



THE SCRIBBLER

Sault Ste. Marie R.W.T.O. Newsletter Fall and Winter 2023-2024

SHARING CARING HAVING FUN

Message from Our Branch President

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has experienced a wonderful holiday break and is entering the New Year refreshed and ready for everything 2024 has to offer. For our RWTO Sault Ste Marie Branch, 2024 will continue to be a year full of caring, sharing and fellowship.

We especially welcome the following five women educational professionals who have recently joined our Branch: **Susan Trezins, Emma Dottor, Eileen Fagen, Barbara Krmpotich, and Maria Salazar.** It is wonderful to have you join us!!

Our Branch's Monthly Calendar will continue to be developed and forwarded to all members each month. Continue to share your ideas for activities/gatherings that we can engage in as this way the calendar will be a true reflection of the interests of *all of us* rather than *some of us*.

In addition, we continue to look forward to our February, April and June General Meetings which you will certainly not want to miss.

On the Provincial front, the main news is that our 2024 -25 RWTO Provincial Membership Fee will be increasing by \$10.00 - the first Provincial fee increase in nineteen years.

Again, we will have our Annual Convention in June with the venue being by Zoom, as this is an alternate year. Resolutions will be presented in the March Provincial Newsletter with opportunity for Branch dialogue at our April General Membership meeting as well as online.

Finally, I invite any Branch member who may be interested to seriously consider joining us on the executive. Elections will be held in the spring and there are positions to be filled.

Together in Caring and Sharing!

Barb Perry,
RWTO Sault Ste Marie Branch President

September 27, 2023 WELCOME BACK General Meeting

Our September General Membership Meeting saw 34 members come out which was wonderful!

We started with our Memorial Service for deceased members Lois N. and Rachel R. whose obituaries were included in the June 2023 Scribbler. We honoured these two Sault Branch members who passed away since January 2023. Each obituary was read aloud in turn by a member who knew each lady well followed by the lighting of a white candle of remembrance for each lady. A poem was read and each member placed a flower in the vase on the Memorial Table. Our Memorial Services are always very beautiful and touching.

The Executive Update highlighted the installation of our 2023-2024 Executive Officers and the induction of Susan Trezins as a new member of our R.W.T.O. branch.

After the brief meeting, we had fun playing Giggle Bingo. The winners chose from a variety of interesting prizes which we brought from home and hid in brown paper bags. Some winners tried to trade their prizes and others hung onto what they got. Giggles were heard throughout the hall.

Finally, we collected \$185.45 in our donation jar to purchase our 2023 Remembrance Day wreath and extra cash to donate to the Royal Canadian Legion's Poppy Day fund. Brenda G. and Patricia L. carried our R.W.T.O Sault Branch wreath at the Remembrance Day Service at the G.F.L. Centre this year.

*****Photos on the next two pages of the Sept. 27 meeting were kindly supplied by Gerry Y. from her archives.



Taking a snack break from Bingo. Left side of table front to back: Judy P., Marilyn C., & Doreen S. Right side of table front to back: Stephanina H. and Arlene L.



Mary Anne P. won the first Bingo game.
What can be inside those bags?
Will I want it? Will I trade it?
Will I give it away?



Judy P. won Garfield wearing a t-shirt with Happy Monday on it.
Isn't that an oxymoron?



Branch President, Barb P. (left) with newly inducted Member Susan T. Susan joins her mom Marg T. (below playing Bingo) as mother-daughter R.W.T.O. Sault Branch members.



Left side front to back: Marg T., and Vi P. Right-side front to back: Carol R., Dianne P., Mary Anne P., Darleen Z., Susan S. and Patricia L.



Left side front to back: Pat P., Susan S., Darleen Z., Mary Anne P., Diane P. and Carol R. Right side front to back: Carol Ch., Vi P., and Marg T.

October 10, 2023 Patterns & Parallels: The Great Imperative to Survive

On October 10, 2023, a group of members visited the Art Gallery of Algoma to view Dr. Roberta Bondar's latest photography exhibit Patterns and Parallels: The Great Imperative to Survive featuring ground-breaking new perspectives on at-risk birds. We really enjoyed the exhibit which focussed on three migratory birds: the whooping crane, the piping plover and the lesser flamingo from Africa all chosen because they are either endangered or near -threatened.

In the art room our guide gave us the opportunity to create paper collages to show our favourite places from a bird's' eyeview. Some members took right to this task impressing the rest of us with their creative work.

It was definitely worthwhile taking the time to experience this sixth photography exhibit by acclaimed Dr. Bondar with our colleagues and friends.



Left to right along the wall: Brenda G., Arlene L., Barb McL., Joanne C. and Vi P.

Left to right in front of the monitor showing more information about Bondar's photography: Linda F., Carol McF., and Susan T.



Having fun! Left to right: Patricia L., Arlene L. and Susan T.



Barb P. (left) and Linda F. had lots of laughs creating their collages.



“Picasso Wannabes” left to right on left side of the table are: Long-time friends Joanne C. and Vi P. On the right side of the table: Brenda G.

Newsboys, Sandra Salerno, McKay Island Lighthouse What do they have in common? Our October 12, 2023 Joint Meeting Hosted by Central Algoma.

Most of us car pooled the scenic 45- minute drive from the Sault to the McKay Lighthouse Lounge and Banquet Hall for our joint meeting with the Central Algoma Branch of R.W. T.O. It was Central Algoma’s turn to host the meeting which featured a visit by our Provincial President Sandra Salerno.

It was our branch’s turn to introduce Sandra Salerno, and introduce we did. Bernice researched Sandra’s background and created a song based on the facts she learned about Sandra’s life and career. Donning newsboy caps and holding up newspapers, most of our executive members were involved to belt out the eleven-verse song with the “Extra, Extra Read All About It!” chorus. Sandra, from Haldimand County, was amazed at how Bernice had gleaned all this information about her and thoroughly enjoyed our rousing presentation.

Our Provincial President, Sandra Salerno, introduced herself with humour and charm. She started off with the following: "I'm not sure what you did during the summer, but I decided to try the Japanese method of decluttering. I had to hold every object that I owned and if it did not bring me joy, I threw it away.

So far, I have thrown out all my vegetables, my bra, my scale and my treadmill. But the one thing I will never give up is my Membership to RWTO/OERO."

She told us that belonging to our wonderful organization has brought her great joy by keeping in touch with the amazing women she taught with, and she has made many new friends across the province. She explained how our branches make a difference in our communities and beyond by learning about specific needs from guest speakers and then supporting them.

Sandra praised the outreach programs of Sleeping Children Around the World by the Sault Branch and Literacy and the Central Algoma Secondary Award by the Central Algoma branch.

Sandra went on to tell us of the publicity campaign underway provincially to attract retired women professional educators.

She explained that Branches that are having difficulty getting members to serve on the executive are finding success working as a team to decide on a focus. By teams she meant that more than one person can hold a position. Some of the branches in the province have co-presidents. Also, there could be two or three members working as a convenor instead of one person with that title.

A report from Barb Perry, our branch president accentuated the fact that our branch meets all year round and is really growing as are our interest groups. Central Algoma Branch's president Mary Jane Thompson told us that their varied interest groups are active again, and that she has added a Homework Club in Thessalon which could use volunteers.

We enjoyed a hearty lunch of individual miniature charcuterie dishes filled with prosciutto, cheese, and crudites, lasagna (choice of meat or vegetable), tossed salad, buns, and apple crisp with ice cream. Incidentally, the caterer is a retired educational assistant and was invited to the Central Algoma December meeting.

It was a beautiful day meeting with our Central Algoma colleagues and escaping to nature to enjoy the picturesque and historic McKay Lighthouse located on the North Channel of Lake Huron.



Along the windows: Three of the Sault Branch Newsboys Patricia L., Bernice W. and Sandy F. chanting “Extra! Extra! Read All About It” about Sandra’s bio.



L to R: Sault Treasurer, Sandy F., Sault President, Barb P., Central Algoma (C.A.) President, Mary Jane T., Provincial President, Sandra S., & C.A. Communications Convenor, Nancy K. At far end of the table: C. A. Past Area Director, Joyce R.



“McKay Island Lighthouse is a familiar landmark in the Bruce Mines area with a long and interesting history covering its construction and individuals who both maintained the light and worked to preserve it for posterity.”

<https://lighthousefriends.com>



“The steel tower in front of the lighthouse was erected over June 7 to June 9, 1975. Coastguardsman Rumley removed the light from the lighthouse and placed a white four-second blinking light on the steel tower. The Canadian Coast Guard owns the square of land on which the skeleton tower stands and is responsible for its maintenance. Today, this tower still guides freighters into Trap Rock wharf and recreational boats into Bruce Mines Marina.”

<https://www.lighthousefriends.com>

Sharing Christmas Messages with Shut-ins, Sharing with People in Need at Christmas and Sharing Christmas Books and Christmas Treats with Each Other

We held our Pre-Christmas gathering on November 27, 2023 at the United Baptist Church on Malabar.

There was no formal business conducted at this special meeting.

This year we had the pleasure of writing greetings in Christmas cards again. We brought cards in which we wrote notes and envelopes to embellish with seasonal stickers. This activity brings us a great feeling of joy in bringing some happiness to elderly people in our community.

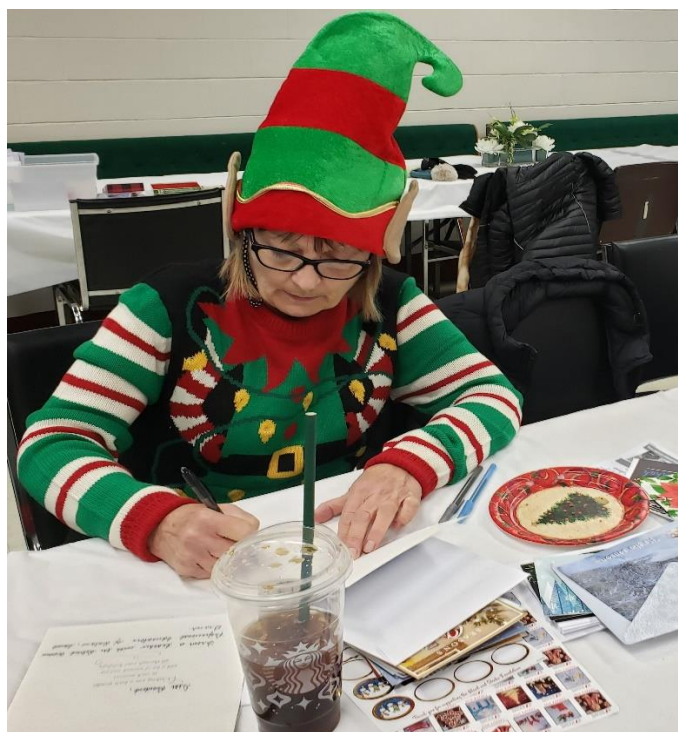


At work are left to right: Barb P., Pat P., and Patricia L.

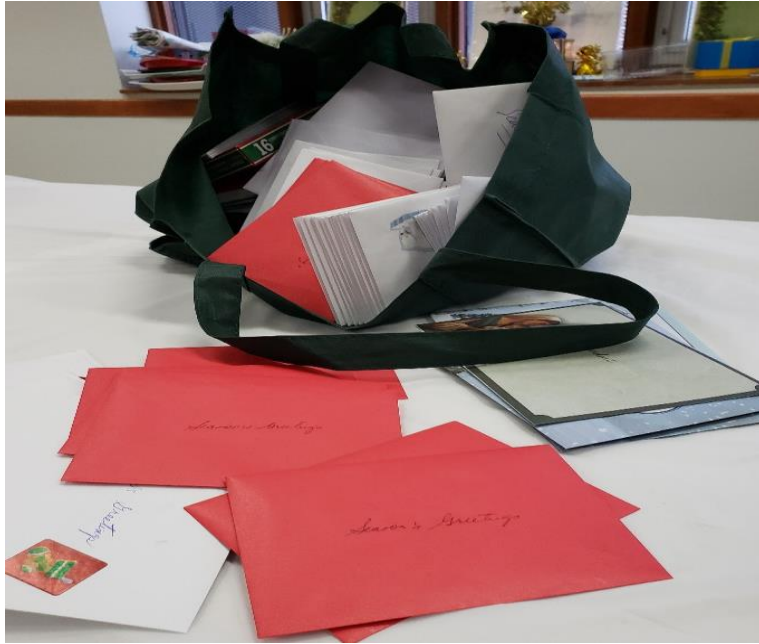
Susan T. and Rita W. are in the left background.



Caught in the act of writing cards. Left side of table: Gerry Y., Paula H., Sandy F. and Rita W. Right side of table: Eileen F., Carol G., and Susan T.



One of Santa's Elves helped write cards too.



We wrote about 400 cards that day. The cards were delivered to The Davey Home, Van Daele Manor, the Finnish Rest Home and Meals on Wheels. We are very proud of our work.

In between writing cards, we enjoyed the delicious Christmas baking that members brought to share: Christmas Cake, Nanaimo Bars, Pizelle Cookies a.k.a. Tie Plates, cupcakes and much more.

Okay, Carol McF. what are you going to choose?





We were enthralled by Rita's reading.



Rita W. had a captive audience for her reading of two Christmas books. Here she is reading Mother Christmas by Norine Trenholm. This book is a poem that tells the tale of women and Christmas and all that they do to prepare for it. The prologue of the book says: "This is my tribute to all women without whom (in my opinion) there would be no Christmas. The men...well, they still believe in Santa Claus."



Displaying their Christmas attire were left to right: Darleen Z., Paula H., Stephanie H., Brenda O. and Gerry Y. Which are you, Paula? Naughty or nice?

*******We are very thankful for the generosity of members in donating \$370.00 to Christmas Cheer in the donation box at this meeting.**

A Note From Sandy

In Gratitude and Heartfelt Appreciation

As you all know, the fall of 2023 has been extremely difficult for me. However, your concern and kind deeds have made life bearable. Many of you made monetary donations to remember my late husband, Les. Also, many others of you have reached out to me by phone, by notes and by cards. All your warm thoughts have been appreciated and have comforted me. All of you have truly lived up to the "Caring and Sharing" Motto of RWTO.

I wish all of you the Blessings of Christmas and may 2024 bring your health and happiness.

Sincere Regards and A Thousand Thanks, Sandy Fulcher, Past President



PAINTING DRAWING PAPER QUILLING SCRAPBOOKING PHOTOGRAPHY
KNITTING CROCHETING QUILTING SEWING COSTUMING FRAMING
SPEAKING TEACHING VISITING SOMEONE WITH DEMENTIA PLAYING
COOKING BAKING INTEGRATING READING AND FOOD DISCUSSING IDEAS
CHOOSING COLOURS ARRANGING FURNITURE SORTING DOWNSIZING
PLANTING TO ATTRACT BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES CONTAINER GARDENING
EXERCISING IN A SMALL SPACE USING A CHAIR TO EXERCISE DANCING

The opportunities are ENDLESS for using our imaginations in 2024!
Let's get inspired!

Newsletter by Brenda Gallander

