



# RWTO/OERO

Retired Women Teachers of Ontario  
Organisation des Enseignantes Retraitées de l'Ontario

## St Catharines Branch Newsletter, March 2023



### President's Message -- Linda Gaudet, RWTO President 2022-2023

Is it spring yet? Time, as I get older, seems to go so quickly, and yet, winter seems to last forever! I look forward to warmer weather and sunny skies. It also has been an age since a Luncheon! Can't wait to see you in April when Judy Drummond, Provincial President, will be joining us.

Hopefully, you have received your March Connections newsletter from Provincial and have had an opportunity to read it. Seven of your Executive members will be travelling to Kingston in early June to attend the yearly Convention. Of concern to us are some of the Resolutions that will be presented at the AGM. We would like your feedback, so that we can better represent you in our voting.



Of particular concern are the following:

#### Resolution #6

Be it resolved to extend RWTO/OERO membership to include Retired Women Educational Professionals as members of RWTO/OERO. Retired Women Educational Professionals shall include but not be limited to Retired Women Teachers, Retired Women Educational Assistants, Retired Early Childhood Educators, Retired Women Speech and Language Therapists and Pathologists, Retired Women Child and Youth Workers/Counsellors and Retired Women Social Workers.

#### Resolution #13

Be it resolved that each Branch shall be represented by two (2) delegates, one Provincial Delegate and one Branch Delegate, regardless of the paid membership numbers for each Branch.

#### Resolution #14

Be it resolved that each Branch be entitled to two voting delegates with all reasonable expenses paid by the Provincial Office.

I can be contacted by email at: [rwtostcatharinespresident@gmail.com](mailto:rwtostcatharinespresident@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted by Linda Gaudet, President

### First Vice-President's Message -- Melanie Kelch, 2022-2023

#### April Luncheon Speaker: Fraud Talk

We are pleased to welcome Constable Grant Kaufman of the Niagara Police Service to our April Luncheon. Constable Kaufman will speak about Fraud Situations and how to recognize Fraudulent Requests and how to

avoid them. Constable Kaufman previously worked for 10 years as a High School teacher before becoming a police officer. We look forward to hearing his recommendations.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in April.  
Melanie Kelch, First Vice-President

### Good News

Emily Lomas Gale has been nominated to be First Vice-President for the 2023-2024 year. This will be ratified at the next AGM in May if there are no further nominations.  
We are now looking for a new Second Vice-President for 2023-2024.

## Reports

### Membership – Clara Warden, Linda Foster, Membership Convenors

Welcome Spring and the signs of new life and hope. We are looking forward to seeing our members at the upcoming April luncheon.

We are happy to report that we are maintaining our Membership numbers. So far, we have welcomed nineteen new members in this calendar year! Membership in RWTO/OERO is essential for our organization to continue growing! We want to thank the members who have recently informed us of potential new members to contact.

We are always looking for new members, so please “talk up” our Branch group with any retired teacher that you may know. You may contact Linda Foster, Margo Smith, Marilyn Emmett, or Clara Warden, if you are aware of anyone, who may be interested. We would certainly be happy to hear from you.



Yours in Caring and Sharing. Clara Warden, Membership Convenor

### Goodwill -- Jan Harlos, Goodwill Convenor

Goodwill responsibilities have increased during the past few years with the expansion of our aging membership. I would like to form a “We Care Committee” to assist the Convenor in completing tasks as outlined in the RWTO St. Catharines Handbook.

1. Make home visits.
2. Make phone calls.
3. Send Cards for Christmas, Birthdays, illnesses and/or for TLC.
4. Deliver plants for special occasions.
5. Arrange transportation for non-drivers to RWTO Luncheons.
6. Send invitations and host our Forever Young members at the September Luncheon.



## 7. Bake goodies for our Holiday Treat Baskets.

If you feel that you could help with any of these responsibilities, please contact me at [jharlos6@gmail.com](mailto:jharlos6@gmail.com), or (905) 892-8203. You may also speak with me at the April Luncheon.

Yours in Caring and Sharing, Janis Harlos, Goodwill Convenor

## In Memoriam



One of our 'Forever Young' members, **Marion Mooradian** passed away. Marion taught Grade One and Special Education for the District School Board of Niagara. She was very involved with FWTAO (Federation of Women Teachers of Ontario) and was also a past president (1988-1989) of our branch. Marion will be missed.

## Insurance -- Susan McLaughlin, Insurance Convenor

There have been a number of cases that have come to my attention this winter in which members inquired about insurance coverage after they have moved into assisted living or retirement homes. Here are the **guidelines** around this issue.

If the member is receiving Nursing Services as part of her residence fee, she is no longer eligible for the insurance plan and she should cancel her coverage. Assisted Living Facilities are acceptable until such time as the member starts to receive nursing services. If a member is in Long Term Care, she should cancel her coverage.



## Issues and Concerns -- Marg Newby, Issues and Concerns Convenor

### 911 Calls for Emergency Medical Services

On December 31, 2021, Niagara Emergency Medical Services launched a Taxicab Pilot Project. This initiative is designed to meet the needs of patients and to help reduce the heavy demand on hospital emergency department capacity and ambulance usage.



A call to 911 is received by an emergency communications nurse for assessment and triage. If the call is triaged as a "low acuity concern," an ambulance may not be dispatched. Instead, a taxi may be provided, and the patient diverted from an emergency department to another facility, such as a walk-in clinic.

It is critical that clear and complete information is shared with the emergency communications nurse. Otherwise, the wrong conveyance and/or destination may be assigned, resulting in a frustrating delay for emergency medical services.

## Rankin Run

Every spring RWTO St. Catharines likes to support the Rankin Run by participating in the walk or sponsoring someone who will walk the 5 kilometres. The goal of the Rankin Cancer Run is to raise much needed funding in support of cancer care programs in our community. Since the Rankin group is holding this fundraiser virtually, we will do our walk on **Wednesday June 14!**

If you would like to join me and some other friends from RWTO, please let me know by email or phone. Sponsor sheets are available online through Rankin Run or I will have them available at the April luncheon or I can drop one off for you.



If you raise more than \$100.00, your registration fee of \$20.00 is waived. A t-shirt is included in your registration fee. We are going to walk along the canal which is flat and well paved. It is a 5 km. walk which takes about an hour. We'll have refreshments following the walk. We will meet in the Grantham Lions Park parking lot at 732 Niagara St., St. Catharines. Start time is 1:30.

Thank-you, Jessica Thomson, Team Captain  
905-687-7510 [thomsonjess@hotmail.com](mailto:thomsonjess@hotmail.com)

## Upcoming RWTO Luncheons

### April Luncheon

**April. 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Four Points Sheraton**, 3530 Schmon Parkway, Thorold

Plated meal which will include salad, grilled chicken breast, veg, potato, dessert coffee tea.

Cost \$34. Cash bar

Payment must be received by **April 19<sup>th</sup>**.

E-transfer money to [rwto@catharines@gmail.com](mailto:rwto@catharines@gmail.com) or

**Cheques: Payable to: RWTO St. Catharines** and mailed to: Linda Foster, 14 Woodgarden Crt., St Catharines ON L2M 7C9



### May Luncheon

**May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**George's Greek Village**, 535 Queenston Street, St. Catharines

Chicken breast package - Greek salad, rice, chicken breast, dessert, coffee, tea, pop

Served family style.

COST \$32. Cash bar.

Payment must be received by **May 17<sup>th</sup>**.

E-transfer money to [rwto@catharines@gmail.com](mailto:rwto@catharines@gmail.com) or

**Cheques: Payable to: RWTO St. Catharines** and mailed to: Linda Foster, 14 Woodgarden Crt., St Catharines ON L2M 7C9



## General Luncheon Information

1. All meetings begin at 11:00 A.M. Doors open at 10:30 unless otherwise indicated.
2. The name tags are on the table close to the entrance and are displayed in alphabetical order.
3. The cost for the luncheon will depend on what the facility is charging.
4. Payment for luncheons must be received by the Wednesday prior to each luncheon, whether by cheque or e-transfer. If you are late in mailing your cheque, let Linda Foster know that you are planning to attend and that your cheque is in the mail.
5. There are no luncheon tickets. As your payment is received, your name is added to the list of attendees. You should receive a call or an email when the Treasurer has received your payment.
6. **Cheques** are payable to: **RWTO St. Catharines** and mailed to: Linda Foster, 14 Woodgarden Crt., St Catharines ON L2M 7C9. For **e-transfers**, use the [rwtoStCatharines@gmail.com](mailto:rwtoStCatharines@gmail.com) address.
7. Luncheon payments will be returned if cancelled by the Wednesday prior to the luncheon. Call 905-935-6182 (Linda) to cancel.
8. You will receive a phone call or email reminder several weeks prior to the luncheon.
9. **Escorts needed.** Sometimes our members need a ride to the luncheon. If you require a ride, or are able to provide assistance, please call Janis Harlos at 905-892-8203.

We are a **Fragrance-Free Environment**.

## INTEREST GROUPS

**OUT 'N ABOUT** Kathleen Bradley, Interest Group Convenor



### Shaw Guild Garden Tour 2023

The 17th Annual Garden Tour will feature fabulous private gardens in beautiful and historic Niagara-on-the-Lake.

- **TICKETS:** \$35.00 – cash only
- Payable on the day of the tour at check-in at the first garden of the day.
- Sign-up sheets will be available at the April and May luncheons.

**Revolving Book Club:** Patt Chivers, Leader

Hope you are enjoying the selection of books for this year's Revolving Book Club. I sure am!

In preparation for next year, I will be available at the April and May Luncheons to accept your \$25.00 for your commitment to the Revolving Book Club for 2023 - 2024. Look for me and I will look out for you.





## **Bridge** Helen Self, Sharon Thorne, and Alvine Robinson, Leaders

Hello Bridge Ladies,

We hope that you ARE HAVING a good bridge year and you have enjoyed your scheduled games. Not to say that you couldn't have contacted other teams to get some additional fun bridge times. As in the previous years we are planning our **Bridge Luncheon** for the second week in June and hopefully at the Yacht Club again. Cost is to be determined. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.



Please note that if you wish to sign up for the 2023-2024 year, you must contact Helen Self before the month of August. Also, if you know of any other (ladies who are retired teachers) RWTO MEMBERS who would be interested in playing, this would be their opportunity to sign up.

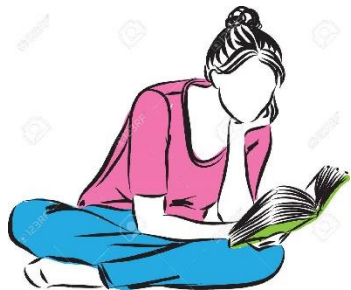
### **Bridge Team:**

Helen Self 905-641-1376 [hself@cogeco.ca](mailto:hself@cogeco.ca)

Sharon Thorne 905-934-6396 [sthorne45@cogeco.ca](mailto:sthorne45@cogeco.ca)

## **Book Club: Let's Chat About It** Margaret Pulford, Leader

The Let's Chat About It book club started off the new year meeting again and enjoying seeing each other and of course discussing worthwhile reads. We learned from reading Island of the Sea Women about amazing Korean sea divers and followed up with a video depicting their underwater talents. In February we had to cancel due to viruses and health issues. This is our new reality.



We did text that the book we read, A Long Way Home, was a remarkable true story about a young man's life from India to Australia and back. It was truly inspirational.

We are all looking forward to meeting in March again.

Margaret Pulford [margpulford@gmail.com](mailto:margpulford@gmail.com)

## **Book Club: Let's Chat About It, Chapter Two** Jessica Thomson and Barb Jones, Leaders

This reading group meets once a month for a discussion about agreed upon novels. We meet at each other's homes for a chat and a snack. One member chooses a book and prepares a few discussion questions regarding the book for that month.

We have read several memoirs this year and are always impressed with the amazing lives of these people.



We will continue this year with our list of books and then take a break over the summer months. We have a small group to enable all our members a chance to discuss the book but if you'd like to join us, please let me know. If we get too large, I can help you start another "Chapter".

Jessica Thomson ([thomsonjess@hotmail.com](mailto:thomsonjess@hotmail.com)) and Barb Jones

### **Golf** Diane Hockey, Leader

Linda Holmes has been organizing the RWTO golf group for many years. The group would like to thank Linda very much for all her efforts over this time period which has resulted in such a fun and positive experience for us all. Diane Hockey will be taking over from Linda this year with Kim Tanner assisting.

The group golfs on Tuesday mornings at Municipal golf course and is open to all levels. We play for fun and are open to new players at any time.



### **Dining Divas** Kathleen Bradley, Leader



Dining Divas at Spirit of Niagara. A fabulous venue.

### **Singing For Fun** Laurie Benson, Leader

Our happy group meets once a month and chooses a theme for songs to sing.

February's playlist was filled with love songs. We crooned to ballads from artists like Elvis and The Carpenters, then had a short break for a yummy 'snack and yack.'

After that we belted out songs, 'karaoke' style, to lively pop tunes. There was lots of laughter, clapping and even dancing. Singing for Fun is just that – FUN!



## Travelogue Marilyn Weber, Leader

The travel group has been enjoying various presentations on trips around the world. This year we have visited, through individuals' presentations, Newfoundland, Fracture Art, Memories from our first trip abroad, Peru, Brazil and the Amazon, and now in April, Netherlands, The Passion Play, Austria, Switzerland and Germany.



## Friday Afternoon Walking Group Christine Honsinger, Leader



This photo is of the Friday afternoon walking group, taken on the Jack Nicholson trail, on February 17<sup>th</sup>, one of the coldest days this winter.

Photo Courtesy of Carol Morningstar.

## Other Interest Groups within the RWTO St Catharines Branch

### Bowling Barb West and Bonnie Leistner, Leaders



### Creative Cooks Linda Thiessen, Leader



### Euchre #1 Elaine Reimer, Leader



### Euchre #2: Let's Play Euchre Again Susan Lewis, Leader

