their social enterprise program.

Unfortunately our meeting planned for April 21 had to be cancelled. The speaker, gerontologist, Dr. Sharon Livingstone was rebooked for Sept. 15, also cancelled. Sharon has been tentatively booked for April 20, 2021. She has also offered to use Zoom for the meeting, which we hope won't be necessary. Backing up, the Executive met in June to discuss the upcoming year and decided to cancel the September and February meetings, but to hold the November meeting which is the Silent Auction and the April meeting if possible. Lunch convenor Cheryl Oliva has tentatively booked the Galt Country Club for Nov. 17. If it is not possible to meet physically we are hoping to have the Silent Auction online, so please keep on making projects! I know all of us are hoping to get together sometime soon. Our small groups, hiking, book clubs and genealogy club are continuing to meet on a regular basis, following stage 3 guidelines. If you are interested in organizing an interest group such as a third book club, quilting group, etc. the Executive will give you our full support.

RWTO Area 2 which consists of our Branch, Kitchener, Guelph, Listowel, Palmerston and Stratford has a new director, **Jennifer Bradbury** from Stratford. She says she remembers some of us from the Convention in Stratford a few years ago where we assisted with registration. Jennifer reports, "Stratford is having a Zoom AGM in September and some small group activities are resuming face-to-face. Guelph is

resuming some of their interest groups either in person or online." She is planning a Zoom meeting for branch presidents in October.

Cambridge Branch was one of five recipients of the Barbara Bain Award for increase in membership by mid-sized branches at the virtual convention in June. We received \$200 thanks to our new members Donna B., Beth E., Janice L., Caroline S., Margaret M., Judy C., Kathy D., Heather P., Maureen W., Cathie S., Linda G. and Leslie H.. The Provincial President, Karen Clark Lauson presented new members with their RWTO pin and a rose at the November meeting.



Karen Lauson, Dianne Winkler and the new inductees who were present in November.

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Book Club 1

RWTO Newsletter Sept 2020

Co-ordinator Anne B.

Since I last wrote a book club newsletter it's been an eventful time. At our November RW meeting we sang along with Dianne, she will forever be in my memory as the teacher singing 'Skinnamarinky dink I love you' accompanied by an entire school. Book club enjoyed a wonderful Christmas luncheon compliments of Bonnie – so our potluck wasn't -- but a beautiful dining room and wonderful lunch was a generous Christmas gift. There have been major health issues for many in the group both personal and familial making our gatherings important, and then along comes a pandemic.

In January Sue B. hosted our meeting and her choice of book was Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman. Remember when you could be in Mexico, Florida, Arizona? Our group was small as usual in January because some of us are away most of the winter. Eleanor isn't completely fine. Her story captured us and we had great sympathy for Eleanor despite the style she chose for her life, but felt optimistic about the plot once Raymond offered her friendship. Eleanor Oliphant is 29, lives in [Glasgow](#) and works as a finance clerk for a [graphic design](#) company. She is academically intelligent, but socially awkward and leads a solitary lifestyle that includes a lot of vodka. Her work colleagues regard her as a bit of a joke. Twice yearly she receives a routine visit from a [social worker](#) to monitor her progress. Her manipulative mother appears to be confined to an unidentified institution & Eleanor has a 15-minute conversation with her on Wednesday evenings. Eleanor develops a [crush](#) on Johnnie Lomond, lead singer in a local band and revises her life because he is "husband material". An IT workmate, Raymond is -- without her awareness -- a true friend, rescuing her from an attempted suicide and getting her on track with a doctor. As she returns successfully to work and improves her mental health, you will finally find out (spoiler alert) that she feels responsible for her sister Marianne's death as a result of a fire intentionally set. I'll save the surprise about mom for your own discovery.

In February we met at Anne's. To anticipate the book's theme she sent out 'fun wedding facts' about Princess Elizabeth's wedding in November, 1947. Fun fact: she received 101 pairs of stockings as wedding gifts from all around the commonwealth -- every gift was listed by donor name -- including Canada's gift of a mink coat. We read The Gown by Jennifer Robson. The author writes historical fiction mixing a personal find with a public event. Living in London in 1947 are Ann Hughes and Miriam Dassin, embroiderers at the famed Mayfair fashion house of Norman Hartnell who are chosen to create the design and handwork for the wedding dress of Princess Elizabeth. In Toronto in 2016 Heather Mackenzie seeks to unravel the mystery of a set of embroidered flowers left unexplained by her late grandmother. And what was her Nan's connection to the celebrated textile artist and holocaust survivor Miriam Dassin? Yours to enjoy, if you ask I'll send you the fun wedding facts too! Who me a royal watcher?..yep.



Well along came March's isolation time so our gathering at Glenna's was cancelled. Of course we were all prepared to discuss The Paris Wife by Paula McLain and we kept emailing those snowbirds of the group to come home asap. The Paris Wife is another great example of historical fiction melding the story of Hadley Richardson, a quiet twenty-eight-year-old who has all but given up on love and happiness--until she meets Ernest Hemingway in Chicago in 1920. *Spoiler Alert* : despite that Hemingway wrote he would rather have died than fallen in love with anyone but Hadley-- he did -- both. Their story is connected to the hard-drinking, fast-living, and free-loving life style of the 1920's in Paris and the Hemingway's struggle to fit in. Hadley strives to hold on to her sense of self in her roles as wife, friend, and muse while he strives to write *The Sun Also Rises*-- one of his most famous works.

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We weren't happy to cancel our club for April and May. Marnie had chosen The House We Grew Up In by Lisa Jewell for April and Mary had chosen Another Ocean to Cross by Ann Griffin for May. In June Jean very much wanted us to meet outside in her shady yard, socially distanced. Some bravely attended to discuss Jean's choice of a nonfiction title Truth be Told, My Journey through Life and Law by Beverley McLachlin. "With warmth, honesty, and deep wisdom, McLachlin invites us into her legal and personal life—into the hopes and doubts, the triumphs and losses on and off the bench. McLachlin became the first woman to be named Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. Over eighteen years, McLachlin presided over the most prominent cases in the country—involving Charter challenges, same-sex marriage, and euthanasia". Most of the group met at Bonnie's in August socially distanced on her pool's deck to discuss A Spark of Light by Jodi Picoult. Bonnie sums up the book and group response saying "most agreed that Spark of Light is an important book on the complex subject of abortion. Some found the structure of multiple flashbacks to tell back stories quite tedious, but we all agreed that the presentation of various points of view on the subject was powerfully and fairly presented. Marnie adds the cold drinks, pie and ice cream were excellent as well!

Writing from my very tiny bubble, and not yet knowing what isolation may be expected in Sept, I think Sue M. is hopefully hosting a discussion of books by Ann Cleeves. We could be sharing our thoughts on the Vera Stanhope series – perhaps you watch the television series *Vera* which stars Brenda Blethyn. You might enjoy any of these titles: The Crow Trap; Telling Tales; Hidden Depths; Silent Voices; The Glass Room; Harbour Street; The Moth Catcher; The Seagull. The newest Vera title will be released Sept 3 –The Darkest Evening. Ann Cleeves is also well known for her Shetland series: Blue Lightning, Raven Black, White Nights, Red Bones, Cold Earth, Thin Air, Dead Water, Too Good To Be True likely because the Shetland series has been dramatized for tv. Check out websites for her other series: Two Rivers; George and Molly Palmer; Inspector Ramsay. And our plans for reading in the fall include reading Wendy's choice The Home for

Unwanted Girls by Joanna Goodman, and Liz's choice of Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. As we think of teachers and students heading back to school we can only hope that they can stay safe and well and the bubbles do not burst.



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Ancora House Social Enterprise Product List:

For the last three years Ancora residents have been selling their products at our February luncheon. This year their sales were \$250.

You can buy their food at the Cambridge Farmers' Market, outside the Cambridge St. door of Wesley Church, or by emailing: [<marianb@fccnd.com>](mailto:marianb@fccnd.com)

Homemade meat pies, turkey and beef \$5.00

Butter or pecan tarts 4/\$5.00

Jams: \$6.00

From their brochure: "The sober living homes program includes a social enterprise. This social enterprise consists of making and selling homemade meat pies, butter tarts and jam. The program provides opportunities for residents to raise money for resources needed at the houses and gain skills related to running a business and financial management while teaching life skills."

The residents of Ancora and Saginaw House for Men also help prepare and serve at the \$10 community lunch the third Thursday of the month held at Wesley Church. Some of our RWTO members attend. Their products can also be purchased at the lunches which will resume after the pandemic restrictions are lifted.



Book Club 2

Co-ordinator: Barb W.000

Once again we began our September Book Club with the One Book, One Community book choice: *The Home for Unwanted Girls*. This book sparked some lively conversation on the lack of choices young women had if they became pregnant and the deplorable institutions that many children ended up in if they were not lucky enough to be adopted.

In October we read *The Gown* and in November we enjoyed a potluck lunch at Ruth Foss's and discussed *The Girl's in The Garden* a suspense novel that kept us all wondering who had done it!

January's meeting was held at the new library and we discussed *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. In February Jodi Picoult's *Small Great Things* once again brought to our attention the struggle for equality and justice people of colour endure in today's society even when they are an educated professional!

When COVID prevented us from meeting together in March, April and May we adapted with the help of Mary Jane and used Zoom to share the last three books: *The Huntress*, *The Other Einstein* and *Becoming Mrs. Lewis*.

Thankfully, with the move to stage three we were able to enjoy a socially distanced box lunch from EVO'S Kitchen in Terry Bowers' garden to finish the year and plan for September.

Submitted by Joanne D.

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Hiking Club:

Our hiking group had its first Winter with outdoor hikes almost every Thursday. This was challenging at times in the bitter cold or when it was icy, but we always had a minimum of two or three hikers. We were so disappointed when we had to stop hiking in mid March due



to Covid-19. Five of us started again on June 4 when Waterloo Region entered Stage 1 and practiced social distancing. We have noticed the trails are very busy this year with both cyclists and walkers. There have been changes to some of our routes, especially in south-east Galt where the new South Boundary Highway runs close to Franklin Pond. We wonder how this will affect the swans which have nested there for years. Recently the Mill Run trail in Hespeler re-opened after a new bridge was constructed. We are now able to hike on this trail to Riverside Park. A new hike for us this summer was on the trails at the Blair Outdoor Ed. Centre where we found evidence of an old mill run. We enjoyed coffee together at local coffee shops until March, and really missed this until late July when we could resume on the patio at Melville Café. Most of us had lunch on the third Thursday of each month (until March) at Wesley Church, prepared and served by the residents of Ancora and Saginaw Houses as part of their social enterprise program. Our hiking group is open to anyone and several of our regular walkers are members of the community from non-teaching backgrounds. This September is our tenth anniversary. If you are interested in walking from 9:00-10:30, every Thursday, please contact me:

Mary Jane Novak mjn6903313@gmail.com

519 221 2462 (cell) 519 622 0415 (home)

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Photos: Top left: Linear Trail, Preston, top right: RARE on the Walter Bean Trail, Left: Mill Run Trail, Hespeler, Blair Outdoor Ed. Centre, Dryden Tract, N. Dumfries

GENEALOGY CLUB

Genealogy Club continued to meet this year, though like everything, COVID left us adjusting our schedule until summer was upon us and we all had enough familiarity with masks, physical distancing, and disinfecting wipes to meet in person again! Our amazing members have become much more adept at navigating the waters of genealogical research, and we've been able to expand our skill sets. In our two-hour meetings, we spent less time this year with tutorials, and more time sharing our struggles/successes and working to expand our trees. Our skill development this year has focussed upon: finding information from county trade directories and immigration records; learning strategies to research our ancestors' overseas homelands; using various free sources such as FamilySearch.org and FaceBook genealogy groups focussed upon a specific region; exploring software options to store and manipulate our trees; and finally, how to "spring clean" our family trees in online platforms such as Ancestry.ca, using organizational functions we may not have accessed

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yet. Our first sharing time after our COVID hiatus was full of fascinating stories, from Donna Mae's incredible family history quilt work (see photo) to the growing awareness that our members share more than we realized, from ancestral experiences such as emigration during challenging times in the home country, early settler experiences, Loyalist heritage, or, most surprisingly, DNA connections! We were delighted to discover last year that Bonnie and Mary-Jane were kin, and this year we found out that Mary-Jane and Catharine are also related. The further back we take our trees, the more connections we are certain to find!

We would be delighted to welcome new members with an interest in learning more about family history - no previous genealogical experience required! We meet the first Friday of the month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and our first meeting of the new season will be September 11th, 2020. Please contact Mary-Jane Novak (mjn6903313@gmail.com) or Catharine Mitchell (bflows@sympatico.ca) if you are interested in joining us in this fun and fascinating field!

Catharine Mitchell



Genealogy club member shared her Canada 2020 quilted wall hanging and her family tree scrapbook, both Covid 19 projects.



Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser

The silent auction on November 19th consisted of a wonderful variety of 73 items and raised \$1367. Once again, theatre tickets for any Drayton Theatre production, a quilted table runner made by Annamary K., Sheila L's watercolour note cards, children's book packages and seasonal gift packs were popular items. There were so many items we needed to have more tables. Thanks to Jeanette B. and Donna B. for helping Mary Jane organize the donations and collect the money. At this point we aren't sure if covid-19 restrictions will allow us to have the auction in a traditional meeting. Please keep on making and collecting items. If necessary, we'll take photos and do it online. If anyone has experience with this format, please let me know. I'm sure we can find a way to make it work.



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Thankyou Sue M. for taking the photos at all our meetings.

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Memorial tribute to Dianne Winkler

In July I shared with you information about two projects to honour Dianne for her many contributions to the community and to retired teachers. Members may donate a children's picture book or junior level novel which will become part of the library at Haven House. We are hoping to collect the books at our November meeting, but if we can't meet, then your book could be dropped off at Terry Hamilton's home. More information about that later. I will get book labels printed to acknowledge our donations.

RWTO members may wish to donate to the Addison Women's Choir Fundraiser for Dianne. Choir members are hoping to purchase a seat with her name on it and a tile honouring her at the Hamilton Family Theater. E transfers can be sent to bmft20@bell.net Cheques can be mailed to: Brenda Totten, 14 Hilltop Dr. Ayr, ON N0B 1E0



Dianne Winkler Friday August 7th 2020

WINKLER, Dianne (nee Bower)

February 16, 1945 – August 7, 2020



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dianne Winkler (nee Bower) after a courageous battle with cancer. Predeceased by her parents Christopher Bower and Clara Bending and sister Nancy as an infant.

Beloved wife of 54 years to Werner and loving mother to Michael and Stephen (Krista). Cherished sister to Susan Sippel (Will) and Gary Bower (Linda). Loving aunt to Laura (Robert), Julia, Kim, Jamie and Christine. Amazing 'Ome' to Jonah, Darcy, Lucas, Logan and Carly. Dianne was a respected and loved kindergarten and music teacher at schools in London, Kitchener-Waterloo and Cambridge. Throughout her career she touched the lives of many students by marrying learning and music, creating a welcoming, fun and memorable classroom. Her students to this day fondly remember the impact Mrs. Winkler had on their lives.

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She retired from teaching in 1998 however remained dedicated to the teaching community and subsequently served as President of the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario (RWTTO) organization for many years. She was an active member of the Preston Mennonite Church community and was awarded the prestigious YWCA Women of Distinction Award in 2007.

Her love for music carried throughout her life as she served as a past President and respected member of the Addison Women's Choir and a member of the Community Connections Choir as well as the Concordia Club Choir. In 2005, her love of music and entertaining continued when she founded the singing group "The Ch'ckl'ts", a beloved small choir and entertaining troupe comprised of a group of lifelong friends performed at many nursing homes throughout the Region bringing joy to the community with every performance.

Dianne was loved by many and was a true friend to those who had the pleasure of knowing her. She was always full of life, joy, music and love. Her excitement for life also made her ready to entertain anyone at any moment.

Dianne shared her love of life and special talents with everyone who crossed her path and will be greatly missed.

Resting at Lounsbury Funeral Home, 1766 Franklin Blvd., Cambridge where family will receive friends on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 from 2 – 4 p.m. and 7 – 9 p.m. A funeral service will be held at the funeral home on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 11 a.m. followed by interment at Hagey Cemetery. Please be aware that

Provincial Guidelines for mandatory masks and social distancing protocols will be followed.

Those wishing to make a donation in memory of Dianne Winkler are asked to consider the Canadian Cancer Society.