

# Guelph-Wellington Retired Women Teachers of Ontario



June 2022

## Co-Presidents' Message



This past year at GWRWT was like the “hurry up and wait” you experience at airports. We've planned and completed some great things! Think of our in-person/online Fashion Show in October, our 'Love, Laughter & Lingerie' YouTube presentation in February and our many charitable donations – Elora House, UNICEF Ukrainian Relief, SCAW, Women in Crisis and the Guelph Humane Society. However, the year also featured long waits between General Meetings, the aborted 'Come On Back' live event in May and stalled efforts to grow our executive and membership.

Thank you for bearing with us during the pandemic and let's hope for a return to normalcy, resurgent interest in our organization and many enjoyable future get-togethers, starting with our always popular Fall Meeting at Victoria Park East Golf Club on September 14th! Do you know a recently retired teacher/prospective member you could invite?

This co-presidency undertaking is working well, dividing a big job into two parts - Provincial and Local responsibilities. The term is for two years and we will pass the torch to one or two new presidents in June of 2023. We desperately need one or two people to step up as vice-president(s) so that she or they can learn what the job involves. Our future depends on continued good leadership. Can we count on you?

*Marion and Judy*

## Membership Renewal

Thank you to those members who have already renewed their memberships for 2022-2023. We encourage other members to do so as soon as possible.

Members have two options:

1. Mail your \$45 cheque, made out to GWRWT to Mary Hermann, 109 Parkinson Dr. Rockwood, ON NOB 2KO. Cheques may be postdated for September 1st and sent at any time prior to that date.

OR

2. Send an e-transfer for \$45 to Mary at **[gwrwto@gmail.com](mailto:gwrwto@gmail.com)**. Send a preliminary email to [maryhermann@rogers.com](mailto:maryhermann@rogers.com) advising her that you are sending an e-transfer for your membership dues. DO NOT SEND THE E-TRANSFER TO MARY'S PERSONAL E-MAIL. The etransfer will auto-deposit so no password is required.

*Mary Hermann*

## RWTO Convention 2022

The 66th Annual Convention took place June 7-9, 2022 at the Four Points Sheraton in London, Ontario.

Joan Berry, Joan Cunningham, Mary Hermann and Marion Kelly represented GWRWT as delegates to the Convention.

Nancy Bell passed the gavel to Judy Drummond who will be the new RWTO/OERO President for 2022-2023.



At the AGM, during the business meetings, the following resolutions were passed that relate directly to our group and the financial stability of RWTO/OERO.

- Be it resolved that:
  - rebates to branches shall be raised from 25% of fees paid to 30%;
  - the amount of funds held in the reserves at the end of a fiscal year, will be a minimum of two (2) times the expenses estimated for the following year;
  - when the amount of funds held in reserves exceeds the two (2) times anticipated expenses for the following year, the Board of Directors will examine the feasibility of remitting special grants to the branches;
  - when the Board is distributing special grants to the branches, these special grants will be paid out equally to each branch.

Terry Kennedy, RWTO Manulife Insurance Representative, delivered a cheque for \$111,300.00, premium rebates on our RWTO/OERO Group Insurance Plan, the highest rebate ever given to us by Manulife. This represents more than a third of the RWTO/OERO budget for the next year (despite a decline in member premiums).

Our delegates were touched by the In Memoriam Ceremony for the 129 RWTO members who passed away this year. The photographs of our members in this slideshow were beautiful.

The following ladies from GWRWT were recognized at this year's convention with a certificate in recognition of outstanding service to RWTO/OERO as members over 90 years of age. Their dedication to our organization is greatly appreciated: **E. Mae Potton, Elizabeth Eccelstone, Teresa Langel, Jean Jackson, and Annie Tone.** Unfortunately, **Mary Muysson** passed away before she could receive the certificate that had been prepared for her.

The 67th Annual Convention will take place in Kingston, June 6-8, 2023, hosted by Brockville, Gananoque, Kingston, Lanark, Napanee, Ottawa Carlton, and Upper Canada East RWTO branches. Any member of GWRWT is able to attend the convention if they so wish.

## 2022 Cora Bailey Award

Every year, each branch of RWTO/OERO chooses a worthy recipient for the Cora Bailey Award. This year, the GWRWT Executive unanimously agreed to name Mary Gittins (posthumously) as our winner for her outstanding service to our branch and the community.



Mary served as Vice-President and President, was keen to use technology to reach our members during Covid, belonged to Book Club, fostered future guide dogs, enjoyed her role as grandmother and brought laughter everywhere she went.

Mary's award will be presented to her daughter, Alison.

## Interest Groups

From hiking to singing, from potlucks to theatre, from book clubs to art, from Bridge to travel and more, Interest Groups reflect the wide variety of our members' passions. Many of these groups found creative ways to stay active during the pandemic. Our one rule is that you must be a paid member of GWRWT to belong to an Interest Group.

For these to continue, "womanpower" is necessary!

- There has to be one Interest Group Coordinator who acts as a liaison with the executive and promotes the groups.
- Each Interest Group requires a Convenor who notifies members of meeting times and dates and is a liaison with the Interest Group Coordinator.

We sincerely thank all those who have held these roles in the past but, in many cases, the post is empty and a new person needs to step up. ***Is that person you?***

Look for an opportunity to learn more about all of our Interest Groups and to possibly sign up for one or more at our September General Meeting.

## **GWRWT Proposed Executive for 2022-2023 Nomination Committee Report**

**Come join our team, we have several positions available.**

Co-Presidents:	Marion Kelly Judith Steer
Past President:	Joan Berry
1st Vice President:	<b>Available</b>
2nd Vice President:	<b>Available</b>
Treasurer:	Mary Hermann
Secretary:	Mary Cunningham Lynda Gilham
Membership:	Joan Berry Mary Hermann Marina Howlett Sandra O'Connor Brenda McGinnis
Insurance:	
Social Convenor:	
Interest Groups	
Co-ordinator:	<b>Available</b>
Website Convenor:	Alison Rainford
Decorating Committee:	Julia Burns Cathie Harris-Thuerig Kerry Detlor Lynda Gilham
Goodwill:	
Joy Partners:	
Archivists:	
• <i>Print (Agendas, Minutes, Newsletters, Programs):</i>	Mary Cunningham
• <i>Photography, Scrap-booking</i>	Donna Rawbone
Telephone Convenor:	Alison Rainford

Nominations Committee: Joan Berry, Pat Foster  
Facebook: Shelley Sheridan

We wish to acknowledge and thank Carol Christie for her many years on the executive, most recently as our enthusiastic leader of the Interest Groups. Thank you, Carol!

*Joan Berry and Patricia (Pat) Foster*

## **Thank you to Previous Executive Members**

Since our last luncheon in December 2019, there have been some changes to our executive. A special thank you to three executive members who have provided leadership and support to the organization and the various activities planned for the members.

Carol Christie	President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice President - 2007-2013 Co-ordinator - Interest Groups - 2015-2022
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Anne Smith	Treasurer - 2012-2017 Membership 2017-2021
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Patti Spedaler	Secretary 2016-2019
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GWRWT would not be able to function without the service and dedication of our executive members. Carol was instrumental in creating special interest groups to provide additional opportunities for our members to enjoy a variety of activities. She also served as President from 2011-2013. Anne not only managed the financial affairs, but also maintained excellent member records for our group. Patti kept excellent, detailed minutes of our luncheons and executive meetings.

GWRWT deeply appreciates the commitment and the contributions that each of these women gave to our organization.

*Marina Howlett*

## Archives - Interest Groups

For the Archives, I have done a section on the interest groups with the names and some pictures of each group. There are only a few groups for which I have no photos. I thought, during COVID, that working on this project would be a nice way to highlight them.

The scrapbook will be at the September Luncheon for your perusal. I have yellow markers on the pages where the names of people are missing. I would appreciate help from you to fill in those blanks. There will be paper and a pen there for you to do so.

I hope you will enjoy the book.

*Donna Rawbone*

## Joy Partners

We are grateful to the following members for their ongoing commitment to their partners:

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  
Maureen Schwartzentruber and Joan Hall

We would like to thank Marina Howlett for being a long-time joy partner to Mary Muysson and Marion Kasha.

Currently, we need a joy partner for Helen Boyles whose home is on the Elora Road. If you are able to be a Joy Partner for Helen, please contact Lynda Gilham at 519-830-3385.

Please also let Lynda or know of any other member whom you think needs a Joy Partner.

*Lynda Gilham*

## Goodwill

Thank you to everyone who has told me of members needing a Thinking of You card, a Get Well card or a Sympathy card. I also appreciate knowing which of our members are 80 years or more so they can receive a Birthday card from GWRWT.

If you know of anyone needing a card, please contact me.

My email address is [detlorkerry@gmail.com](mailto:detlorkerry@gmail.com) and my phone number is 519-763-3850.

*Kerry Detlor*

## Caring and Sharing

Retired Women Teachers of Ontario / Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario (RWTO/OERO) continues to exist because there is still a need for an organization that cares for the interests and well-being of retired women teachers.

More importantly, RWTO/OERO provides a forum whereby retired women teachers can come together for social interaction, stimulating programs, emotional support and most of all, friendship.

Our organization offers many benefits: the opportunity to network, maintain friendships and enjoy camaraderie, and the opportunity to participate in the various insurance plans which are available to members.

