



# RWTO/OERO Owen Sound and Area



## RWTO Spring Luncheon

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 @ 11:30

Georgian Shores United Church

Cost: \$35.00

Speaker: Stephanie McMullen

"The Meaford Tank Range Story"

RSVP - Please call or email - Marcia Masuda before March 22,  
[marcia.shimoda@bmts.com](mailto:marcia.shimoda@bmts.com) or 518-708-1111



## Where did the Easter Bunny tradition come from?



**According** to some sources, the Easter bunny first arrived in America in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and transported their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase" or "Oschter Haws." Their children made nests in which this creature could lay its coloured eggs. Eventually, the custom spread across the United States and the fabled rabbit's Easter morning deliveries expanded to include chocolate and other types of candy and gifts, while decorated baskets replaced nests. Additionally, children often left out carrots for the bunny in case he got hungry from all his hopping.



## New resolutions look promising!

**Has** spring sprung? That seems to be the pivotal question these days. I watch my budding bushings and flowers, listen to the wonderful bird song, and hope mightily that winter will not return and harm all of these tender shoots and lives!

**As** with all cycles, RWTO/OERO continues on its annual journey. The RWTO/OERO 68th Convention and Annual General Meeting will be held from Tuesday, June 4, 2024 to Wednesday, June 5, 2024. This will be a virtual meeting this year held via the Zoom platform. Events will include entertainment, workshops, the annual general meeting covering the business of the organization, in memoriam, over 90s recognition and an awards ceremony. Our very own Laurie James will be singing with a virtual choir at this event. Well done Laurie!

**Part** of the annual general meeting will be the consideration of resolutions. You may recall last year that we proposed a resolution that would broaden the membership to include women who work in educational roles beyond teachers. There are several resolutions coming forth this year that would add to those which were approved last year. These include retired women educational speech and language pathologists, retired women educational audiologists, retired women social workers, retired women educational psychologists and retired women office support staff. Delegates at the annual general meeting will vote on these

resolutions and the possible inclusion of these groups in our membership.

**A** further resolution being proposed is to change RWTO's name from Retired Women Teachers' of Ontario/Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario to Retired Women Educators of Ontario/Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario. The rationale states that this would better reflect who we are and who we are becoming rather than who we were. Again, this resolution will be voted upon at the June meeting.

**You** may all remember that we will have a fee adjustment for the 2024 – 2025 year. At the RWTO/OERO Convention and AGM last year a change in the fee structure was approved. The regular membership fee will be increased from \$40.00 to \$50.00. Our Owen Sound and Area fee is \$10.00. This means that the total fee per member in our Branch will be \$60.00 per member. RWTO/OERO will refund us \$15.00. That amount plus the \$10.00 per member local fee will be what we use to fund our budget for the 2024 – 2025 year. The budget will be presented at our May 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all at our March 27 meeting. We have a great presentation to look forward to, and great social time to share.

**My best regards to all,  
Cynthia**



*Save  
The Date*



**Shake, Rattle & Roll June 12th**  
*It's a 50's Rock n' Roll Party!*

*A Rock and Roll flashback to the 50s and 60s with the most memorable songs from music's most exciting era. From Elvis and Jerry Lee to Connie Francis and Bill Haley.*

*Featuring a special guest appearance by the great Jeff Scott as Eddy Felby!*



**Information will  
be in the  
May issue  
of the  
newsletter.**



**On** April 3, 1918, a room at the University of Toronto overflowed with women teachers. They came from Toronto, Hamilton, North Bay, Port Arthur, Prescott, Ottawa, Chatham and Galt, to form a professional organization unique in Canada and perhaps in the world, the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario.



**One** proposed objective of the Federation was "to promote the professional and financial status of women teachers". It passed only after fears were expressed about including "financial status". What would the public think of them?

**A** St. Thomas teacher, Bertha Adkins, read a paper which has a modern ring: "Why are Women with the same Training and Qualifications as Men Relegated to the Less Remunerative Positions?" Their other great concern was the minimum salary; in 1919 their objective was set at \$650.00

**A** fee was established: ten cents per year per member.

**After** one year, the Federation's membership was 4,236 (of 11,359 women teachers in Ontario) and their income was \$369.96.

**Sixty** years later, a Federation of over 33,000 women teachers with an annual income close to six million dollars, celebrates the achievements of those brave, far-sighted women of so long ago.

**Taken from the book "Dear Teacher" published in 1978.**

**Since** our last Newsletter, several cards have been sent to our members.

**Thinking of You** cards went to Donaldene Waugh after a fall requiring stitches, and to Joan Vasella who is grieving for her husband.

**Get Well** cards went to Mary Milne after she suffered an aneurism, and to Marilyn Goldie after surgery. We hope they are both well on their way to recovery.

**Sympathy** cards were sent to the family of Mae Walker after her passing and to Myrt Heinrich at the passing of her husband, Bob. Our members received a lovely note from Myrt expressing her appreciation for our message of sympathy.

**Valentine** Cards and Easter cards were sent to our over 90 ladies.

**We** hope that everyone is looking forward to Spring. The birds are back, crocuses are blooming, and tulips are through the ground and growing taller daily.

Yours in Caring and Sharing,

**Lorraine Dunning**

**519-376-5017 [taydun@sympatico.ca](mailto:taydun@sympatico.ca)**



**Be** sure to claim RWTO on your income tax for 2023. Some members may have received a notice from Manulife that this is the last year mailed copies of income tax receipts will be mailed out. This does not apply to RWTO/OERO insurance.

**If** a member has registered with Manulife through their green and white card for OUR INSURANCE with Manulife, they can either download the receipt or continue to receive it through the mail.

**If** you have any questions about downloading the receipt or other insurance needs please feel free to contact me.

**Rhonda O'Reilly - Insurance Convenor**

**519-371-9240 [rtoreilly@rogers.com](mailto:rtoreilly@rogers.com)**

# We are Unique!

They call us "The Elderly"  
 We were born in the 40-50-60's.  
 We grew up in the 50-60-70's.  
 We studied in the 60-70-80's.  
 We were dating in the 70-80-90's.  
 We got married and discovered the world in the 70-80-90's.  
 We venture into the 80-90's.  
 We stabilize in the 2000's.  
 We got wiser in the 2010's.

At our age  
 We've SEEN it all  
 We've HEARD it all  
 We've DONE it all  
 We just can't  
**REMEMBER**  
 it all!

And we are going firmly through and beyond 2020.  
 Turns out we've lived through EIGHT different decades...  
 TWO different centuries...  
 TWO different millennia...  
 We have gone from the telephone with an operator for long-distance calls to video calls to anywhere in the world.  
 We have gone from slides to YouTube, from vinyl records to online music, from handwritten letters to email and Whats App.  
 From live matches on the radio, to black and white TV, colour TV and then to 3D HD TV.  
 We went to the Video store and now we watch Netflix.  
 We got to know the first computers, punch cards, floppy disks and now we have gigabytes and megabytes on our smartphones.  
 We wore shorts throughout our childhood and then long trousers, Oxfords, flares, shell suits & blue jeans.  
 We dodged infantile paralysis, meningitis, polio, tuberculosis, swine flu and now COVID-19.  
 We rode skates, tricycles, bicycles, mopeds, petrol or diesel cars and now we drive hybrids or electric.

Yes, we've been through a lot but what a great life we've had!  
 They could describe us as "xennials," people who were born in that world of the fifties, who had an analog childhood and a digital adulthood.

We've kind of "Seen-It-All!"  
 Our generation has literally lived through and witnessed more than any other in every dimension of life.

It is our generation that has literally adapted to "CHANGE."  
 A big round of applause to all the members of a very special generation, which will be **UNIQUE!**

"We've seen it all,  
 experienced it all, and yet  
 we still crave more."

# MEMBERSHIP



We presently have 68 members. This includes Life Members Armintha Belbeck, Ruth Chapman, Helen Johnstone, Verna Killam and Jessie Ross. We also welcome Warton Branch members Betty Richie, Mazie Davies and Sharon Colter as guests to our General meetings. There were three members who did not rejoin. We will fondly remember Beth Graham and Mae Walker's unique personalities and active participation in our group.

**Our** May General meeting is on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is the time to pay membership dues. (\$60) If you can't attend, please send a cheque to our treasurer, Mary Hall at 359522, Bayshore Road, Annan, Ontario N0H 1B0

"Alone we can do so little: together we can do so much." Helen Keller

## Penny McKay, Membership

The **Meaford Tank Range** and Training Area was used continually until late 1960. It was re-activated in 1973, as it was considered the only central region capable of supporting armoured live fire exercises, combat team training, and static gunnery.

