



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario / Organisation des Enseignantes Retraitées de l'Ontario

President's Message

This has been an incredible year and your confidence in me has been most humbling. As I approach the end of my term, I reflect on many things throughout this year. It has been rewarding, full of excitement and awareness. Each branch is very unique and I met amazing ladies, presented new membership pins and Cora Bailey Awards, enjoyed meals and developed new friendships. I will forever cherish my experiences.

Our motto of "Caring and Sharing" was exemplified in every branch I visited. I look forward to my visits in April, May and June.

If we look at our goals: 1) provide a strong communication network and opportunities for social interaction; 2) provide interesting and challenging programs; 3) provide support for colleagues; 4) provide hospital & home care insurance; 5) to formulate an organized plan to increase membership in RWTO/OERO and; 6) to ensure that we are financially managed both provincially and local they exemplify that RWTO/OERO is an organization which meets the interests and needs of retired women teachers.

One of the biggest changes this year was the acknowledgement from our branches who submitted

many resolutions for our AGM in June 2023. Many of these are related to the "Membership Extension Survey". It has been inspiring to see the membership responding with enthusiasm and driving the focus of our annual meeting. The membership ultimately will discuss and decide the results of these resolutions.

We appreciate the many efforts of Kay-Anne Broger, a past Membership Chair, who coined the 3R's of membership: Recruitment, Retention and Recognition. These will continue to be our focus in the future for our branches and at the Provincial level.

I am proud to be part of this organization. As we approach our individual Annual Meetings, I encourage you to participate in some capacity in your branches. We all need to do our part to support branch executives to keep our branches strong.

In June we are looking forward to "Cruising Down the Waters" where the Rideau Canal joins Lake Ontario and we head into the St. Lawrence River



Judy Drummond,
Provincial President

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Retired Women Teachers of Ontario Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario

Provincial President:

Judy Drummond
613-275-1454
rwtoprovpresident@gmail.com

First Vice-President:

Sandra Salerno
905-765-0201
smsalerno@rogers.com

Insurance Convenor:

Karin Mussen
519-272-0629
kmussen.rwto@gmail.com

Manulife Financial 1-800-268-3763

Broker: Terry Kennedy
The Dolphin Consulting Group
519-583-0098 • Fax: 519-583-2876
tkennedy34@bell.net

Provincial Office

Executive Secretary-Treasurer:

Linda Huffman
2736 Twelfth Conc,
Tecumseh, ON, N8N 0H9
Toll Free: 1-877-607-6696
Phone: 519-979-7030
Email: info@rwto.org
Website: www.RWTO.org

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President's Message – continued

to begin our 67th Convention. Areas 8 and 9 are looking forward to hosting Convention 2023. With entertainment, food, AGM and the companionship of our RWTO/OERO friends, I conclude my year as President and will be ever thankful for the adventures of this glorious year. I thank you for

the privilege of serving this year as your Provincial President.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Drummond,
President RWTO/OERO 2022-2023

Issues and Concerns - Lynn Sulman

Aging In Place - Mitigating Falls

Referring to a golf euphemism, 'the back nine' is often used to describe the journey to the end of the game, the last chance to improve one's score and reach the 18th hole satisfactorily. Lots of things can happen along the way, e.g. your ball goes in the water, it hits a tree and in my case, just disappears! In order to mitigate those factors causing an undesirable outcome, golfers may practice their shots at the driving range, use equipment that will enhance their skills and be optimistic that just being out in the fresh air has been a positive experience! Taking this anecdote one step further, what do we do to promote a healthy risk free day as we go about our daily activities in 'the back nine' of our lives? If aging in place refers to living safely and independently, then how can we mitigate risks?

Falls are one of the main causes of injury and loss of independence in people ages 65 and older. There are many reasons older people fall. They may lose their footing when stepping off a street curb or they may fall after getting dizzy from taking medicines. Some falls may be related to the effects of aging, such as muscle weakness or delayed reflexes. One out of every five falls causes an injury, like broken bones or a head injury. Ninety-five percent of hip fractures are caused by falling – usually by falling sideways. Women fall more often than men and account for three-quarters of all hip fractures. In a previous article, I talked about what we can do in our homes to prevent trip hazards e.g. remove throw rugs, move furniture and electrical cords to keep them out of walking paths, keep your house well lit, especially stairways, porches and outside walkways and use night-lights in areas such as hallways and washrooms.

Just like the golfer who practises to control where her ball goes, we need to practise getting up from a fall. If you're unsteady, have someone with you when you practise. If you're able to get up without help, practise this once a week or often enough to feel comfortable. If you can't get up by yourself, see a physiotherapist for help who can work with you to prevent falls and make a plan for what you can do if you do fall.



To reduce your risk of falling when you're outdoors, keep your hands free by using a cross-body shoulder bag, a fanny pack or a backpack. Watch your step- if you wear bifocal or trifocal glasses, you may have problems as you step off curbs or climb stairs. See about getting glasses with a single prescription that you can wear when you walk.

Four Things You Can Do to Prevent Falls:

1. Speak up. Talk openly with your healthcare provider about falls risks and prevention. Ask your doctor or pharmacist to review your medicines.
2. Get an annual eye and foot exam. Replace eyeglasses and footwear as needed.
3. Make your home safer. Remove clutter and tripping hazards. Use/install assistive devices e.g. handrails, non-slip treads, grab bars, raised toilet seat as needed.
4. Keep moving. Begin/continue an exercise program to improve your leg strength and balance

Continued ►

Issues and Concerns – continued

which will lower your chances of falling. It also helps you feel better and more confident. An example of this kind of exercise is Tai Chi. Lack of exercise leads to weakness and increases your chances of falling.

Here is a simple exercise to help improve thigh and buttock strength and to reduce fall risk.

Goal: To do this exercise without using your hands as you become stronger. How to do it:

Sit toward the front of a sturdy chair with your knees bent and feet flat on the floor, shoulder-width apart.

Rest your hands lightly on the seat on either side of you, keeping your back and neck straight, and chest slightly forward. Breathe in slowly. Lean forward and feel your weight on the front of your feet.

Breathe out, and slowly stand up, using your hands as little as possible.

Pause for a full breath in and out.

Breathe in as you slowly sit down. Do not let yourself collapse back down into the chair. Rather, control your lowering as much as possible.

Breathe out. Repeat 10-15 times. If this number is too hard for you when you first start practising

this exercise, begin with fewer and work up to this number. Rest for a minute, then do a final set of 10-15.

Finally, if you fall, do this:

- **Breath.** Take several deep breaths to try to relax. Remain still on the floor or ground for a few moments. This will help you get over the shock of falling.
- **Decide if you are hurt.** Getting up too quickly or the wrong way could make an injury worse.
- **Crawl to a sturdy chair.** If you think you can get up safely without help, roll over onto your side. Rest again while your body and blood pressure adjust. Slowly get up on your hands and knees.
- **Put your hands on the chair seat and slide one foot forward** so that it's flat on the floor. Keep the other leg bent so the knee is on the floor. From this kneeling position, slowly rise and turn your body to sit in the chair.
- **Get help.** If you are hurt or cannot get up on your own, ask someone for help or call 911.

Goodwill

In December, it was my pleasure to send over 300 cards to our Over 90 Members and Past Presidents. This calendar year, there are 317 members in the Over 90 group. Eight of these ladies will join the Centenary Club this year.

The many wonderful cards and emails that I have received are a testament to the value that our senior

members attribute to this service. It is a service that we, as an organization, happily bestow these women.

Jan Murdoch, Goodwill Convenor,
2nd Vice-President,
rwto2ndvp@gmail.com



Members-to-Members

Arguably Ancaster's most ardent volunteer, Jan Lukas was awarded the Order of Hamilton by Mayor Andrea Horwath at the Mayor's Levee in Ancaster. Jan is a member of the Hamilton-Wentworth Branch of RWTO/OERO. Congratulations Jan.

Zoom interest group opportunities are coming soon and they are open to any member from any branch. Watch the RWTO/OERO Facebook page for more details and contact information.





Program

Branch Presidents and Area Directors

It is March – heralding a season of renewal – and ushering in a very busy time for you! Check your Timelines for Presidents, as March is full of deadlines for important tasks, including the end of your fiscal year.

You received your Membership Information and Delegate Form in the middle of January and my Convention 2023 Bulletin not long after. These documents both contain very important information regarding Convention 2023. It is strongly encouraged that you review and print the Convention Bulletin for easy reference.

The final piece of vital information for your branch is the list of resolutions included in the March 2023 issue

of Connections. It is imperative that you, your executive and branch members become familiar with the content of the resolutions and discuss them as a group. This will enable you to have a clear understanding of the intent and context of each, and to provide a clear direction for your delegates who will be representing your branch at the AGM.

Three years ago in this column, I said I was looking forward to seeing you at Convention in Kingston... this time it WILL happen, we will be 'Cruising Down the Waters'.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Judith Bennoch, Provincial Program Coordinator



Membership

Membership in RWTO/OERO is essential for our organization to continue growing. As such, RWTO/OERO members, who joined our organization between 2016 and 2022, will receive a short survey by email. By completing this survey, these members will help the Marketing Committee determine some key facts about our newest members. We thank you, in advance, for your valuable input.

We honour Barbara Bain, a past president and membership convener, with the "Barbara Bain Award". This award recognizes the largest increase in Membership, as established by Linda Huffman, our

Provincial Secretary Treasurer.

As noted in the December Connections, creative, innovative, and successful activities, carried out by a branch, are recognized by the "Feather in Your Hat" Award, now tiered according to branch size. Please notify the membership convener by email: rwtomembership@gmail.com and send a hardcopy by March 1st. The membership convener will email a confirmation of receipt of your submissions.

Kathy McLean, Membership Convenor



Archives

Our archives are up to date, and plans for the 2023 In Memoriam service are ready.

Thanks to branches who sent pictures for our slideshow. Names sent to Linda Huffman by January 31, 2023 are displayed at Convention.

I have received requests from some branch archivists for ideas of what to save for local archives. All financial documents for the branch must be stored.

Newsletters, minutes, pictures and news clippings of interest to your group can also be saved. Hard copies

can be safely stored in member's homes, or school libraries. Keep a list and let someone in your branch know where to find these documents. Many records are digital now, but hard copies are still advised. Displaying albums at meetings is fun for your branch to enjoy memories of friends and events over the years.

You can contact me with any questions at rwtoarchivist@gmail.com

Susan Rose, Archives Convenor



We're deep into winter but greatly anticipating spring's arrival. The return of red-winged blackbirds are my harbingers of spring and now I begin to watch for them eagerly. Just a few more weeks of snow and biting cold before winter's grip begins to loosen, the soil begins to thaw and soon my tulip bulbs will begin to push green to the surface. It rejuvenates the spirit to see these signs of spring.

I thought for this issue of Connections I'd share some common questions I get from members that I hope will prove helpful for you. A question I am regularly asked is, "How long do I have until I can submit my claim? Do I have to submit right away or is there a time limit?". Claims must be received by Manulife within 12 months of the date the expense was incurred, the hospitalization or bone fracture occurred. So, if you fractured a bone March 3, 2023 you have until March 3, 2024 to submit your claim.

Another common question is about the Prior Authorization Form. This form is available on the RWTO website (www.rwto.org/membership/insurance-plan) and is required when a member needs to make use of the Home Nursing Benefit. This form is a generic form provided by Manulife and while it states that it is for "home care, hearing aids, nursing, orthotics, prosthetic appliances, medical equipment and supplies" the only benefit in our plan that requires this form is the Home Nursing Benefit. It is not required for our Hearing Aid, Special Equipment, Mobility Assistance or Assistive Devices benefits. If a member urgently requires Home Nursing, verbal approval can be obtained by calling Manulife at 1-800-222-7340.

Members often wonder how to coordinate benefits between plans when they have coverage through RTO-ERO or OTIP. When another plan also provides coverage for the same benefit (for example, Physiotherapy), the member would first submit her claim to her primary insurer (RTO-ERO, OTIP, or a spousal employer plan). When the claim is paid by her primary insurer, she would then submit her claim to Manulife through the Hospital & Home Care Plan. Instead of submitting receipts to Manulife, she would submit the Claim Summary which shows

the amount submitted and paid by the primary insurer. The Hospital & Home Care Plan would then pay any outstanding amount to the benefit maximum. In the example provided, the member would have an additional \$200 available to her for Physiotherapy under the Hospital & Home Care Plan.

Finally, a reminder that tax season is quickly approaching, and Manulife will be making tax receipts for the Hospital & Home Care Plan available to members. If you have changed your address in the past year, please make sure Manulife is informed of your new address to ensure you receive your tax receipt. If you have registered on Manulife's SecureServe site you can now download your tax receipt from your SecureServe account. Manulife's Customer Service can be reached at 1-877-222-7340.



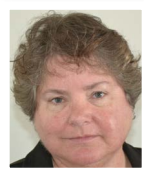
Insurance Convenor
Karin Mussen
519-272-0629
kmussen.rwto@gmail.com

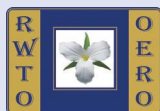


Assistant Insurance Convenor
LeAnne Taylor
905-877-7030
haw_taylor@hotmail.com



Manulife Financial 1-800-268-3763
Broker: Terry Kennedy
The Dolphin Consulting Group
(519) 583-0098 Fax: (519) 583-2876
tkennedy34@bell.net





Resolutions for 2023 Annual General Meeting

Resolution #1

Submitted by Area 12 (Lydia Snow North Halton, Mississauga, BurlOak, Peel North), Area 7 (Belleville, Durham North, Northumberland-South Durham, Peterborough, Trenton & District), Hamilton-Wentworth, Wiarton, South Bruce

Be it resolved that Constitution, Article III

Membership and Fees,

1. Regular Members: any retired woman teacher is eligible to be a member of RWTO/OERO whether or not she is receiving a teacher's pension, be amended to read:

1. Regular Members

a. Regular Members include Retired Women Educational Professionals who have worked in schools as listed:

i. Retired Women Teachers

ii. Retired Women Educational Assistants

b. Retired Women Educational Professionals may become Regular Members whether or not they are receiving a job-related pension.

Rationale:

· The Ad Hoc Committee Report on the Survey of Membership Extension (on the website) received a substantial majority for Retired Women Educational Assistants.

· Teachers and other Educational Professionals worked as a team in the classroom and school setting with common goals for children. They supported students with different levels of abilities, behavioural issues, mobility and language challenges, and social/emotional struggles.

· Qualification requirements for Educational Professionals have changed greatly over the years. They have received credentials, diplomas and/or certification within their areas of expertise that have taken years of training.

· Expanding membership is particularly important for small and rural branches. Provincially, membership is both declining and aging, which can be a factor in having viable branches and filling executive roles. Membership recruitment is needed to ensure a strong organization in the future.

· Building a viable and inclusive membership would permit us to continue providing Health Care Insurance plans, combating isolation concerns for our membership, and fulfilling our goal of providing caring and sharing opportunities for women and children in our communities as well as ourselves.

Resolution #2

Submitted by Area 12 (Lydia Snow North Halton, Mississauga, BurlOak, Peel North), Area 7 (Belleville, Durham North, Northumberland-South Durham, Peterborough, Trenton & District), Hamilton-Wentworth, Wiarton, and South Bruce

Be it resolved that Constitution, Article III

Membership and Fees,

1. Regular Members, be amended with the addition of:

Retired Women Early Childhood Educators

Rationale:

· The Ad Hoc Committee Report on the Survey of Membership Extension (on the website) received a substantial majority support for Retired Educational Educators.

(See Resolution #1, Rationale)

Resolution #3

Submitted by Hamilton-Wentworth, South Bruce, Wiarton

Be it resolved that Constitution, Article III, Membership and Fees, 1. Regular Members; be amended with the addition of:
Retired Women Speech & Language Pathologists.

Rationale:

· The Ad Hoc Committee Report on the Survey of Membership Extension received considerable support for Retired Women Speech & Language Pathologists.

(See Resolution #1, Rationale)

Resolution #4

Submitted by Hamilton-Wentworth, South Bruce, Wiarton

Be it resolved that Constitution, Article III, Membership and Fees,
1. Regular Members, be amended with the addition of:

Retired Women Child & Youth Workers/
Counsellors

Rationale:

· The Ad Hoc Committee Report on the Survey of Membership Extension (on the website) received support for Retired Women Child & Youth Workers/Counsellors

(See Resolution #1, Rationale)

Resolution #5

Submitted by Hamilton-Wentworth, South Bruce, Wiarton

Be it resolved that Constitution, Article III, Membership and Fees,
1. Regular Members, be amended with the addition of: Retired Women Social Workers.

Rationale:

· The Ad Hoc Committee Report on the Survey of Membership Extension (on website) received support for Retired Women Social Workers.

(See Resolution #1, Rationale)

Resolution #6

Submitted by Owen Sound and Area

Continued ►

Resolutions for 2023 Annual General Meeting – Continued

Be it resolved that Constitution Article III 1. Regular Members, be replaced with:

Be it resolved to extend RWTO/OERO membership to include Retired Women Educational Professionals as members of RWTO/OERO. Retired Women Educational Professionals shall include but not be limited to Retired Women Teachers, Retired Women Educational Assistants, Retired Early Childhood Educators, Retired Women Speech and Language Therapists and Pathologists, Retired Women Child and Youth Workers/Counsellors and Retired Women Social Workers.

Rationale:

It is time to expand membership to all retired women who have worked in the education system. While there may be differences in qualifications and experience it is important to give all retired women who have worked in the school system the opportunity to be members of RWTO/OERO.

Resolution #7

Submitted by Hamilton-Wentworth

Be it resolved that Constitution, Article I Name "The organization shall be called the "Retired Women Teachers of Ontario/Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario", hereafter referred to as RWTO/OERO." be amended to read: "This organization, which as of June 2023 extended its membership to represent not only Retired Women Teachers but also other Retired Women Educational Professionals, shall maintain the name "Retired Women Teachers of Ontario/Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario", hereafter referred to as RWTO/OERO."

Rationale:

- This has historically been the name of our organization since 1999, is well recognized throughout our communities, and maintains our identity and outstanding reputation.
- Following the positive response to the Ad Hoc Committee Report on the Survey of Membership Extension (May 2021) the Board of Directors passed Motion #74, recommending that the RWTO/OERO name remain the same.
- Adding the year the membership was expanded, gives an easily found historical reference.

Resolution #8

Submitted by Hamilton-Wentworth

Be it resolved that Constitution, MISSION STATEMENT, VISION STATEMENT 1, 2 and 5, and GOALS 1, "teachers" be amended to read "Educational Professionals".

Rationale:

The word "teachers" appears 8 times in the Constitution. Two of these are used as part of our official name, which would remain the same. The other 6 are in reference to our members being Retired Women Teachers. These references now need

to be inclusive for all of our members, and Retired Women Educational Professionals incorporates everyone.

Resolution #9

Submitted by Hamilton-Wentworth

Be it resolved that Constitution, GOALS 2, "retired teachers" be amended to read: "retired women educational professionals".

Rationale:

- In addition to the rationale from Resolution 8, the word "women" should be included in GOALS 2 as a better reflection of our membership, as the historical intent of this sentence was always directed to our membership of women.
- The phrase "retired women educational professionals" would now be consistent throughout the Constitution when referring to our membership.

Resolution #10

Submitted by Area 12 (Lydia Snow North Halton, Mississauga, Burlington, Peel North), Area 7 (Belleville, Durham North, Northumberland-South Durham, Peterborough, Trenton & District) Hamilton-Wentworth, Wiarton, and South Bruce

Be it resolved that Policies and Procedures, ARTICLE III, MEMBERSHIP AND FEES,

1. Membership

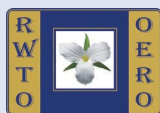
- a. To be a member of RWTO/OERO, a retired woman member must pay her Provincial fees.
- b. A retired woman member may join at any time during the year.
- c. A retired woman member holds membership in the Branch to which she pays her Provincial fees.
- d. She is eligible to serve on the Executive of that Branch and/or be a delegate of that Branch.

Be amended to read:

1. Regular Membership to include other Retired Women Professional Educators into our organization as follows:

- a. To be a member of RWTO/OERO, a Retired Woman Professional Educator must pay her Provincial Membership Fee.
- b. A Retired Woman Professional Educator may join at any time during the year.
- c. A Retired Woman Professional Educator holds membership in the Branch to which she pays her Provincial fees.
- d. All members will have equal opportunity within the organization the Branch and Provincial levels, and/or be a delegate of the Branch.
- e. Insurance Programs will be available to all joining women members.

Continued ►



Rationale:

- The replacement of “teacher” with “Woman Educational Professional” aligns the Policies and Procedures with Constitution.
- These additional statements in Policy and Procedures provide equal opportunities and supplemental insurance, if qualified, for all members.

Resolution #11

Submitted by Area 12 (BurlOak, Lydia Snow North Halton, Mississauga, Peel North)
Be it resolved that Policies and Procedures, ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP AND FEES,

1. Membership

- To be a member of RWTO/OERO, a retired teacher must pay her Provincial fees.
- A retired woman teacher may join at any time during the year.
(Revised October 2016)
- A retired woman teacher holds membership in the Branch to which she pays her Provincial fees. She is eligible to serve on the Executive of that branch and/or be a delegate of that Branch.
(Revised October 2016)"
- In addition, a member may pay a local Branch fee to other branches where she wishes to attend. (Revised October 2016)
- RWTO/OERO will provide Branches with a free membership pin for each new member. (Revised October 2016)

be amended to read:

- To be a member of RWTO/OERO, a Retired Woman Educational Professional must pay her Provincial membership fee.
- A Retired Woman Educational Professional may join at any time during the year.
- A Retired Woman Educational Professional holds membership in the Branch to which she pays her Provincial membership fee.
- Each member has equal opportunity within the organization, at Branch and Provincial levels, and may be a Convention delegate for their Branch.
- The Insurance Program will be available to any qualified member.
- In addition, a member may pay a local Branch fee to other Branches where she wishes to attend.
- RWTO/OERO will provide Branches with a free membership pin for each new member.

Rationale:

- The replacement of “teacher” with “Retired Woman Educational Professional” aligns the Policies and Procedures with the Constitution.
- Statements "d. & e." provide equal opportunities and supplemental insurance, if qualified, for all

members.

Resolution #12

Submitted by Hamilton-Wentworth, South Bruce
Be it resolved that Constitution, Article III Membership and Fees, 4. Interim Member (a.), "An Interim Member shall be a woman teacher who is currently on Long Term Disability (LTD)" be amended to read:
"An Interim Member shall be a Woman Educational Professional who is currently on Long Term Disability (LTD)".

Rationale:

- "Woman Teacher" in this statement refers to a person who has not yet retired.
- “Woman Educational Professional” would reflect our new membership status.

Resolution #13

Submitted by Area 7 Branches (Belleville, Durham North, Northumberland – South Durham, Peterborough, Trenton & District)
Be it resolved that Constitution Article X Annual Meeting 3. Definitions b) Eligible Delegates Eligible delegates who may attend the Convention are based on paid membership numbers for each Branch, be replaced with:
Each Branch shall be represented by two (2) delegates, one Provincial Delegate and one Branch Delegate, regardless of the paid membership numbers for each Branch.

Rationale:

- It is an equitable voting strategy for all Branches. Currently a Branch may have between one and seven voting delegates according to the current formula. (See AGM Report June 2022 --- the committee summarized numbers of paid-up members reported

Branches	Delegates	Total	% that each vote represents	
13	1	13	0.87	eg. In the 13 Branches with 1
23	2	46	1.74	delegate, each vote
4	3	12	2.61	represents 0.87% of the
1	4	4	3.48	total number of votes
4	5	20	4.35	and so on down the list.
1	6	6	5.22	
2	7	14	6.09	
48		115		
Delegate Representation				
36 branches with 2 or less delegates		59	51.30%	
12 branches with 3 or more delegates		56	48.70%	

Continued

Resolutions for 2023 Annual General Meeting – Continued

in the Annual Area Reports)

3. Definitions (b). Eligible Delegates

So, 36 branches get 51.30% of the total votes while only 12 branches get 48.70% of the total number of votes

- The main purpose of the Convention is an Annual General Meeting. Having only two delegates for each Branch is an efficient way to vote.
- The role of the Programme Coordinator may be easier regarding tabulation of the number of votes and calculating percentages in order to decide if a motion is carried.
- It would be cost efficient for Branches. Provincial would continue to pay for the Convention package, including Executive registration, accommodation and mileage for the Provincial Delegate as described in the Constitution Article X Annual Meeting #6. Delegate Expenses. Provincial will continue to pay the registration fee of the Branch Delegate. Branch Delegates additional expenses of accommodation and mileage may be paid by each Branch as determined by each Branch.
- Branches who currently send more than 2 delegates would save money which could then be spent on a greater number of their members locally. To be determined by each Branch Executive.
- Any Branch could send additional members to observe the AGM at the Branch's expense or at their own expense.
- There could be a significant cost saving to Branches hosting a Convention in the future as there would be fewer members in attendance.

Resolution #14

- Submitted by Area 7 Branches (Belleville, Durham North, Northumberland – South Durham, Peterborough, Trenton & District)
 - Moved by – Marie Geelen (Durham North Branch)
 - Seconded by – Judy-Anne Tumber (Peterborough Branch)
- Be it resolved that Constitution Article X Annual Meeting

5. Voting Delegates:

- a. The Provincial Office shall notify each Branch President of the exact number of delegates to which the Branch is entitled based on the official membership count as received in the Provincial Office and recorded by November 30.
- b. Each Branch shall be entitled to one voting delegate with all reasonable expenses paid by the Provincial Office.
- c. Each Branch is entitled to eligible delegates according to the following formula.: Up to 50 members 1 delegate 51-100 members 2 delegates 101-150 members 3 delegates 23 151-200 members 4 delegates 201-250 members 5 delegates 251-300 members 6 delegates 301 members + 7 delegates

Be amended to,
Constitution Article X Annual Meeting

5. Voting Delegates

- a. Each Branch shall be entitled to two voting delegates with all reasonable expenses paid by the Provincial Office.

Rationale

- Equal representation of 2 delegates per Branch eliminates the need for Provincial Office to notify Branch Presidents the exact number of delegates per Branch
- Equal representation of 2 delegates per Branch eliminates the need for a sliding scale calculation of delegates

Resolution #15:

Submitted by Area 7 Branches (Belleville, Durham North, Northumberland – South Durham, Peterborough, Trenton & District)
Be it resolved that Constitution Article X Annual Meeting

5. Voting Delegates, be replaced with:

- a. Each Branch shall be entitled to two voting delegates with all reasonable expenses paid by the Provincial Office.
- b. Branch delegates selected to attend the Annual Meeting must be representing the Branch through which they pay their Provincial fees.

Rationale:

- Equal representation of 2 delegates per Branch eliminates the need for the Provincial Office to notify Branch Presidents of the exact number of delegates per Branch.
- Equal representation of 2 delegates per Branch eliminates the need for a sliding scale calculation of delegates.

BOARD RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #16:

Be it resolved that Constitution, Article VIII Duties and Structures of Provincial Committees, A. Standing Committees, be amended by the addition of: 9. Marketing Committee

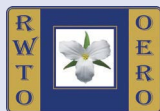
The Marketing Committee shall:

- a. Be chaired by a member of the Board of Directors,
- b. Consist of three members from the Board of Directors and invited members-at-large, the number determined by the committee,
- c. Meet to develop a marketing plan that includes analytical strategies and innovative ideas
- d. Report results to the Board.

Rationale:

- There is an ongoing need to convince women teachers

Continued ►



that RWTO/OERO has a service that is different and worthy of their support. This need may change over time as circumstances within our society alter and impact on us both directly and indirectly.

- Maintaining our membership is critical to the continued success of our organization.
- A marketing committee's purpose is to raise awareness of the services provided by the organization to its members and to generate interest for potential new members.

Resolution #17:

Be it resolved that Constitution Article VII –Duties of the other members of the Board of Directors

1. Honorary President

- a. Install the elected officers and members of the BOD at the Annual General Meeting be amended by the addition of: "conclusion of" before "the Annual General Meeting".

Rationale:

- This clarifies that the Honorary President has completed her role on the BOD when the installation of the next BOD takes place.
- A BOD member cannot perform the installation of fellow members.

Resolution #18:

Be it resolved that Constitution, Article VII Duties of the Board of Directors 1. Honorary President

3. 'Serve as a member of the Steering Committee' be removed.

Rationale:

- Maintains the impartiality of the Steering Committee.
- Allows the Honorary President to fulfill all her duties as a member of the BOD.

Resolution #19:

Be it resolved that Constitution Article X – Annual Meeting

7. a. 'May speak to resolutions and motions to assist in clarifications in a discussion', be amended by adding: 'Unless acting as a member of the Steering Committee'.

Rationale:

- Maintains the impartiality of the Steering Committee.

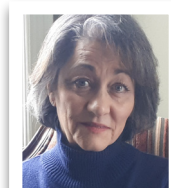
Resolution #20:

Be it resolved that Constitution, Article IX, Branch Organization, 7: "A Branch wishing to disband must give six months' notice in writing to the Provincial President" be amended to read: "Branches considering disbanding or amalgamating must inform the Provincial President in writing with a six-month notice."

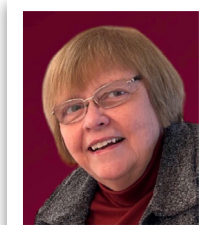
Rationale:

- The current Constitution has no reference to amalgamation.
- Branches will be given an option to amalgamate or disband as a choice for the membership.
- The Provincial Policies and Procedures Manual will be aligned with the RWTO/OERO Constitution.
- Branches are asking for more direction from RWTO/OERO Provincial, related to Branches' amalgamating or Branches' disbanding. This revised statement will give direction to Branches.

Respectfully submitted by
Sandra Salerno, 1st Vice-President,
Chair, Constitution and Resolutions
Committee



CANDIDATES FOR RWTO/OERO PROVINCIAL BOARD



CANDIDATE: Linda Sargent

RWTO/OERO PROVINCIAL BOARD POSITION -SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

It would be my privilege, as well as an exciting adventure, to participate on the Provincial Board as 2nd Vice President.

I thoroughly enjoyed classroom teaching, retiring in 2011 after a 37

year career in primarily grades 6, 7, & 8.

Asked to join our Branch Executive when I became a member in 2011, I have been moving through our Presidential chairs since 2013. Now completing my 4th year as President, I have also enjoyed being the Contact Convenor for the Travel, iPad, and Mohawk Trail School Museum Interest Groups. I am proud to wear the Cora Bailey Award pin, which I had the opportunity of designing.

Currently the Director for Area 4 (Brant, Haldimand,

& Hamilton-Wentworth), I have been attending Conventions since 2013. I assisted with computer printing duties for the Convention in Hamilton, and with the Merchandise Sales Table for several years. Creating the "Helping Our Branches Thrive" Convention workshop last year was a delightful challenge.

Community Service:

Scouts Canada – Scouter & Group Commissioner – 38 years

Condominium Board (including President) – 38 years
SOCKS Canada Relief Organization – Board – 15 years (helping Kenyan orphanages)

RTOERO District 13 – Executive (including Secretary) – 6 years

HWDSB Mohawk Trail School Museum Program Coordinator – 5 years

News From the Branches— "Zoom Zoom"

Dundalk-Flesherton and District

It has been an exciting time in our area. The Highpoint/Dundalk and the Flesherton and Area branches have finished their amalgamation. The members met in June and chose the name Dundalk-Flesherton and District for the new branch and elected a new executive. We now have 27 paid members and 6 life members in our new branch. In September, we had our first meeting together. Everyone was introduced and new friendships were made. The branch has decided to combine the outreach that both previous groups were doing such as Food Banks, Breakfast Clubs, Christmas support. We gathered again in late November for our annual Christmas meeting. Secret pal gifts were exchanged and poinsettias were delivered to our life members. We have two meetings planned for the new year and we continue to blend our ideas and activities to grow our membership.

Nancy Strutt, Co-Branch President

Owen Sound and Area

The Owen Sound and Area Branch is pleased to have returned to our in person general meetings. These meetings are held four times per year. Each of our general meeting centers around a social time over a catered lunch, which is held after a short business meeting. At each of our meetings we also have a speaker. In the past year we heard from a retired minister speaking on the effects of the invasion in Ukraine – from his own personal connection. We were able to make a financial contribution through the Red Cross to support Ukrainian children and their families.

The executive meetings, held five times per year, continue to be held via Zoom technology. To date we have found that Zoom is an efficient means of getting our business completed while being Covid safe and weather prudent.

We are very grateful that most of our members have maintained their RWTO memberships. During the COVID years we were able to offer memberships at reduced rates but for the 2022-2023 membership year we are back to full cost.



Susan Loyst, Branch President

South Bruce

The South Bruce Branch fully embraces the ideal of caring for each other and the less fortunate and sharing our resources. Members of the branch, particularly those experiencing challenges, receive cards, calls and visits and ride-sharing ensures the less mobile can attend gatherings. We also remember and pay tribute to those we've lost in an In Memoriam service every fall. Within our communities many members volunteer in programs geared to providing food for families in need, support for refugees and programs for seniors. Our annual donations help purchase school supplies and winter wear for disadvantaged children, and support the local hospice and area food banks. We are a small branch but we have big hearts!

Christine Roberts, South Bruce Communications



Warton

Returning to face-to-face meetings in September and November were successful with members plus guests attending each meeting. September welcomed Pat Emmerton, Area 1 Director. A retired doctor, Brian Taylor and his band, including bass guitar and a harmonica entertained us. Brian's band is entertaining on the Bruce Peninsula to support the redevelopment plan of the "Golden Dawn", a seniors residence and apartments in Lion's Head.

The Warton Branch continued its sharing and caring community outreach by donations



to the Warton, Chesley and Tara agricultural fairs in September. Donations were given to the Tobermory,

Continued ►

News From the Branches— "Zoom Zoom"

Warton, Tara and Lion's Head foodbanks in November. Members also contributed children's toys, paper and food items and monetary gifts. A volunteer from the Warton Salvation Army Foodbank was pleased to receive the donations.

The November Christmas turkey luncheon meeting welcomed Judy Drummond, Provincial President who brought information to us from Provincial. There were also three speakers from the community including a speaker from Home and Community Support Services, Eileen White, a retired teacher who has designed a virtual program to help young children learn to read and write and Elder Shirley John from the Indigenous Saugeen Nation near Sauble Beach. Elder Shirley John described her experience as a young child at a residential school through her planned program that required participation from the members.

The Warton Branch members look forward to the May meeting and elections of the executive. Joan White will receive the Cora Bailey award for her contributions to the Warton Branch.

Sharron Colter, Warton Branch Co-President

Brant

Brant RWTO is hosting three events this year. At our September breakfast, Dr. Maria Cantillini-Williams, from the Brantford Laurier University campus, shared some background and progress regarding the teacher training programs in Brantford. Several from our group have had interactions over the years, in various ways, with Laurier Brantford. Ladies attending also received a 'Good Things Grow In Ontario' notepad, recognizing the vital role that agriculture has in our society and economy. Thanks to Joan Brent, who organized our annual 'Elfin Tea', held at the Golden Teapot, at Brantford's "Glenhryst Gardens" in December. The tasty treats, of 'high tea' nature, were delicious and enjoyed amidst the unique Christmas decorations. Members were very



generous with their donations totalling \$1500.00 to the "Nova Vita Women's Shelter". In addition, a large collection of toys was gathered for a Ukrainian family, who had recently arrived in Brantford.



We are looking forward to our Spring Banquet, scheduled for April 27. Something to think about: Is it important to have different viewpoints..... ORa view of different points?

Jean Emmott, Brant Branch President

Haldimand

We held our "Ring the Bell" event on the first day of school at a local park again but this time we also collected non-perishable food items for the Jarvis Caring Cupboard—the last of our five food bank collections. At both our October and December luncheons we collected "beautiful junk" for the local Early Years Centre. These included recyclable materials but also craft supplies. Members participated in Remembrance Day services in Caledonia, Cayuga, Dunnville, Hagersville and Selkirk adding additional ones in Jarvis and Port Dover. We also presented our \$500.00 Outreach Project grant to a local woman to assist with her education. In December we collected individual member donations of gift cards and cheques for Haldimand Norfolk Women's Services. In 2022 we collected an amazing \$2205.00. Christmas cards and Valentine greetings were sent to members along with wonderful regular Goodwill outreach.

Joanne Weeks, Branch President



Continued ►

News From the Branches– "Zoom Zoom"

Hamilton-Wentworth

Hamilton-Wentworth Branch continued to flourish due to the enthusiastic dedication of our 18 Executive Members, and the Contact Convenors of sixteen interest groups able to meet or Zoom. We enjoyed our second private outdoor concert at a beautiful local cidery in September, our Waterfront Harvest Luncheon in October, and our annual celebration at the "Station" in the grand ballroom of what was once a 1930 CN Train Station in December. The generosity of our members enabled us to donate \$2600 to the Ukrainian Congress of Hamilton to assist the arrival of new refugees. Street youth programs, women's shelters, and gifts for inner city children were also a focus for our gatherings. An interest group creates encouraging cards for a women's shelter purse donation program, and another makes handcrafted afghans for street people and donates baby blankets and books to young moms completing high school certification, as part of our "Baby Snuggle Project".

Linda Sargeant, Branch President

Peterborough

This has been an encouraging year so far as we have resumed our monthly 'Let's Do Lunch' at different restaurants. The conversations are lively as we catch up with each other in person and there are definitely a few warm hugs to rekindle that connection. Our Book Worms have expanded their technical skills to the point that we now have hybrid meetings to accommodate those who are not yet ready or able to travel to the member host's home. Our Christmas/Holiday gathering was well attended and very festive. There was a collection of books for the Salvation Army and many needed items for a local women's shelter. We continued to donate milk bag mattresses (over 100 so far) locally to One City for distribution. We are looking forward to our Games Day, Birthday Bash, our Annual General Meeting & Luncheon and then Convention in Kingston.

Judy-Anne Tumbler, Branch President



Trenton

Thanks to our Planning Committee (an energetic, enthusiastic group) we were able to open our first meeting in September with a whole year of monthly meetings planned including; meals, venues and entertainment in place!

We started in September with a light tea and cake, celebrating our branch's 50th anniversary and time to honour the lives of 10 of our members we lost during our 2 year hiatus. We honoured our 2020 Cora Bailey winner, Marie Mitchell, in October. We have enjoyed soup/sandwiches and even a full roast beef dinner. Our entertainment has ranged from speakers (local nature, the Camineau Trail, Community Partners for Success) to Christmas songs and stories to a Zoom meeting in January hosted by Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre in Napanee. Needless to say, we have more of the same planned for the following months. During our enforced separation, past-president Nancy Patterson-Wickson hosted many Zoom meetings to share information, to chat and to have presenters (Vanessa Grenier-Quilts for Survivors, Wayne Wickson-Geneology) broaden our horizons.

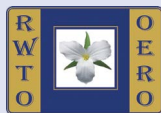
Our branch members have revived our clubs and continue to demonstrate our motto of "Caring, Sharing and Having Fun"!



Northumberland-South Durham

The Northumberland-South Durham Branch Executive does not use Zoom to communicate with each other, nor do they use it to communicate with their members. They use e-mail. Many of the members are older and not computer literate, or do not have the programming. Some members do use Zoom for meetings with other groups they belong to and Skype or other systems to connect with

Continued ►



News From the Branches— "Zoom Zoom"

family, in the way they learned to do during COVID lockdowns. One member of the Branch volunteered to set up a Zoom meeting but there wasn't enough interest to proceed with the plan. The best personal experience occurred when District 7 Presidents or their representatives used Zoom during weekly meetings when they were writing and refining resolutions to be presented at the June 2023 convention. Since the Presidents live far apart from each other, Zoom saved a lot of travelling and efficiently utilized everyone's time.

Julia Esford, Branch President

Niagara West

Many of our RWTO Branches successfully used Zoom during the pandemic to substitute for in-person or executive meetings and continue to do so. Our small Niagara West Branch did not. We did communicate by email, 'snail' mail, and phone calls which worked well for us as several of our members do not use computers. These members have an 'email buddy' who keeps them informed of any news that is sent via email.

We still use that system as it works well for our branch. When RSVP's are required, the non-email members reply through their email buddy or phone in their response. Phone calls often include a lovely chat that keeps us in touch directly. We were delighted to start meeting in-person again in late 2021 and were introduced to a wonderful local chef, Brad Rempel. We celebrated with Santa and the Great Lakes Christian High School Choir in November.

Diana Bujas, Branch President

Niagara Falls

Although our Executive tried Zoom meetings,



we found it more effective to conduct business through email until we could meet again in person when restrictions eased. We never had Zoom meetings with members but did stay connected through other means. Finally, in late 2021 and early 2022, we "tested the water" by holding luncheon meetings without presentations. As membership year 2022-2023 began, we gratefully returned to our full program. At our September 2022 luncheon, Carol Morningstar, Branch Secretary and Area 13 Director, gave a moving presentation on her daughter's heart transplant. That presentation touched many hearts! At our December 2022 luncheon, speakers Arlene and Ken Murray presented fascinating insights into teaching in Saudi Arabia. It was wonderful to again be fully engaged in "Caring and Sharing" with members, and we will continue with a future joint meeting with Niagara South and handwriting analyst Elaine Charal.

Diane Ewen, Branch President

Niagara South

The Niagara South Branch of RWTO is so pleased to be back meeting live and in person. We had our first non-COVID luncheon meeting in September and shared information about the upcoming year, welcomed new members, and presented the Cora Bailey award to Pat Davis. Some new small group activities were introduced, and we are happy to announce that a walker's group has begun under the leadership of Margot Smith, a quilting group is stitching away, and a crocheting group is in the works. In November, the branch enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the Holy Trinity Church Hall in Welland. Members donated children's pajamas and books to help local agencies in south Niagara. The group had a great time creating beautiful Christmas cards that were sent to our military men and women at home and abroad. In early April we are in for a treat. Naomi O'Brien (Respite Services Manager for Seniors Community Programs in the Niagara Region) will speak to our members about "Laughter and Ageism". In late April our Branch

Continued ►

News From the Branches— "Zoom Zoom"

has been invited to the St. Catharines' Branch luncheon to meet President Judy Drummond. A joint meeting with the Niagara Falls Branch will take place in June. We will be entertained by a handwriting analyst. Thanks to all our wonderful members for continuing to support the Niagara South Branch and a huge welcome to the new members who have joined us this year!

Anne Converset, Branch Member

St Catharines

What a wonderful year it has been! RWTO/OERO St. Catharines welcomed eighteen new members and one social member, and has encouraged them to join the Executive and participate in over a dozen interest group activities.

Our members have enjoyed a luncheon in

October with a very entertaining musical Elvis tribute by Cameron Caton, and a Christmas buffet with accompanist, Sharree Eidt, who led us in some rousing holiday songs. Our esteemed guest of honour, Betty Lou Souter, Director of Community Care St. Catharines and Thorold, brought a few to tears when she graciously accepted our cheque for \$9645.

Goodwill Convenor, Jan Harlos, has sent out many birthday cards to our Forever Young members, as well as Christmas cards. She and a group of bakers also delivered homemade cookies to the very grateful ladies.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy a happy, healthy life with lots of laughs and a few adventures along the way.

Linda Gaudet, Branch President, St. Catharines

There are a few new technologies that you may want to explore, as a genealogist and retired teacher I was excited about both of them.

The first is a change in the information that gets put on tombstones. You can now add a QR Code that enables anyone who visit the site to upload the code and get relevant information about your family member.



The Qr Code is embedded on to a tombstone. It contains files about the deceased person. It can have media files such as images, videos and audio files. You can also add external links to websites and family trees located on the internet. You can write a short epitaph or detailed biography of a person or a pet. You can specify a place on a map and add additional relatives. You can make the page password protected if you want but that limits who can access the files. All generated QR codes will work forever, do not expire and have no scanning limits. The first couple of QR codes I am going to work on are the one that is being placed on my parent's headstone and the next is going on my

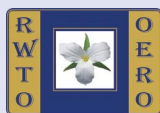
maternal grandmother's stone. I know so much more about my grandmother thanks to my family tree and DNA.

The second is Artificial Intelligence, I am still playing with this one but the outcomes are interesting. There are several platforms to chose from, I have selected to try the free ChatGPT. As a genealogist I help other people with their family tree. In one tree the men appear to be ship builders, riveters specifically. I went on the ChatGPT and asked it to outline the history of ship building beginning in 1850. I asked that it include the cities of Glasgow and Belfast in the feedback. Instantly I got a few paragraphs of well written information on the ship building industry. I downloaded the information and uploaded it to the family tree, it helped to explain the immigration pattern that existed in the tree.

AL has been used in the Genealogy companies to generate information, Ancestry uses one to generate thrulines which develops a set of DNA assumptions. ChatGPT is a chatbot developed by OpenAI and launched in November 2022. It is built on top of OpenAI's GPT-3 family of large language models and has been fine-tuned using both supervised and reinforcement learning techniques. Wikipedia

If you decide to explore either of these new initiatives send me an email with your outcomes and opinions.

Submitted by Jan Murdoch janmurdoch8@gmail.com



In Memoriam

Adams, Betty	St. Catharines	Gibson, Lynda	St. Catharines
Allen, Muriel	Dundalk-Flesherton & District	Gilliland, Cherrie	Trenton
Arbuckle, Audrey	Trenton	Gleadall, Shirley	Daisy Wilson Coldwater
Armstrong, Vaida	Napanee	Gollan, Janet	Kingston
Armstrong, Virginia	Mississauga	Gorth, Mildred	Sarnia-Lambton
Audet, Elizabeth	Palmerston and District	Greven, Carol	Trenton
Baldwin, Patricia M.	Sarnia-Lambton	Gunther, Lynette	Mississauga
Ball, Betty	Kingston	Hammond, Morna	Napanee
Bartlett, Doris	Stratford	Harrison, Dale	Brant
Black, Ellenor	Niagara West	Hastings, Judy	Brockville
Black, Kathleen	St. Catharines	Hertzberger, Audrey	Kitchener-Waterloo
Blago, Stella	Stratford	Hicks, Ruth	Windsor-Essex
Bowyer, Joan	BurlOak	Hinch, Joan	Sarnia-Lambton
Brett-Evans, Maire H.	Rendezvous	Hollender, Bonnie	St. Catharines
Brown, Debbie	St. Catharines	Holmes, Margaret	Niagara Falls
Bryan, Isobel	Ottawa-Carleton	Howes, Corinne	Kingston
Caspersen, Betty	Scarborough	Inwood, Evelyn	Napanee
Chisholm, Dorothy	London-Middlesex	Isaac, Caroline	Ottawa-Carleton
Christiani, Rea-belle	Scarborough	Jones, Shirley N.	Sarnia-Lambton
Christie, Aileen	Mississauga	Jordan, Patsy	Scarborough
Chung, Ruby	Peel North	Kelly, Charlotte	Peterborough
Collict, Anne	Scarborough	Kemp, Billie	Northumberland South Durham
Coulter, Mary Ellen	Belleville	Khan, Qamar	Sarnia-Lambton
Crosby, Wilma	Niagara South	Kimmett, Gwen	Napanee
Cruikshank, Marie	Blue Mountain	Kinch, Rachel	Brockville
Dagleish, Joyce	Stratford	Kingsley, Aileen	Kingston
Davey, Lois	South Bruce	Koelle, Patricia	Mississauga
Davis, Nona	Trenton	Kostaniuk, Sonia	Sarnia-Lambton
Day, Eleanor	Kitchener-Waterloo	Leombruni, Arlene	Hamilton-Wentworth
De Quetteville, Edith	BurlOak	Logan, Janet	Mississauga
Densmore, Joanne	Cambridge	Lovett, Frances	St. Catharines
Desmarais, Patricia	Windsor-Essex	Lukasik, Jennette	Hamilton-Wentworth
Dicker, Shirley	Windsor-Essex	Lyall, Susan	Mississauga
Dixon, Mary	Kingston	Macdonald, Muriel	BurlOak
Drew, Wendy	Lanark	Maidens, Carol Mae	Niagara Falls
Duncan, Marion	Brockville	Malley, Deborah	Windsor-Essex
Einarson, Ruth	Dundalk-Flesherton & District	Marr, Marion	St. Thomas-Elgin
Emerson, Doris	Chatham-Kent	McCall, Monica	Sarnia-Lambton
Falls, Margaret	Blue Mountain	McColl, Margaret	Scarborough
Farrow, Carroll	Northumberland South Durham	McDonald, Mary	Mississauga
Flindall, Marianne	Trenton	McInnes, Jocelyn	Sudbury
Fredenburgh, Bonnie	Mississauga	McInnis, Wyonne	Windsor-Essex
Freeman, Eileen	Belleville	Mertes, Joyce	Sault Ste. Marie
French, Doris	Palmerston and District	Monteith, Mary	Owen Sound

In Memoriam – continued

Moorcroft, Barbara	Northumberland South Durham	Slack, Jenifer	Ottawa-Carleton
Moore, Josephine	BurlOak	Stevenson, Penny	London-Middlesex
Morris, Cleata	Chatham-Kent	Stoner, Shirley	Niagara Falls
Muysson, Mary	Guelph-Wellington	Taws, Margaret	Mississauga
Nickel, Annie	Windsor-Essex	Teal, Lenna	Belleville
Parker, Isabelle	South Bruce	Thomson, Anne	Hamilton-Wentworth
Petry, Merriel	Ottawa-Carleton	Tolonen, Karen	St. Catharines
Pipe, Valerie	Hamilton-Wentworth	Uttley, Leslie	South Bruce
Plouffe, Joan	Ottawa-Carleton	Vogt, Dorothy	Sarnia-Lambton
Pratt, Jessie	Chatham-Kent	Wade, Hyacinthe	Ottawa-Carleton
Rau, Doris	Windsor-Essex	Waite, Marlene	Orillia
Reeve, Barbara	Haldimand	Walton, Rosemary	Hamilton-Wentworth
Roemmele, Donna	Windsor-Essex	Welch, Barbara	Scarborough
Ryan, Donna	Windsor-Essex	Weylie, Christina	South Bruce
Scarrow, Gwen	Warton	Whalen, Doris	Napanee
Schiarizza, Patricia	Peterborough	Wilken, Eva	South Bruce
Searson-Anderson, Betty	Sarnia-Lambton	Wilson, Alice	Stratford
Sedlmeir-Scratch, Elizabeth	Windsor-Essex	Winger, Wilma	Niagara South
Sherratt, Theresa	St. Thomas-Elgin	Woodruff, Gail	Niagara Falls

Communications

News Letter

“Connections” is a high quality and informative Newsletter due to the contributions of all the members who submit articles. I have enjoyed assembling the pages and working with my editors Kathy Smith (Niagara South), Sharon Chop (Ottawa), Silvia Myers (Hamilton-Wentworth) and Christine Roberts (South Bruce). They all have keen eyes and are conscientious which help ensure that are content meets good standards and is visually appealing. I am pleased to share that Kathy Smith (Niagara South) has agreed to assume the role of Newsletter Convenor in 2023-2024.

This means we will also need some new members for our editing team. It is a rewarding role and involves a small commitment of time. Everything is down on the internet so you can live anywhere and participate. You can even be a snowbird, location is irrelevant all you need is the eye of an eagle and an awareness of grammar and sentence structure.

If interested, please send me an email rwtoconnections@gmail.com.



Website



To check your local Branch Web Page for information on what needs to be updated on your Branch Web Page:

Go To: <https://rwto.org/branches/communication-convenors/>

Send all updates to be posted to rwto cyberlady@gmail.com

Kathy Gallagher, Website Convener





RWTO/OERO CONVENTION 2023

Kingston June 6 - 8, 2023

"Cruising Down the Waters" in Kingston!

Areas 8 & 9 Welcome YOU!

The Retired Women Teachers
of Ontario



Organisation des enseignantes
retraitées de l'Ontario

FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON 285 King Street East, KINGSTON ON

Standard Queen (2 beds) or King (1 bed) Rooms \$179.00 + 17% tax

GROUP CODE: RWTO or Retired Women Teachers of Ontario

PHONE: 1-613-544-4434 (Front Desk)

EMAIL: fpkingstonsales@concordhotels.

Reserve before May 5, 2023.

A VERY SPECIAL TUESDAY!

In lieu of the usual evening program at the hotel, we will board the *Island Queen* Cruise Boat (capacity 250) at 6:00 p.m. The boat will depart at 6:30 p.m. from Pier 1, 2 blocks from the hotel. Enjoy an evening of food, refreshments and entertainment, and relax on a two-hour cruise to see the unique sights and heritage of the 1000 Islands region and the historic waterfront of Canada's First Capital City. Return to the dock at 8:30 p.m. The boat is wheelchair accessible on the first deck. A trolley to and from the dock will be available for those with mobility issues.

TUESDAY WORKSHOPS: #1 A, B, C 2:30 - 3:15 & #2 A,B,C 3:30 - 4:15

1A: HELPING OUR BRANCHES THRIVE, PART 2 - Share and learn about great ideas branches across the province have developed for their members and communities with Linda Sargeant. See videos prepared by branches, followed by discussion.

1B: INSURANCE - Learn about the many features of the RWTO/OERO Hospital & Home Care Plan, and how they can benefit you. Presented by Terry Kennedy, Karin Mussen, and LeAnne Taylor.

1C: TREASURERS - New Treasurer? Need a refresher? Join Linda Huffman for a tutorial on how to use Excel with your remittances and learn a few tips and tricks with the program. **2A: HELPING OUR BRANCHES THRIVE, PART 2 - Linda Sargeant (Repeat)**

2B: LONG TERM CARE - A variety of support systems will be discussed, and will provide helpful strategies to support seniors living in their own homes.

2C: ZUMBA GOLD - Enjoy the session with Trish Cammart of Zeal Fitness, Napanee. No experience necessary. Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes and bring water.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ORIGINAL TREASURERS WORKSHOP WAS LISTED AS #1A AND HAS BEEN CHANGED TO #1C.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON TOURS

(Bus transportation provided)

Tour 1 - Frontenac County Schools

Museum: Enjoy lunch (provided) at the museum followed by a tour of educational memorabilia from the early 1900's. A local school "marm" will greet, entertain and educate you as you return to the early days of the one room schoolhouse in Ontario's schools.

Cost: \$50 (Maximum 25 people)

Tour 2 - Amherst Island: (Lunch provided)

Take a leisurely ferry ride to the quaint village of Stella. Your guide will share the island's history as you pass sheep and dairy farms, visit a woolen shop and encounter

the many stone walls and fences constructed in the early 1900's.

Cost: \$60 (Maximum 44 people)

Tour 3 - Kingston Penitentiary: Lunch at

the hotel will be followed by a tour of Canada's most notorious prison. You will visit the cell block, segregation range, main cell dome, recreational yard and more. Follow this with a walk across the street to the penitentiary museum where memorabilia from the prison are housed.

Note: This tour requires significant walking.

Cost: \$75 (Maximum 30 people)

Tour 4 - Staycation: For those not wishing to

travel, enjoy lunch on your own. Then at 2:30 p.m., local artist and author, Sherry Pringle, will lead a discussion of her book *"Extraordinary Women, Extraordinary Times"*. The book recounts for the first time the personal stories of courage, survival and endurance of Canadian women in World War II. Slide show included. The book will be available for purchase at \$25.

CONVENORS: Anne Graham 613-259-2207 annegraham2207@gmail.com

Marg Dempsey 613-820-7864 margaretdempsey96@gmail.com



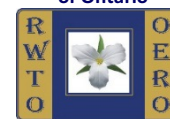
RWTO/OERO CONVENTION 2023

**Four Points by Sheraton
Kingston June 6 - 8, 2023**

"Cruising Down the Waters" in Kingston

Areas 8 & 9 welcome YOU!

The Retired Women Teachers
of Ontario



Organisation des
enseignantes retraitées de
l'Ontario

Name: _____
(Given Name) (Last Name)

Address: _____
(Street/PO BOX)

City: _____ ON _____
(Postal Code)

Phone: _____ Branch: _____

Email Address: _____

Check your role at this Convention.

- ☐ Provincial Board of Directors
☐ Provincial Past President
☐ Provincial Delegate (Voting)
☐ Branch Delegate (Voting)
☐ Alternate Branch Delegate
☐ Member ☐ Guest

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Mobility: (Please specify) _____

Dietary: Please list dietary needs on a separate page and attach it to this form.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON TOURS

Number by Priority

- ___ Tour 1 School Museum \$50.00
___ Tour 2 Amherst Island \$60.00
___ Tour 3 Penitentiary \$75.00
___ Tour 4 Staycation \$25.00

Please complete this **registration form** and send it to Registrar, Karen Kerr-Kennedy at 128 Windsor Dr., Brockville ON K6V 3H6, OR by email to rwconventionregistrar23@gmail.com. Attach your cheque made payable to **2023 RWTO/OERO Convention** OR complete an e-transfer to the email address above. The form is also available on the **RWTO/OERO website**. It can be completed and emailed directly to the registrar, or downloaded and printed. More info is available at 613-342-3115 or at the above email.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION	COST	MY COST
Full Convention Package Early Bird Rate – Received by April 15 <i>3 Day Registration, Coffee Breaks, Hospitality, Wednesday and Thursday Breakfast, Tuesday Cruise, Wednesday Banquet, Thursday Lunch, AGM Meetings and Workshops.</i> (Tours not included)	\$300.00	
Full Convention Package – After April 15	\$325.00	
Wednesday Single Day Registration <i>(Breakfast, AGM, Break, Hospitality, Banquet)</i>	\$160.00	
Thursday Single Day Registration <i>(Breakfast, AGM, Break, Luncheon)</i>	\$120.00	
Tuesday Evening Cruise only	\$60.00	
Wednesday Banquet only	\$80.00	
Thursday Luncheon only	\$60.00	
Wednesday and/or Thursday AGM & Coffee Break 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. (per day)	\$50.00	
Wednesday Tour <i>Number by priority. Pay for first choice. Adjustments will be made later, if necessary.</i>		
TOTAL ENCLOSED - No Postdated Cheques		
Tuesday Workshop <i>You may circle 1 choice for each time: 2:30 p.m.- 1A, 1B, 1C, 3:30 p.m.- 2A, 2B, 2C.</i>	\$ 0.00	

CANCELLATION: Registration fee refundable, less \$25.00 service fee, on receipt of written notification before May 1, 2023. After May 1, refund will be considered if possible.

I understand that I may appear in some Convention photos posted on the RWTO/OERO website or in Provincial Newsletters.

If women are not perceived to be fully within the structures of power,
Surely it is power that we need to redefine
Rather than women.

Mary Beard

Women are not going to be equal outside the home
Until men are equal in it.

Gloria Steinem



RWTO/OERO

RWTO/OERO Provincial Office
2736 Twelfth Conc,
Tecumseh, ON, N8N 0H9

**PM Agreement
40739021**