



THE WIARTON READER

October 2021



RWTO/OERO WIARTON BRANCH EXECUTIVE 2021-2022

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|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Past President: | Marlene (Mazie) Davies |
| President: | Sharron Colter |
| Vice President: | Vacant |
| Secretary: | Violet Hill |
| Treasurer: | Marlene (Mazie) Davies |
| Insurance/Membership Convenor: | Roberta Davidson |
| Communication/Newsletter Convenor: | Marlene (Mazie) Davies |
| Program and Entertainment: | Joan White |
| Goodwill: | Lois Eckhardt |



President's Message

Hello RWTO / OERO Wiarton Branch Members

I am hoping all of you are staying safe and well. Thank you for renewing your membership during this challenging time. We hope to meet face-to-face when the Bruce Grey Public Health gives the green light for luncheon meetings. I have always enjoyed the chatter when we get together to catch up with the happenings in our lives since we last met. At this time wearing a mask and physically distancing does not allow us to talk freely to each other. Your executive will continue to monitor the recommended COVID-19 restrictions until we are assured that we can meet safely with 2 vaccinations recorded for us.

In the meantime behind the scenes, Mazie and I have changed positions for this year as I have accepted the role of the President and Mazie has accepted the treasurer and newsletter/ communication convenor roles. We hope that there are members who will step up and help the RWTO/OERO Wiarton executive in 2021-2022 and beyond.

I have the position of Honorary President on the RWTO/OERO Provincial Board this year. I will chair a committee that will study the organization of Branches and find out how the Board can help Branches before they disband or amalgamate with another Branch. Please send your ideas to me. *See 2021 - 2022 RWTO/OERO Wiarton Branch Executive Insert.*

Mazie and I are planning to continue to support “Fun Seated Fitness” on Mondays and Fridays at 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Another name for this program is “Laugh Yourself Healthier.” Some RWTO members are participating in this program which is embedded into the Bruce Grey Seniors’ Centre Without Walls, BGSCWW. At this time, we will keep you informed via a newsletter from the safety and comforts of your home.

Take care. Stay in touch.

*Respectfully written,
Sharron Colter*

*RWTO/OERO Wiarton Branch President, 2021-2022
See 2021 - 2022 RWTO/OERO Wiarton Branch Executive Insert*



CONVENTION 2021

The Convention was held June 1, 2 & 3. Marlene (Mazie) Davies represented the Warton Branch at this Virtual Meeting. For Highlights of Convention 2021 See: Website <https://rwto.org/convention/call-to-convention/>.

CONVENTION 2021 ~ KEYNOTE ADDRESS

What must we do to keep our organization sustainable, alive, and vibrant in terms of membership and goals? Let's build a legacy for the future!

There is a proverb regarding legacy building: "You can't really know where you are going until you know where you have been." We need to think about how the actions of our predecessors affected us. What resources did they leave behind? How did they shape our organization's culture?

Research shows that when we know we have benefited from the legacy of prior generations, that gets us thinking about the positive legacy we want to leave for future generations and we tend to make better long-term oriented decisions.

I am going to briefly highlight some of the history of our organization. I would like you to reflect on the legacies that have been handed down to us.

*Nancy Papiez
RWTO/OERO
Provincial Past President*

Our Roots 1937

In May 1937, a retired teachers' Bridge group in Toronto formed The

Rendezvous Club. They were the first group of retired women teachers ever formed in Canada! Their motto was: To Care and Share. Between 1944 and 1956, the Rendezvous Club was at the forefront of attempts to address women's pension issues. They approached the Teachers' Superannuation commission to make pension changes, without success. At this point, it became clear that they needed a larger provincial campaign. In 1954, a call went out to the province to form local groups of retired women teachers and report back to Toronto. This was a huge undertaking back in those days without email! The response was quick.

Our Organization is Born



In 1956, we became an organization. The women of the Toronto group were chosen as its first Provincial leaders. They had a strong tie to the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario (FWTAO, 1918-1998) who supported them on their journey for pension improvement. The very first Convention was held in Toronto in 1957. One year later, in 1958, our constitution was established and we became the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers

(OASWT), a title which we held for 41 years.

The pension campaign was in full swing for a ten year period, from 1956-1966, and it was immense with letters sent to members, meetings and many briefings to the Ontario Legislature in Toronto. In early 1967, legislation was passed that set the same minimum pension for both male and female teachers in Ontario. It was a long fight! It was also quite complicated. There were still injustices in pensions but overall success was achieved with the pension reform.

The Next 20 Years

During the '70s and '80s the emphasis included growing membership and expanding geographically throughout Ontario. There was also a focus on fine-tuning how the organization functioned at both the Provincial and Branch levels. There were many resolutions at Conventions!

Turning Points

Important “turning points” occurred during the 1990s and 2000s. At the Convention in 1998, a recommendation in a Resolution from a Special Strategic Planning Committee was Carried: “That Membership be open to any retired woman teacher, whether or not she is receiving a teacher’s pension.” This was big and it opened a door; presently, anyone who has taught in a classroom at any level of education can join our organization.

In 1999, our name changed to Retired Women Teachers of Ontario (RWTO). In 2009, our name became bilingual: Retired Women Teachers of Ontario/Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l’Ontario (RWTO/OERO).

In 2009, the Preamble in the Constitution was amended to include our Motto (Caring and Sharing), Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Goals. This was significant as it gave direction to the organization and to the Branches, and it defined the culture of our organization.

Where Do We Go From Here?

It is now 2021. What legacies can we develop at the beginning of the 21st Century that will ensure that future generations in our organization will thrive?

First, let’s think about our Membership.

1. Should we open our organization to other Women Educational Professionals? We need to consider the following:
 - 25% of our membership is age 80+
 - 55% is between ages 70 - 79
 - 17% is between ages 60 - 69
 - 3% is between ages 50 - 59
- a) **Is** the percentage of new members compared to the number of members who will pass or become Life Members enough to sustain us?
- b) **Education** has changed over the

last 30 years or so with the addition of other educational professionals in our schools. They work with children in classrooms, have a vital role as partners with teachers in education and have become our friends in education.

- c) **Will** opening our organization to the women educational professionals really change our overall vision and goals?

A decision on this topic will never come from the top down. This needs to be a Branch resolution at an AGM. The membership has the vote and decides.

2. Should we encourage women of other cultures to join RWTO/OERO? As mentioned in “Uncommon Women”, we have increasing population diversity in Canada. Many cultures have their own clubs and organizations. Surely there are female teachers within these groups who would like to join our organization. This is certainly something for Branches to think about locally.
3. Should we strengthen our ties with RTOERO, ETFO, OECTA AND OSSTF at both the Provincial and Branch levels? Perhaps we could find avenues for recruitment within these groups.
4. It should be noted that there is a Provincial Ad-Hoc Marketing Committee that is presently looking into professional advertising for

recruitment. Committee members have drawn up a list of initiatives. One initiative is ‘coming to life’ as Provincial will be advertising RWTO/OERO in both the English and French versions of the “Professionally Speaking” magazine this year. We need to get our name out there!

We also need to look at our **Goals** as an organization.

1. Should we consider a common goal or a social action initiative? Members have been mentioning that they want to support a cause as an organization (e.g., the improvement of Long-Term Care Facilities in Ontario). We may need a provincial Ad Hoc Committee to look at the legalities and feasibility of this and a resolution would also need to be put forward at an AGM. It is something we can all think about for the near future.
2. Are we going to continue to ‘Embrace Technology’ after the Pandemic? Over this past year, we have all learned the wonderful benefits of technology. Being together in person cannot be undermined, however technology has a place in the world of RWTO/OERO. Going forward, how can we utilise technology wisely at the Branch and Provincial levels?

To be sustainable, organi-



zations must always be moving ahead in terms of who they are, what they stand for and what they do.

I believe now is the time to build a Legacy for the Future!

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Papiez

Provincial Past President 2021-22

Note: The history for this article was gathered from: Lenora M. Beech, and Mary Jane Finn (editor) *Uncommon Women*. Willow Publishing Company, Brighton, Ontario, Canada, 2011

Provincial President's Message

Warm greetings to all members of the Wiarton Branch!

Our family holds fond memories in the Bruce County area. Dad was born in Tara and my uncle owned the dry-cleaning business in Wiarton for many years. We rented cottages in Pike Bay, spent happy times at Lion's Head, along with fishing at Oliphant Lake and swimming at Singing Sands Provincial Park. There were numerous trips hiking the Bruce Trail and snorkeling at Tobermory. What a beautiful region of this province where you live!

Congratulations on the Wiarton Branch's successful membership renewals. Your conscientious efforts to have this task completed so quickly have motivated others. We are seeing positive results throughout September as branches begin their fall programs in a safe way.

Your branch has demonstrated their generosity in support of Outreach activities. The Service to Others Project with 72 Hour Emergency Kits being prepared, was a creative endeavour. A great deal of thoughtful planning went into the items provided – crank radios, food, flashlights, first aid, safety items, water, etc. You have also filled extraordinary needs in donations to the Lion's Head and District Food Bank. It was inspiring to hear that you initiated the Northern Bruce Peninsula Senior Centre Without Walls project to provide speakers, fitness and wellness programs from the safety of one's home.

This year, we expanded the Feather in Your Hat Award to include 3 tiers for small, medium and large sized branches similar to that of the Barbara Bain Award. There will be up to 3 recipients in each tier with \$100 given for each award. Your exceptional Outreach projects are very worthy of a submission for this award.

The Board of Directors has voted to support each branch with a 3R's Grant (Recruitment, Recognition and Retention) of \$400 plus a Special Grant of \$600. Some branches have used these grants for a Zoom license, special cards, newsletters, mailings, and personal interest packages for the well-being and care of

their members. I know the Wiarton Branch will have great ideas to support their members, too.

The Board of Directors has established an Ad Hoc Committee to explore a common initiative that could be easily implemented. If you have any ideas, please forward them to me. We feel this initiative will reinforce our “Caring and Sharing” motto and encourage name recognition for RWTO/OERO.

Our Marketing Committee has placed an ad in the Professionally Speaking magazine which is distributed across Ontario, in order to reach potential members. As you know, it is challenging to access lists of new retirees due to privacy legislation. This Committee is also searching for free advertising on cable channels, websites and social media.

“Laughter Lifts Us Up” is the theme for Convention 2022 being held in London and hosted by the Area 3 branches. We are proceeding with caution and optimism and welcome the fun times ahead together.

Best wishes to you all for a happy RWTO/OERO year!

*In Caring and Sharing,
Nancy Bell,
RWTO/OERO Provincial President*

FINANCIAL – WIARTON BRANCH

See insert RWTO/OERO Wiarton Branch Income and Statement 2020-2021 Any questions about the Actual 2020-2021 and or Proposed 2021- 2022, Contact Mazie.

NOTE: Thanks to RWTO/OERO Board of Directors, the Branch received September 2021 a cheque from Provincial Office for \$1000 and consists of \$400 for the 3 R’s Grant, which has an intended use for Recruitment, Retention and Recognition. The remaining \$600 is a Special Grant and the use is at the discretion of the Branch.

APPRECIATION TO THE BOARD FROM THE WIARTON BRANCH !

INSURANCE

Hello one and all!

I hope everyone is remaining healthy and safe. We will soon be able to meet once again as long as we adhere to the mandated protocols for keeping everyone safe. Please note the following changes to the Hospital and Homecare Plan if you are enrolled in it.

Home Nursing

~ You now require a prior authorization form from either your doctor or a nurse practitioner.

~ If urgent care is needed, get verbal authorization from Manulife. (I would want to document time, date, to whom you spoke etc. if going this route!)

Fractures

~ In a single injury with more than one fractured bone, the most severe fracture will be paid for.

*Take care,
Roberta Davidson
Insurance Convenor*

PROVINCIAL ASSISTANCE INSURANCE CONVENOR

(**Note;** letter sent to Roberta for the Membership)

October 7, 2021

Dear Insurance Convenors,

Today we received new information from Manulife regarding the use of Personal ID to be set up on the Secure Serve Manulife site by October 21st. Please be sure that your members know about this. Using the phrase in a communication such as:

“If you are enrolled in the RWTO/OERO Hospital and Home Care Plan with Manulife Insurance, please be aware of the following:

As of October 21st all new and existing SecureServe customers will be required to create a Manulife ID in order to log-in. This ID is being rolled out across all of Manulife as a single sign-on credential that will give the customer access to all their Manulife products.

The sign-up process is straight forward, however we anticipate that there will be a few customers that have questions while going through their initial setup. Our contact centre is prepared to assist with these questions as this transition to a Manulife ID was successfully completed on another business line. A banner went up on SecureServe on September 30th to give customers a heads-up.

This does not apply to those members who mail in their forms or communicate with Manulife by phone or through Terry Kennedy.

Yours in Caring and Sharing,

*LeAnne Taylor, Assistant Insurance Convenor,
On behalf of the Insurance Team
Terry Kennedy, Broker
Karin Mussin, Insurance Convenor
LeAnne Taylor, Assistant Insurance Convenor*

MEMBERSHIP

Dear Branch Presidents,

As you are aware, there will be a survey on Membership Extension sent to our members in January. Most will receive it by email, but not all our members communicate in this manner. It is important that all our members **who are capable** can have the opportunity to participate. The committee would appreciate it if you would do the following:

- determine who in your membership would need to participate by regular mail through Canada Post
- send these names and addresses by email to LeAnne Taylor, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee by Tuesday, November 30, 2021
- please send your list to LeAnne using this email address:
rwtosurveys@gmail.com

We appreciate your assistance with this endeavor. Thank you for your help.

*Yours in Caring and Sharing,
Members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Membership Extension
LeAnne Taylor-Chair*

Nancy Bell

Kathy McLean

Nancy Papiez

Suzanne Rondeau

Lynn Sulman



CONGRATULATIONS

Warton Branch!! All 43 members renewed their membership. Much Appreciated. Warton Branch has 43 Members, 1 Life Member & 1 Associate Member.

CONDOLENCES

To the Wark Family and Lois MCrea with the passing of long time Branch Member Jean Wark (April 28, 1921) . She will be missed.

A donation has been made in her memory to the Tara United Church.

Note: Jean had her 2021-2022 membership. In lieu of a reimbursement (forty-five dollars) the family suggested a donation be made in her memory. A donation was sent to the Tara Food Bank.

To Vi Hill in the passing of her beloved husband Jim. A donation was made to the Wiarton Hospital Foundation.

GOODWILL

Cards sent: Sympathy – Wark family, Lois McRae, Vi Hill.
Thinking of You – Betty Ritchie, Beth Pearson, Mazie Davies, Evelyn Elliott, Sadie Fenton, Karen Streeter, Anna Farrow.
80th Birthday – Vi Hill Cathy Carson, Laura Schultz
90th Birthday and Over – Betty Ritchie, Bernice Pew & Audrey Warner.
75th Anniversary – Bernice Pew.

PROGRAM/ENTERTAINMENT

SEE INSERT – Sessions by Zoom or by Phone – NOVEMBER 2021.

Note: Programs provided by Northern Bruce Peninsula Community Support Advisory Action Committee. Any questions Contact Sharron or Mazie.

COMMUNICATIONS

Workshops provided by Kathy Gallagher, Provincial Website Convenor
(www.rwto.org)

26 January 2022 – Zoom Platform – become more familiar with how to use it!

23 February 2022 – Branch Facebook pages – how to set up a Facebook Page.

