



RWTO/OERO Owen Sound and Area



September Luncheon

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

11:30 am

Georgian Shores United Church

\$35.00

Kaylene Wilkins, an enthusiastic teacher of line dancing, will demonstrate her craft. She will be accompanied by some of her students. A few of these are fellow RWTO members. Please wear comfortable shoes. You will be given the opportunity to learn a dance to some toe tapping music.

RSVP - Marcia Shimoda marcia.shimoda@bmts.com
or 518-708-1111

Exciting New Changes For RWTO-OERO Retired Women Teachers



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario - Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario (RWTO-OERO) <https://rwto.org/> delegates at the 67th AGM Convention in Kingston passed resolutions to extend membership to retired women educational professionals who provided valuable classroom services. This includes educational assistants, early childhood educators and child & youth workers/ counsellors.

Provincial President Sandra Salerno states: "We are very pleased with this membership extension of our organization which makes us inclusive and welcoming to other women educators while maintaining the historical significance of RWTO-OERO."

Our organization's 46 Branches <https://rwto.org/about-branches/> care for the interests and well-being of retired women educational professionals who come together for social interaction, stimulating programs, emotional support and most of all, friendship.

We are successful! Read to find out why.

Many of you have heard me say in the past that I love to serve. So, here I am, serving as your president for the next two years. It is an honour and a privilege that you have provided to me. I thank you for it.

I also thank you for the role you play in RWTO Owen Sound and Area. Whether as an executive member, a convenor, a committee member, or an eager and active participant at our meetings and luncheons, we as an organization are only as successful as our membership and our participation in all that we offer and provide. And we are successful! Not many can say that they grew during COVID. We however, did. That is a tribute to all of you and your connections and relationships within our community, and your invitations to others to join us.

We have a new opportunity before us. A decision was made at the RWTO/OERO convention to invite retired educational assistants, early childhood educators and child and youth workers to join us as members. We may continue to grow with the inclusion of other now retired educational professionals who worked alongside us in our classrooms. I invite you to reach out to these women to let them know that we would love to have them join us. This is yet another way to ensure the health of our organization and sustain us into the future.

I am delighted that your executive and social committee have planned some wonderful events for the coming year.

We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated team working with and for you! Our first meeting and luncheon on September 27th will be an exciting opportunity to tap your toes or put your dancing skills to the test. Comfortable shoes are advised for that day! I look forward to being entertained with you.

This has been a lovely, yet also challenging summer. We are ever so fortunate to live where we do. However, there are those who have experienced untold tragedies over the past few months. Severe weather events, wildfires, and even a brutal murder in our own community, have in some way touched us all. I hope as an organization focussed on caring and sharing that we will all find ways, be they big or small, to support those around us who may be experiencing unfortunate challenges. Remember to savour the big and small pleasures and joy in our own lives.

I look forward working with and for you over the next two years. It is always a pleasure to be with wise and wonderful women!

In caring and sharing,
Cynthia Lemon
President



Cruising Down the Waters, Sailing into Kingston

This year's convention was held in the historic city of Kingston. The convention was attended by Marcia Shimoda and Sue Loyst. The theme of 'cruising' was brought to life by a dinner cruise on the St. Lawrence River for our first evening's entertainment. During the day, when there weren't meetings, tours of the historic city were held.

The workshops and business meetings were well attended. One of the workshops highlighted activities from branches around the province. This year a number of very important resolutions were passed. We will be welcoming retired women Educational Assistants, Early Childhood Educators, and Child and Youth Counsellors/Workers to the RWTO/OERO organization as potential members. The RWTO/OERO name will not change. Also in 2024 RWTO/OERO will be collecting another ten dollars for provincial dues. There were a number of other resolutions which may be viewed in the current Connections magazine.

Other highlights of the convention included excellent dinners and musical entertainment. Both the Memorial Service (Mary Monteith was honoured) and the Over 90's Mother /Daughter Luncheon were very well received.

Our new president for the 2023/24 year is Sandra Selerno. The 2024 Convention will be held virtually.

It has been a privilege to have been able to attend several of the RWTO/OERO conventions over the past years.

**Yours in Caring and Sharing,
Sue Loyst**



Marcia Shimoda and
Sue Loyst at Convention

Greetings! The fall meeting on September 27th is a perfect time to reminisce about our classroom days or newer summer adventures. It is also the day to renew our Memberships (\$50.) If you don't attend the meeting, a cheque needs to be sent ASAP to Mary Hall at

359522 Bayshore Road, Annan, Ontario N0H 1B0.

"Word of Mouth" is a very effective way of recruiting members. Please continue to share the benefits of RWTO membership with new retirees.

Regards, Penny McKay, Membership Convenor



Welcome to Fall. It seemed to arrive in a hurry! Since our last Newsletter in May, we have had several lovely ladies, over 90, celebrate their birthday. Those ladies are Helen Johnstone, Marjorie Davison, Betty Richie, and Jessie Ross. We trust that they had wonderful celebrations with family and friends.

On a sad note, we said goodbye to our long-time member, Nora Jones. Nora was a dedicated member of RWTO/OERO when she was able. She was in her 95th year. We will miss Nora.

**Yours in caring and sharing,
Lorraine Dunning 519-376-5017 taydun@sympatico.ca**



Beth Graham died in February 2023. She will be missed.

TEACHING HISTORY OF ELIZABETH GRAHAM

After graduation from OSCVI in 1943, there was a shortage of teachers due to the war and mom decided to pursue the same career path as her mother, aunt and others in her family. Due to the shortage, the government had set up a program where qualified high school graduates could obtain their teaching degree by enrolling in a summer course. Mom took them up on the offer and in 2 months became a certified teacher despite her youth and inexperience. She found herself soon in front of a class of 8 grades at SS #10 Keppel (Kemble) in a quaint brick one room schoolhouse. Brand new to the job, it must have been quite a challenge to teach approximately 30 students from grade 1 right through to entrance. Another interesting thing was that students could repeat a grade for multiple years so she was tasked with teaching several students who were her own age. Discipline was a challenge and soon the classroom got out of the control of this young teacher. After the first few weeks of this, mom, in exasperation, shouted QUIET and banged her pointer loudly on a desk. To her horror and that of the children, the pointer split in two! One piece sprung high into the air as if in slow motion, reached its peak and clattered down on the floor. A shocked mom still holding the broken piece of the pointer faced her now equally shocked but now, more importantly, silent class. Message received! This little lady meant business! She had no problem with discipline thereafter. Her sea legs now firmly under her, mom began her voyage of 8 years at Kemble, taking one class straight through from grade 1 to 8.

A former pupil described mom as not only a teacher but a mother figure to her. She told a story of kind things she had done for her. She also stated that her Christmas concerts were the best with always a full house at Kemble Hall.

At this time, mom lived in Southampton as her parents had moved to a farm which is now the Saugeen Golf Course. She

bought a 1926 Essex that she named Napoleon which she drove weekly to Kemble and boarded with families before returning home each weekend.

Mom retired from teaching after 8 years at Kemble in order to raise her family. When her twins got older, she was persuaded by Oliver West, the head of the school board, to return to supply teaching. Eventually she consented to resume her career as a grade 5-6 teacher at Zion Public School. Schools were amalgamated and she now had the easier experience of focusing on just 2 grades in a one room school house. As the only employee of the school, it amused her when correspondence referred to her as Principal Graham. When further amalgamation closed Zion in 1970, mom continued her career at Hillcrest School in Owen Sound, specifically in the primary and junior grades. She also took additional qualification courses at the University of Western Ontario to add to her earlier 2 month teaching degree. A former Hillcrest pupil described her as the cement uniting him with other friends in the class. She was strict but also extremely dedicated to her profession – often staying up late into the night preparing lessons and marking work. She also knew how to have fun and hosted many students at her farm. Mom retired from teaching in 1981 but found new passions attending Retired Teacher's meetings and the Kemble Women's Institute where she was a life time member. The following pictures are from her days teaching in the one room school house at Zion Public School.



Written by Beth's son David.



Beth at Zion Public School.



Nora Jones died July 28, 2023. She will be missed.



Nora was born in Guelph, ON and completed her secondary school studies in Orangeville, ON. After completing teacher's college, she enjoyed teaching elementary school in Toronto, ON until retirement in 1992. Nora has been an ardent supporter of the Owen Sound community and its institutions for the past 30+ years. She was a proud member of St Andrew's Church and sang in the choir there for many years. She was a proud member of the Owen Sound Gardening Club. Nora was a long time active member of RWTO/OERO. She was our competent, secretary from 1995 - 2004. She was a Cora Bailey award winner in 2011.

My Most Cherished Teaching Experience

There are so many memories from my years of teaching that come flooding back to me. It is difficult to select one. Many years ago I had a delightful experience with a Special Class (at that time called the Opportunity Class). Early in December, with Christmas approaching, the librarian came into our classroom and read the story "Amahl and the Night Visitors".

About that time the music students at the U of T were performing Amahl at the Walter Johnson Hall. So I arranged to take my class to see it. The child who was the greatest behaviour problem was the one who maintained order and quiet in the group while in the theatre.

The children greatly enjoyed this as they revealed in the following days. The next day the same boy, the disciplinarian, wrote a modified script of the story - probably the most writing he did in his entire school career. He assigned classmates to the various parts. They made costumes of sorts - mostly hats and crowns - and performed it on the school stage. They derived great satisfaction from this endeavour.

Written by Nora Jones - from Cherished Moments 1999



A perfect day for a picnic!



Many of our members attended a picnic at the home of Marjorie Davison in Meaford on July 26. We enjoyed a fellowship time and delicious chicken wraps or beef on a bun. Thank you Marjorie for providing us with a perfect venue for our get-together. The weather was wonderful and it was great to have an opportunity to socialize.



Lexophilia Although not in the dictionary, it is reported that "Lexophile" describes a person who loves sentences such as, "You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish," and, "To write with a broken pencil is pointless." An annual competition is held by the 'New York Times' to see who can create the best original lexophile. This year's submissions:

- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
- This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.
- I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.
- I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.
- A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.
- The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.
- He had a photographic memory but it was never fully developed.
- When she saw her first strands of gray hair she thought she'd dye.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- Did you hear about the crossed-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

Submitted by Mary Hall

Ladies, It is time to update our records for the Owen Sound and Area Branch of RWTO/OERO. Half of our members have now updated their contact information. If you have not done so, could you please do that now. Thank you.

Lorraine Dunning





Important reminders for you!

I hope everyone had a relaxing and healthy summer.

A few reminders regarding RWTO insurance.

*It is important to pay the Branch Membership fee in September to ensure continuing coverage in the RWTO Hospital and Home Care Insurance Plan.



*Reminder that the Prior Authorization Form is required to make use of the Home Nursing Benefit. Prior authorization is not required for Hearing Aids, Special Equipment, Mobility or Assistive Devices. If a member urgently requires Home Nursing, verbal approval can be obtained by calling Manulife at 1-800-222-7340

*If you have coverage under another plan, such as RTOERO or OTIP, the member would first submit the claim to that plan. When the claim is paid by the primary insurer, then submit the Claim Summary that shows the amount paid by the primary provider to Manulife Hospital and Home Care plan. The RWTO/OERO plan would then pay any outstanding amount to the benefit maximum. In the example of Physiotherapy coverage, the member would have an additional \$200 available.

If you have any questions please feel free to call or email me

Rhonda O'Reilly - Owen Sound RWTO Insurance Convenor 519-371-9240 rtoreilly@rogers.com



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Toll free Phone in sessions: 1-866-261-6767 Guest Code: 7722700 followed by # You will be in the session.</p> <p>Zoom video program Click on join meeting. Input ID 86980849744 when prompted. Click join meeting. Input Passcode 987999 when prompted. You will be asked to check video and audio. For zoom phone in program dial 1-647-374-4685 (\$0.3 a minute without long distance plan) Listen for the voice. Input ID 86980849744 followed by #. Listen to the voice. Then input passcode 987999 followed by #. You will be placed into the session.</p>			<p>"We acknowledge with respect, the history, spirituality, and culture of the Anishinaabek and the Haudenosaunee peoples on whose traditional territories we gather and whose ancestors signed Treaties with our ancestors. We recognize also, the Ojibway of Nawash and the Ojibway of Saugeen, whose ancestors shared this land and these waters. May we all live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with all its diverse peoples."</p>			
<p>3 Last day to order Ladies Auxiliary Meat Pies September 5</p> 	<p>4 11:00 - 11:30 a.m., 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. or 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Laughter with Carolyn via zoom video or zoom phone in</p> 	<p>5 11:30 a.m. OSHS Luncheon RSVP to Jan Jackson at 519-793-3589 or janjackson260@gmail.com</p>	<p>6 RSVP to Lynda at 519-793-3474 for the OSHS Bus trip</p>	<p>7 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Falls Prevention PBCC 7:00 p.m. LHL Br. 202 Meeting and speaker, Jane Kramer, Camp X</p>	<p>8 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. or 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Laughter with Carolyn via zoom video or zoom phone in 11:00 - 12:00 p.m. Crafts and Chats - PBCC</p>	<p>9 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Tobermory RSVP to Martin Hogarth at hogarth@auracom.com</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>11 11:00 - 11:30 a.m., 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. or 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Laughter with Carolyn via zoom video or zoom phone in</p>	<p>12 11:00 a.m. Trivia - Join BVO Dial toll free 1-226-682-0701 Passcode 852340 then #</p>	<p>13 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Writing with author, Cindy Mathews at the Pike Bay Community Centre</p>	<p>14 11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Mindfulness/Meditation Dial 1-226-682-0701 Passcode 852340 then #</p>	<p>15 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. or 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Laughter with Carolyn via zoom video or zoom phone</p>	<p>16 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Bruce Men's Shed at the Lion's Head Legion Contact bruceemensshed@gmail.com or Gerry at 519-793-3005</p>
<p>BVO = Beaver Valley Outreach SCWW Clarksburg LHL = Lion's Head Legion Branch 202 OSHS = Old School House Senior Club PBCC = Pike Bay Community Centre</p>	<p>18 11:00 - 11:30 a.m., 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. or 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Laughter with Carolyn via zoom video or zoom phone in</p>	<p>19 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Pick up pre-ordered Ladies Auxiliary Meat Pies \$5.00 each at the LHLegion.</p>	<p>20 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Bus Trip to Bruce County Museum for OSHS</p>	<p>21 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Card Making - \$20.00 materials supplied PBCC</p>	<p>22 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. or 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Laughter with Carolyn via zoom video or zoom phone</p>	<p>23 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Bayside Astronomy at Pike Bay Park - bring chairs - view Jupiter, Saturn and the moon</p>
	<p>25 11:00 - 11:30 a.m., 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. or 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Laughter with Carolyn via zoom video or zoom phone in</p>	<p>26 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Book Club with author, Ross Pennie 5:00 p.m. OSHS Roast Beef RSVP 519-793-9589</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Let's Do Coffee - contact Sharon for the link. 11:15 - 12:00 p.m. Mindfulness - See the 14th</p>	<p>29 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. or 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Laughter with Carolyn via zoom video or zoom phone</p>	<p>30</p>

Contact Sharron Colter at contactnbpcsaac@eastlink.ca or 519-793-3473 for information.