

THE SCRIBBLER



Sault Ste. Marie R.W.T.O. Newsletter Fall 2022 and Winter 2023

SHARING

CARING

HAVING FUN

WELCOME BACK!

President's Welcome

Welcome to 2023! I hope that everyone experienced an enjoyable Christmas Season and is looking forward to all that 2023 has to offer. Having this edition of The Scribbler to share is a wonderful start to our New Year. I am proud of our branch, as it truly lives up to the RWTO/OERO motto of Caring, Sharing and Having Fun. Our generosity of spirit continues to be demonstrated through recent donations to the Alzheimer Society and Christmas Cheer as well as the writing and delivering of Christmas cards to those living in retirement homes.

Many enjoyable activities are planned for the new year with the goal of getting together with colleagues in fun and meaningful ways. A monthly calendar will continue to be emailed or mailed to our membership.

I am sure most of our members are aware that 2023 has special meaning for our Sault Ste. Marie RWTO/OERO Branch. It is hard to believe that we are approaching the 55th Anniversary of our Branch's birth! It is hard to believe that 55 years ago a group of only eight retired women teachers led by Miss Elsie Smith took the steps required to allow the formation of an OASWT Sault Ste Marie Branch which has evolved into the RWTO/OERO Branch we have today.

A special 55th Anniversary Luncheon will be held in June to commemorate this special event. I encourage all members who can to plan to attend and celebrate.

Together in Caring, Sharing and Having Fun

Barb Perry, President

New Members: We welcome the following two new members to our branch: **Mary Anne Potoczny and Darleen Zorzi.** We are enjoying getting to know them and appreciate their enthusiasm.

Congratulations!!! The following four members of our branch were honoured recently for their outstanding work. We are very proud of them.

Irene Gibbs: In [Sootoday.com](https://sootoday.com), Irene's son-in-law highlights her many extracurricular activities and volunteer work while teaching north of Sault Ste. Marie and her continued volunteerism in Sault Ste. Marie after retirement. Read about her pioneering spirit and generous sharing of her skills and time in the piece entitled "Community Kindness Countdown to Christmas: Irene Gibbs gave so much to northern community."

Diane Marshall: Diane was selected by the John Rhodes Scholarship Dinner Planning Committee to be their honorary speaker for 2022 as she "embodies the integrity, leadership, vision and commitment to community services that was the hallmark of John Rhodes". She not only had an illustrious career in education, she continues to hold leadership positions in many volunteer organizations. Google "[2022 John Rhodes Scholarship Dinner](#)" to read more about Diane.

Emily Noble: In 2021, Emily was awarded an Algoma Elementary Teachers of Ontario Honorary Lifetime Membership. She was chosen for her service to education at all levels from teacher to principal and then union leader at the provincial, national and international levels. She continues to serve as an Anglican Lay Minister and in various positions of responsibility for RTOERO and RWTO/OERO.

Bernice Whalen: Bernice received the RTOERO Distinguished District Member Award 2022 for her outstanding contributions on behalf of retired educators and the education community at the district level. Bernice not only had an outstanding career in education, but since retirement she continues to work energetically for RTOERO in many areas of responsibility. Read about Bernice on the cover of [Accent on Algoma](#), April 2022, Volume 41, Issue 4.

VOLUNTEERS ARE SPECIAL author unknown

Valuable is the work you do.
Outstanding is how you always come through.
Loyal, sincere and full of good cheer.
Untiring in your efforts throughout the year.
Notable are the contributions you make.
Trustworthy in every project you undertake.
Easy to reach your every goal.
Effective is the way you fulfill your role.
Ready with a smile like a shining star.
Special and wonderful, that's what you are!



This beautiful, hand quilted baby comforter, complete with Beatrix Potter books, was made and donated by Steelton Quilters Sandy F. and Rita W. to the Sault RWTO Branch as an item for the 2022 Silent Auction at the RWTO convention in London.

Sept. 28, 2022 General Meeting and Social with a Purpose

The business part of the meeting included welcoming our two guests, Mary Anne P. and Darlene Z. who readily became new members.

The President reported that we will focus on a different charity at each meeting.

The Branch Executive decided members must have two vaccine doses on par with other organizations' requirements. Voluntary masking and social distancing are encouraged as an extra precaution, but are at each member's discretion.

We will receive a 25% rebate on dues from Provincial office for our bank account.

The finance report and convenors' report were given. Beverley B. informed us that she has pamphlets on our insurance coverage.

After the tasty lunch, Patricia L. generously shared her beautiful birthday cake with everyone.

Brenda G. spoke about our "Social with a Purpose" and how we can support the local Alzheimer Society through individual donations. She stated that any amount was welcome and receipts for donations of \$20.00 would be mailed out.

Sheila Campbell of the Alzheimer Society was our guest speaker. She presented a difficult topic in a way that used humour to make the members feel comfortable. She gave an informative presentation on dementia one type of which is Alzheimer Disease.

Sheila handed out pamphlets entitled "Heads Up for a Healthier Brain". We can help our brains stay healthy by following a good diet with lots of fruits and vegetables, getting a good night's sleep, socializing, exercising daily, and stimulating our brains by learning and doing new things. We drew for several door prizes including a hand-made stained- glass Forget-Me-Not suncatcher which new member Darlene Z. won. See her photo below left.

Our branch raised an incredible \$763.10 that day to support local programs for people in our community with Alzheimer Disease! Thank you for your generosity!





Front row L to R: Vi P., Sherrill D., Sandy M., Sharon C. and Carol Ch.

Back row L to R: Marg T., Marg's daughter Susan, and Carol R.



Front L to R: Marg W., Sheila M., Patricia L. – Across table: new member Mary Anne P.--at back table: Sandy F.



Brenda G. (left) with presenter from the Alzheimer's Society Sheila Campbell (right)



L to R--Front: Beverley B. and Rita W.---2nd Row, Gerry Y. Bernice W. and Mary Anne P.-- 3rd Row: Carmen C., Paula H. 4th Row: Sandy M., Sharon C., Carol Ch. and Brenda O. 5th Row: Susan S., Darlene Z. and Elizabeth Oja.

October 26, 2022 Joint Meeting Hosting Provincial President: Fun, Food and Facts!

Members donned orange and black and decorated the hall to create a Halloween atmosphere for the joint meeting with Central Algoma to host Provincial President Judith Drummond.

Sault Branch President, Barb Perry, praised our experienced executive for being enjoyable to work with. She introduced each executive member and their positions.

Our guest, Provincial President, Judy Drummond, was introduced in a song by Central Algoma. Due to Covid and social distancing, this was their first time singing it together. Whenever they missed a word or line, the singers laughed and the audience laughed with them. They are a creative, fun-loving group!

Judy, from Eastern Ontario near Smith Falls, told us about her career and of the many activities in which she is involved. While raising four boys and running a dairy farm, she earned her B.A. After teaching and some administration, she retired in 2002.

She joined the Lanark County RWTO branch in 2002, taking on positions over the years as Insurance and Social Convenors as well as President. She spent four years as Area 9 Director and handled Issues and Concerns. Judy spent two years as Provincial Secretary and Convention Convenor in 2020 before being elected Provincial President. This is her tenth year on the provincial board.

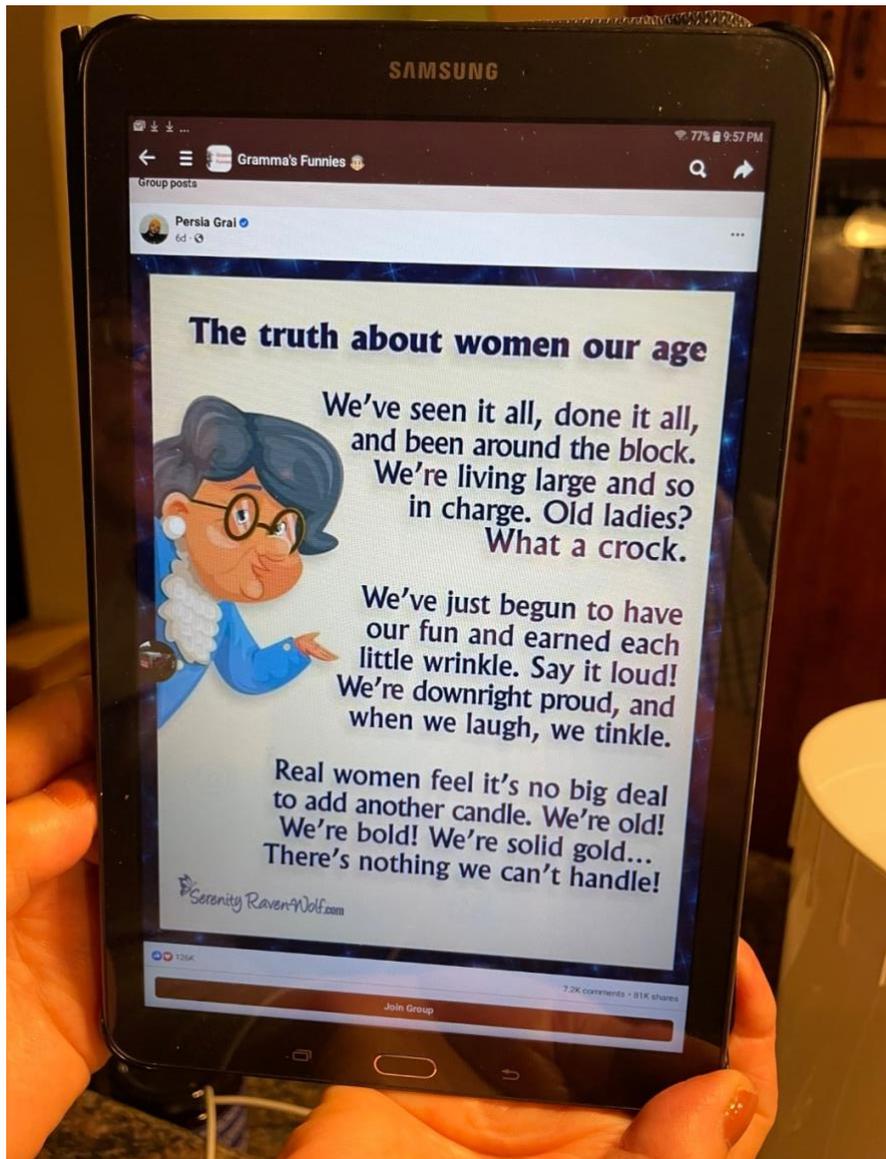
As if that isn't enough, Judy is V.P. of Lombardy Agricultural Society, is a judge of the Agricultural Society of Ontario and does pastoral care in nursing homes. She also runs a catering business. Where does she get all that energy?

Judy addressed our members, noting that she had been in the Sault when our two Area 11 branches held the last convention.

Judy talked about "Branding" of our organization which means the personality of RWTO, its values, what we have to offer and the need for a positive public view which includes our motto, colours, logo, voice, etc. to be used in newsletters, on the website, on social media, at meetings and at public venues.

Judy's goal is to rejuvenate our membership. She would like us to aim for five new members per branch and encourage our members to increase their technical learning.

Judy read a humorous poem entitled "The Truth About Women Our Age" which is copied below to give you a chuckle.



Barb, Patricia and Judy had prepared ahead of time a "Do We Really Know Our RWTO/OERO President, Judy Drummond?" questionnaire. It was fun doing this multiple-choice activity, and it got us working together and chatting a lot.

The catered lunch was ample and delicious. We feasted on either Quiche Lorraine or roasted chicken and potatoes with salad as well as tarts for dessert.

Sandy F. who knew Judy from her own years as Area Director, thanked Judy and announced that a donation to “Piper’s Project” would be made in Judy’s honour by both branches.



Provincial President, Judy Drummond Area Director Emily N.(R) chats with Judy



Central Algoma welcomes Judy Drummond with a ditty they wrote about her.



Secretary Carol McF. (L) and
Member at Large Brenda O. (R)



President Barb P. with Central Algoma V.P.



Sandy F. presents Provincial President, Judy D., with a donation to Piper's Project

November 23 General Meeting Memorial Service and Christmas Cards for Elders

No formal business was conducted at this special meeting.

Twenty-two members gathered in the church hall to conduct a memorial service in honour of six of our RWTO colleagues who passed away during Covid. A eulogy was read for each colleague and members had the opportunity to add favourite memories they have of these ladies. A rose was put in the vase and a candle was lit for each of the six ladies. It was a beautiful service which touched our hearts.



After the Memorial Service, 300 Christmas cards were written to be distributed to residents of the Finnish Rest Home, Van Daele Manor and recipients of Meals on Wheels. Members had a joyful time writing notes in the cards, adding stickers to envelopes and socializing with each other. Our branch made a \$100 donation to Christmas Cheer.



Marg W. envelopes her cards



Gerry Y. writes a note in each card



Susan T. and her mom Marg T. enjoy themselves

A LOOK AT BUSY MEMBERS OF OUR ACTIVITY GROUPS



The waffle breakfast Patricia L. ordered at Gino's with the Brunch Bunch----MUCH larger than she expected!



A sample of Worry Dolls and toques that Darlene Z. has knit so far. Some of the participants in the Handicraft Club are going to donate all of the items made to a charity next Christmas.



The Book Club members dressed in aprons and pearls to discuss the book "Lessons in Chemistry". Jenny K. hosted and served dishes reminiscent of the 1950's, the years in which the novel was set. For lunch we had Chicken a la King and Jellied Cranberry Salad.



**You are never too old to set
another goal or to dream a new
dream. C.S. Lewis**

Newsletter by:

Brenda Gallander

Communications Convenor