



## **Retired Women Teachers of Ontario**

### **Niagara South Branch Newsletter**

#### **Spring 2021**

##### **It's Time for Spring**

**My sweaters tight and itchy**

**My snow pants are too small**

**Last week I lost a mitten**

**I can't find my scarf at all**

**My woolen socks have lost their toes**

**My boots have lost their tread**

**And I have lost the love I had**

**For words like "skis" and "sled"**

**But.....my fishing rod still fits,**

**And....my baseball bat still hits**

**I have a kite that wants to fly**

**So.....Winter, call it quits!**

### **Our Branch Executive**

**President.....**Lynn Millar... 905-834-6024

**Vice-President.....**Evelyn Bergen... 905-322-0352

**Past President.....**Pat Davis...905-835-8056t

**Treasurer.....**Kathy Smith...289-820-7615

**Secretary.....**Margaret Dickinson...905-834-4143

**Insurance Convener.....**Margot Smith...905-892-1891

**Goodwill Convener.....**Mary Van Loon...905-735-7767

A special hi and it is SPRING! It is wonderful to have warmer weather and longer daylight. We hope that this newsletter finds you all well. Perhaps, you have been able to get your vaccine or are looking forward to it. Hopefully, all who want to have the vaccine will be vaccinated soon.

The Easter bunny made an early drop off to our members. Volunteers delivered the special chocolates and cards to pleased recipients.

This year, our **RWTO Convention** will be on **June 1, 2, and 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The theme is **Staying Connected** and unlike past years, our convention will be in a virtual format. Our provincial delegate is Evelyn Bergen and I will be our branch delegate. As the date gets closer, we will email further information to you about the convention and how you can participate.

We have the honour of highlighting two more of our members, **Luella Gilmore and Lori Hayes Root**. A special thank you to everyone who has participated and if we haven't reached you yet, we will be calling! 😊



### **Luella Gilmore**

After graduating from Grade 12 in 1956, I applied for Toronto Teacher's College for the two year course instead of taking Grade 13 and the one year course. Since I was only sixteen I wasn't accepted, so I worked for a year then completed the two year course in June 1959. Upon graduation, I had one interview with the Richmond Hill School Board and was hired to begin teaching Grade One at Walter Scott School. However, in the summer of 1959, I was ordered to bed rest due to mononucleosis and was unable to start teaching until after Thanksgiving. A very capable supply teacher started my class of 22. There were four Grade One classes in this school, with 22 staff members. It was great to have the support of the other Grade One teachers! Teaching Grade One remained my favourite as I found teaching reading very rewarding.

My career there was short-lived as John and I were married in July 1960. I moved to Wainfleet and was hired to teach Grade One and Two at the Burnaby Road School for that September. I taught there for only one year before our first son was born. Our daughter was born in 1964 and another son in 1968. During these years, I did some random supply teaching, then did Principal's Relief for some Wainfleet principals at Burnaby Road and later, Wainfleet South.

In 1975, once all of our children were in school, I went back to teaching full-time, this time at Winger School, but in a new position as part of the Diagnostic and Remedial Team for Wainfleet and Port Colborne schools. Through regular team meetings I got to know other teachers in Port Colborne, many of whom remain friends to this day. Later on I was called a Learning Resource

Teacher and worked mostly at Winger, but did some part-time work at Wainfleet South and William E. Brown. I was privileged to work with many different Learning Resource Counsellors. Speech therapy was a component of this job that I quite enjoyed for 18 years with the help of the Special Resource personnel who visited regularly. Professional growth was expanded by attending Special Education ministry courses and In-Service opportunities.

Since retiring in 1995, I've enjoyed having the freedom to spend more time with family and friends, bus trips and summers in PEI, while also pursuing other interests such as scrapbooking, quilting, and volunteering as the Church Librarian. We have been blessed with children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and it's a delight to have everyone gather together on special occasions at the family home on Perry Road in Wainfleet. This past summer, we celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary 'Covid-style' with our family by the pool. This past September marked the first Fall when our group of retired teachers from Winger was not able to meet for breakfast on the first day of school. I am grateful for the opportunities I've had to invest in young students over the years and each of the friendships I've made along the way.



### LORI HAYES ROOT

Since grade two I had dreamed of being a teacher. My grade two teacher allowed me to stay after school to clean the boards and the teacher would drive me four miles to my home.

At the age of 15, my family was going to move from Kenville, Manitoba. I was insistent that I remain to continue my education. It was a sacrifice for my father as he paid for one month's rent with the caretaker at the one room school in Kenville, Manitoba so I could finish my high school education.

For three years I was in servitude to Wilford and Sheila Cotton who owned a grain farm in Kenville, Manitoba and finished my Grade 11 in Manitoba, which was the equivalent of Grade 12 in Ontario. I was their maid for their family. Later, when I "made" something of myself I became part of their family.

In 1951, at the age of 18, I started teaching in one room schoolhouse at the Pellatt School located fifteen miles outside of Kenora, Ontario. There was no electricity and no heat and no running water. There were 29 students ranging from Grade 1 to 8. There were also two sisters that were in Grade 9 taking correspondence and I would teach algebra after school. They both passed.

During that first year, I resigned three times, mailing letters to Superintendent Mr. McBurney. He came personally as he thought that I had left! At any rate, he told me that I did not need to go to the lake to get the pails of water for the chemical toilets, nor do the sweeping. He told me, "You are there to teach. You are not the caretaker!" Students were to do that.

I was a part of the Summer School Emergency Teacher's Association and the Ministry of Education would find placement for me. The first year I was in North Bay for the summer and the second year I was in Toronto.

In 1952 I taught at the Jefferey Mallick School which was located three miles out of Kenora. That year I lived with two teachers and taught grades 1 through to 8. That same year the sister school burned down, and the teacher came and utilized the basement to teach. I had suggested to the Trustees that she teach grades 1 to 4 and I teach 5-8. Rather than us both teaching 1-8.

In 1953 I applied to Gasline, Ontario where I taught grades 1 – 4. There were 44 kids with sixteen grade one children that had no kindergarten! All passed. The next year I taught in Port Colborne at the Oakwood School (Humberstone Township). It was an eight-room school and I taught grade two and only 24 children. I thought I died and went to heaven!

That same year (1953) I met my husband, Howard Root. We were married in 1956. After we were married, I supply taught. It had been mandated that after marriage, teachers were to retire, and especially after having children. Which I had four: Michael, Michelle, Christopher, and Jonathan. I went back full-time teaching after my last child, Jonathan, went into kindergarten.

I started off with only my 2<sup>nd</sup> class certification and was personally handed my 1<sup>st</sup> class certification by Mr. Petersen at my home. I loved education so much that I have two degrees: my BA and my BED, 14 Ministry of Education Courses, three specialist certifications in Library, Art, and Social Studies.

I did a teacher exchange in Huddersfield, in Yorkshire England in 1989-1990 and came back and taught in Port Colborne in 1990 to 1991 and then retired officially in 1991.

I was recognized by the City of Welland for my volunteer work in the arts community and the establishment of the art wall. I have spent many hours working in my gardens and have made it a source of personal enjoyment.

Thank you Luella and Lori for sharing your amazing teaching stories.

## **INSURANCE MATTERS**

### **Correction**

In the last issue of our newsletter in the column “What If This Happened to Your Spouse?” the contact information for Terry Kennedy was incorrect. I used an old card I kept in my wallet instead of the latest brochure from Manulife. Please note the following:

**Terry Kennedy**

**519-583-0098**

**tkennedy34@bell.net**

### **Benefit Identification Cards**

Manulife is planning to issue Benefit Identification Cards for all Hospital and Home Care participants. They hope to send these out to all insured members by the end of March. These will be available after April 1, 2021 on Manulife’s Secure Serve site.

### **Online Claim Forms and Submissions**

Online claim forms and submissions will be available after April 1, 2021 on Manulife’s Secure Serve site. Paper claim forms and submissions will continue to be available

### **Tax Receipts**

Members can download their tax receipts from the Secure Serve Site if you wish to. Paper receipts will continue to be sent out as in the past.

### **Simplified Contracts**

Manulife is simplifying all contracts to reflect “plain language.”

**Manulife telephone number for enrolled members: 1 800 268 3763**

**am\_service@manulife.com**

Submitted by Margot Smith, Insurance Convenor

We wish you a Happy Spring and look forward to warmer temperatures. We miss you and are looking forward to being together again.

With love and best wishes,

Lynn