

SWRWO Christmas Newsletter

As we head into the holiday season, let me wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Oh my! Can you believe it is almost 2022! We have been under the spell of the COVID virus for almost 2 years. Who would have thought back in March 2020, that this virus would have had such a major effect on all of us? To all of you who have lost loved ones to this virus, please accept my heartfelt condolences.

In terms of activities, it has been a quiet year in our group. We did have the fashion show on October 29 which was a tremendous success and well received by our members watching on YouTube. Although we thought that a Christmas luncheon would be possible this year, it turned out not to be something most members felt comfortable doing. The rising incidences of the virus and the Omicron variant made it a wise decision to wait a little longer for a luncheon. Hopefully, the spring will bring better news.

We are once again donating to SCAW this year. You have been so generous over the years to this charity and hope that you will still want to support these children. We have also donated on your behalf to another charity in Elora, namely Elora House. More about both of those later in the newsletter.

Some of our interest groups are going strong where it has been possible. Again, articles later in this publication will provide more details. Our joy club has been very active as always, as well as the Goodwill group.

Finally, a reminder that we need more people on the executive. Our group of ladies are very lovely, and they enjoy what they do. I would love it if some of you would think about coming on to the executive. You do not need to take on a specific role at the outset. Just come to our meetings and see what you think. We are still holding our meetings through Zoom, so you do not even have to leave your home. Just think about it.

Thank you all for your support over the last year. Let us all hope for a brighter 2022! I wish you all you wish yourselves for the coming year and beyond.

Best Wishes, Mary Gittins

Interest Groups - Carol Christie

Travel Club : from Carol Christie Currently I am sending out emails with travel info, focusing on Solo Travel along with tips and deals and interesting things we find. Members respond as they wish. No plans to meet in person at this point

Live Entertainment Club : from Carol Christie There are 9 Mirvish subscribers who will be travelling by train to Toronto to see the 7 plays in this season. Our first, Jesus Christ Superstar, is December 8.

Pot Luck Club : from Barb Smith

We have been running our group throughout the pandemic but not meeting each month. We did have some outside , bring your own lunch, meetings at my place and Judy Coffey's - even had bonfires. Our group also met a few times via Zoom and again we would have a theme - make an Italian lunch etc., then eat it together and just do general catch up. We are hoping to start meeting again monthly with our regular pot luck themes, but that will all depend on COVID.

Movie Group Elora : from Johanne Martin

I don't have plans for the return of the group at this time.

PS from Carol : There are movies currently playing at the Gorge Cinema. Check on-line.

In Guelph : The Bookshelf is open again with a full schedule of movies. Search their website for times and titles. You pay for a membership and then each show is \$10 or \$12. There is no one coordinating a movie group in Guelph.

Art Club : Susan Hersey and Carol Christie

The Art Club now has 2 sections : The ART CREATORS and The ART VIEWERS.

Susan is in charge of the creating part. Contact her if you want to participate in that aspect. Carol is in charge of the viewing part. A few of us will be visiting Klimt Immersive in Toronto at the end of December.

Hiking Club : Jane Shifflett and Carol Christie

Hiking Club is back up and hiking. Each hike is about 1 1/2 hours long. There will be a hike on the 3rd Monday of the month and there will be additional hikes on a Thursday afternoon here and there. Emails will be sent with details.

Wellington Women Walking : Joan Berry

We have walked various trails in the area each week since winter 2019.

Walking/Exercise Group : from Shelley Sheridan

This group has continued every Monday during the pandemic except for the weeks of complete lockdown. We are continuing weekly, 9:30-10:30, from Bissell Park in Elora. (meeting at the gravel parking lot at the East End.) I will be sending out an email to share with the people I have on my email list.

Book clubs : Carol Christie

Most or all book clubs are running, although their formats might have changed. Some are beginning to meet indoors at members' homes and others are continuing with ZOOM or email meetings. Some have room for new members.

Bridge Club : Janet Merrick

Nothing decided for the year at this point.

The French Conversation Group: Maureen Durnin

Nothing decided for the year at this point.

Games Club : Jane Rocher

Jane will reach out to the members to get feedback as to whether they are interested and comfortable in getting together again once a month to play a game.

Drumming Club : Sandra O'Connor

Sandra is running two drumming groups. One group is in Kitchener with retired teachers from Guelph and Kitchener. This group is live and on Zoom alternating weeks twice a month. All are welcome. She has also just started a new group of teachers and community members called the Royal City Boomers.



The Singing Belles have been meeting during the pandemic, either via Zoom or in parks. They are hoping to get together in person very soon.

Scrapbooking : Donna Rawbone

COVID and Donna's surgery have stalled the group at this point but Donna Rawbone hopes to start the club back up in the new year.



Shelley's walking and exercise group



Fashion Show Models.



Elora House



Recently, our executive become aware of Elora House where staff and volunteers provide safe and loving home for women and girls who are victims of sexual exploitation and/or human



trafficking. Resources are provided to help these people build towards self-reliance, resilience and overall well-being. Life -skills training and education are made available to all who enter this



safe haven. Our executive was impressed with this much needed service and donated \$200 to help Elora House with their work. We are exploring ways to provide on-going support.



Goodwill - Kerry Detlor

This is a reminder to please let me know of any members needing to be remembered whether it's a Thinking of You card, a Get Well Soon card, or a Sympathy card. If anyone has turned 80 recently, our club would like to recognize your birthday by sending you a card. My email address is detlorkerry@gmail.com. We hope everyone is staying safe.

Joy Partners - Lynda Gilham

We will be celebrating Christmas with our Joy Partners with a gift of cookies and a greenery bouquet.

We are grateful to the following members for their ongoing commitment to their partner.

Jane Rocher and Elizabeth Eccelstone

Betty Story and Jean Jackson

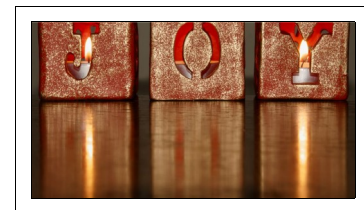
Lynda Gilham and Mae Potton

Joyce Barnes and Annie Tone

Joan Berry and Teresa Langel

Marina Howlett and Mary Muysson and Marion Kasha

Maureen Schwartzentruber and Joan Hall



We would like to thank Ruth Gardner for being a long-time joy partner to Pat Rohrwild who passed away in November. As part of Joy Partners, we also celebrate GWRWT members on their 90th birthday. Teresa Langel turned ninety on November first. Her gift was a shawl hand knit by Bev Matson. Joy Partners invite all members to join when they turn ninety. We also include members with health issues preventing their participation at luncheons. Let the executive know of members who should be included. If you are willing to be a Joy Partner, please contact Lynda at 519-830-3385. Thank you to our membership for your ongoing support of our medically fragile and most senior members.

Sleeping Children Around the World - SCAW - Brenda McGinnis

As you know, for many years, Guelph Wellington Retired Women Teachers has had the Christmas tradition of buying bed kits for Sleeping Children Around the World. (SCAW). The on-going threat of COVID19 has caused us to cancel our usual Christmas celebration luncheon but our executive would like to continue this long-standing tradition of supporting SCAW.

Last year, despite not having a Christmas luncheon, we collected \$6535.00 for SCAW. They were delighted! In fact, since 2012, we have collected \$86,605.00 for SCAW. At this time, based on the current Canadian government travel advisories, SCAW has postponed all upcoming bed kit distributions.

BUT, if you donate to SCAW, your official tax receipt will be issued in the usual time frame. The mailing of the photos of the children who will receive your donated bed kits will be delayed until they are able to resume bed kit distribution. SCAW, which has an excellent reputation in the world of charities, guarantees that 100% of your bed kit donations will be held securely until they are able to distribute the bed kits safely.

Our executive hopes that you will once again consider donating to SCAW this year. If you are interested, you can follow these easy steps.

- 1) Decide how many bed kits you would like to donate. Bed kits cost \$35. each.
- 2) For income tax purposes, write down your name and address. Tax receipts will be mailed to you at this address.
- 3) Decide if you wish to make a special occasion bed kit donation - e.g., Christmas, In Memoriam, retirement, birthday, graduation, anniversary, etc.
- 4) Each picture of a child with a bed kit has a label. Write what you want the label in your picture to read.

Some examples :

In Memory of Mary Smith From	Best Wishes From The Gray Family	Patricia, Merry Christmas, 2021 From
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Note : For each label, there can be a maximum of 4 lines of text with 15 characters per line.

- 5) If you wish to have some or all of your pictures sent to a different address than your own, the one where the tax receipt will be sent, print the full name and address for each picture recipient.

So, if you want Patricia to receive the photo with the label, write down Patricia's address and the photo will be sent to her once the volunteers can safely deliver the bed kits. All special occasion donations will have an acknowledgement card sent to the picture recipient within a few weeks. The pictures will follow as soon as possible.

If you want to send your own acknowledgement card, please contact Marina Howlett at howlettmarina@gmail.com or at 519-836-8585 and she will make arrangements for these to be sent or picked up by you.

6) Write a cheque to SCAW for the bed kits.

7) Mail your request and cheque to

Brenda McGinnis

32 Gazer Cres.

Guelph ON N1E 5Z7

You can drop off envelopes with cash in them to Brenda's home mailbox. We are unable to accept e-transfers for this project.

We will tabulate our totals and inform Ken Graham and send these cheques and requests by registered mail to SCAW head office on December 22, 2021. We will report the total amount to our membership in our Spring newsletter.

Please respond before December 21st, 2021. Brenda will acknowledge receipt of your envelope. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Brenda McGinnis at dmcginc602@rogers.com

It would be wonderful if, in spite of the pandemic, we could continue our generous support of this worthwhile cause. These bed kits will probably be needed more than ever in 2022.



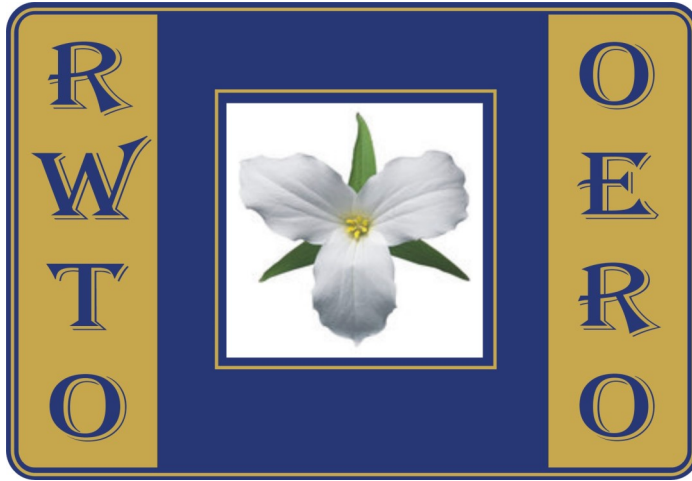
Fashion Show by Pat Foster

An in person Fashion Show was enjoyed by about 25 members on October 29 in the afternoon at Melville United Church which was beautifully decorated for Autumn.

LeeAnne Andriessen presented her amazing fashions and accessories from her business,

'Simply Celebrate You' by Fashion Fusion. Our models in order of appearance were Marjorie Euale, Karen Andronowski, Arlene Walpole, Julia Burns, Wanda Bates, Sandy Hennessy, Mary Gittins, Joan Berry and Corrine Hill. Shelley Sheridan organized a 'YouTube' presentation of the Fashion Show for additional members to enjoy at home. Door prizes were presented to some lucky winners. Lee Anne who is a retired principal from the Waterloo Board of Education received a beautiful bouquet of fresh flowers from our group and each model received a single long stem rose. Shopping time was available after the show for anyone interested.





GWRWT Executive for 2021-2022

President Mary Gittins

Past President Joan Berry

1st Vice President Available

2nd Vice President Available

Treasurer Mary Hermann

Recording Secretary Available

Membership Mary Gittins, Mary Hermann, Joan Berry

Social Convenor Brenda McGinnis

Interest Groups Carol Christie

Website Convenor Available

Decorating Julia Burns, Judith Steer

Goodwill Kerry Detlor

Joy Partners Linda Gilham

Archivist Mary Cunningham, Donna Rawbone

Telephone Convenor Alison Rainford

Nominations Committee Pat Foster, Joan Berry

Please consider joining our GWRWT Executive for 2021-2022. The following positions

are available :

1st Vice President,


2nd Vice President

Recording Secretary

Website Convenor

You can call Pat Foster at 519-824-2353 or any member of our executive to volunteer.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!



Look out for details of our
Valentine's Day special event via
Zoom! Entertainment, speakers, and
meeting !!