

RWTO/OERO Ottawa-Carleton Branch Newsletter

January 2024



Happy New Year,

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and that you were able to share treasured moments with family and friends. It has been said that pictures are worth a thousand words. As another year has come to an end, I am looking back on all the photos of our events that made 2023 another memorable year.

Friendship and support are at the core of our organization. Members enjoyed catching up and sharing stories at our well-attended events. Our upcoming events are listed at the end of this newsletter. Please mark the dates on your calendars. If you have an idea for an event, please let one of the Executive know.

Our book club continues to meet regularly to discuss books on a number of subjects. Please read Joy Phillips Johansen's article. New members are welcome.

We received a thank you for being part of the Ottawa Network for Education (ONFE) community and for our ongoing contributions. "16,000 meals are served in the School Breakfast Program every school day in 200 schools across Ottawa across all four public school boards."

This year's Quarter Frenzy revenue, Priscilla Pig's donations and the Silent Auction at our Christmas lunch support this program. Thank you for your generous contributions.

- Priscilla Pig - \$353.95
- Quarter Frenzy - \$173.00
- Silent Auction and donations on the day of the Christmas lunch - \$747.05

Warmest wishes that 2024 brings you good health and lots of wonderful new memories. The Executive is busy planning for 2024. We hope to see you at our events in this year as we make new RWTO/OERO memories.

In "caring and sharing",

Sharon Chop, President

rwto.ottcar.sharon@gmail.com

We are grateful to live on the traditional unceded, unsundered territory of the Anishinabe Omàmiwinini/Algonquin Nation whose presence on this land goes back thousands of years

2023 - 2024 EXECUTIVE

President: Sharon Chop

Past President: Kathy McLean

1st Vice-President: Margaret Dempsey

2nd Vice-President: Irene Cameron

Treasurer: Barbara Edwards

Recording Secretary: Patricia Taylor

Membership: Suzanne Lanouette-Carswell

Insurance: Margaret Dempsey

Goodwill: Linda Willman

Communication:

- Newsletter: Executive
- Website: Marg Dempsey

Archivist: Barb Edwards (Acting)

Members-at-large: Marilyn Adair, Louise Pivato



Your Executive at work!

If you have any questions or comments, please contact one of the Executive members. Refer to your Directory for contact emails and phone numbers.



Area 9 Director Report

Greetings from the Provincial Board of Directors and ME. HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with friends and family. Thank you so much for the invitation to your Christmas Luncheon and Silent Auction on December 4th. The food, conversation and entertainment were excellent. What a wonderful display of items in the Silent Auction.

The new brochure highlighting RWTO/OERO should soon be reaching the Branches. We welcome new members and appreciate present members. I'm planning to visit your Branch in May for the annual Spring Lunch and AGM meeting and hopefully again before that. Looking forward to hearing about all the amazing things your Branch does in "caring and sharing". Thank you to your hard-working executive for ALL that they do.

Area Director: Brenda Johnston, Lanark Branch

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Insurance Broker, Terry Kennedy: 519-583-0098 tkennedy34@bell.net

Manulife Financial: 1-800-268-3763

Provincial RWTO/OERO Office: 1-877-607-6696 info@rwto.org



Membership

Ottawa-Carleton presently has 107 members, 8 life members and 1 associate member. Of our 107 members, 8 are new. Catherine Reid was the winner of our Early Bird Draw for renewing her membership before September 1, 2023.

As we no longer publish emails and phone numbers in our newsletters, please keep your Directory where you can access it. Also, if you change your email address, phone number or mailing address, please contact one of the Executive members with the changes so that we don't miss sending you relevant information.

A reminder that RWTO/OERO delegates passed resolutions at the June 67th AGM Convention in Kingston to extend membership to retired women Educational Assistants, women Early Childhood Educators and women Child and Youth Workers/Counsellors. If you know of any who would like to join us, please reach out to them. Also, please invite a retired woman educator to attend an event. We need to grow our numbers to ensure our sustainability. Spread the word!

Goodwill

Our Goodwill Convenor, Linda Willman, continues to be busy sending out cards. If you have Birthday, Get Well, Thinking of You, Sympathy, or other cards which you will not use, she would appreciate it if you would donate them for branch use. Please contact her. Keep in touch and tell us how you are doing.

In Memoriam

Remembering Marguerite Murphy

July 23, 1921 - December 26, 2023



Marguerite passed away peacefully at the age of 102 years in Kanata. Marguerite was a teacher and educational consultant. After retirement she was very active with the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario. She was one of the founding members and the first President of the Oakville Branch, and served in this capacity twice more. She was also an Area Director of Area 12. A donation to Nelson House of Ottawa Carleton Women's Shelter has been made on behalf of this amazing lady.



Happy 100th Birthday!

Our member, Val Leach-Ray celebrated 100 wonderful years on December 2, 2023. Congratulations to Val on reaching this amazing milestone. Her daughter, Pat Dodds, received a Poinsettia arrangement and a box of chocolates at the Christmas luncheon to take to Val. A \$100.00 donation was made in Val's honour from the Provincial RWTO/OERO Board to the Breakfast Program of the Ottawa Network for Education.



Events

September Welcome Lunch

Twenty-eight members enjoyed our September 7th Welcome Lunch and Quarter Frenzy fundraiser at the Lone Star Grill. We greeted returning members and new members who joined us. There were two special auctioneers - Bossy the Cow and Suzie Scarecrow. There was a lot of laughter as members bid on items. A good time was had by all!



Some of the attendees.

The auctioneers and a happy winner!



October Lunch at the International Restaurant, Algonquin College

Forty members joined Sandra Salerno, our Provincial President, for a lunch catered by Algonquin students on October 18th.

Heather Norris, the CEO of the Ottawa Network for Education poignantly shared information about the increasing need for the Breakfast Program in Ottawa. We presented her with a cheque for \$500.00.



Christmas Luncheon

The Christmas lunch was well-attended with fifty- one members and guests registered for December 4, 2023 at the Centurion Conference and Event Centre. Christmas music filled the air thanks to Paul Kelly. Members enjoyed the food, each other's company, bidding on auction items and singing Christmas songs. It was a wonderful start to the season.

Thank you for the toiletries and hygiene products that were collected for Debra Dynes Family Centre. Your generosity helped someone this Christmas.

The money raised by the Silent Auction will support the Breakfast Program. What creative, thoughtful food related items there were!

Barb Edwards won the Rewards Card draw for her Christmas lunch.





Teachers' Tea Time Book Club 2023-2024

I woke up on Monday morning with a smile on my face. Smiling on a Monday morning! Why? Then I remembered it was the day of the Teachers Tea Time Book Club meeting. I was going to have lunch with a fun group of smart, interesting former teachers and afterwards have a good discussion about our book of the month.



Our book club currently has 15 members who take turns presenting the book and leading the discussion. We meet at 11:30 am at Cora's Restaurant, Richmond Road, either the first Monday of the month or the second Monday if something like New Years Day falls on a Monday. New members are always welcome. If you would like to join us, please email joyphillips@rogers.com

Here are the dates and the books being discussed for the coming months:

January 8 - **Denial** by Beverly McLaughlin, (Former Chief Justice of Canada)

February 5 - **People of the Book** by Geraldine Brooks - follows a rare manuscript through the centuries and then Australia

March 4 - **The Underling** by Ian McKercher - set in Ottawa, a girl rising through the ranks of the Bank of Canada.

April 1 - **Still Life** by Sarah Winman - takes place in Tuscany and Britain

May 6 - **Atlas: the story of Pa Salt** by Lucinda Riley and Harry Whitaker - the conclusion of the series

June 3 - **I Could Have Been** by Helen Gallagher - a woman's life in rural set Quebec after WW1 (The author may be in attendance.)

*** Note: The order of the books has changed, **People of the Book** is in February, and **Atlas** is in May.

by Joy Phillips Johanson

Looking Ahead



The following activities have been scheduled or tentatively planned for our RWTO/OERO Branch for the coming year. Be sure to send in your registration for events early. This helps to make finalization of the event easier for the coordinator.

Please remember to wear your RWTO/OERO pins. You may win a prize! Also get your Rewards Card punched to be eligible for the draw at the Christmas luncheon.



Happy New Year Coffee and Chat, January 19, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. on **ZOOM**
Bring your coffee, join friends and catch up on the news.

Register with Sharon Chop



Breakfast and Conversation Chances R, 1365 Woodroffe Ave.

April 16, 2024 10:00

Stay tuned for dates in May, June, July and August

You are invited to join other members for a delicious breakfast and to catch up on the news.

Please sign up with Kathy McLean

Midwinter Break - Blind Date Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:30 a.m.

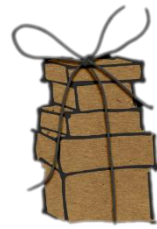
Café 1274, Best Western, 1274 Carling Ave. Order from the menu.

Wear Red

- Bring a book/s wrapped in brown paper or other wrapping paper and select a mystery book.

Priscilla Pig will accept donations for the Breakfast Program.

Register with Barb Edwards by January 31.



March Workshop: Beading - Tuesday March 26 at 10 am.

Maximum number: 8, Cost: \$10.00, Location: to be given to participants upon registration.

- Louise Pivato will lead a two-hour beading workshop/lesson which will include learning to string a beaded necklace on wire and attach a clasp or hook. The fundamentals of wire work will be taught so that participants can go on to repair or repurpose old jewellery. More advanced beading may follow this session with the hope of creating an ongoing interest group.

Register with Louise Pivato

Vanier Sugar Shack – March (Still in the planning stage. Stay tuned)

Roots: An Introduction to Genealogy - April (date and more information to follow)

Summerhays Grill, 1971 Baseline Rd

- We welcome Marilyn Adair, one of our members who is an “expert” on the topic of “genealogy”. She will share her experiences with this topic, describing what she has done and how it has impacted her family. As always, lunch and socializing will play important roles in the day.

Register with Sharon Chop



Spring Lunch and AGM Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Falcon Ridge Golf Club

- Join members for a delicious lunch and the Annual General Meeting with election of executive officers for 2024-2025, award presentations and more.



Summer Events are in the planning stage

Canal Ritz - July

Afternoon Tea - August



Welcome Lunch - September