



THE SCRIBBLER

Sault Ste. Marie R.W.T.O. Newsletter Spring and Summer 2024

SHARING CARING HAVING FUN

THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES FROM PAST AREA 11 DIRECTOR EMILY NOBLE

Thank you to RWTO/OERO Sault Branch for the opportunity to serve RWTO/OERO Area 11 as your provincial director. How kind of you to put my name forward for this unique adventure!

This position has been an incredible experience giving me the opportunity to be part of a team provincially and regionally that really takes the motto "caring and sharing" seriously.

It has been such a moving experience to hear about case after case of the help and support that is given to members in whatever circumstances they find themselves. Both Central Algoma and Sault Ste Marie Branches have very successful outreach to members and the community.

Both Branch presidents, Mary Jane Thompson and Barbara Perry, have been strong leaders in taking the concerns of members very seriously following the principles of RTWO/OERO. Both presidents have been solid advocates for all members in their Branches.

Previous Area Directors such as Sandy Fulcher and Joyce Ratz have been mentors and leaders who have paved the way for people like me. Thanks to their leadership, Area11 Branches of Central Algoma and Sault Ste. Marie are well respected at the provincial level for their contribution to members and RWTO/OERO.

I welcome Carol Neave of Central Algoma as our new Area 11 Director. She will serve us well with her wealth of experience on the RWTO/OERO Social Justice Committee regarding long term care.

Best wishes to all as I thank you so much for your support of me as your past Area 11 Director. Emily



Emily Noble (centre) is our RWTO Sault Ste. Marie Branch recipient of the Cora Bailey Award for 2023-24. Brenda O. (left) and Barb P.(right) presented the certificate to Emily at the March General Membership Meeting. Congratulations, Emily!

MESSAGE FROM OUR BRANCH PAST PRESIDENT BARB PERRY

It is hard to believe that my two years as President of our Sault Ste Marie RWTO Branch has come to a close. During my time in this position, I have been very fortunate to work directly with a dependable executive and believe we made a great team. It is wonderful to see our Branch thriving as reflected in our increased membership and regular involvement of members in monthly calendar activities. I wish the best to incoming President Patricia Lambert and know that our Sault Ste Marie Branch will continue to be in very capable hands.

Caring, Sharing and Having Fun!

Barb Perry, President of RWTO Sault Ste Marie 2022-23, 2023-24.

Masks, Beads, Green, Gold, Purple and Baby in a Cake. What do these things have in common?

You guessed it—our Mardi Gras themed General Membership Meeting on March 20, 2024 at the United Baptist Church on Malabar. Postponed due to stormy weather, our February meeting was held in March. However, the wait only served to increase the excitement and preparation for the celebration.

We started off with the New Member Induction Ceremony. We welcomed five new members: Emma Dottor, Eileen Fagan, Barbara Krompotich, Gerry Plecash and Maria Salazar. Two of the new members attended this meeting and were inducted into our organization.



After the Induction Ceremony Left to right: Sandy F., Treasurer, Barb P. President, Eileen F. new member, Maria S. new member and Emily N. Area 11 Director

During the Induction Ceremony, new members were introduced and welcomed on behalf of the general membership. The President read aloud the five goals of RWTO and inductees were asked to agree to work with other branch members toward meeting the goals. They were each presented with an RWTO card containing their RWTO Member pin, an RWTO pen and pad. Congratulations to all new members!

Following the
Induction of New
Members and the
presentation of the
Cora Bailey Award
to Emily, it was
time for fellowship
with a Mardi Gras
Flair.



L to R: Stephanie H., Diane M., & Beverley B.

According to Mardi Gras tradition, the members donned colourful masks with lacy and feathery embellishments and strands of beads in green, gold and purple.



L to R: Bernice W. & Emily N.



L to R.: Carol McF. & Carmen C.



Left to Right: Brenda
G., Barb P., Carol G.
and Carol R.



The name Mardi Gras is French for Fat Tuesday. During the Lenten season, many people fast or abstain from meat and other foods, so Tuesday before Ash Wednesday is the last day for many weeks to indulge. That's when you will find some of the best food served during Mardi Gras.



Stephania found in her search lots of foods served during Mardi Gras, including DEVILLED EGGS. Usually, they are served at Mardi Gras with the egg whites dyed purple, but Stephania didn't think we would like to eat purple eggs.

Stephania also brought Shrimp with Cocktail Sauce.

What a treat! Thank you, Stephania, for your generosity.



We enjoyed some delicious traditional Mardi Gras desserts with interesting history about their origins.



Brenda G. made traditional Pecan Pralines for one of the desserts.

Pecan Pralines—One of New Orleans's Most Storied Foods

In Louisiana, where Pecans grow, the praline evolved thanks to the “culinary genius of African American women” writes praline scholar Chanda M. Nunez, who credits these women with creating “the New Orleans Praline as we know it”.

Even the New Orleans praline's shape ---the way it hardens into a little brown puddle with pecans randomly jutting up across the murky topography--- seems to evoke the swamp, if say, it froze over and all the spooky cypress trees were forever preserved in time.

New Orleans's now signature pecan candy was one of the earliest street foods in North America and a means for emancipated black women to make a living during a time when civil rights weren't even in the picture.

Despite the candy's popularity in the early 1900's, the praline is often now overlooked as one of New Orleans's most storied foods, which is a shame—the candy is a symbol of a rich black culinary heritage and city tradition.

This history is from the article by: Google Gwendolyn Knapp, Editor of Eater New Orleans, Dessert Edition, October 17, 2016.

King Cake ---The Queen of the Desserts at Mardi Gras

Brenda O. baked the ring-shaped pastry "King Cake" following the traditional recipe. She made the pastry dough leavened with yeast, filling of cinnamon, sugar, and butter, icing for the topping and sprinkles in Mardi Gras colours.



Brenda O. slicing her King's Cake

The tradition of the king cake dates back to the Middle Ages. It was originally made to celebrate the Catholic Epiphany, a.k.a. Three Kings Day. French settlers brought the cake (and the traditions behind it) to Louisiana in the 1800s.

So, what's the meaning behind the baby? Some say the tiny token represents the Baby Jesus, while others believe it comes from another Louisiana tradition of hiding a bean or trinket in one slice of cake during the king's ball. Whoever found the trinket would be crowned the "king" or "queen" of the ball. Regardless of its origins, the baby is said to bring good luck and prosperity. History along with a recipe for "King Cake from Jo" was found in Allrecipes Jan. 10, 2024

****Congratulations Sherrill D. for finding the baby in your slice of cake. Good Luck!

Brenda O. also organized some fun activities to do in between or while eating.



How many necklaces are you getting in the basket, Carol R.?



Susan T. (left) and mother Marg T. working on the Mardi Gras Word Search.

The afternoon was not *all* fun and games though. We did start off with some important business.

Emily N. announced the new Area 11 Director as Carol Neave from the Central Algoma Branch for a two-year term, with the possibility of an extension for a second two-year term. (Note: Carol Neave's greetings are posted near the end of this newsletter.)

Barb announced that the 2024 RWTO Annual General Meeting/ Convention would be held on June 4th and 5th and would be a virtual convention using ZOOM. The delegates from our RWTO Sault Ste. Marie Branch are: Patricia Lambert (Provincial Delegate), Barb Perry (Branch Delegate), and Sandy Fulcher (Alternate).

Watch for a report of the 2024 Convention and Annual General Meeting in your September issue of RWTO Connections!

In Memoriam will be published in Connections in March 2025.

Our branch wrote two resolutions that were expected to be approved:

1. Be it resolved that the organization currently known as Retired Women Teachers of Ontario/Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario change its name to Retired Woman Educators of Ontario/ Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de L'Ontario.
2. Be is resolved that all RWTO/OERO branded materials continue to be used until the current supply is depleted and then be replaced with RWEO/OERO branded materials.

The next convention in 2025 will be held in person in Area 4 (Hamilton-Wentworth Branch). Everyone is welcome to travel to the convention at her own expense.

The provincial fee is increasing by \$10 for 2024/25. Our branch fees will therefore increase from \$50 to \$60. The fee is divided between the provincial office (\$50) and our local branch (\$10). More information will follow this summer.

There is a new RWTO brochure available now. Patricia L. was on the committee that designed it. The brochure explains who we are and what we do, and can help attract new members. Members in attendance took brochures to hand out to friends.

Area News: Emily N. reports that Provincial President Sandra Salerno sent a thank you card expressing her enjoyment meeting our members in 2023 in Bruce Mines.



L to R: At each meeting, Beverley B. & Patricia L. sign in members as they arrive.

On April 24, 2024, we met at the United Baptist Church on Malabar for a second wonderful Fine Art presentation by Susan T. entitled Canadian Women Painters: 20th Century Modernism, some RWTO Sault Branch business and a Birthday Celebration.

Susan T. started off the meeting with the visual presentation that she prepared to educate and entertain us. She introduced six women painters she chose who each has made her mark on Canadian Art History. Many people may not be familiar with the independence, innovation and resilience it took these artists to get recognized in a world of male painters. Each woman was a first in Canada to work in evolving modern styles. Susan pointed out subtleties of their art and gave a brief biography of each woman complete with some juicy tidbits of their lives. The two paintings below are from the many in Susan's presentation.



At the Theatre –1928—oil on canvas
by Prudence Howard (1896--1947)
at The Montreal Museum of fine Art

The painting shows two young women attending a performance. The independent women are alone at the theatre in 1928 unaccompanied by men.

Ms. Howard showed the ladies' bare backs of necks, shoulders and arms which reflect their independence.



Private Roy—1946--- oil on Masonite
by Molly Lamb Bobak (1922-2014)
Portrait at the Canadian War Museum, Ottawa

The woman in the portrait enlisted in the army as a cook and a decoder.

She retired as a Sergeant.

Private Roy was a trailblazer for Black woman.

In the business portion of the meeting that day, Sandy F. gave two reports: the Audit Report which was later mailed to Linda Hoffman, Provincial Executive Secretary-Treasurer and the Proposed Budget for 2024-2025 which was on each table for members to read and ask questions. The financial reports were accepted at the meeting.

Social Convenor, Brenda O., thanked those who donated baking or other treats to our General Membership meetings over the past year. She also asked members to consider donating in the upcoming year.

The Election of 2024/25 Officers took place. Sandy thanked Paula H., who stepped down, for her many years as Convenor of Issue and Concerns.

Sandy F. presented a slate of officers noting vacancies. Nominations from the floor were called. The motion put forward to accept the slate of officers as presented was moved, seconded and carried. Present members showed they were in favour. The slate of officers is printed on the back of your May and June calendars.

A final opportunity was offered to anyone who wanted to discuss the Resolutions being presented at the upcoming Provincial Annual General Meeting in June.

Then it was time for **Our BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.**

Patricia L. decorated each table with stand-up folders she created for each month of the year colourfully decorated with interesting facts (birthstone, flower, etc.) Members tended to sit where their birth month folders were and enjoyed the company of friends and a luscious assortment of cakes, cupcakes, fruit kabobs and beverages.





Left to right: Lorraine D. and Diane M. catching up.



Left to right: Rita W., Barb P., and Erminia G., our newest member. Rita is working on Happy Birthday Trivia.



Margaret T. celebrating her 90th birthday with us (and Bobby Bunny!)
Happy Birthday, Marg! Best Wishes for many more!

OUR BOOK CLUBS

BOOK CLUB ONE CELEBRATED THEIR TENTH YEAR TOGETHER IN 2023,
AND THEY ARE STILL GOING STRONG.



Here are members of Book Club One enjoying a lunch prepared by the host, Bernice. Left to right: Bernice W., Jenny K., Carmen C. and Rita W. Brenda G. is taking the photo. Each food item was creatively chosen by Bernice from the book read in April/23 The Home for Unwanted Girls by Joanna Goodman. During lunch they reviewed the relevance of the lunch to the characters, events and setting. Then, using Bernice's questions as their guide, they discussed the book in detail going back to pages to find support for their interpretations and opinions and sharing their personal connections. They always have great fun discussing the wide variety of genres chosen and enjoying snacks or meals they prepare (some quite elaborate) inspired by the books which also create lasting connections to the books. They meet for about three hours once a month in each other's houses.



Brenda G. "Queen of Post-it Notes".



Bernice W. deep in thought.

BOOK CLUB TWO GOING STRONG



Back row: Barb P., Patricia L., Carol G., Susan T., Erminia G., and Mary Anne P.
Front row: Carol R., Marg T., Valerie Z., and Diane P. (absent). Book Club 2, formed a year ago, meets at the North Branch Public Library monthly including summers. They read a variety of books from the library's Book Club in a Bag programme. They have lively book discussions and always a laugh. New members are always welcome. If interested, email mary.potoczny@shaw.ca.



Surrounded by inspiring shelves of books are left to right: Carol R., Barb P., Erminia G., Valerie Z., and Carol G.

HELLO SAULT BRANCH MEMBERS. I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE MYSELF AS THE NEW AREA 11 DIRECTOR.

Emily Noble served our Area 11 well, and it is with trepidation that I attempt to follow in her footsteps.

However, I will give it my best shot, for I fervently believe in our Caring and Sharing motto and especially the part about having fun which both of our branches enjoy.

My background is that I was raised in London, Ont. and attended Western University where I met my husband, Gerry.

For 2 years, I taught in Hamilton at Central Secondary, and then after Gerry and I married, we moved to Scarborough where I taught for 3 years at David and Mary Thomson C.I. while Gerry worked on his Ph.D. in Geophysics.

Then we moved -for forever- we thought, to beautiful British Columbia, where our first and only daughter, Alanna was born.

Forever lasted for 2 years, and then we returned to Ontario and settled in Sylvan Valley near my best friend. Our son, Fraser, arrived, followed by the surprise package of twin boys, Colin and Troy.

New to the area, I decided to throw my hat in the ring in our first municipal election in Echo Bay and that resulted in my becoming the first woman trustee on the Central Algoma Bd. Of Education. That was a real education for me and I learned rather quickly that there are always 2 sides -at least- of every issue.

After the twins were born, we moved to Ottawa for 2 years.

However we missed Sylvan Valley, a job opening came up at CASS in the English Dept, and the decision to trade parental roles was discussed. I would teach, and Gerry could do consulting work from home while looking after the kids since the oldest 2 were now in school full time.

So, I taught English, Special Ed, Guidance and then moved into Administration where I was a Vice Principal for 4 years and a principal for 3 years at C.A.S.S. - a fantastic school to work in.

I retired in 2003, returned for one semester to assist as a V.P., and now I am enjoying our wonderful pension and 6 super grandkids spread from coast to coast.

I look forward to being invited to your meetings and hope to meet many of you in September.

Cheers,

Carol Neave

Carol with her Border Collie, Dancer



TWO MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM SANDY FULCHER

Membership Announcement #1.

As of the middle of June, I have received RWTO membership dues from 30 members. Please note that I have not sent anyone receipts or membership cards, as I am still waiting for them to arrive. They are usually sent out after the Annual General Meeting which just took place. When I am able to send receipts and membership cards, I will mail them to members out of town and give the others out at the first meeting in [September 2024](#). I will be looking for membership dues from the members who have not paid in the summer or the early fall. LAST DAY TO PAY [OCTOBER 5](#), 2024. You may send your cheque to my new address. **Thank you for your support. Sandy F., Treasurer**

Ms. Sandy Fulcher
Apt. 408
727 North Street
Sault Ste. Marie
Ontario, P6B 0E5



Membership Announcement #2.

BARBARA BAIN AWARD

At the [June 2024](#) RWTO Convention awards were announced and distributed. Our Sault Ste. Marie RWTO Branch was awarded first place in Tier 2 (medium sized branches) of the Barbara Bain Award. Barbara Bain was a Past President and former Membership Convenor. The award is for our membership increase in 2023-2024 of six more

members. Along with the award goes a monetary gift of \$400.00. I have received this gift, and I have deposited it into our account.

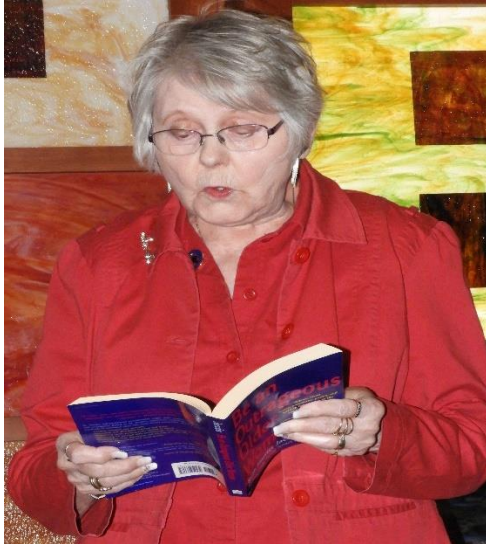
Many thanks to the new members who have joined our branch!

From Sandy F., Membership Convenor



June 19, 2024--- OUR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

Sandy F., Past President during Covid-19 who never got to have an in-person General Meeting during her presidency, welcomed twenty-six members to the special luncheon, our last general get-together until September.



Sandy shared the entertaining and inspirational poem "Friendship After Fifty" which she read from the book entitled Be an Outrageous Older Woman by Ruth Harriet Jacobs, PhD. & *R.A.S.P.
*Remarkable Aging Smart Person

Women statistically outlive men. The poem gives many important reasons that women need to make new friends throughout life.

The poem also reflects our RWTO "sharing and caring" motto.



In Past President Barb P.'s absence, Sandy F. installed three members in new Executive positions and two members in new Convenor positions. L to R: Sandy F. Past President for two years, Patricia L., our new S.S.M. Branch President, Carol McF., Telephone Convenor, and Susan T., 2nd Vice President. (Darlene Z., Secretary, and Sherrill D., Procedures Convenor, are absent from the picture.)

Emily N. (left) and Patricia L. (right) presented Sandy F. (centre) with her Past President pin for being Past President during 2022-23 and 2023-24.



Patricia L., (right) our new Branch President presented flowers to Sandy F. (centre) and Emily N. for being Past Area 11 Directors: Sandy F. (2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17) and Emily N. 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Brenda G. (right) thanked Brenda O., Social Convenor, for the great job she did in organizing the Celebration Luncheon at Giovanni's Restaurant and for topping it off with a special cake she ordered for the occasion.





Left to right: Brenda O., Carol Mc F.,
Bernice W., Stephania H. Sheila M.,
Emily N., and Carol C.

Left to right: Arlene L., Rita W., Jenny K.
Gerry Y., Susan T. and Marg. T.



Left to right: Erminia G., Mary
Anne P., Darlene Z., Carol G., Winn
W., Sandy F., Paula H., Judy P. and
Eileen F.



HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER!

***WE WILL SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT
GENERAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 26TH.***

Newsletter by Brenda G., Communications Convenor