



RWTO/OERO

Retired Women Teachers of Ontario

Organisation des Enseignantes Retraitées de l'Ontario



St Catharines Branch Newsletter, March 2024

President's Message -- Melanie Kelch, RWTO President 2023-2024



Happy Spring! I hope that this newsletter finds all of you well and having had a wonderful winter. If every winter were as mild as this past one, I might consider not travelling south!

On March 8th we celebrated International Women's Day. As I reflected on this day, I thought of the wonderful women who belong to this organization. Not only did they serve our communities for many decades as teachers, but they are now contributing to society in so many different ways. I wonder just how many decades the sum total of our teaching experience would add up to? In particular, I would like to recognize the members of your 2023-2024 Executive for their hard work and dedication. Thank you so much!

Since our last luncheon in December, your executive has been busy planning the events and business of our Branch. We have two upcoming luncheons and are planning for Convention 2024, which will be held virtually in June. At our April luncheon, we will welcome our Provincial President, Sandra Salerno, hear from Detective Constable Jeffrey May and present our Cora Bailey Award. At our May Luncheon we will hold our Annual General Meeting.

I would like to direct your attention to the current issue of our Provincial Newsletter, Connections. In this issue, you will read about the activities of the Provincial Organization, in particular the Resolutions that will be discussed at the June Convention. If you have any concerns or comments, please reach out to one of the executive members.

I will look forward to seeing many of you in April and May.

Yours in caring and sharing,

Melanie Kelch,
President

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Upcoming RWTO Luncheons

April Luncheon

Wednesday, April 24th, 2024

Amici's Banquet & Conference Centre

2740 Merrittville Hwy, Fonthill
(across from Brock Golf Course just past Brock University)



Menu: Chicken parm and pasta, green salad, dessert, and coffee bar. Served family style.

Speaker: Detective Constable Jeffrey May

Speaking on various forms of Scams, Frauds and how to protect yourself. This is Part 2, following last year's Part 1.

\$35.00 Payment must be received by **April 17th**

E-transfer money to rwstocatharines@gmail.com or

Cheques: Payable to: RWTO St. Catharines and mailed to:
Linda Foster, 14 Woodgarden Crt., St Catharines ON L2M 7C9

May Luncheon

Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024

Four Points by Sheraton, 3530 Schmon Pkwy, Thorold

Menu and Price will be confirmed at a later time.

Payment must be received by May 15th.



General Luncheon Information

1. All meetings begin at 11:00 A.M. Doors open at 10:30 unless otherwise indicated.
2. The name tags are on the table close to the entrance and are displayed in alphabetical order.
3. The cost for the luncheon will depend on what the facility is charging.
4. Payment for luncheons must be received by the Wednesday prior to each luncheon, whether by cheque or e-transfer. If you are late in mailing your cheque, let Linda Foster know that you are planning to attend and that your cheque is in the mail.
5. There are no luncheon tickets. As your payment is received, your name is added to the list of attendees. You should receive a call or an email when the Treasurer has received your payment.
6. **Cheques** are payable to: **RWTO St. Catharines** and mailed to: Linda Foster, 14 Woodgarden Crt., St Catharines ON L2M 7C9. For **e-transfers**, use the rwstocatharines@gmail.com address.
7. Luncheon payments will be returned if cancelled by the Wednesday prior to the luncheon. Call (905) 935-6182 (Linda) to cancel.
8. You will receive a phone call or email reminder several weeks prior to the luncheon.
9. **Escorts needed.** Sometimes our members need a ride to the luncheon. If you require a ride, or are able to provide assistance, please call Janis Harlos at (905) 892-8203.

We are a **Fragrance-Free Environment**.

Reports

Membership – Clara Warden, Linda Foster, Membership Convenors

Welcome Spring and the signs of new life and hope. We are looking forward to seeing our members at the upcoming April luncheon.

We are happy to report that we are maintaining our Membership numbers. So far, we have welcomed 15 new members in this calendar year! Membership in RWTO/OERO is essential for our organization to continue growing! We want to thank the members who have recently informed us of potential new members to contact.

We are always looking for new members, so please “talk up” our Branch group with any retired teachers that you may know. You may contact Marilyn Emmett, Linda Foster, or Clara Warden, if you are aware of anyone who may be interested. We would certainly be happy to hear from you.

Insurance -- Susan McLaughlin, Insurance Convenor

Because the trend today is for shortened hospital stays, it can mean that we have to pay for more expensive home care services after a hospital procedure, an illness or an injury. The Home care offered by the RWTO policy can help; it will pay 80% of the expense for services at home as a result of injury or sickness and as recommended by a physician. The requisition form is to be found on your RWTO website. **www.rwto.org**. You must fill in the form for consideration. Manulife will

recommend a reliable service. The policy will pay up to \$1,500 for any one injury or illness.

If you have questions feel free to call or message me.

Susan McLaughlin 905 935 9966

Goodwill -- Jan Harlos, Goodwill Convenor

The Vernal Equinox was here on March 21st. This day announced the arrival of Spring and reminds us of the upcoming Spring luncheons. If you plan on attending the April Luncheon at Amici's and need transportation, please contact Wendy Kuenzel at **wkfbook@yahoo.ca** (289) 990-4236 or Janis Harlos at **jharlos6@gmail.com**.

We have gifted a ‘We’ve got Your Back” blanket to one of our members who is dealing with a Family illness. If you know of a member needing a little TLC via a blanket, a phone call or card, please let me know.

We will be reaching out to our Forever Young members with a little Spring cheer in the next couple of weeks.



I am so grateful to have a Goodwill Committee to share in Goodwill responsibilities. They have relieved me of many tasks, enabling me to respond to other Goodwill needs.

Cards needed.

If you have
Birthday,
Condolence or
Thinking of You
cards which could be
donated to the
Goodwill Committee,
contact Janis Harlos.

Thank You!

In Memoriam

Friends We Miss and Remember

Maureen Haines passed away peacefully, on Sunday, August 20, 2023, in her 85th year after a brief illness. She had been a member of RWTO for 25 years. Maureen was an elementary teacher with the Lincoln County Board of Education. She was a consummate teacher with a career spanning 30 years. She helped many children to recognize their potential when they most needed support, especially during her work as a behavioural specialist at Parliament Oak School. She was an avid reader and enjoyed her time attending Bridge Group, Reading Clubs, and supporting the Blue Jays.



Bonny Bryan passed away on Thursday, March 7th. Bonnie taught for the DSBN both as a teacher and principal in the elementary system. She was a member of our branch for 19 years.

Ann Clark passed away peacefully on Dec 16, 2023, surrounded by her husband and three children. She was a Secondary School teacher and a member of our branch for many years.

Geraldine Young, our oldest 'Forever Young' member passed away in October 2023. Geraldine Young reached the age of 104. She joined our branch in 1987. She was a past president of our branch and continued to be interested in our activities throughout her long retirement. Geraldine was a secondary teacher. She also instructed at Niagara College.

Jean Munson passed away on Tuesday, May 16th. Jean was a member of our branch for 34 years. She was a primary teacher and taught for the former Lincoln County Board of Education. Jean was one of our "Forever Young" members.

Join Us !!

You will be Enriched by the Experience

YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO...

- Be one of the cool chicks
- Hang with the IN crowd
- Be a Mover and a Shaker

Well...

We have the answer...

Keep reading...

It's sooooo exciting...

YES

YES

YES

Yes...

It's an exclusive opportunity...

Just for you...

And any of your cool friends...

Join your RWTO/OERO St. Catharines Branch Executive!

Contact Linda Gaudet to learn more.
lgaudet7@gmail.com

IMPORTANT !! Be Informed

You need to be aware of how the organization of RWTO/OERO could change after the Virtual AGM Convention this year.

The following is a condensed, paraphrased version of the RWTO Resolutions which will be presented for voting at the RWTO Virtual Conference in June 2024. **If adopted, these resolutions change membership requirements and the organization's name.** Please note, that last year's resolutions approved the acceptance of Educational Assistants, Early Childhood Educators and Child and Youth Counsellors /Workers into the RWTO membership. This year, the following resolutions are being put forward:

Resolutions 1 to 5 (The addition of other educational professionals.)

Be it resolved that our regular membership be amended to include the addition of:

Speech and Language Pathologists
Educational Audiologists
Educational Social Workers
Educational Psychologists, and
Educational Office Support Staff,
into the RWTO membership.

Resolution 6 and 7 (Change of RWTO's name.)

Be it resolved that **RWTO (Retired Women Teachers of Ontario)** change its name to
RWEO (Retired Women Educators of Ontario)

And any branded materials/supplies would change the name after the current stock is used up.

If you would like more information or to have a voice in voting on these resolutions, please contact Melanie Kelch, our branch President. The official resolutions are printed in the March 2024 Connections Newsletter which you received by email or mail.



Caring and Sharing Award

Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond for our group?
Why don't you nominate that deserving member for a Caring and Sharing Award? Contact Linda Gaudet. lgaudet7@gmail.com

Rankin Run

Thursday June 13, 2024

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Summer Games Park



The Rankin Cancer Run will be holding their third virtual event this year. We will be supporting this event by walking around the track at the Summer Games Park across from Brock University. As you probably know, this fundraiser is a local event and the funds raised go to cancer care programs in Niagara. Our Team is called RWTO St Catharines. If you want to start getting sponsors, you can get your sponsor sheet online or from the community. There will also be sponsor sheets at the May luncheon.

I hope you can attend the walk or support one of us who will walk. We usually raise a considerable amount because of its importance and because you're a great bunch of ladies!

Please let me know if you would like to walk or if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance!

Jessica Thomson thomsonjess@hotmail.com 905-687-7510

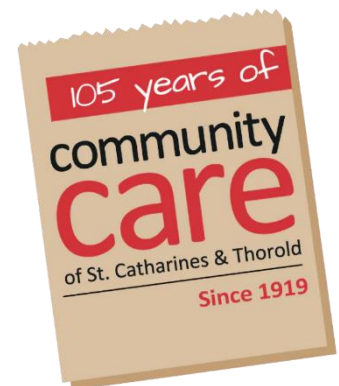
Community Care Volunteers Needed!

Community Care welcomes volunteers who are able to bring patience, compassion and excellent communication skills to support their clients. Their mission is to provide vital services and assistance to individuals and families that meet their basic needs and help bridge their journey to self-sufficiency.

Some of the desperately needed volunteer positions include:

- Front desk receptionist
- Warehouse staff
- Clothing and food cupboard monitors
- Sorters of both clothing and food
- Special event/occasion volunteers
- "Packers" to sort food as it arrives

RWTO/OERO St. Catharines makes a very generous donation to Community Care every year at Christmas. Now, it is your invaluable talents that are needed.



Please consider becoming a Community Care Volunteer!

Call Laura Juras at (905) 685-1349 or email her at clientservices@communitycaresca.ca

INTEREST GROUPS

OUT 'N ABOUT One Time Special Events

Kathleen Bradley, Interest Group Convenor

MY FAIR LADY at SHAW May 8th @ 2 pm

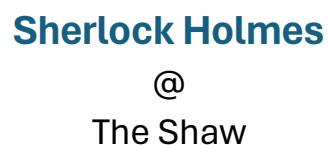
Thank you to everyone for getting your payments in on time. Much appreciated.

I will be handing out your ticket at the April Luncheon. See you there.



SHERLOCK HOLMES at SHAW. September 6th @ 2 pm

I will be collecting the \$85 for these tickets at the May Luncheon. E-transfers will also be accepted.



HIGH TEA at The Watering Can in Vineland !!

Thursday, May 30th at 1:00 pm

Cost - \$44 plus 13% tax plus 18% tip = \$ 58.00

This is the price for a regular, a nut free or a vegetarian Tea.

**Vegan, gluten free or dairy free is \$5 more (plus the extra tax & tip) = \$65.50

Please indicate when you register if you require a special Tea.

This event must be pre-paid before we can book.

E-transfers to **kath49bradley@gmail.com**, or mail or drop off a cheque to my home.

Monies due by April 15th.

and once your money has been paid to The Watering Can, there are No Refunds.

We had a wonderful experience the last time we went, please join us again this spring! Kathleen Bradley



BIRTHDAY CARD MAKING AFTERNOON.

After our successful Christmas card making afternoon, it was requested we make birthday cards. Come, join us. Have fun and meet new friends.

No experience is necessary. Supplies are provided.

Cost is \$12 for three cards. You will leave feeling like a pro.

Come either Monday, May 6th or Tuesday, May 14th at 1:30 pm to the home of Fern Lackenbauer, 9 Rolling Meadows, Fonthill. (905) 892-4963. **fernlackenbauer@cogeco.ca**. Call or email to reserve your spot on one of the two dates.



Help Wanted!

Over easy, sunny side up, a good benny do you enjoy breakfast out with friends?

Let's help facilitate that! The Breakfast Bunch is looking for a new leader. It could be you. Pick a restaurant, make a reservation, email your friends - show up & enjoy.

Easy peasy. Can we count on you?

Contact Kathleen Bradley and we can make this happen.



Revolving Book Club: Patt Chivers, Leader

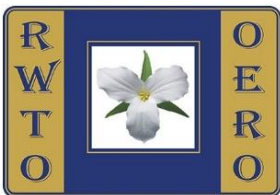
Looking for a chance to read a new book every month by an author you may not have read before – join the RWTO Revolving Book Club. Ten books are selected and shared amongst our readers over the year beginning October and ending in July. Each reader enjoys the opportunity to read a book each month and then passes it on to the next reader. In July she gets to keep the last book and add it to her personal library.

To participate, each reader contributes \$25.00 to the cost of the books which is due June 30, 2024, to Patt Chivers in cash, cheque, or e-transfer to pchivers@cogeco.ca. Look for Patt at either of the Spring Luncheons for more information.



Travelogue: Marilyn Weber, Leader

The Travelogue Club meets monthly to view and discuss places of interest where members have travelled. This group of 33 wonderful women enjoys learning about new places and remembering places already visited. So far this year, we have viewed presentations on Croatia and Slovenia, Barcelona, Hiking in the Azores, and Iconic Canadian Hotels to name a few. We look forward to a presentation about Jamaica in May and a year-end luncheon in June. Our meetings are always followed by creative treats and beverages along with time to chat with friends. New members are always welcome.



www.rwto.org Learn more about RWTO/OERO on the provincial website.

<https://rwto.org/branch-new/st-catharines/>

View the St. Catharines Branch activities, including contact information, upcoming events, Branch newsletters, Interest Groups, Resources, Awards and more.