

'CARING & SHARING'
RWTO/OERO NORTHUMBERLAND-SOUTH DURHAM BRANCH
SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER - ISSUE FORTY-ONE

IMPORTANT COVID19 UPDATE

To the Ladies of the RWTO/OERO Northumberland-South Durham Branch:
I am reaching out to all of you with an update. In the face of the rapidly spreading COVID19 virus, your Executive, caring for the health and safety of our members, held an online meeting. As we continue to self-isolate and self-distance, as recommended by our political and health leaders, your Executive has decided that, in the interests of members' health and safety, to postpone, if not cancel the Spring Meeting. If it does take place, maybe in another venue, with a different speaker, certainly at a different time, we will proceed with the agenda Lynne has detailed in the Spring Newsletter. We just found out this morning that the provincial Convention, scheduled for the beginning of June in Kingston, has also been cancelled. We will forward you the email from president Karen Clark Lauzon.

Please remember to be kind to yourselves and to others. At this time of stress and fear, tempers tend to be short and words can be taken to heart. Call individuals who are alone. Try to get some exercise and fresh air, if appropriate. Wash your hands with soap and hot water A LOT! This situation looks as if it will go for far longer than initially predicted, so it is essential that our ladies stay safe and protected. Always remember that, no matter what happens in the world, the members of RWTO/OERO are tough and are survivors. Please feel free to send your concerns, and/or opinions regarding the situation or resolutions to me at esfordjr@bell.net, or refer to your trifold for any executive member's contact number. We are here for you!

In caring and sharing,
Julia Esford, President

SPRING MEETING

WHEN: **TBD**
10:00 am - Registration/Meet & Greet
Silent Auction during social time for gently used **recent** books - donations gratefully received.

WHERE: **TBD**

MEAL: Springtime Meal - **\$20**
*** Please let us know if you have special dietary needs.

PROGRAM 10:30 am – Business
-Installation of 2020 – 2021 Executive - Judy Ann Tumber, Area 7 Director
-Presentation on Handwriting Analysis by Elaine Charal
- Presentation of Cora Bailey award
12:15 pm – Lunch



CHARITABLE DONATIONS: Hearth Place – a cancer support centre located in Oshawa
Treats For Troops

REPLY: **TBD**: Call Elaine Doty – 905-983-5831
Bonnie Brown – 905-446-2446 or Lynne Snee - 289-927-2307 or email:
sneelynn@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

A Gentle Reminder: We are committed to pay for all meals ordered. If you are unable to attend as you indicated to Elaine, Bonnie or Lynne, please cancel by contacting Lynne at least five days before the meeting. Thank You!

If you know of a retired woman teacher who is not a member of our RWTO/OERO Branch, please invite her to come to the meeting with you. Your guest will receive a free lunch that day and you will receive a small gift for bringing her. Let the person that you contact know the person you will be bringing. All qualified teachers who are retired (including those on Long Term Disability) are eligible to be members of RWTO/OERO regardless of whether or not they are receiving a teacher's pension.

Branch Newsletter: To save postage and photocopying expense, the branch newsletter is sent by email to those who have given us an email address. If you received yours by mail and you **do** have email, please let the editor, Lynne Snee, know before the fall issue (sneelynn@gmail.com).

BRANCH CHRISTMAS MEETING

Our meeting was held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Port Hope on December 5, 2019. President Julia Esford welcomed everyone and extended warm greetings to our visitors: Karen Clark Lauzon, Provincial President, Judy Ann Tumber, Area 7 Director, Jean Axcell, our auctioneer for the Quarter Auction, and Shirley Wellman, Vera's sister-in-law who is also a retired teacher.

Julia spoke to members about a couple of issues that will be dealt with in the coming year. The first involves the potential change to our Area 7 boundary. Judy Ann spoke about the changes in Area 5, where one branch is closing, and two remain, one in the west and one in the east. Vicki Cubitt suggested that we invite the Scarborough branch (from Area 5 east), to join Area 7. The ongoing concern is the geographical size of our Area – significant travel is required to travel between branches. Pat Murphy motioned and Jane Bryant seconded that we not change boundaries. In the interim, as the discussion will be ongoing, Jan Engel motioned and Sharon Staples seconded, that we issue an open invitation to neighbouring branches (including Scarborough), to attend one of our three meetings for a time of fellowship, at their own cost. The second issue discussed was that of non teachers (EAs, ECEs) being allowed to join RWTO. Karen Clark Lauzon spoke about the history of this debate, telling us that a committee was struck at convention in 2015 to address the issue. They decided to revisit the conversation in five years. She indicated that initially her response was “no”, but that in the intervening time, she has completely reversed her thinking. Members brought up a number of concerns about the proposed change. Julia suggested that we revisit the issue at our spring meeting.

Sandra Nolte updated us on her Treasurer's Report. We currently have 64 paid members and a bank balance of \$3 471.16.

Members filled out ballots for the Cora Bailey award for 2020.

Jan introduced our Provincial President, Karen Clark Lauzon. She told us that Karen had a successful career as an elementary music teacher with the Greater Essex District Board of Education. She has held many executive positions with the Windsor/Essex branch of RWTO. In retirement, she enjoys assisting her husband with his home-based accounting business, volunteering, gardening and spending time with her two Labrador retrievers.

Karen said that she was excited by the passion she had witnessed at our meeting – lively discussion, thoughtful questions, strong points of view. Change is on the way, and it is important to involve ourselves in the decision-making process. If RWTO/OERO is to survive as a viable organization, we must decide how to manage these changes. She encouraged us to continue to be ambassadors for RTWO/OERO. Karen also spoke about other life changes: in the classroom

Hamilton Township & Cobourg	Shirley Minifie	905-342-5308
East of Cobourg	Astrida Chalmers	613-475-1608
Visitation (shut ins in their homes and nursing homes)	Sandra Boyko	905-885-7543

Breakfast Club: continues to meet on the third Thursday of each month at 10:00 am. We meet in Traditions Restaurant on the northeast corner of Simcoe Street and Beatrice Street in Oshawa. Be sure to join us and feel free to bring a female teacher friend. For clarification, please call Vicki Cubitt at 905-723-5114 or email her at victoriacubitt@trentu.ca.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS (SUBJECT TO REVIEW IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES)

Meeting Dates for 2020 – 2021: Wed. Sept. 23, 2020 Grafton
 Thurs. Dec. 3, 2020 Port Hope
 Spring Meeting: Location and date TBD

Tues. October 20th – Area 7 Social at Baxter Creek Golf Course. Our branch will be hosting this event this fall and are looking for volunteers to help us put everything together! A signup sheet will be available at our spring meeting. All members are encouraged to consider helping us make this a success, and come out to enjoy a lovely time of fellowship with other retired teachers from our area.

AND FINALLY..... After speaking with President Julia, I would like to make a special request. Every year in Picton (a community that became my home last May), a Festival of Trees is held in December, by the hospital auxiliary, to raise funds for the Picton Hospital. Last year they raised \$50 000 for new IV pumps. Residents create a wide variety of Christmas trees and other seasonal items that are then placed in a silent auction. My husband and I went to the festival – it was amazing.

I would like to create a tree for auction this year. I am planning to design a two-dimensional tree made out of brooches, that will then be framed in a shadow box. I saw one of these trees years ago in a magazine, and was quite taken with it.

Here is my request: if you have any costume jewellery that you no longer wear and were thinking of giving away, I would be most grateful if you donated it to my Christmas tree endeavour. I am looking for gold and silver items and brooches with rhinestones of various colours. The more sparkly, the better. Thank you in advance for helping me fundraise for my new community.

Lynne