



THE SCRIBBLER

SAULT STE. MARIE R.W.T.O. NEWSLETTER Spring 2021

SHARING

CARING

HAVING FUN

New Member: We welcome Patricia Mary Lambert to our branch.

In Memoriam: 2020 was a sad year for our branch; we lost five members. We honoured Joyce McKay and Elizabeth Carscadden in the June 2020 newsletter. We are honouring Jean Speller, Phyllis Rancier and Elaine McFarling with the obituaries written by Sandy F. below:

JEAN SYLVA SPELLER née Mogg - February 27, 2020

Jean was 99 years old when she died at the Upper Canada Lodge, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Even her own doctor commented on her longevity saying that "it was due to the abundant love and care that she received from her family that kept her going". Not only was the love given, but she herself had instigated it over the years. She had nurtured and planted it in all her 10 own children, their children, the 33 great grandchildren and the 8 great, great grandchildren. Not only did she instill this love and care in her own family, she also extended it to her teaching career. She taught 'Special Education - Opportunity' as it was called for many years, and she used that same love and care to make a difference in the lives of many students.

PHYLLIS RANCIER née Koivisto- September 30, 2020

Phyllis learned at a young age 'how to get along' as she had 4 brothers. She quickly learned how to stand up for herself. These skills helped her to make her a very caring teacher enriching the lives of many children. Phyllis was just as caring in all her dealings with others throughout her whole life. In retirement, she continued to be active, being very involved in gardening, quilting and her swim group. She had a beautiful smile that lit up her whole face, and she always made you feel welcome and special.

LILLIAN ' ELAINE' MCFARLING née Armstrong - June 15, 2020.

Elaine's teaching career was a story to behold. She started teaching right after completing Grade 13, travelling by train to her first teaching position in a one-room schoolhouse in Glendale, north of Searchmont, north of Sault Ste. Marie. As there was no official train stop, the conductor would slow the train down and call out " Jump, Teacher, Jump" and Elaine would jump and then walk / run to her one room schoolhouse where her students were eagerly waiting. Many interesting events became part of the everyday teaching and learning in that one room schoolhouse, like going on a search to try to locate a lost fawn. It was those early teaching years that guided her the rest of her teaching career, and she moved from being a teacher in that one room schoolhouse to a Special Education Consultant, the position she held when she retired.

Jean, Phyllis and Elaine, rest in peace and may your memories be 'bright shining lights for us to follow'.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Sandy F.

We, as teachers and now as retired teachers, always knew what it is, what was needed, what is normal and what needs to be done. Now in this age of COVID, it seems that we know very little and the normal we thought we knew, is not the normal at all or that there is a new normal. The very foundations of our thoughts, belief systems have been turned around or turned upside- down. What is / was right or acceptable may still be and then again maybe not. It is very difficult for us as adults to know what is happening in our lives, in our world.

What must it be like for seniors living in nursing homes and for children being taught online? For both those groups to be deprived of the human contacts, the interactions that were a part of their every-day living, it must be devastating. The world has forgotten them. No matter what age we are, we all long and cry for human connection.

When we get that second vaccination, and when we are able to get together again, let's make KINDNESS TO ALL a new normal. SHARING AND CARING has been the RWTO motto for years. Let's do that in everything we do and say. "Having Fun" is the other part of that motto and that's not a bad idea either. LET'S CONTINUE TO HAVE FUN EVERY DAY IN OUR LIVES and LET'S MOVE TO THE NEW NORMAL BY BEING KIND TO EACH OTHER and LET'S REMEMBER THE SENIORS AND THE CHILDREN.

VIRTUAL LEARNING by ReTIREd teacher Jenny K.

If you are anything like me the past year has been anything but normal. No winter getaways, no visits from out- of- town friends and even little in person interactions with extended family members. I have however gotten to know my seven- year- old granddaughter, Rylah, very well.

Rylah and I have been on a journey called virtual learning. Three to four days a week Rylah and I tackle Grade Two Zoom learning. I am now familiar with ETSBY, break out groups and something called CHAT.

What a confusing time for children, parents, educators and caregivers. Each day we sit down at a neatly organized dining room table to face new challenges. Each afternoon we look at each other over mounds of papers, I-pads and reference materials and decide its definitely time for ice cream. The challenges have been many, but we are doing our best. There has been tears, laughter and a greater understanding of each other.

My heart goes out to today's teachers and students and the difficult year they faced fraught with isolation, impatience and loneliness. Hopefully, fall finds us on a more traditional path where Rylah can connect in person with peers and her teachers and experience education as it is meant to be in a collaborative learning environment.

As for me, I look forward to waving good bye to the big yellow bus and enjoying retired life again until the bus returns with my girl brimming with stories and questions about her school day.



Rylah, Jenny's granddaughter, is deeply involved with her grade two virtual learning lessons. Jenny is by Rylah's side three to four days per week guiding her. What a wonderful intergenerational learning team!

PAPER QUILLING by Carmen C.



Carmen Charsley has been keeping busy with her hobby paper quilling. Here is a small sampling that she sent us of some of the intricate items she has quilled in the past few months, all new designs that she had never quilled before. She continues to turn out gorgeous lifelike and whimsical pieces adding to her repertoire of techniques. Many of her unique pieces are given as gifts.

The Tiger Lily and the Cardinal were both done using a a quilling comb.

For the basket of flowers, Carmen used a small paper punch to punch out a heart or star shape, put the shape on the quilling pick and then configured the unique flowers from the shapes.

Carmen is continually learning by dabbling in her craft every day.



DELICIOUS MEALS by Joyce R.



Having Fun Together Via Computer by Joyce R.

Our family was brought so much closer during Covid because we all enjoy cooking! Our son, Jodan, is the BBQ guru and our younger daughter, Sarah, is the baker! Our eldest daughter, Lorelie, is into everything except baking and loves to travel so makes tasty, exotic meals from many different countries! They all cook healthy food and each weekend we all exchanged our creations and often the recipes too - via WhatsApp!!

Chloe often photo chats with us on “Messenger” for an hour or more, and we cover an amazing amount of ground including electronic face painting!!

Grandpa was even able to teach them some Physics for a whole morning on hydraulics! They built some fancy lifts to move their stuffed toys and little cars from the floor to a stool! How exciting!

We were also able to enjoy a Family Zoom Get-together for several hours at [Christmas](#), Easter and Big Birthdays!! When Ellie turned “Sweet Sixteen”, her sister, Maddy, had us each take a few lines from Ellie’s favourite song and sing (plus dress the part) to make a very memorable virtual gift that we are all enjoying!!!



Joyce R. and her granddaughter, Chloe having fun together with electronic face painting.

BOOK CLUB GOES VIRTUAL by Brenda G.



VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB MEETINGS

Our R.W.T.O. Book Club has been meeting monthly by Zoom. This photo was taken at our February 2021 meeting after discussing the book “he said she said”. We have run into a few technical glitches, but for the most part we have had a good time meeting and discussing our books. It is definitely not as much fun as meeting in person, as dining on food relevant to the books has been an integral part of our appreciation of the books we choose. (left to right on top: Carmen C., Brenda G. and Jenny K., and left to right below are Rita W.and Bernice W.)

Our First Attempt at Meeting as a Group, March 24, 2021

Nine members gathered at the Northern Community Centre on Goulais Avenue from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. following all Covid-19 precautions. Washer toss demonstrated some members had lots of skill and others no luck at all. The double soccer field perimeter was walked. Some walked one lap ($\frac{1}{4}$ km.) while others did more. The activities were all fun and definitely not competitive. Next the 13 resolutions were discussed to give Emily N. and Barb P. an indication of how we felt that we should vote at the convention.

-RWTO/OERO 65th Annual Convention Report

The three-day convention was well executed throughout, a testimony to the countless hours of preparation required in order to host such an event and even more so, as the format was virtual in nature. Special recognition to all members of our Provincial Team who were involved in the planning of this wonderful convention, under Convention Convenor Kathy Gallagher. RWTO/OERO Provincial has much to be proud of!

The convention began with a wonderful surprise for all delegates. This was in the form of an amazing virtual musical rendition of the Jersey Boy's song *Who Loves You?* sung by thirty-two of our RWTO/OERO members under the musical direction of Judith Bennoch.

Afterwards, RWTO/OERO President Nancy Papiez, Keynote Speaker, spoke dynamically of the importance of the sustainability of our RWTO/OERO organization and of our legacy for the future. When "*we know of our past, we have a better sense of our present and future.*" In her address, Nancy reminded the delegates of the rich history of our organization, highlighting its 1956 formation with direct roots to the Toronto Rendezvous Club; the development of the Constitution in 1958; and its key role in provincial legislation ensuring women teachers received the same pension benefits as their male counter parts. Nancy challenged the delegates to consider additional ways to extend our membership and for RWTO/OERO Branches to bring such motions forward to future AGMs. Some suggestions Nancy presented included extending membership to women professionals who play a vital role as teacher partners, strengthening our ties with other educational organizations such as OECTA and RTO and reaching out to women professional educators from other cultures.

Morning sessions always involved a wonderful tribute to our country, opening remarks by President Nancy Papiez and AGM procedure reviews by Program Coordinator Judith Bench.

RWTO/OERO business was then conducted, the highlights of which included 2021 AGM Resolutions and accompanying process. Special recognition to First Vice - President, Nancy Bell, Time Keeper Jane Thompson and Parliamentary Representative, Jane Cartier who were responsible for the AGM Resolution component and did an excellent job! A variety of reports by Secretary-Treasurer, Linda Huffman, Provincial President, Nancy Papiez, and various committees, were also presented and approved after the opportunity for discussion.

Resolutions: As there were thirteen resolutions at the Convention, only Resolution #1 was requesting a difference for the future and for the possible fees to be paid by the members. It is the one that is being reported in the Newsletter now. The other twelve resolutions did not impact the Constitution, the fees or the budget. Branch President, Sandy Fulcher, asked that only Resolution #1 be reported here now in the newsletter, as the other twelve resolutions will be discussed at the RWTO/OERO Meeting tentatively planned for Wednesday, September 22nd or 29.th Barbara and Emily will answer all the questions on the resolutions then

Resolution #1 was presented as follows:

“The annual Branch rebate per paid Provincial member shall be 40% of the membership fee, commencing with the 2021-2022 membership year. The rebate on the \$15.00 membership fee shall remain at \$8.00 for those members who retired on or before August 31, 1980.

Resolution # 1 was amended and agreed to as follows by the delegates:

“We resolve the RWTO/OERO Board of Directors set up an Ad Hoc Committee including Branch members, to investigate Provincial Fees rebated to the branches and its effect on Provincial Fees and that this Ad Hoc Committee bring forth a resolution for the 2022 A.G.M. “

Afternoon convention sessions provided delegates the opportunity to choose from an extensive and interesting variety of webinars. Some of the webinars provided information directly related to our organization. Linda Huffman's The Treasurer's Workshop, focused upon the usage of EXCEL. In Anne Wilde's The Hospital and Home Care Claim Form Workshop, participants were walked through the actual filling in of forms on a secure site on line. Manulife wants to provide members the access, if they choose, to go online to review contract details, submit claims and register for direct deposit. However, participants will still have the option of processing claims by mail using the standard paper forms.

Webinars such as Food: Wander Food and Wine by Stephanie Piche and Strawberry Season: Cooking with Judy Drummond helped participating delegates improve their wine tasting skills while trying some tantalizing new recipes from their kitchens. Canada: Rocky Mountaineer; and The Wild North provided a virtual tour of our Rockies and reminded us of the scenic beauty of our Far North. International: Egypt Yesterday and Today and International: Northern Ireland had delegates extending their bucket lists to include some additional trips.

And of course, the evenings were not forgotten! Virtual entertainment was provided in the form of live webinar performances. Comedian Joe Pillietteri, originally from Niagara Area, had many delegates chuckling from the armchairs of their homes one night while The Liverpool 4 – Canada's Beatles Tributes had them dancing the next night.

On the final afternoon of the convention, the Closing Ceremonies, component was conducted. It began with In Memoriam of the one hundred-nineteen fellow RWTO/OERO members who passed away this year followed by a thoughtful, heartfelt Prayer Reflection for the two hundred-fifteen young lives lost on the site of a former residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia.

Next on the schedule was special recognition of RWTO members 90 years of age or over. This year, we have forty-four members who have turned ninety, six members who have reached their one hundredth birthday and twenty-one members who are over one hundred. All will be mailed a very special RWTO certificate as the customary dinner cannot be held due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Joyce Ratz, the Membership Convenor and our former Area 11 Director, presented the Membership Awards. The Barbara Bain Award was presented to the smaller branches of Rendezvous (+2), Dunlop High Point (+3) and Brockville (+?); the middle size branches of Palmerston and Orillia (+1 each), Haldimand (+8) and the large branch of St. Thomas Elgin (+1) for their increased membership. The Feather in Your Hat Branch recipients are Durham North Branch (for filling 100 purses with needed items and delivery curbside to shelters by 60 to 80 RWTO members), Hamilton Wentworth Branch (conducting a charity activity at a local grocery store as well as adding two new charities to their Spring Charity Drive) and the Sudbury Branch (made and delivered up to 50 colorful pillows complete with books and book marks to hospitalized children). Lois Lockhart, Honorary President, presented the Honorary Membership Award to Nancy Papiez and Kathy Gallagher.

The 2021-22 Installation of our incoming RWTO/OERO Board members then occurred, including recognition of our own Area 11 Director Emily Noble as well as Joyce Ratz, in the Appointed Positions of Nominations and Policy and Kathy Gallagher as Communications Website Convenor.

Outgoing President Nancy Papiez's closing remarks focused upon her gratification for the time she spent in office, recognition of the work of her fellow BOD, our Branches and members and the trust in our new President.

Outgoing President Nancy Papiez was then virtually presented an Outgoing President's Pin. She then presented "the gavel" to Incoming President Nancy Bell (London-Middlesex).

Incoming President Nancy Bell's remarks focused upon a wish for the Branches to reach out to one another, challenged each member to invite a recently retired teacher to a RWTO/OERO Branch meeting once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and to be sure to invite local digital and print media to see our worthy outreach projects.

Some, but not all, of the actions that President Nancy Bell intends to take while in office, include surveying each RWTO/OERO member in January to receive personal input from the members, investigating ways to recruit new members and offering special technology workshops for Branch Executive. The Convention ended as it began, with the amazing virtual musical rendition of the Jersey Boy's song *Who Loves You?* sang by thirty-two of our RWTO/OERO members.

All in all, we thoroughly enjoyed our participation in the RWTO/OERO 65th Annual Convention. We are proud to have been provided the opportunity to represent our RWTO/OERO Branch in this capacity and encourage fellow members to consider doing so when the opportunity arises again next year. THE 2022 RWTO/ OERO Convention will be held in London, Ontario (London-Middlesex) on June 7th, 8th, 9th. Be sure to mark it on your calendars, fellow RWTO/OERO members!

Emily Noble

Director for Area 11

Barbara Perry

Second Vice President, Sault Branch



**FINANCIAL REPORT BY TREASURER, SANDY F. - Sault Ste. Marie
R.W.T.O. Fiscal year - April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.**

INCOME:

Money in the Bank (April 1, 2020 - Northern Credit Union)

\$4623.98

Memberships - \$2100.00

Branch Dues - \$550.00

Rebates from the Province - \$542.00

Membership Grant - \$400.00

3 R's Grant - \$400.00

Total Income = \$3992.00

Total with money in the Bank = \$ 8615.98

EXPENSES

Provincial dues paid - \$2100.00

Social Events Expenses (Christmas Greeting Cards) - \$305.00

Postage, envelopes, paper, photocopying - \$456.90

Bank Charges - \$67.50

Newsletter - \$125.98

Branch Meeting Expenses - \$76.86

Goodwill - \$150.00

Donation (Children's Lunch Programme St. Vincent Place) - \$100.00

Total Expenses = \$3383.24

INVESTMENT: \$2000.00 at Northern Credit Union @

2% for 16 months maturing Sept. 11, 2021.

Money in the Bank - March 31, 2021 - \$4361.27

**If you have questions regarding this financial report, please contact
Sandy Fulcher, Treasurer by email fulchersandy1@gmail.com or by
telephone 705- 779- 3762**

MEMBERSHIP R.W.T.O. BRANCH

51 members paying \$50.00 + 4 members paying \$25.00 = 55 + 1 Life

Members = 56



R.W.T.O. Membership Fees:

\$25.00 if you retired prior to 1980

\$50.00 if you retired after 1980

Due Dates for Membership Fees:

Membership Fees are due by September 29, 2021 this year.

Two ways to pay dues:

- 1.) If it is possible to have the General Membership Meeting on **September 29, 2021**, and you will be attending, kindly bring your dues to this meeting
- 2.) If this meeting is not possible or you will not be attending, please mail your cheque to Sandy's address: 4528 Second Line West, Prince Township, Ontario, P6A6K4 or drop your payment in her mailbox. She will mail you a receipt. Call her at 705-779-3762.

Important Insurance Reminder:

- To maintain the RWTO insurance, you must pay for your membership by the deadline above.
- For information about insurance, contact our Insurance Convenor, Beverley Brazeau, at 705- 949-0266 or at ourplace86@shaw.ca

R.W.T.O. SAULT STE. MARIE BRANCH EXECUTIVE 2021-2022

Past Past President - Sherrill Dewar

Past President - Brenda Gallander

Chair - Sandy Fulcher

First Vice Chair- vacant

Second Vice Chair - Barbara Perry

Secretary - Carol McFarlane

Treasurer - Sandy Fulcher

Director - Area 11 - Emily Noble

CONVENORS:

Insurance—Beverley Brazeau

Issues and Concerns—Paula Harrison

Goodwill—Rita Wagner

Communications—Brenda Gallander

Social—Gerry Yeo

Archives—Gerry Yeo

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Jenny Koprash

Patricia Mary Lambert

Bernice Whalen

Brenda Ostaff

We will begin the year with this executive which is status quo from 2020-2021 with the exception of Emily Noble, who is the new in-coming Area Director for Area 11, replacing Joyce Ratz, who has served her 4 years in this position. Emily can / may serve 2 - 2year terms a total of 4. At the end of her second year, she will be asked her decision. The Director for Area 11 serves both RWTO Central Algoma and Sault Ste. Marie.

As far as the rest of the Sault Ste. Marie RWTO Executive is concerned, we need to decide in the fall a) about Barbara Perry moving up to First Vice and / or looking for another person to serve as Second Vice and we need to decide b) are these terms 1 year or 2 years.

SANDY'S TENTATIVE PROGRAMME FOR THE FALL:

**EXECUTIVE MEETING - [Wednesday, September 8](#) or 15 @ 11a.m. or @ 1p.m.
Place is to be determined**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - [Wednesday, September 22](#) or [Wednesday, September 29](#), 2021 @ 11a.m.

**PROGRAMME - WELCOME Back with Refreshments and pay your dues
Place to be determined**

Ladies - Both these meetings are tentative. Meeting still depends on what is happening with Covid 19 lockdowns??



GOOD - BYE AND THANK YOU, JOYCE RATZ, FOR YOUR DIRECTORSHIP

It has now been 4 years that JOYCE RATZ has been our Director for RWTO Area 11 and what a wonderful pleasure it has been for our Branch. She has attended all our meetings and has brought the latest information from the Board of Directors to us. She has always answered all our queries and has brought a smile to our faces with her stories. We wish her well in her retirement and we hope that she continues to enjoy her country life and her grandchildren. We hope that we will see her in the future get-togethers with the two branches Central Algoma and Sault Ste. Marie.

HELLO EMILY NOBLE - INCOMING DIRECTOR FOR AREA 11

EMILY NOBLE taught and was principal for the Sault Ste. Marie Board of Education before she was seconded to work for the Federation of Women Teachers of Ontario (F.W.T.A.O.) in Toronto. From that position she moved to the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (E.T.F.O.), then to the Canadian Teachers' Federation and then to the World Teachers' Federation. In all these positions she travelled the world, and she was the spokesperson for all the teachers far and wide. We welcome EMILY NOBLE as the incoming Director for Area 11 serving Central Algoma and Sault Ste. Marie. We look forward to her leadership and her wealth of knowledge.

Nothing's better than a picnic. Zooley
Deschanel



Happy summer!

Stay safe!

Stay well!

**Newsletter by Brenda Gallander
Communications Convenor**