



# Central Algoma 2021/2022 Newsletter

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members of RWTO Central Algoma



I wish you all well and safe during these strange and seemingly ever-changing times in which we are living. While Covid-19 has kept us apart physically, I hope you have been able to keep in touch with family and friends through phone, electronic means or meeting

with appropriate protocols in place. We have long awaited the time when we could resume in-person meetings. Your executive met and discussed ways in which we could hold meetings. The membership was polled by our Phone Committee and we learned that a good number have decided they are ready to attend in-person gatherings. Activity groups will continue as they are able. Contact information is available in this Newsletter. Venues used need to be large enough to allow for social distancing. Masks are required (except when eating!). Following a Province of Ontario directive for non-essential events, we are required to show proof of full vaccination against Covid-19. We have some members who are unable or uncomfortable attending group gatherings during this time and it is my hope we can reach out by phone or email to all of our members.

In caring and sharing  
Cathy Pirrie  
President 2021-2023



## EXECUTIVE 2021-22

## WHAT'S ON OUR WEBSITE?

[www.rwto.org](http://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:** Cathy Pirrie 613-328-1232

**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](mailto:tkennedy34@bell.net) 1-519-583-0098

RWTO Insurance Convenor 1-519-538-3707

## **RWTO Provincial Office**

**1-877-607-6696 Email: [info@rwto.org](mailto:info@rwto.org)**

**Website: [www.rwto.org](http://www.rwto.org)**

## CORA BAILEY AWARD WINNERS

Honouring exceptional contributions to our  
CENTRAL ALGOMA Branch:

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**



## SHARING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

\$500 Scholarship CASS: Nick Purnis  
\$300 Book Board: Thessalon Library  
\$200 Literacy Award: Thessalon Public School  
\$250 Literacy Award CASS: Alecia Campbell,  
St. Joe's PS, (Spring 2021)  
\$300 Leadership Training: Kristi Hartley

## RWTO 63rd ANNUAL

### CONVENTION June 4,5,6, 2019

What a barrel of fun to go to St. Catharines in the Holiday Inn which they reserved mostly for us. Marg MacKay, Joyce Ratz, and I attended along with Sandy Fulcher from the Sault Branch. Sandy



and I travelled together leaving Sunday to arrive in Sarnia. Then, Monday, we arrived in St. Catharines and were the first guests to be photographed. See us on the RWTO/OERO website!

The next day was an Insurance Workshop for the Northern Branches. Terry Kennedy gave a scintillating power point presentation about insurance.

For example,

1. Put the Plan number at the top of each page on your application sheet for insurance,
2. Benefits offset rental of special equipment up to \$200 per year
3. Travel insurance is available as well.

Call Terry and/or me if interested in more information.

Later in the day, I went to the Tuesday workshop on "Yoga in a Chair" and Marg went to the Laughing workshop. LOL. Tuesday's supper was delicious.

Wednesday was the Annual General meeting. The resolutions were presented and passed. They were mostly housekeeping items. After, I went on a wine tour with our area director Joyce Ratz as tour director, filling in as needed. She did an awesome job. The Wednesday dinner was scrumptious. The Board and Head table were gracefully piped in by a live bagpiper. Here is where we were awarded a \$200 Barbara Bain Award for having 4 new members join. Barbara Bain herself attended.



Thursday was the memorial service for members who have passed away. It was fitting that Marg MacKay was playing the violin with another violinist and a piano player

during this service. The AGM was finished early so we socialized with other RWTO members until the lunch. There were many (19) "Over 90" members for lunch. All was enjoyable. You must plan to attend a Convention sometime soon!

*Submitted by Marlene Falls*

## RWTO 64<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION June 2,3,4, 2020

Deep in June of the COVID pandemic, our Provincial Board decided to have a brief Virtual AGM (Annual General Meeting) via Zoom and leave all Resolutions to be added to the 2021 Agenda!

Ottawa Area was unwilling to continue with their plans due to the health risks involved.

**"COVID-19" CHANGES  
LIVES**

## RWTO 65<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION June 3,4,5, 2021

Our First Virtual Convention – “STAYING CONNECTED” - was a resounding success! It was free, full of Workshops, Travel, Exercise and Entertainment galore! It was ably planned and provided by our very own *expert* Communications Committee (Kathy Gallagher) and can still be viewed on our RWTO website! *\*Please share it with our members who do not have computers. Plan a tea party together when you feel comfortable! (Email me for a copy of the detailed review by Brenda Gallander.)*

### NEW COVID PROTOCOL

For Central Algoma Branch!

We are required to *wear masks* during the meeting but for the lunch afterwards we will be able to sit the required distance apart and remove our masks to eat. *We will need our double vaccination proof in order to participate in ALL RWTO meetings!*

## GOODWILL COMMITTEE

Congratulations, all of you! 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 to those ill and/or in hospital and to extend Sympathy to our members and their families. I would like to thank *Carol Neave* for donating her lovely cards, works of art, to share with you. I would appreciate hearing from you.

Please call **Glenis Johnstone** at 705-782-6349 or email [johnstone.glenis@gmail.com](mailto:johnstone.glenis@gmail.com)

## ARCHIVE AND HISTORY COMMITTEE

**OUR CENTRAL ALGOMA BRANCH**

**ARCHIVES** are now housed at the *Mariners Cove in Bruce Mines*. I stopped by the Museum in Bruce Mines and the workers confirmed that, by autumn 2021, the binders and historical This will be more convenient because usually

themuseum is closed in the winter.

\*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.

Call *MaryJane Thompson* at 705-842-2101 [mjthompson.thessalon@gmail.com](mailto:mjthompson.thessalon@gmail.com)

## INSURANCE MATTERS

We will be having a Joint Insurance meeting with the **Sudbury** and **Sault Branches**, **November 18, 2012 at 11 a.m. via ZOOM!** There is a new Surgery Form protocol for those who have insurance! Call Marlene for details!

## INTEREST GROUPS

**CATS** (Caregiver and Teacher Support)  
Carol Neave 705-575-8383  
[gcneave@live.ca](mailto:gcneave@live.ca)

CATS meet the **4th Wednesday** of every month at 10 a.m., usually at a member's home.

Some of our retired women teachers are “elder elders” and the CATS group may offer volunteer visiting time at seniors' retirement homes or provide rides to doctors' appointments or other outings. Other members are caring for relatives or friends who have dementia, physical disabilities, etc. It is exhausting and stressful to be a Caregiver. The CATS try to offer a safe, confidential, and caring environment where members may share their stories and vent as required - hopefully providing them with caring support. For those who always intended to assist seniors, this group gets you motivated to do just that. Or, if you are a Caregiver, you will receive encouragement and support. *The first meeting took place on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 10 a.m. at Carol Neave's home. We have not had a meeting this year. Carol has emailed us and we have kept in touch that way for now.*



\*\*\*We thank you for your kind support during these rather precarious times and are hoping that we will soon be “back on track” with our usual fun-filled caring and sharing RWTO days!!

## Craft Group

Joyce Ratz  
705-842-6135  
[ratzdj@gmail.com](mailto:ratzdj@gmail.com)

The “Crafty Group” meets on the **last Thursday** of each month at **1:30 p.m.** (except December, June, July and August). *Our first meeting is on **October 28<sup>th</sup>** at the **Sowerby Hall**.* (Hwy 17 - turn left, at Basswood Lake Rd – white building on right, one block North!)

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. We will plan our meeting venues wear masks, have double vaccinations, practice “self-distancing” and have **FUN! Do join us!**

## Games Group #1

Connie Bennett  
705-785-3508  
[conniebennett44@hotmail.com](mailto:conniebennett44@hotmail.com)

We meet the **first Tuesday of the month** and set the dates for hostessing for each month. *Our first meeting will be on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Sowerby Hall at 1:30 - 4:30 pm.* We are a courageous group of nine members and meet despite snowstorms, flooding and “other weather”. Some of us go off on excursions but, even with only a few in attendance, we manage to have rousing competitions and lots of fun. One of our members received the Cora Bailey Award and the Games Group got together to present a little skit based on the game “Mexican Train”, one of her favourites!



## Games Group #2

Marlene Falls  
705-256-1681  
[marfal@sympatico.ca](mailto:marfal@sympatico.ca)

Our “Sault Ste Marie” group started out with 6 members meeting on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month**. Our first meeting is waiting to be planned. Give Marlene a call if you are interested in joining!

## Book Club

Linda Prodan  
705-575-1519  
[lmprodan@hotmail.com](mailto:lmprodan@hotmail.com)

The Book Club meets the **third Monday** of the month from September to June at 1:30 p.m. Some members invite us to hold meetings in their homes or some host meetings at libraries or other facilities. We have a large and active group, with many lively discussions. At our meetings, we discuss the most recent book and then socialize over coffee, tea and goodies.

We have been meeting virtually on ZOOM during COVID (Thanks to Gayle Manley)! At the September meeting, we decide on new books for the year, the dates we will meet and the hostess for each month. *New members are always welcome!*

## Theme Dinner Group

Carol Neave  
705-575-8383  
[gcneave@live.ca](mailto:gcneave@live.ca)

Our theme Dinner Group meets **4 times a year** - twice before Christmas and twice after the snowbirds return and winter is over. *During COVID we are biding our time!* We attempt to have varied and interesting menus by setting a theme (eg. Hawaiian) for each dinner. The group members decide the theme, date, location and hostess(es) for each one. Some prefer to hostess in their homes while others reserve a local hall and the cost, usually minimal, is divided among the group. These dinners are participatory potlucks and you make what you want in the context of the **theme**.

Responsibilities of the Host and usually Co-Host (Partnering is more fun and less work!)

1. Arrange for a hall, if necessary, well ahead of time.
2. Set the time and email group members (call if member does not use a computer.) **TWO WEEKS** ahead of the date, remind folks what the Theme is; ask them to RSVP and let you know what dish they will be bringing.
3. Three or four days before the event, send another email notifying **how many** will be attending, the **RECIPE** they’ve chosen, and whether there will be any **hall costs**.
4. On the day of the dinner, set up tables, chairs and decorate as you wish.

We always have fun and enjoy a myriad of tasty foods. In addition, it is one activity that spouses or friends are most welcome to attend. We'd like to have you join us!

**Walking Group** Kaija Breton  
705-248-3203  
prbre@yahoo.com

The RWTO Walking Group meets at **10 a.m. on the first Tuesday** of each month, except July and August. *The first hike was at 10 a.m., Wednesday, September 15 at Ojibway Nature Trail led by Kaija.* Carol Hunt-Forde led the October hike at Rock Lake.

Usually 1½ - 2 hours on an easy trail or streets and back roads satisfies us. Our speed, or lack of it, varies each time. We have had historical tours, window shopping tours, nature tours, but always good conversation and lots of fresh air. Sometimes we join for lunch afterwards. Spouses, friends (two and four legged) are welcome! Recently, Mother Nature and COVID disrupted our schedule too many times.



Hiking at Richard's Landing

## PLANNED MEETING DATES

\*\*\*\*\*All Covid tentative!\*\*\*\*\*

### Tuesday, October 26, 2021

#### Amid the Amish

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Lighthouse "Puddingstone Lounge" in Bruce Mines.

Cost: \$20

Caterer: Bruce Mines Café

Speakers: Joyce and David Ratz

\*We are required to **wear masks** during the meeting but for the lunch afterwards we will be able to **sit the required distance apart** and remove our masks to eat. **Lunch will be on a prepared plate! Soup and dessert served separately!**

### Tuesday, November 30, 2021

#### Christmas is Festive + Food Bank Friendly!

Time: 11 a.m.

Place:

Cost: \$20

Caterer:

Dress for the Occasion, bring a Silent Auction item and your pocketbook! All RWTO Covid protocol is required! Carolling may be music and humming?

**\*\*Members invite a potential member who will receive a free lunch.**

**\*\*Sign up for interest groups!**

### Wednesday, January 19, 2022

#### Joint Insurance Meeting with the Sault Branch

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Virtually, via ZOOM

Cost: \$20

Caterer: "Maka Yo' Owna Spaghetti!"

Speaker: NANCY BELL, PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT

### Wednesday, April 20 2022



#### "We Will Welcome Will"

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Sowerby Hall

Cost: \$20

Caterer:

Speaker: Will Samis on "Raising the Cordukes Historic 12-sided Barn"

### Wednesday, May 18, 2022

#### TBA

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Grand Gardens

Cost \$20

Caterer:

Speaker:

### Tuesday, June 14, 2022

#### Floral Fantasies for Friends!

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Bruce Station Hall

Cost: \$20

Speaker: Anne Cranston: Flower Arranging

Bring your own gloves, hats, vases and garden flowers to make arrangements to show our shut-ins that we care!