



Feather in Your Hat Award 2022

Thank you to Linda Dueck, Sherri Stokes, Jackie Sanche, and Cheryl Wyllie for their contribution to the United Way back-to-school program in August 2021. As a result of their work, our Niagara Falls branch received a Feather in Your Hat Award at the RWTO/OERO Convention 2022. The award is a tribute to their service to our branch and to our community.

Cora Bailey Award Winner 2021-2022

Diane Ewen



Diane enjoyed her long career as a self-described "itinerant merchant of education." She counselled students in learning and writing skills and taught college and university English courses at several post-secondary institutions in Alberta. She also taught at Niagara College and The College of The Bahamas in Nassau, counselled students in learning and writing skills at two universities in Toronto, and taught grad and undergrad courses with an American online university. Diane retired from teaching in December 2016.

In September 2017, Diane joined our Niagara Falls branch of RWTO. From 2018-2019, Diane was Goodwill Convenor. She has been branch President since May 2019. Diane attended her first RWTO/OERO Convention in 2019 and was a delegate to the 2021 virtual convention.

During COVID-19 restrictions, Diane and the branch Executive have worked as a team to stay connected to members. Diane writes and emails regular newsletters to members and prepares updates to our branch web page on the RWTO site. In August 2021, the branch donated money to the United Way's back-to-school program, and members of the Executive donated their time to pack pencil cases with supplies for kids. To promote this initiative, Diane arranged and interviewed for an article that was published in print and online in local newspapers.

Diane also created and administers the Retired Women Teachers Niagara Falls Branch Facebook page. She particularly enjoys researching assorted topics to post to the page every day. Diane is grateful for the support of the Executive and plans to continue her service to the branch in whatever ways she is needed.



Cora Bailey Award Winner 2019-2020

RWTO/OERO Area 13 Niagara Falls Branch

Linda Dueck

After a rewarding career with the District School Board of Niagara, Linda retired from teaching in 2006, but she didn't retire from "caring and sharing," as is evident in her service to RWTO and our Niagara Falls branch, which she joined in 2007. As one example, Linda was indispensable as a Convenor for the Hospitality Room at the 63rd RWTO Annual Convention in St. Catharines in June

2019. Linda worked hard with her team to create a welcoming atmosphere in the Hospitality Room, where RWTO members from across the province could enjoy tasty snacks, socialize, and learn "Fun Facts" about the Niagara region. Feedback on the

Hospitality Room was very positive. Linda has also attended several conventions as Provincial Delegate for our branch.

In 2016, Linda became our branch Assistant Treasurer and then Treasurer the following year. As Treasurer, Linda is meticulous in maintaining our financial records and proactive in arranging donations to the charities our branch supports. In addition, on her own initiative Linda took on the new role of Membership Convenor. In this capacity, Linda provides excellent suggestions for recruiting new members, invites retired teachers to join our branch, and sends welcome letters to new members. She also updates the branch Executive on important events in the lives of our members. As well, Linda prepares the write-ups and arranges for photos so that we can celebrate our "Over 90" members.

Linda is also an active community volunteer. In particular, she contributes her sewing skills to making Quilts for Valour. Through her committed service to our Niagara Falls branch and to her community, Linda is indeed a worthy recipient of the Cora Bailey Award.

In 2019, the **Cora Bailey** award went to **Ilsa Robson**

In 2019, our branch received \$200 through the Barbara Bain Award in recognition of our increase in membership. We are happy to announce that in 2020 our branch was first place in Tier 2 and received \$400.00 for an increase of 13 new members.