

South Bruce Retired Women Teachers ring in a new year of retirement

Christine Roberts

The Tuesday after Labour Day is a red letter day for youngsters, their parents, teachers and school staff everywhere. It's no less special for those who no longer rise early to make lunches, prepare lessons or patrol the hallways and playgrounds.

Colloquially referred to as "To H--- With the Bell Day", superannuated women teachers of South Bruce marked the first day of another year of retirement with a social gathering and delicious breakfast at Ainsdale Golf Course.

Although happy to be retired, the ladies continue to care about education and children and showed it by making donations of snacks and money to the local food bank to support school snack programs in the area.



Incoming president Frances Nixon warmly welcomed the more than two dozen members to a new year of social events and programming.

After a great meal and a good visit President Nixon welcomed new member Martha Juhasz with a rose.

Then Area 1 Director and South Bruce member Pat Emmerton installed the executive and board; presenting each with a flower. As part of the installation she reviewed the goals of the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario/Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario (RWTO/OERO) the most important of which are: "1. To provide a strong communication network and opportunities for social interaction among retired women teachers at both the local and provincial levels. 2. To provide interesting and challenging programs for intellectual stimulation, information about issues of particular interest to retired teachers, and opportunities for cultural enrichment. 3. To provide support for colleagues especially in times of illness, loneliness, stress and sorrow." (PROVINCIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL, RWTO/OERO, Section XV Installation Service p. 82)



The members of the executive and board for 2023-2024 are: President Frances Nixon, Vice President Joann Ruetz, Past president Lynda Cerson, Treasurer Carole Machan, Secretary Rosie Neilson, Insurance convenor Betty Johnson, Goodwill convenor Dianne Simpson, Communications director Christine Roberts.



The gathering ended with draws for door prizes and an invitation to the October 17 meeting at the Pine River United Church when guest Bren de Leeuw will speak on her recent experiences hosting a Ukranian refugee family. Details will be posted on the rwto.org website under South Bruce Branch News.