

Cambridge Branch



Sept. 2022

Newsletter #31



Cambridge R.W.T.O. Executive

2022-2023

President: Mary Jane Novak 622-0415
or 221 2462

Past President: Terry Hamilton 622-2298

1st Vice-President: **Vacant**

Secretary/Archivist: Pat Taylor 623-5854

Treasurer: Anita Mullin 622-9231

Lunch Co-ordinator: Cheryl Oliva 623-1536

Goodwill: Margaret McPherson
<mmm@silomail.com>

Insurance Convenor: Sheila Wittie 745-1884

Emailers/callers: You will be contacted by email unless you don't have an email address, then you will be phoned.

Anne anne@borchardt.ca 624-8261

Penny pkrahenbil@gmail.com 658-6508

Sue susannemeighan@hotmail.com

226-600-1078

Carol crstinson1986@rogers.com 752-7123

Please contact your caller about **EACH** meeting.

The September meeting will be on **Wednesday**

September 7, 11:30, Wesley Church,

6 Cambridge St. , Cambridge. Speaker is music therapist Amy Di Nino

Membership Fees of \$40.00 are due as soon as possible and before September 30th. Please pay your fees to Anita Mullin, Treasurer. There are several ways you may do this:

Make cheques out to: **RWTO Cambridge Branch.**

Cheques be mailed to Anita at 47 Hillcrest Dr., Cambridge N1S 3M3.

You may also pay your fees by etransfer to:

rwto.cambridge@gmail.com

There is a section on the form where you can leave a message. In this space you should type your name, so Anita knows the fees came from you. Anita's email address is reerth@sympatico.ca if you want to confirm your transfer, however, you should receive a confirmation # from your bank.

You may also pay by cash, same as by cheque at the meeting. We encourage you to pay in advance.

The fee for a member who retired on or before Aug. 31, 1980, is \$15.00.

You must continue your membership if you have RWTO health insurance.

If you have changed your **address, email address or phone number**, please let us know. Current information is kept on file at the provincial office.

Venue: We are continuing to meet at Wesley Church. The only day of the week which the church is available is Wednesdays. We are meeting the first Wed. of the month as some of us are in Probus Riverside, who meet on the second Wed. The church has a community

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lunch on the third Thurs. of the month and "meals-in-a-hurry" frozen meals program the fourth Friday. The catering volunteers are small groups, from Ancora and Saginaw Houses and the church. I realize some of you have chair yoga on zoom at 2:00, every attempt will be made to end by 1:30. Gluten free and vegan meals are available and those with food restrictions/sensitivities can be accommodated.



Goodwill Convenor

Caring and Sharing

Margaret McPherson



<mmm@silomail.com>

As your Goodwill Convenor, I send sympathy, get well, thinking-of-you, and congratulatory cards for special birthdays and anniversaries, new grandchildren, etc., to our members. Please send me an email if you know of anyone who should receive a card on behalf of our group. So far this year 12 cards have been sent out.



President's Report 2022:

Mary Jane Novak, President



This year we were fortunate to have two of our meetings in person while the other two were on Zoom. In September our speaker was Dr. Sharon Livingstone whose PowerPoint presentation was about aging in place. In November Maxine Neller and Ruth Guglielmi organized a very successful silent auction with 78 items which raised \$2100 for Haven House and Family Counselling Services (Ancora House). This was our first luncheon, a traditional turkey dinner, at Wesley Church, attended by our Area President, Jennifer Bradbury. She presented Maxine with the Cora Bailey Award. Our servers were the residents of Ancora and Saginaw Houses.

In February we were forced once again to have our meeting on Zoom due to the omicron variant. Our speaker was Jayne Herring who organized the Poppy Project in Cambridge.

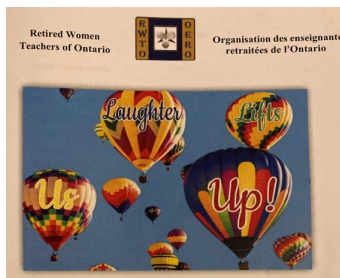
In April we met in person and enjoyed lunch followed by a presentation on Forest Therapy by John Anderson. John told us that a slow-paced walk in the woods improves our mental health for up to two weeks.



John's tree, Treesa, Dumfries Conservation Area

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2022 Convention – London, Ontario



Pat Taylor and I attended as Branch and Provincial Delegates from June 7-9. Our gift for the silent auction was mini condiment pots from Hilborn Pottery along with jams and chutneys from Harvesting Hope. It sold for \$70.



The first afternoon we went to an interesting workshop on “Helping Branches Thrive”. Following dinner, a magician provided entertainment. Pat volunteered to participate, not knowing she would be levitated on stage! In this case, it was magic lifting her up. For the rest of the convention, she was recognized by many delegates.



The AGM was held over two mornings, leaving Wednesday afternoon free for tours. This year there were 8 resolutions, all but one passed. The main one was increasing the fee rebate. There will be no special grants to branches this year. The annual awards banquet was held Thursday evening. It began with the piping in of the new board of directors. Judy Drummond from Lanark County is the incoming Provincial President.

Friday morning the AGM continued following the In Memoriam service, which was a very moving tribute to the women who passed away from February 2021 to 2022, including Linda Reier and Wilma Scott. Following lunch, the *Barbara Bain* awards to branches increasing their membership, *Feather in Your Hat* award for supporting charities, *Honorary Membership* awards and installation of the incoming board continued until 2:30. This was only my second convention, and I enjoyed it more than I expected. The food at the Four Points Sheraton was outstanding.



Financial Report: Anita Mullin

	Budget 2021-22	Actual 2021- 2022	Proposed 2022-23
Income			
Prov. Fees	\$816.00	\$806.00	\$806.00
Rebate			
RWTO Grants		\$1000.00	
Fund Raising & Donations	\$1500.00	\$2103.00	\$1,500.00
TOTAL	\$2,316.00	\$3909.00	\$2,306.00
Expenses			
Speakers	\$500.00	\$275.00	\$500.00
Goodwill	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Charitable donations	\$1,500	\$2370.00	\$1,500.00
Convention	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
June social	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Branch supplies	\$300.00	\$190.50	\$300.00
Luncheon extras	\$300.00	\$332.66	\$300.00
Total	\$3350.00	\$3168.16	\$3350.00
	(1034.00)	(\$740.84)	(\$1044.00)

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Note: At the 2022 Convention a resolution was passed to increase the provincial rebate to the branches from 25% to 30%, so the amount will increase from \$806.

Cambridge Branch- Area 2 Cora Bailey Award 2021-22



Catharine Mitchell is a very deserving recipient of the Cora Bailey Award this year. Catharine has been active in RWTO since her retirement in 2015 from the Waterloo Region District School Board.

Catharine has been a member of the Hiking Club since her retirement and of the Genealogy Club since its inception in 2018. She took over the leadership of the later in 2019 and has put considerable time and effort into planning meetings with topics of interest to both beginning and experienced learners. The pandemic brought many challenges to RWTO.

Our SIGs were able to keep going, and even increase their membership by using Zoom. Catharine let us use her Zoom subscription and set up numerous general meetings along with Genealogy Club and book club meetings. Last summer she initiated the hybrid format with some members meeting in-house while others participated online.

Catharine set up a Facebook group for our Genealogy Club in 2020 and for our branch in 2021.

Catharine is always sensitive to the needs and wants of her fellow retirees.

Since retirement Catharine has travelled extensively and has enjoyed cruises in Hawaii and the Baltic as well as travel in Central America, the Holy Land and Ireland. She is looking forward to a genealogy trip to Scotland this fall.

Hiking Club:

The Hiking Club meets every Thursday at 9:00 throughout the year and walk for 1.5 hours. We were fortunate this year that we were not many restrictions due to the pandemic. Most of the time we were able to walk without wearing masks, and to enjoy a social time after our walks at local coffee shops. We discovered a new restaurant, *Siebra*, on Water St., with good coffee, great fries, tarts and donuts. We continued to attend the community lunch at Wesley on the third Thursday of the month following our hike.

It is always interesting to see the changes in nature throughout the seasons. Most trails we visit once or twice a year and always see

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Trail

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something different. The rail trail from Cambridge to Paris was especially icy this past winter; we found it was safer to walk along the edges. The trail along the new McQueen Shaver boundary road now connects with the rail trail so we were able to do a loop hike in July. Two new hikers have joined us recently and we are looking forward to Pat rejoining us now that she has had her knee surgery. New hikers are always welcome. Contact Mary Jane Novak, 221 2462 by text or email mjn6903313@gmail.com



Grand Alle, Langdon Hall



Franklin Pond



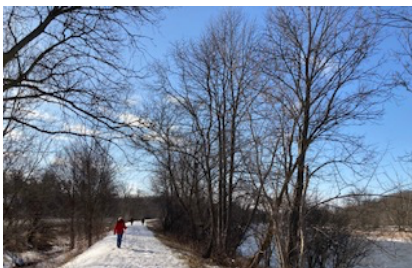
401 underpass, Speed River



Shades Mill and Riverside Park boardwalks



Murray's Point on the Grand River near Paris, Glen Morris below



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RWTO Cambridge Genealogy Club

It's hard to believe that our dedicated group has been meeting for four years! While our members have been growing in research skills and in tracking down records, our focus has remained upon the reason we started this club in the first place: to hear and honour the stories of our ancestors.



We began the year experimenting with four months of hybrid meetings – where we met in person and also had a Zoom link and camera set up for those who were unable to join us in person. It was a steep learning curve, but we persevered with our senses of humour intact and continued to learn and share together. We explored using land records and maps, shared the many ways in which we organized our research, continued to wade into the confusing world of DNA, found ways to access records about our ancestors who served in the military, and learned how Ancestry.ca creates and updates their DNA ethnicity estimates. We are grateful for Mary-Jane's continued generosity as host for our meetings.

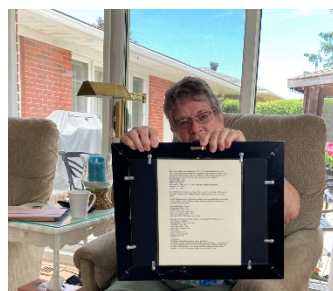


Thanks to Omicron, we returned to Zoom meetings in January. We were much more familiar with the format this time around, and members began to make good use of the "Share Screen" function, telling their stories using PowerPoint, through websites, and showing treasured

photographs and artifacts. After four years of learning together, we had greatly expanded our family trees and covered the basics (though there is always more to learn!) We decided to focus more on sharing personal stories. From January to June, we looked at a specific time period – 1900-1925 – and shared the personal lives of our ancestors, then worked on the biographies of one branch of our family tree and their experiences as they entered Upper Canada/Canada West/Ontario. We had some interesting and sometimes scandalous surprises, and also got a real sense of the strength of the stock we come from!



Though we are grateful to Zoom for allowing us to meet in a creative way, members were longing to return to in-person sessions with a focus on supporting each other with our research during our meetings. We got a warm welcome from Marg at her home this summer, enjoyed her beautiful garden, and were able to work with each other 1-to-1 so that we could move forward through the sometimes confusing world of DNA.



Donna Mae shared a great idea, putting biographical info on the back of a photo.

Some of the best genealogical tips come through social media, and our members have begun to make good use of our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/groups/795945340974581/ Our Facebook group is a closed group, which means that you have to assure us that you are a Cambridge RWTO member, are interested in genealogy and in connecting

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with our club, and are willing to follow our positive practice policy. We're appreciating how our Facebook page helps us to get information out between meetings, as well as to allow prompt responses when questions are asked by our members. It's given us another opportunity to help each other.

We would be delighted to welcome new members with an interest in learning more about family history - no previous genealogical experience is required! We generally meet the first Friday of the month, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please contact Mary-Jane Novak (mjn6903313@gmail.com) or Catharine Mitchell (bflows@sympatico.ca) if you are interested in joining us in this fun and fascinating field!

Catharine Mitchell

Book Club One 2021-2022: Anne B.



18th Anniversary of Book Club 1,
May 2022 Meeting

Well another year on the roller coaster of covid and we have continued to zoom most of our year. It began with Bonnie hosting the Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks. The group found the similarities of widespread infection of plague in 1666 in a small English town 100 miles from London with our waves of local infection and illness in 2022 vaguely creepy –the historical ethical dilemmas and prevention techniques not quite so comparable. It was hard to read for a lot of reasons. An Irish Canadian author and fertility specialist Dr Patrick Taylor has written an entire series of books set in a small northern Irish village -

- Ballybucklebo. Mary recommended that we read An Irish Country Practice and Sue B. hosted that discussion on Mary's behalf in February. The group read other titles in this series as well to help with availability. Doctor Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly has taken a new trainee under his wing, Doctor Connor Nelson, and has a trusted partner, young Doctor Barry Laverty. The variety of a GP's practice is often supplemented the plot with family planning issues and fertility issues in a very Irish Catholic community of the 1960's.



On a warm day in March Glenna hosted us in person, we were distanced as much as possible, and a very warm spring breeze wafted its way through Glenna's home. It was a great treat to share a birthday cake and candles for Bonnie's special birthday. We read Not a Happy Family by Shari Lapena. This book is set in the days following the brutal murders of Fred and Sheila Merton in their mansion on Easter Sunday. Their three adult children Catherine, Dan, and Jenna, who stand to inherit a great fortune, are immediately deemed suspects by investigators. And they begin to suspect each other as well. And as the waves of covid rebuilt we once again zoom in April with Sue Meighan's recommended title:

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Operation Angus by Terry Fallis. Humour was much needed and Angus always offers you a surprise or two. You may remember Angus McIntock from earlier Fallis titles. This time he is a recently re-elected Member of Parliament for Cumberland-Prescott. He and Daniel Addison, his Chief of Staff, are preparing for a brief post-G8 meeting between the Canadian prime minister and the Russian president. While in London to discuss the plans for that event, they are contacted by a clandestine agent looking to recruit their help investigating a potential assassination plot. These unlikely heroes are obligated to go it alone, investigating with the help of Daniel's partner Lindsay, her grandmother Muriel, and Muriel's friend Vivian, a former CSIS official living at the Riverfront Seniors' Residence with Muriel. Networking women indeed!! Good weather in May on Marnie's patio allowed us to get together to discuss the poetry of Canadian writer Rubi Kaur. Marnie recommended *the sun and her flowers*. *But some of us read milk and honey or home body*. Rupi's work touches on love, loss, trauma, healing, femininity, and migration. It's been a while since many of us has had to read and discuss poetry!! Our June meeting had to be rescheduled to August when Jean's renovations will likely be completed. She's got her toes, fingers, **and** eyes crossed to bring some luck to its completion. We will be meeting in her backyard we hope, to share *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn another nonfiction selection this year. By the time you read this we will have read Karen's selection for July and enjoyed her wonderful back porch. *How to be Perfect* by Michael Schur is a weighty tome with a breezy, sometimes humorous, style. Here's a brief description: *"It surveys the history of moral philosophy a pursuit of answers to such essential questions as: Am I a good person? Am I contributing to the world in a positive way, and am I doing it often enough? And also: Am I spending too much time navel-gazing, instead of just getting on with life? He distills the writing of ancient philosophers such as Aristotle and Socrates, more recent ones such as John Stuart Mill and Jeremy Bentham, and modern thinkers such as Pamela Hieronymi and Peter Singer."* Indeed!! We know Karen makes great treats to perfection.....so we'll be there! And despite Schur's disparagement I will still always want to eat pizza with pineapple!! Coming up at Anne's in Sept is *Fight Night* by Marion Toews. Enjoy.

Book Club 2: Co-ordinator Barb W.



June lunch at the Blackshop

Once again our Book Club 2 enjoyed a good year reading a variety of novels. Thanks to all our members for their interesting choices. As has been our custom we started in September by reading the One Book One Community for 2021. Most of us knew of Peter Mansbridge and we enjoyed the stories in his book, *Extraordinary Canadians*. It made for good reading because some of these people were familiar to us and others not. If you've not read it consider it, it will be time well spent. Our next book *The Best Seller* by Olivia Goldsmith was a very thick and challenging book. Some of us persevered and completed reading the book, sad to say others abandoned it before finishing it. Next we were into some "lighter" reads, *The Spoon Stealer* by Leslie Crewe and *The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith.

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Both of these authors are very prolific and many of us went on to read other books they have written. Books we read with a “Canadian” flavor were Five Little Indians by Michelle Good which tells the story of some Indigenous children after they left a Residential School. It gave us more insight into that situation. Another book about sad experiences for children was The Forgotten Daughter by Joanne Goodman. It is a sequel to the Home for Unwanted Girls by the same author. Both of these stories are set in Montreal and tell of the experiences of some children in an orphanage/mental health institution. They were enlightening reads and we wanted to say “this doesn’t happen in Canada.” Check them out, these two books are well worth your time! Lastly we read 2 books set in World War II, one in England and the other in France. The books were The Rose Code by Kate Quinn and The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles. Both these books are informative and tell about the experiences of women during the war. The English women worked at breaking Nazi codes and did a lot of “secret keeping”. The Paris Library is a true story of heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris during the German occupation.

I hope this report has piqued your interest in checking out some good books to read. Enjoy. (we did!)

