



# Super Teacher

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March 2022, Issue 33

## President's Report:



It's difficult to wrap my head around the fact that we are entering the third year that COVID-19 has permeated our lives. Sometimes it seems as though the past 2 years have just flown by and, at other times, it's hard to remember what the 'before' times were like. Maintaining human connections has been one of the greatest challenges, one which quickly became apparent as restrictions and protocols continued on through the fall and winter of the second year. RWTO/OERO, both locally and provincially, has made it a priority to strive to keep all members involved, supported and connected (it's no surprise that your provincial newsletter is called *Connections!*). The Peterborough branch is no exception. Getting together on Zoom for meetings, lunch 'chats' and Book Club, keeping up-to-date through emails, post, phone calls and porch visits, as well as participating in charitable events, are just some of the ways our members have continued to support and interact with each other. As a result, we remain a cohesive group and our attrition rate is very low!

We approach the coming months with cautious optimism. We are planning to move forward with our Annual General Meeting & Luncheon at Baxter Creek. Please mark Tuesday, May 31st, 2022 on your calendar. Our Provincial President, Nancy Bell, will be joining us. It will be a day full of fun, reunion and celebration!

The following week will see Convention taking place in person for the first time since 2019. Being held in London, On. from June 7th - 9th, the theme is "*Let Us Lift Your Spirits*". Peterborough branch will be sending 2 delegates and visitors are also welcome! See the March issue of *Connections* for further details on Convention, especially the Resolutions that will be brought to the floor at the Annual General Meeting; your delegates will soon be asking for your input on these important proposals. I hope that everyone had a chance to respond to the questionnaire regarding Membership Expansion. Your feedback is crucial to the committee examining this important issue.

This edition of Super Teacher highlights the many ways in which our Peterborough branch, through its hard work and commitment, truly exemplifies RWTO's motto - 'Caring and Sharing'. We hope that you enjoy your read!

Deb Glynn

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## A Fond Memory

This year we lost Marilyn Challice, a long-time member and a dear friend to many. Among the many 'hats' she wore in her 17 years of dedicated service was that of hostess for the 'Muffins and Mimosas' get-togethers for new members. This was my first contact with RWTO and Marilyn was so very warm and welcoming. Later, she encouraged me to join the Book Worms where I made new friends and which continues to be one of my favourite activities.

In May of 2019 it was my honour to present Marilyn with the Jean Axcell Award. I have included it here as a tribute to a truly inspirational woman.

Deb Glynn



The Jean Axcell Award is presented annually to a member of the Peterborough Branch of the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario for outstanding service to our branch in many areas and over many years.

This year's worthy recipient is Marilyn Challice.

It was not long after joining RWTO that Marilyn took on a leadership role on our local executive and served as Vice-President for 2 years. She subsequently went on to become President, as well as filling the role of Past President when circumstances required it. She tackled this challenging dual-role with grace, skill and determination and our local branch thrived under her leadership!

But that was only the beginning of Marilyn's contribution: she served another term as Past President, as well as being liaison with our local RTO executive for several years. She has been our link to local media outlets as well as photographer for many milestones and special occasions. As Archivist, she recently undertook an overhaul of our vast amount of archival material, a huge job requiring countless hours of sorting and organizing.

Marilyn is a tireless worker at our many meetings and events and jumps in wherever and however she's needed - acting as a Greeter, running the Bake Sale or manning the Toonie Chart. Serving on the Goodwill Committee, she was a compassionate visitor, offering her time and a listening ear to our members too ill or elderly to attend our functions.

Marilyn has graciously hosted many "Muffins and Mimosa" parties, a testament to her dedication to expanding our membership and evidence of her welcoming and inclusive nature.

Marilyn love to socialize at our Let's Do Lunch get-togethers and is an enthusiastic member of Book Worms; we all appreciate her ability to lead a thought-provoking discussion. She has an open and active mind and loves a lively debate!

In honouring Marilyn today, we are recognizing her giving spirit, her positive attitude and her ongoing commitment to "Caring and Sharing and Having Fun".

Congratulations, Marilyn!!

## Spotlight On Your Executive:

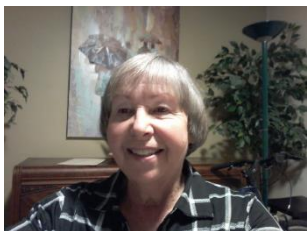
Continuing on from the previous issue of the Super Teacher, here are further descriptions of Convenor roles and the ladies who fill them!

### **Ruth Anne McNaught Insurance Convenor**



I retired in 2010 and have been the Insurance Convenor for the Peterborough Branch of RWTO since 2017. Whenever there is an update to our RWTO insurance information, it is my job to get the word out to our RWTO Peterborough Branch membership. You do not have to be a fountain of knowledge to do this job. It just involves providing support or directing members to get answers to their questions by calling the toll-free number (1-877-222-7340) or sending an email (am\_info@manulife.ca). There have been many exciting changes to our RWTO Insurance during my time as convenor including the recent individualized benefits cards for RWTO Insurance members and the capability to fill out and submit claim forms online. A few years ago, our Peterborough Branch suggested to Manulife that our RWTO Insurance provide coverage for Musician Earplugs (Noise Reduction Earplugs) and Nordic Walking Poles when recommended by a physician, and both were approved. As well our branch suggested that transportation by a volunteer driver for the Canadian Cancer Society be covered and that also was approved to a max. of \$100.00. If you have a suggestion that might improve our RWTO Insurance, please let me know. One thing that has not changed is the price of coverage: RWTO Members in good standing pay only \$14.49/mo. and a Spouse pays \$15.57/mo. For more information contact me at: ramcnaught@gmail.com or 705-740-3266

### **Diane Kilistoff and Mary Parulski: Telephone Convenors**



We have the responsibility of keeping a current membership list for RWTO-Peterborough functions and for emergency calls. These notifications are currently done by e-mail. Those who do not have access to an e-mail will receive a personal phone call informing them of the activity. There are also social calls we make to interact with members.

Whenever there is a gathering such as a general meeting, games day, birthday celebration or other social function, we gather the names of the attendees to make sure that the function goes ahead without a 'hitch'. That includes preparing name tags, purchasing any gifts and ordering the appropriate number of meals (some members have specific dietary restrictions)

## **Ann Siddell, Membership and Archives**



I retired in 2003 and joined RWTO the following year. I have been on the Membership Committee - for eons! Many of you I met at your Retirement Gala, as a colleague and I stood beside our RWTO display and encouraged you to join us. Follow-up letters of congratulations and invitations to the Muffin and Mimosa Party in early September were sent out. With Media, we advertised our upcoming meetings and invited former women teachers to join us. Owing to Covid, there have been no meetings and no Galas. Once the restrictions are lifted and our meetings can start again, reaching out to new members will kick into high gear. We will invite them to join us, and even offer to drive them to their first meeting!

## **Mena Fulton, Sylvia Simpson, Sharon Maskell – Goodwill Committee: Sharing and Caring**

We are the ones that look after the Caring. Our goal is to keep in close contact with members so they know they are remembered and appreciated. This was even more important during Covid when we couldn't meet in person. For several years we have been dropping in to members' homes when they can't get to our meetings so that they know that they still belong and are remembered. We send cards of encouragement, sympathy, best wishes for healing to our membership as needed and a donation to a charity for members who pass away.

The "Good Will" committee would like to thank all of our members who help us to do our work effectively. When you know of someone who needs our support, please let us know.

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## Ontario Volunteer Service Award



In the fall of 2021, six members of the Peterborough branch of RWTO/OERO received Ontario Volunteer Service Awards at a ceremony conducted via Zoom.

They were recognized for 10+ years of active and dedicated service to our local organization. Congratulations to these wonderful ladies!



Ruth Anne  
McNaught



Diane Kilistoff



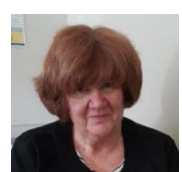
Mary Parulski



Marion Philp



Trish Murphy



Judy-Anne  
Tumber



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CONGRATULATIONS [Rena Stephens](#) who turned 90 years old on  
Sunday, February 20!!

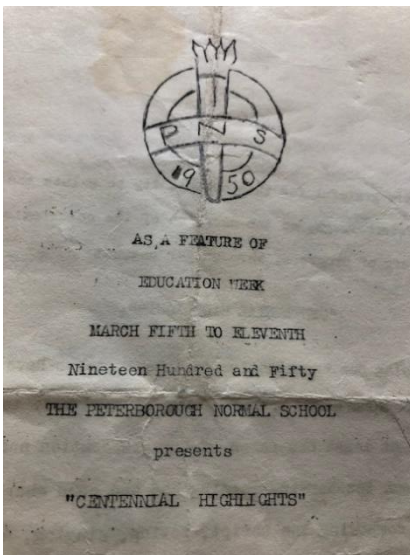
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## From the Archives...

On December 22, 2021 our dear friend Marilyn Challice died after a short battle with cancer. Marilyn was the Archivist before me and with several other members, they sorted and organized the memorabilia. She passed on to me two large bins, with material going back at least 50 years.

Looking through one of the boxes containing the Archives, I found this program. It seemed very appropriate to share this in March. We will all remember preparing for Education Week, especially if we conducted a choir.

### "Centennial Highlights"



"To celebrate a century of progress of the City of Peterborough, 1850 – 1950"

The "pageant", "Centennial Heights" was presented by the Peterborough Normal School during Education Week, "as a feature of Education Week March Fifth to Eleventh, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty". "Every member of the student body was able to participate in at least one phase of its preparation and production. Each teacher-in-training has had some share in the work of composing the script, acting, singing, dancing, painting scenery, playing accompanists, arranging lighting and preparing stage properties. Thus, each student has had experience in that type of creative corporate activity which may be adapted to the needs of the school or community in which he or she will serve in the years ahead"

### Four teachers Join Quarter Century Club

Peterborough Examiner, Friday June 25, 1971

Four teachers were honoured for 25 years' service in Peterborough County, at a dinner held at the Empress Hotel, by the Peterborough County Board of Education, Thursday. Shown here with the Board Chairman, William Lech, are teachers Cora Bailey (rear), Hilda Sweet (left), Eleanor Carroll and Gladys Hamilton. They were presented with watches in recognition of their years of service. (Empress Hotel is now Empress Retirement Home)

The Board was formed three years ago. Several Boards amalgamated and the years of service were all counted.

Miss Bailey started teaching in Toronto in 1928. She later taught in Durham County and the city of Oshawa, before coming to Peterborough in 1946, where she specialized in teaching slow learners. Also, she was principal of Parkhill School for 13 years, switching to primary supervision and consultant work in 1963, her

present field. Miss Bailey is a former president of the Federation of Women Teachers Association of Ontario. (Parkhill School on Wolsely St., now apartments)

Miss Carroll started with the Peterborough City Board of Education in 1946 and at present is a kindergarten teacher at Confederation Elementary School. She has worked here most of her career. (Confederation is now St. Johns School)

Mrs. Sweet came to Peterborough from the Toronto area. Her first school here was Queen Mary. Since 1969, she has been principal of Cameron Street School.

Mrs. Hamilton first taught in the Marmora area 29 years ago. After a year in Parry Sound, she returned to this area and joined the staff of the Havelock School, where she is still teaching.

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## In Memoriam

### Barbara Moorcroft



Barbara died on February 12, 2022. She lived in Port Hope and was our Area Director for three years. She visited us frequently. When I was President I appreciated her cheerful, caring and encouraging ways. Family was first and foremost to her. She was a dedicated teacher and was a lifelong learner. Barbara retired in 1995 and became President of her local RTO. She also joined RWTO and became President, Area Director and then was the Provincial Archivist for five years. Barbara served in many roles at her church, including Superintendent of the Sunday School for 12 years. She was also very involved with the Lung Association and the Canadian Cancer Society. A life well-lived!

Ann Siddell

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## RWTO Insurance Update

There is now a wonderful PowerPoint slide presentation: 'RWTO/OERO Hospital and Home Care Plan' available on the [rwto.org](http://rwto.org) website. This presentation provides information about the RWTO Insurance plan through Manulife that includes an overview and details of coverage. RWTO Members with RWTO Insurance and those considering this plan will find it an invaluable tool for searching out answers to RWTO Insurance questions. Look for 'RWTO/OERO Hospital and Home Care Plan' under the MEMBERSHIP tab, then click on INSURANCE PLANS. Any INSURANCE FORMS you may require are also on this webpage. Your 2021 Insurance Income Tax Receipt is now available online. For more information contact RWTO Peterborough Branch Insurance rep: Ruth Anne McNaught at [ramcnaught@gmail.com](mailto:ramcnaught@gmail.com) or 705-740-3266

Ruth Anne McNaught

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## Outreach News

Once again the members of RWTO have been very generous in the contributions to various charities as can be seen in the pictures of the donations to Cameron House and the Salvation Army.



Donations to Cameron House and the Salvation Army

There were also gift cards, cash donations and a cheque. In December, donations were given to YES, Crossroads and the hospital paediatric unit. All the charities were appreciative of the support given during these difficult times.

Karen Howard

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## Interest Groups

### Bookworms

The ladies are continuing to meet online. We are hoping to resume meeting in person once the weather gets warmer. Last month Joyce hosted, discussing Five Little Indians by Michelle Goode. Each of the characters was portrayed by a member of the book club which gave the discussion an interesting twist. Next month Helen will be hosting, discussing The Immortalist by Chloe Benja. We have enjoyed meeting on Zoom but are looking forward to meeting with all the other ladies in the group when we can meet in person.

Karen Howard

### Let's Do Lunch

How good that sounds after the last two years of restrictions. I will organize our lunches for the first Tuesday of the month starting in May. We will meet in patios for the warmer months. I would appreciate any recommendations of restaurants with a patio that would be good for our approximately twenty members who like to 'meet and eat' and visit.

I am organizing the June 14 lunch after Convention as 'a school lunch picnic' in the pavilion beside the Museum on Armour Hill, followed by a tour of the Museum.

Joyce Fee

### Merry Mattress Makers

Although our group has not met in person during Covid, Winnie and Ralph who live in Trenton have continued to make mattresses, fill pillows and Winnie also knits vests for infants. I still make the trek to their home to pick up everything and then deliver it to Angela in Kleinburg. There is still much need for these items and hopefully our Peterborough Branch will be able to resume this worthwhile activity in the future.

Judy-Anne Tumber

### Attention Quilters

I recently had the opportunity to join a Zoom meeting with the Trenton and Area Branch. The guest speaker was Vanessa Grenier, from Timmins, who founded “Quilts for Survivors” in response to the discovery of so many unmarked graves at Residential Schools. Vanessa is a Missanabie Cree citizen.

She asks that volunteers send her a quilt block. When she has twelve, she and volunteers in her community sew them together and when each quilt is complete, she ships them to Survivors. She is overwhelmed by the positive response and now “Quilts for Survivors” has non-profit status. If you would like to learn more about this initiative, Google Vanessa’s name on your computer.

President Nancy Wickson, a quilter, is promoting this project in her Branch. Perhaps some of our members could participate, too!

Submitted by Judy-Anne Tumber

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## Did you know?

### Normal School

The term “Normal School” has bemused me ever since I arrived in Canada, in 1969.

Finally, I turned to Wikipedia for information.

A NORMAL SCHOOL is an institution created to train teachers by educating them in the **norms** of pedagogy and curriculum. Normal schools in the United States, Canada and Argentina trained teachers for primary school while in continental Europe, the equivalent colleges educated teachers for primary, secondary and tertiary schools.

In 1685, St Jean-Baptiste de La Salle, founded of the *Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools*, in Reims, France. “Norms” included historical behavioral norms of the time, as well as norms that reinforced targeted societal values, ideologies and dominant narrative in the form of curriculum.

The first public normal school in the US was founded in Concord, Vermont in 1823.

The Ontario Normal School system came into being in Toronto in 1847 by the education reformer Egerton Ryerson.

The Peterborough Normal School was officially opened in 1908 and operated until the late 1960s.

Submitted by Ann Siddell

