



# BRRR...EAKING NEWS!

## RWTO/OERO St. Catharines Branch

January 2024



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE     Melanie Kelch, Branch President

Happy New Year to all of our members! I certainly hope that you have enjoyed a wonderful holiday season filled with joyous occasions.

The RWTO/OERO St. Catharines Branch has continued to be busy. Our October luncheon, held at Club Capri, was very well attended. At our recent October luncheon, we hosted guest speaker Michele-Elise Burnett, accompanied by the Strong Water Singers. Michele-Elise is President of Kakekalanicks, an Indigenous arts and consultancy company which helps promote and educate about Indigenous art and artists to a broad audience. She has a focus on the power of Sisterhood amongst all women and our responsibility to reconnect with Nature. She shared her message of fostering Unity and keeping connections strong with our Indigenous community. Strong Water Singers began singing together eight years ago in their home base, The Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre. The group shared their singing and drumming that incorporates the beauty of unity, the power of sisterhood, and the strength of reclamation.



Also, at our October Luncheon, we learned about The Westview Centre4Women. We collected four vehicles full of items donated for the women who visit the centre. We also presented a cheque to the centre for \$1,500 (all of which was donated by members at this luncheon). This was greatly appreciated. Thank you to our Honorary President, Betty Axon, for bringing this worthwhile charity to our attention.



On Remembrance Day, at the St. Catharines Cenotaph, our Branch Memorial Wreath was displayed, along with many others, to recognize the personal sacrifices made by those who are currently serving or who have served in years past. Amongst the many that attended the service, we were pleased to have RWTO/OERO members present to remember and to reflect. Additionally, in remembrance, we published personal RWTO/OERO Branch stories in our Newsletter.



At our December Luncheon, held at the Holiday Inn, we feasted on many delicious holiday foods. The room looked so festive with both the decorations and the beautiful women who attended in their "holiday best". We again welcomed Sharree Eidt to accompany us in our uplifting Christmas Carol sing-along. Even better this year was "The Twelve Days of Christmas", with each table representing a different day animated with fun gyrations and special voices! A great time was had by all. Our special guest at this luncheon was Betty-Lou Souter from Community Care, St. Catharines. She shared with us the



work of Community Care and the increased need for support in our community. Your generosity shone through with a donation of \$9,500 presented to Betty-Lou at the luncheon.

As our new calendar begins, I will look forward to seeing many of you at our April and May luncheons. Please note the dates in this newsletter. Until then, stay well and safe.

## Mark Your Calendar

### April Luncheon

**Wednesday, April 24, 2024**

AMICI's Banquet and Conference Centre,  
2740 Merrittville Hwy., Fonthill

Guest Speakers: Prov. President, Sandra Salerno  
Detective Constable, NRP Fraud Unit, Jeffrey May  
Also, Cora Bailey Award Presentation

### May Luncheon

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024**

Four Points Sheraton, 3530 Schmon Pkwy, Thorold



### Something to Think About... Past President, Linda Gaudet

Would you like an exciting and fun time on your St. Catharines RWTO Executive? We are looking for a Vice-President to join our awesome team! This is a commitment of just three years working with motivated, dedicated women. There are also other positions that you might be interested in helping with... Treasurer, Membership, Website, Social, Secretary, Newsletter, Issues and Concerns, Goodwill, Insurance, Interest Groups.

If there's anything that tickles your fancy, let me know (Linda Gaudet).

### Caring And Sharing Nominations Requested Past President, Linda Gaudet

This award is given once a year to members who have gone above and beyond to make the St. Catharines RWTO a great group in which to belong. Please forward any nominations to Linda Gaudet, Past President, at [lgaudet7@gmail.com](mailto:lgaudet7@gmail.com), and include why this member is worthy of the Caring and Sharing Award.

### Goodwill Report: Janis Harlos, Goodwill Convenor

Goodwill has had a very busy and rewarding fall. A number of members responded to my call for help in fulfilling the many responsibilities assigned to Goodwill. The committee members include Linda Borland, Catherine Cookman, Jennifer DiMarco, Wendy Kuenzel, and Kathy Trussell. Kathy Trussell and Violette Hagerty joined me in November for Holiday Card writing. We sent out 85 cards. Their help was much appreciated.





The Forever Young received an assortment of baked treats handcrafted by seven of our members. We met at my house to assemble the treat boxes, had a little lunch and then the bakers delivered the goodies. I received calls and notes of appreciation from several recipients. It is the second year of this initiative. The positive responses from both the bakers and Forever Young members has encouraged me to make this an annual event. This year's bakers were: Patti Malkiewich, Diane Hockey, Wendy Waind, Verna Legere, Vicki Miller, Theresa Carnegie and Pat Wilcox. Thank you, bakers, for your time, baking skills and generosity.



Please contact me if you know of someone who is going through a difficult time. I will do my best to forward a "Thinking of You" or a condolence card, depending on the situation. We still have a few "We've Got Your Back" blankets that may be gifted to members that need a little TLC.

If you need a ride to a luncheon or are willing to help with the driving, please contact Wendy Kuenzel at wkfbook@yahoo.ca or 289 990-4236, or Janis Harlos at jharlos6@gmail.com or 905 892-8203.

**Directory Changes:** Please make the following changes to the RWTO Directory. These changes have submitted since the directory was last printed:

**New Members:**

Garrett-Peat, Jane	1572 Pelham St., Fonthill, L0S 1E3	289-897-8813	chrisandjane@cogeco.ca
Huibers, Ann	39 Queen Mary Dr., St. Catharines, L2R 2J3	905-321-1118	pahuibers@gmail.com
Venditti, Susan	1669 Gregory Rd., St. Catharines, L2R 6P9	905-641-1249	1669gregoryroad@gmail.com
McAdam, Susanne	6407 Shapton Cres., Niagara Falls, L2H 0L8	289-969-3021	queen_of_everything@yahoo.ca
Romanin, Caroline	16 Dobbie Rd., Thorold, L2V 4R7	905-227-8690	
Wallace, Joyce	202-40 Towering Heights, St. Cath, L2T 3G9	403-870-0022	joycetaylorwallace@gmail.com

**Email:**

Ada Faber	hylkeada@gmail.com
Marg Jarvis	robertjarvis72@hotmail.com
Laure Morrish	lorbth@gmail.com
Shirley Brown	shirleyl_brown@yahoo.ca

**Phone Number:**

Jan Piacenti	289-219-0795
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**Friends**



**New Members** who joined RWTO in October and December 2023



### Out n' About:

We had a very successful workshop at The Watering Can in Vineland last November making Holiday Urns for our front porches. Each urn was beautiful! Next year we're hoping to add a holiday table centrepiece workshop too.

Our Shaw Festival experience has been finalized and we have fabulous seats!! We'll be attending **My Fair Lady** on **Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm**. Cost is **\$95**. Monies are due beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>.



We are also set to see **Sherlock Holmes: The Mystery of the Human Heart** on **Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm**. Cost is **\$85**. Monies will be due beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>.

As with everything planned so far in advance, we have had some cancellations already, so a few tickets are still available. If you would like to join us for an afternoon of live theatre, please contact me. Kathleen Bradley [kath49bradley@gmail.com](mailto:kath49bradley@gmail.com) (905) 246-2924



The Travelogue Group met for a Mexican Fiesta at Chili Agave in December 2023



Friday Afternoon Walkers



Eighteen Members of the Dining Divas at Café Amora, January 2024



The Lunch Bunch at the Industria Pizzeria & Bar, Pen Centre, January 2024