

## THE SCRIBBLER

R.W.T.O. Sault Ste. Marie Newsletter Spring and Summer 2023

SHARING

CARING

HAVING FUN



**In Memoriam** We regret to announce the recent passing of two Sault RWTO Branch colleagues Lois Nelder and Rachel Robitaille. We will miss them greatly.

Lois Nelder was a dedicated teacher-librarian who taught in several schools in Sault Ste. Marie, retiring from Parkland Public School. Lois was well-loved by students and staff. She was also an active volunteer in her church and community. Lois' family, faith and friends were central in her life.

Rachel Robitaille graduated from Nipissing Teachers' College at the young age of 17 and began her teaching career in the Sault shortly after. Rachel loved music and won countless awards for her talent. She raised two sons and a daughter. It was always Rachel's strong faith in God that guided her.

**New Members** We welcome our newest members Patricia Annett, Arlene Labelle, and Winn Walsh. We are excited that you have joined the Sault Branch of R.W.T.O., and we look forward to Caring, Sharing and Having Fun with you!

## Reflections on 2022-2023

As our 2022-2023 year comes to a close, I reflect on my primary goal as President of our R.W.T.O. Sault Branch. The goal was to have our members share the wonderful fellowship with one another that we experienced before the impact of Covid-19. That is a goal we not only met this year but surpassed. Members were able to enjoy gathering together at the United Baptist Church enjoying social activities organized and led by Branch members. Our 55th Branch Anniversary Luncheon at North 82 was a splendid time to celebrate the richness of our Branch which continues to "go strong since 1968!" Recognition of our Branch Director Emily Noble with the Cora Bailey Award and the induction of three new Branch members during the festivities made this day even more special!

We are a dynamic group of women with strong roots! We have reason to be proud! We have reason to continue to grow!

In addition to large group gatherings, some members have resumed past practices of monthly book club meetings, enjoying a game of Scrabble, starting their day with breakfast together or enjoying an outing. The introduction of the Monthly Calendar, which has “stepped up” even further the variety and number of opportunities for interaction among our members, will continue through the summer and into next year. Our monthly activities are reflective even more so of the diversity of our membership and provide increasing opportunity for inclusion.

Finally, it has been an honour to work with a Branch Board of Officers so dedicated to our Sault Ste Marie Branch. Caring, Sharing and Having Fun is a motto that we can all proudly say our Sault Ste Marie Branch truly exemplifies. On behalf of our Branch Executive, I wish all of our members a relaxing summer and look forward to “seeing you in September!”

Barb Perry, President, Sault Ste Marie Branch

## **Cora Bailey Recipient: Emily Noble**

**Emily Noble has been chosen as the 2022-23 Cora Bailey Recipient for our branch. Emily has been a member of the R.W.T.O. Sault Branch since 2009. and is currently entering her second term (third year) as Director of Area 11. Since entering the education field, Emily has dedicated her life to teaching children, serving our Federation and being a director on the North American Directors of Education International. Emily was presented with the Queen’s Jubilee Medal for her dedication to education.**

**On a personal level, Emily has always been an active member of our community, serving on numerous organizations. She is a very strong and active member of her church.**

**When opportunity arises, Emily loves to spend time with her family and friends at her camp on Manitoulin Island. And when she has a few moments to spare, Emily loves to enjoy a quiet passion of hers...baking. Congratulations, Emily on being our 2022-2023 Cora Bailey Award Winner!**

**By our RWTO Sault Branch Cora Bailey Nomination Committee**

## **SCARVES, GAMES AND LUNCHEES** General Meeting February 22, 2023

On Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, our General Meeting consisted of centres where members could go to learn a variety of interesting scarf tying techniques from Lorraine D. or play a wide variety of games organized by Brenda O. We also had the latest branch update to read and enjoyed each other's company over coffee and dessert.

We collected lunch items and monetary donations for the local "Lunches for Learning" program launched by St. Vincent Place in 2020.



Lorraine taught the fascinated group in front of her how to turn square, oblong and loop scarves into attractive accessories.



Brenda O. won the door prize of a scarf she could wear as a bolero.



Bernice played the game "Cotton Nose".



Playing "Left, Right and Centre".

### *General Membership Meeting April 26—Women and Art*

The highlight of the gathering was a thought-provoking talk entitled “Canadian Women Painters; Moving Towards Modernism” by Susan T., daughter of Marg T. With a Power Point presentation of paintings, Susan, an art enthusiast and volunteer at the Art Gallery of Ontario, explained how Canadian women painters of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries struggled to have their voices heard, and how the courageous women she showed us broke down some of the societal barriers to get their work shown in galleries. You may recall seeing the paintings below, but may not be familiar with the painters’ names. After the presentation, we enjoyed a light lunch and social time with each other.



“Shooting the Rapids”  
by Francis Anne Hopkins  
1879, oil  
National Gallery of Canada



“Interesting Story”  
by Laura Muntz Lyall  
1898, oil  
Art Gallery of Ontario

### *Lilac and Lavender High Tea at the Ermatinger House Wednesday May 24*

A group of eighteen of our members and guests met at the Ermatinger House on Wednesday, May 24, for a lovely tea. The Ermatinger House was built between 1812 and 1823 by Charles Ermatinger, an independent fur trader with business and family connections in Montreal. It is restored to depict life between 1808 and 1870. Kathy, Director, and Ian, Historic Interpreter and Program Assistant, dressed in period costume, welcomed us and served us wonderful delicacies.

We began with cups of Elderberry spritzer. On the tables, set with “Willow” Bureighware made in England, were a variety of dainty sandwiches and biscuits with Elderberry jam and lavender jelly. Kathy came to the tables to serve the house’s delicious signature sandwich log consisting of layers of egg salad, chicken salad and ham salad iced with cream cheese and decorated with chives and lovage. Dessert consisted of lavender shortbread cookies as well as lemon and butter tarts. Tea and coffee were replenished by Miranda, the attentive summer student.

Ian came to each table to show us a large sample block of tea from India. He explained how the Voyageurs broke off smaller blocks 1½ “ by 2” of the very concentrated tea and that one small block lasted for 8 weeks on the trip to Montreal and back. The men grated a tiny bit into hot water to make their drink.

Elderberry and Lavender are grown in the Ermatinger garden. The Lilac trees were not yet in full bloom, so silk lilacs were used to add to the cozy ambience.

The tea included a tour of the house and the movie “Story Steeped in Stone” about the house and its inhabitants over the years.

If you were unable to join us this spring, we hope that you have the opportunity another year to have the wonderful experience of the Lilac and Lavendar Tea at the Old Stone House.







Left to Right: Barb P., Gerry Y., Carol McF. and Beverley B. at their lovely set table.



L to R: Carol R., Jenny K., Carmen C., Mary Anne P. and Sandy F., in her spring hat, toast with their Elderberry spritzer while Ian and Miranda in the background prepare to serve more drinks.





Beverley looked lovely in the hat that she wore at her wedding 37 years ago and a pair of 60- year- old- gloves. These are treasures she took out of her cedar chest to wear to the tea.



Barb P. (left) and Brenda (right) wore Regency Era gowns. The Regency Era is a sub-period of the longer Georgian Era (1714-1837).



Some of us at the front entrance to the historic Ermatinger House.

## *RWTO/OERO "Cruising Down the River" Convention 2023 Report*

The RWTO/OERO "Cruising Down the River" Convention held in Kingston, on June 6th, 7th & 8th, 2023, was a wonderful success. Approximately 250 members attended, enjoying the scheduled events together.

The initial afternoon of the convention involved registration, a visit to the silent auction and attending several workshops. The day concluded with an evening dinner cruise on the Island Queen with colleagues.

Wednesday's schedule included the Annual General Meeting in the morning, a fascinating field tour of the Kingston Penitentiary in the afternoon and ended with the Awards Banquet in the evening.

Thursday, the final day of the Convention, began with a heartfelt Memorial Service honouring members who passed away in 2022-23, followed by the Annual General Meeting and concluded with a Closing Luncheon. Members over 90 years and mother/daughter duos were celebrated.

Our new Board of Directors was installed, concluding remarks from outgoing President Judy Drummond were heard and a warm welcome was given from our Incoming President, Sandra Salerno of the Haldimand Branch.

This was a wonderful convention that provided ample opportunity for fellowship for all who attended with numerous opportunities for networking between Branch Presidents and members.

First Vice President Patricia Lambert, attending as our Branch Delegate, and I, attending as our Provincial Delegate, are truly grateful and proud to have represented our Branch at the "Cruising Down the River" Convention.

By Barb Perry, President of the Sault Ste Marie Branch RWTO/OERO



Barb P. ( left) and Patricia L.  
(right) enjoyed the convention.



## OUR 55<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION on Wednesday, June 20, 2023

Thirty-six women, all of us professional educators, gathered at North 82 to celebrate the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sault Ste. Marie Branch of R.W.T.O. President Barb P. began by welcoming everyone and introducing guests from the Central Algoma Branch of R.W.T.O. President Cathy Pirrie, President-Elect Mary Jane Thompson and invited guest of Sandy F., Marlene Falls, as well as new members of the Sault Branch Pat Annett, Arlene Labelle and Winn Walsh. Check the tables of photos on the following pages for these guests and new members.

Sandy F. gave a speech presenting the findings of research she did to give us a look at R.W.T.O.'s origins and development over time. She told us that R.W.T.O. was formed provincially in 1956 to improve pensions of retired women teachers. Many women teachers even though having taught 30 years to 40 plus years received a pension less than \$1000.00 annually. R.W.T.O. with its campaigns and letter writing appeals were successful in making changes to the pension base—from best 15 years, to best 10 years to best 5 years which is what our pension is based on today. Pensions are the same for both women and men teachers today. Sandy based her facts on two books “Uncommon Women” and “Chalk, Challenge and Change” as well as some personal notes she has saved over the years.





L to R: Carol R., Winn W., Marilyn C., Stephania H., Carol C., Sharon C. and Dianne P.



L to R: Brenda O., Rita W., Carol McF., Gerry Y., Carmen C., Marlene F. ( friend of Sandy) and Sandy F.





L to R: Paula H., Patricia A., Vi P., Beverley B., Diane M., Arlene L., and Patricia L.



L to R: Marg W., Mary Anne T., Cathy P., Susan T. and Marg T.





L to R: Bernice W., Doreen S., Mary Anne P., Darlene Z., Susan S., and Carol G.



Marg W. and Sandy F. cut the delicious cake.



Brenda O. presented the Cora Bailey Award to Emily N. in absencia.





President Barb P. gathered together the former Sault Branch Presidents who were present that day for a proud group photo. Back Row Left to Right are: Barb P., Sandy F., Stephania H., Paula H., Brenda G. and Rita W. Front Row Seated Left to Right are: Bernice W., Sherrill D., and Marg W.



Along with First Vice President Patricia L., President Barb P. and Treasurer Sandy F. are our three newly inducted members in the centre: Winn Walsh (light blue top), Patricia Annett (rust top) and Arlene Labelle (dress with tiny pattern and sleeves). Welcome to the Sault Branch of RWTO, ladies!

# Sault Branch 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Song

## CHORUS

RWTO celebrates  
55 years in the Sault.  
We gather to have fun  
With everyone,  
Caring, sharing is what we do!

1. June the 10<sup>th</sup> in '68  
Was the first gathering date  
Elsie Smith's home  
Was the place  
For 8 ladies to embrace.

## CHORUS

2. Ontario Association for  
Superannuated Women  
Teachers was their game.  
In '99 began the time  
RWTO gained its name.

## CHORUS

3. Iva Beaton sowed a seed  
For Sleeping Children Around the World  
Bed kits were our special project  
A hundred twenty-seven kits were unfurled!

## CHORUS

4. We've spear headed  
With Central Algoma  
Two Provincial Conventions  
In '97 and 2012  
We hosted sisters dear.

## CHORUS

5. Now to keep the best of past  
And welcome new ideas as well.  
Our numbers are nicely growing  
We will have much to share and  
tell.

## CHORUS

Bernice penned the words to the tune of the 45th Anniversary Song and led us in singing it along with 3 chants she created between the chorus. It was great fun!







The 55th Anniversary Committee was introduced. The group that created the well-planned and well-executed event consisted of : Left to Right: Bernice W., Sandy F., Carol McF., RitaW., Sherrill D. and Barb P. Great job, ladies!

## *HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER!*

*Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summery day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky is hardly a waste of time. By John Lubbock*



Newsletter by Brenda Gallander