

Cora Bailey Award 2023

RWTO-OERO AREA 7 BELLEVILLE BRANCH



JUDY MEWETT - 2023 CORA BAILEY AWARD

Judy Mewett has been an enthusiastic supporter of retired women teachers in Hastings and Prince Edward County. She is a dedicated member of Belleville Branch and an associate member of the Trenton Branch where she has also made a positive impact on the membership. She has held several positions in the Belleville Branch, first vice president, president and past president. She was co-president with Diana Fisher (2016-17), president (2017-18) and co-president with Wendy Bryson (2018-19). Judy brings joy and enthusiasm to every event and meeting. Besides RWTO, Judy has held several leadership positions in Alpha Delta Kappa, an Honorary Women Teachers sorority and is a very active member of her church.

Cora Bailey Award 2022

RWTO-OERO AREA 7 BELLEVILLE BRANCH

Kay Snedden



Kay Snedden has been an enthusiastic strong active member of the Belleville RWTO Branch.

She has held the positions of President, Programme Co-ordinator, Interest Group Leader and Archivist. As President, she and the Executive initiated a Co-Presidency to encourage members to become interested in becoming a member of the executive.

Kay grew up on a farm near the village of Pakenham in the Ottawa Valley. She attended a two-room school in Pakenham, Almonte High School and Ottawa Teachers' College. She moved to Belleville where she taught at for four years at the School for the Deaf. Then she taught at Sir John A. MacDonald and she retired from there in **1996**.

Kay has been married to Dave for sixty years. They raised four children and have six grandchildren. Two of the children moved to Australia where the Snedden family visited many times. They enjoy part of the summer at their cottage on Limerick Lake.

Kay is a long-time member of the Belleville, Badminton Club. She has participated in tournaments and won many awards. She also coached Badminton players and ladies' softball.

Cora Bailey Award 2021

RWTO-OERO AREA 7 BELLEVILLE BRANCH

Lynda Sommer



Lynda Sommer has been an active member of Belleville RWTO. She has held many positions including Vice President and President. She has also been on the programme committee for many years and is currently our Publicity convener. Linda was recently installed as Area 7 Director at this year's convention in London.

Lynda was born and raised in Belleville Ontario. Always wanting to be a teacher, she attended Peterborough Teacher's College after high school. She taught in Kingston and Belleville, before living and teaching in Prince Edward County.

She obtained her B.A. from Queens in History, and has earned Specialists Diplomas in Special Education, Primary Learning, and Library. Further, she completed the principal's course.

During her teaching career, she was involved in her local Prince Edward County RWTAO association serving as President.

Lynda and her husband have travelled as much as possible and enjoy spending family time with their three children and four grandchildren.

Cora Bailey Award 2020

RWTO-OERO AREA 7 BELLEVILLE BRANCH

Jennifer Davis



Jennifer taught 35 years for the Hastings and Prince Edward County School Board after completing a year at Peterborough Teachers College. She had the privilege and great fortune to experience teaching in Scotland for a year. Jennifer taught Grades 1-8 during her career. She taught in both rural and urban schools. She completed her B. A. and leadership courses for principal qualifications while teaching. Jennifer became interested in RWTO /OERO when she retired because of her commitments to the Federation of Women Teachers of Ontario when she was actively teaching. Throughout her career, she held several leadership roles at the local level as well as becoming the president of Hastings County FWTAO. She was a bargaining representative and negotiator with FWTAO and the board of education. Many of Jennifer's colleagues belonged to the Belleville Branch of RWTO/OERO and the organization made it possible for her to keep fellowship with them. She became the second vice-president of the Belleville Branch and continued through to president. In 2011, Jennifer began her 3-year tenure as Belleville Branch president. She was asked by the Area Director to institute some changes to the Branch. Belleville Branch began to honour a member annually with the Cora

Bailey Award and got their financial records and other communications online. Jennifer encouraged the development of a proposed budget to be presented to the membership each spring. She organized a “walking group” as part of the Branch’s interest group program. Jennifer became Area 7 Director, 2016-2018, where she worked at the provincial level on several committees. Area 7, along with Area 5, hosted an extremely successful Annual Convention in Ajax in June 2018. She visited each Branch in Area 7 and was honoured to meet so many dedicated retired women teachers. Jennifer, as Director, hosted an annual Area meeting where the Branch presidents, treasurers and insurance convenors were able to exchange ideas and solve common concerns

Cora Bailey Award 2019-RWTO-OERO AREA 7 BELLEVILLE BRANCH



LOIS THOMPSON

Lois joined RWTO in 1991 after teaching for 33 years. She has been a very active member of RWTO for 28 years. After about 5 years, she became a caller, then later the ongoing assistant treasurer for our association. She has been a leader for different “Interest Groups” and is now our convenor for the “Bid Euchre Group”. Lois has attended numerous Provincial Meetings over the years. She has enjoyed many years of “Caring & Sharing.

Cora Bailey Award 2018

RWTO-OERO AREA 7 BELLEVILLE BRANCH-ELEANOR ALEXANDER



Eleanor Alexander joined RWTO Belleville Branch in 1988 and became involved in events and soon a member of the executive. She was President in 1992-1993. In those years they were short of funds, so bus trips were organized to raise funds. Eleanor was Goodwill convener for 2 years and head of the Euchre Club for 2 years. She also started the Diners Club. Eleanor creatively developed the Trifold on white paper and coloured in the emblem.

Eleanor attended RWTO Conventions in Toronto, Niagara Region, Trenton and Kingston. All of this occurred after a rewarding teaching career of 27 years. Initially she taught in a 1 room school house in PEC then completed her teaching career in the Belleville area while upgrading her teaching credentials at Queen's University.

Cora Bailey Award Presentation

The recipient was Eileen Freeman.

Kay Snedden gave a detailed description of the many years of service Eileen has given to the Retired Women Teachers. Judy Mewett and Diane Fisher presented Eileen with a certificate and flowers.

Eileen spoke of her years with RWTO and even that she had taught our guest speaker John Cairns in grade three. Eileen introduced the guests that she brought with her to celebrate the occasion.



