



East Parry Sound Spring 2022 Newsletter March 20, 2022

Dear RW Friends,

Well, today really is a great spring day here in our area! I'm looking out at a quickly melting snowscape and at a brave robin who has just arrived in our front yard. Are we in for some beautiful spring weather? I certainly hope so.



As we welcome this season of rebirth, hope and revitalization, we are also seeing the lifting of pandemic restrictions which have limited and restricted our social contact for many months. We just may be getting back to normal. Again, I certainly hope so, and I'm sure you do too!

Caring and Sharing

This winter has been a difficult one as we have all felt so isolated from each other. Our Caring and Sharing has been different as we couldn't gather or visit in support. I know that we have all had Susan Rose, Rosemary Legallais and Debbie Dobbs in our thoughts and hearts. Virtual hugs are not the same but, the love and support behind them are. Living alone has been more of a challenge for many of us as well. Our members who are in Retirement Residences or who have immune issues to consider have had to navigate through lockdowns and restrictions this past winter. Thank you again to Linda Key and Eleanor Atkinson for providing each of us with a Valentines Care Kit. It was a ray of sunshine!



Susan Rose is our Cora Bailey Recipient for 2021-2022

Susan's name was submitted to our Executive this year, for consideration as our Cora Bailey Award recipient. No surprise that her nomination was enthusiastically approved! Susan has served on our Executive since joining our Branch way back in 2012?? Her kindness, compassion, creativity, artistry and awesome sense of humour have endeared her to us all. It is truly an honour for our Branch to give Susan this award. On your behalf, Kathy Pike and Cathy Sylvester presented the certificate and yellow roses to Susan last week and took this picture! I know we'll definitely be making another presentation in person, when Susan is able to rejoin a Branch Meeting. But, in the meantime, Susan's smile says it all!



On another note, Susan's treatments are going really well. Chemo now is in Huntsville, so those long day drives to Barrie and back are much fewer. Susan is making wonderful progress and hopes to be back in her garden, with renewed vim and vigour once the blackflies are gone. Perfect timing, Susan!

Susan sends her love to you all, and we send ours right back to her.

Provincial Convention News Alternate Delegate anyone?

Our annual Provincial AGM and Convention Event has not been held 'in person' for the past two years. However, the Provincial Board has, after

careful deliberation, decided on a live and in person Convention. It's set for June 7-9, 2022, in London, ON. The theme

"Laughter Lifts Us Up" is sure to be appreciated by all who attend. The safety of all participants is of the utmost importance, of course, and the hotel has assured the Board that all Covid protocols will be in place. Please check the

rwto.org website under the Convention link for all the information. Are you thinking of attending?



Kathy Pike *will be our delegate. I will be attending as a Provincial Past President and we are hoping that another member will consider joining us as our Branch Alternate Delegate. Is that you?? Attending as an Alternate is a great way to see how the AGM works and to participate in the fun and camaraderie of the Convention. The Alternate fills in for the Delegate if she is unable to represent our Branch at the AGM portion of the Convention. Provincial will reimburse the Alternate for her Convention Package fee and our Branch assists the Alternate delegate with hotel costs. Please let me know if you have any questions and if you are interested in fulfilling this role for our Branch. Either Kathy or I will be driving, so transportation there and back is covered! And so is the laughter!*

Branch Activities

Over the past year, several of our members have joined forces to create special cards for each of us. You've been the recipients of their artistry and thoughtfulness. Well, they're at it again, and looking for new card creating members. No experience is required. So, if you are interested in

joining this creative group, please contact Eleanor Atkinson, at 384-7286 or eleanor.atkinson@hotmail.com

Executive Input

Within the next several weeks, we will be holding an Executive meeting to generate ideas and to plan future Branch adventures. Do you have an idea for a program, a topic, activity, an interest group or a project? Perhaps, you'd just like to come to an Executive meeting to see what really goes on? If so, please let Eleanor or myself know, and we will keep you in the loop.

An Important Question to Consider:

Our usual Branch meeting schedule of the third Thursday of April, May and June has not yet been activated. Your Executive is just as anxious as you are to arrange a get together, but, we want to make sure that we are all going to feel safe and comfortable. With that in mind, we would like feedback from all members on the following very important question.

Would you attend an RW Branch get together in May, 2022 or in June, 2022?

Please be assured that the strictest protocols and safety measures will be in place, with social distancing, masks and fully vaccinated status being the order of the day. As of now, we would be considering an event similar to our October Meet and Greet.

Please give this question some careful thought. We will certainly see how the Covid situation plays out in the next few weeks, as students return from March Break, and as mask restrictions and capacity restrictions ease. Then, on April 1, look for an email from me with that very question:
Would you attend an East Parry Sound RW Branch get together in May, 2022 or in June, 2022?

Once we have heard from everyone, your Executive will begin planning.

And, that's all for now. Stay safe everyone! Be well!
In caring and sharing and getting ready to have some fun,
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