



Central Algoma 2023/2024 Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members of RWTO Central Algoma

This is my first year as President of Central Algoma RWTO. I am thankful that Covid 19 is behind us but the effects of it will go on for a very long time. This past year we have had a renewed vigour for meetings throughout the year with the large groups and the smaller interest groups, starting in September, 2022 until our final meeting on May 31, 2023.

Then on June 6-8, four of our members joined members from the Sault Ste. Marie branch at the annual RWTO convention in Kingston. We had two delegates from Central Algoma, myself and Francine LeBlanc-Lebel, two from Sault Ste. Marie, Barb Perry and Patricia Lambert, as well as Emily Noble our Area director. We represented area 11 in the General Meetings. Marlene Falls and I travelled together, and Cathy Pirrie and Francine travelled together. It was an enjoyable time.

Our meetings begin on September 12th in Sylvan Valley Hall. We will have a memorial for Donna Lambert who passed away in the spring of 2023. We will acknowledge Cathy Pirrie for her valuable work as our president and present her with a pin for past president RWTO. Goat yoga??? That will be an interesting experience!

The next meeting on October 12, will be a joint meeting with Sault Ste. Marie at the Lighthouse in Bruce Mines. Our new provincial President,

Sandra Salerno has been invited to come to that meeting.

Friday December 1 will be our Christmas meeting at Zion United Church in Thessalon, including a silent auction and a Carol sing along.

Then we have the winter break, but the interest groups will continue throughout the winter. Our next meeting will be April 8, 2024, at the Trefry Center on St. Joseph Island. The final meeting will be on May 29th, 2024, at North 82 SSM for our Spring Garden Luncheon and silent auction.

Next June the Provincial convention will be a virtual Convention.

We need to keep in touch with retired Teachers, Educational Assistants, and Early Childhood Educators and encourage them to join RWTO in the fall. We have extended Lifetime memberships to several members who are unable to attend our regular meetings. Finally, we need new members because our membership province wide is diminishing. Spread the word if you know retired women who are new to our area that meet our new criteria.

Mary Jane Thompson



CENTRAL ALGOMA EXECUTIVE 2023-25

Past president: Cathy Pirrie
President: Mary Jane Thompson
1st Vice: Marilyn Schatzler
2nd Vice: Heide Marrato
Treasurer: Anne Wildman
Secretary: Maureen Gooderham
Insurance: Marlene Falls
Publicity: Carol Neave
Social Convenors: Suz Humphreys
Cathy Bennett
Jane Vienneau
Telephone Convenor: Joyce Duncan
Newsletter and Communications: Nancy Konzuk
Goodwill: Glenis Johnstone
History / Archives: Connie Bennett
Callers: Maureen Gooderham
Elaine Brown
Nancy Konzuk
Heide Marrato
June McDonald
Area 11 Director: Emily Noble

WHAT'S ON OUR WEBSITE?

www.rwto.org

*You will find information about all the Branches,
what is going on at Convention, insurance issues
and most importantly, a copy of this Newsletter!*

You can also read the Provincial newsletter,

CONNECTIONS!

*It's easy to use and full of information! Try it!
You may even find a picture of yourself on our
Branch News page!*

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

*If you have any questions about RWTO, our Branch or
your Insurance, please contact one of the following:*

Central Algoma Branch

President: MaryJane Thompson. 705-842-2101

1st Vice-President: Marilyn Schatzler 705-759-6625

Secretary: Maureen Gooderham 705-945-0852

Treasurer: Anne Wildman 705-575-1253.

Insurance: Marlene Falls 705-256-1681

Goodwill: Glenis Johnstone. 705-782-6349

Provincial Area Director:

Emily Noble 705-253-6106

Manulife Insurance Broker:

Terry Kennedy: tkennedy34@bell.net 1-519-583-0098

CORA BAILEY AWARD WINNERS

2006 Marg Snider
2007 Shirley Kent
2008 Martha Summers
2009 Glenis Johnstone
2010 Ruth Juhola
2011 Marny Pollard
Alice Ward
2012 Ruby Vaughan
2013 Nancy Konzuk
2014 Joyce Ratz
2015 Marlene Falls
Carol Neave
2016 Verna Lapish
2017 Muriel Hornby
Kathy Greening
2018 Gayle Manley
Nina Warnock
Ruby Buck
2019 Cathy Bennett
Anne Wildman
2020 Lily Ritchie
MaryJane Thompson
2023 Suzanne Humphreys



INTERNET PROTOCOL

For internet security, when you are mass mailing information, please use *Blind Copy (bcc)*. Also please **DO NOT Reply All if you do get a mass mailing. Email accounts can get hacked that way.**

SHARING WITH OUR COMMUNITY- 2022/23

CASS Scholarship: \$500-Samantha Thomas

Petunia Pig: \$400 to Children's Library in
Richards Landing

Literacy Award: \$400 to Central Algoma
Elementary School

INSURANCE MATTERS

Hospital and health care insurance costs are still low and valuable. Manulife gave an amount of \$23,598 to help with Convention.

Call Terry Kennedy before you go in for even day surgery. Parking paid if you keep receipts. Many other benefits.

Terry Kennedy at 1-519-583-0098.

Or email at tkennedy34@bell.net

IMPORTANT CHANGES COMING

The Convention of RWTO/OERO this year passed a number of resolutions expanding eligibility for membership in our group. Regular members are now defined as:

- Retired women teachers
- Retired women Educational Assistants
- Retired women Early Childhood Educators
- Retired women Child & Youth Workers/Counsellors

This means we can invite women who fall into one of these categories to join us and become members of Central Algoma Branch of RWTO/OERO. Please note that any of these need to be retired but do not need to receive a pension from this work.

RWTO Annual Convention 2023

June 6-8 ,2023

CRUISING DOWN THE WATERS

This year RWTO had an on-site convention in Kingston. Four members from Central Algoma went to the convention. Mary Jane Thompson was the provincial delegate, Francine LeBlanc-Lebel was the branch delegate and Cathie Pirrie and Marlene Falls were alternatives. MJ Thompson and Marlene Falls travelled together and Cathie Pirrie and Francine LeBlanc- Lebel travelled together.

This Convention was put on by the Eastern Areas 8 & 9, from Ottawa- Carleton, Brockville, Gananoque, Kingston, Napanee, Upper Canada East, and Lanark. Its motto was "Cruising Down the Waters".

On Tuesday, registration, workshops, and silent auction were set up in the Kingston Market Square Hotel. On Tuesday night we went on a cruise on the Island Queen where we enjoyed our supper and entertainment. It was windy, cool and smoky because of the fires up North. But the cruise was a great meet and greet.

Early Wednesday morning, some of us were up early for a guided walk around the city with Sue at 6:10 a.m. We were back for breakfast at 7:30 am and then on to the morning meetings in the large conference room. There were twenty Resolutions on the agenda as well as many reports including financial reports. On the first morning of meetings, we were only able to cover three resolutions about extending memberships to retired women from different educational professions, including Educational Assistants and Early Childhood Educators, social workers, and child and youth social workers too. This was passed. The financial report was given out and because we are in a deficit, it was decided that the membership rates will go up \$10 in September 2024.

Around noon, we had to pick up a box lunch and head out to the tours and activities for the afternoon. Three of us went on the tour to Amherst Island by bus and ferry. One of us stayed for the staycation to meet the author. Then we were back in time for the cocktail hour, meeting with the over ninety retired teachers and their assistants from areas 8 & 9. They were ushered into the banquet by a bagpiper. There were several presentations made, like the Barbara Bain award, and Feather in your Hat award. We had an excellent dinner and afterwards we enjoyed dancing to the entertainment called the "Reasons. "

On Thursday morning, we had another walk around Queen's University, and then the morning started with the rest of the resolutions. One of the resolutions about reducing the delegates from 121 to 92 in future general meetings went to an ad hoc committee to study. No agreement has been reached yet. They will not change the name RWTO. Our group needs more members because we had to say good-bye to over 125 people in these last two years. There was a lovely memorial service to remember them. Then we had the final luncheon in the large convention room. We had a video presentation about next year's convention which will be on-line. We all checked out of the hotel in the afternoon. It was a learning experience for me. We all enjoyed our time there.

Sincerely
MJ Thompson

**MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$50 AND
DUE AT SEPTEMBER MEETING.**

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMITTEE

Connie Bennett

705-785-3508

conniebennett44@gmail.com

Our Central Algoma Branch Archives are now housed at the *Mariners Cove in Bruce Mines*. All members are welcome to visit this site throughout the year to reminisce and study the history of our RWTO!

If you have any pictures *or* YOUR BIOGRAPHY, please email them to me and they will be added to the collection!

GOODWILL COMMITTEE

Glenis Johnstone

705-782-6349

johnstone.glenis@gmail.com

Our Central Algoma Retired Women Teachers are honorary members of the Goodwill Committee. You will be the "feet on the ground" so to speak, that will enable our committee to send Birthday Congratulations, Thinking of You cards and to those ill and/or in hospital and to extend Sympathy to our members and their families.

I would appreciate hearing from you!

Induction of new executive at June meeting



INTEREST GROUPS



BOOK CLUB

Linda Prodan

705-575-1519

lmprodan@hotmail.com

The RWTO Book Club meets the **third Monday of the month** at **1:30 p.m.** from September to June. There is usually an hour discussion of the current book and then a social time following. Our discussions can be quite lively! These meetings are hosted by members who volunteer, either to hold them in their own home or another venue of their choice.

The first meeting in September this year will be Monday, September 18th hosted by Linda Prodan. Location to be decided later. This first meeting will be to choose the dates for the year, the hostesses and location of the meetings and the books we will be discussing. Each member will bring a suggestion of a book. We then vote for our 9 favourites)

New members are always welcome.

CRAFT GROUP



The "Crafty Group" meets on the **last Thursday** of each month at **1:30 p.m.** (except December, June, July and August.

This group needs a new leader as well as rejuvenation after Covid. Interest will be determined with sign-ups in September.

We work on our own personal crafts at a different volunteer's home each month enjoying pleasant chatter, help from others, beverages and treats as we craft away! We plan a special lesson, agreed upon by the group, for one of our meetings.

GAMES GROUP #1

Connie Bennett 705-785-3508

conniembennett44@gmail.com



The games group met most months throughout the year, despite a couple of cancellations due to weather and other commitments. A new member has joined the group and joins us when numbers warrant another person.

The group continues to meet on the **second Tuesday of every month** at the home of the host for that month. Dates and hosts have not been selected. This will be done at the first gathering.

HIKING GROUP



Leader: Nancy Konzuk 705-785-3385

nkonzuk@gmail.com.

The hiking group walks the **2nd Wednesday** of each month from 10 a.m. to noon from September to June. Each month one member chooses a route for us to follow – sometimes on town streets, sometimes on forest trails, mostly on foot, others on snowshoes in winter months. Our first hike will be September 20 (3rd Wednesday only this month) when Nancy will lead us on the Rock Candy Mountain trail north of Thessalon. This hike was planned for last year, but rainy weather got in the way. Spouses, friends and pets are always welcome to join us.

THEME DINNER GROUP

Carol Neave 705-575-8383 gcneave@live.ca

Nancy Konzuk 705-785-3385

nkonzuk@gmail.com



Before Covid, our **Theme Dinner Group** used to meet 4 times a year, twice before Christmas and twice after the snowbirds return from their winter get-aways. In the 2017-18 year we had 36 members sign up. However, times change and so we are going to see how many are interested in the 2023-24 group. We have always had a great time, and enjoyed a myriad of tasty foods. In addition, it is one activity that spouses or friends are most welcome to attend. Our intention is to start simply with a theme of "Normal" Potluck probably held at one of our homes. If there is a lot of interest, we could return to varying themes. It will be up to the group to decide on Tuesday October 24, 2023, when our first Theme Dinner will take place.

GAMES GROUP #2

Our "Sault Ste Marie" group started out with 6 members meeting on the **2nd Tuesday of the month**. Covid put a kink into this group. **A leader and potential members will sign up at the September meeting.**

Branch Meetings

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Farmers have all the fun

Organized by Suzanne Humphries

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Sylvan Valley Hall

Cost: \$25

Caterer: Nelda Kent

Guest Speaker: Goat Yoga with Sarah Dominique

Donations to local food bank

***Sign up for interest groups!**

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Joint Meeting with Sault Branch

*Welcome to Sandra Salerno,
our new Provincial President!*

Organized by Cathy Bennett

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Puddingstone lounge at lighthouse, Bruce Mines

Cost: \$25

Caterer: Cheryl Harvey

Friday, December 1st, 2023



A Sparkly Christmas!



Organized by Cathy Bennett

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Zion United Church, Thessalon
Silent Auction and Carol singing

Cost: \$25

Caterer: Zionettes

Donation to Thessalon food bank

Dress in your festive wear!

Monday, April 8, 2024

MEETING OUR NEIGHBOURS

Organized by Suzanne Humphries

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Trefry Centre, Richards Landing

Cost: \$25

Tour Trefry Centre and learn what activities are available for seniors in Central Algoma

Caterer: Jenn Simons

May 29, 2024

Getting in the mood for summer

Organized by Jane Vienneau

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: North 82, SSM

Cost: \$25

Spring Garden Silent Auction