



September Newsletter **RWTO/OERO Newsletter** BurlOak Branch

"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else."

Fred Rogers

As I sat at my computer on a very hot summer afternoon and thought about this quote from Fred Rogers, I realized that I am starting something new again. Yes, ladies I have agreed to put together the BurlOak newsletter. You may see some changes and bear with me as I experiment with the format of the newsletter. We are trying to keep the newsletter at 10 pages max. I would like to thank all the ladies who have helped with this transition and especially Cecile, Claudia and Bev for their patience with all my questions. Also, I (we) would like to thank you Cecile for your many years of service in putting together this newsletter. Forward this newsletter on to all your retired teacher friends who are not members and invite them to join us. Sharon J.



Inside this Edition

Membership Reports

President's Report, RWTO-OERO Convention Report, AGM Meeting, New Executive, Cora Bailey Award, Membership Matters, Insurance

Caring and Sharing

Food4Kids, The Purse Project

Activity Groups

Book Clubs, Knitting & Crochet, Lunch Bunch, Paper Craft, Tea Room Tours, Travel Club

Events

September Luncheon, October Luncheon, December Luncheon

CHECK OUT THE WEB PAGE AT <https://rwto.org/branches/branch-news/>

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK— RWTO BURLOAK

Email For BurlOak RWTO rwto-oeroBurlOak@gmail.com

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MEMBERS REPORTS

President's message

We're celebrating our Platinum Jubilee as Retired Women Teachers of Ontario (RWTO-OERO) on our 70th anniversary. This is a time to celebrate our friendships and achievements so watch for some special treats and surprises at the upcoming luncheons.

We're interested in learning more about our members and will ask you to answer questions about yourself, your family, interests, and activities.

Mary Mc. and her Program Committee team have prepared a fun schedule of luncheons for the upcoming year.

Our interest groups are gearing up for another year of gatherings and friendships. If you have ideas for new interest groups or activities, please contact us.

Don't forget to set aside your donations for the Penny sale at the Christmas luncheon.

Looking forward to seeing you at the September luncheon on September 22, 2025. Hope you had a lovely summer.

Kind regards, *Claudia S.*

RWTO-OERO Convention

The 69th Convention took place in Brantford. Patricia L. and Sandie B. were acclaimed to share the position of Second Vice-President.

The financial report was approved with the understanding that there is a significant deficit. Suggestions to reduce costs by sending out Connections digitally rather than through Canada Post were discussed. Many pleas were made to continue a paper copy as many members would not be able to access a digital copy and that is one of the primary methods of maintaining communication with members. This suggestion was referred to an Ad Hoc committee to study.

The resolutions were carried.

#1. Each branch is entitled to eligible delegates according to this formula:

Up to 100 members: 2 delegates, 101-150 members: 3 delegates, 151-200 members: 4 delegates, 201-250 members: 5 delegates, 251-300 members: 6 delegates, 301+ members: 7 delegates passed

#2. The first delegate from each branch will be referred to as Provincial delegate. All other delegates will be Branch Delegates. Each branch who qualifies to send more than 1 delegate, based on the formula in Resolution 1. This is determined by the number of paid memberships of each branch, not including Life members.

#3. Changing the wording of the policies and procedures to state the changes in Resolutions 1 and 2

#4. Changing the wording in the Policies and Procedures document to state the Delegate expenses. One Branch delegate will be reimbursed for the Convention Package Fee (registration and meals) and travel which exceeds 800km. Current funding will remain in place.

#5 Branch Social membership to include a currently working woman who could possibly join RWTO-OERO upon retirement. This motion was deferred for clarification of terms.

#6 Changing the term for Constitution for Retired Women Child & Youth Care Workers/Counsellors.

#7 Social Justice Committee be added as a Provincial Committee with details about the structure and goals of the committee.

#8 Including discussion of Finance committee preliminary budget at Spring meeting of the Executive for approval by Board of Directors.

#9 Changes to the Constitution reflecting the duties of the Executive.

#10 Changes to the Constitution to reflect the duties of the Secretary Treasurer to work with the Finance committee to prepare the budget

#11 Defining the duties of the Finance Committee

#12 Defining how the travel expenses will be calculated for mileage claims

#13 Expanding the duties and responsibilities of Branch Executives to include seeking shared roles.

The 2025-2026 Budget was approved.

Terry K. presented a cheque for \$72,029.78 from Manulife for profit sharing. 351 members joined the Insurance plan during the open enrolment window.

BurlOak received a Tier 1 Barbara Bain award for the increase in our members.

BurlOak received a Feather in Your Cap award Food4Kids program where members pack food for kids in schools who face food insufficiency. *Claudia S.*

Minutes of BurlOak General Meeting and Luncheon, Monday May 5, 2025

The May Luncheon Meeting and the proceeding Annual General Meeting, were both chaired by **Claudia S.** Greeters for the morning were Jackie T, Helen E., Maureen D. and Heather W. At the next Executive Meeting we will determine the charity to be the recipient of the 'Share the Wealth' funds. Suggestions are welcome. Claudia outlined our finances with respect to the costs for luncheons. We are trying to even out the cost of luncheons costs without having to subsidize them as we have done in the past. Luncheons will cost \$50 next year.

Moirra announced that there will be a draw for a free luncheon for the September meeting. Names will be drawn from those who have paid next year's membership by the end of the Annual General Meeting. |

Beth A. presided over the In Memoriam service in remembrance of members who have passed away this year:

Muriel P., Maddie L., Linda P. and Diann R.

Sharon J. volunteered to take over production of our Newsletter. Our thanks to Sharon and to Cecile L. who has done this for us for many years.

Nancy S. has volunteered to serve as Member at Large on our Executive. We are still looking for someone to serve as 2nd V.P. Linda Mac. has agreed to serve as Vice President for the coming year.

Maureen D. announced that we will continue with The Purse Project in September and October. We already have several long term volunteers and **we are looking for another long term volunteer to take minutes** (100-200 words) at each luncheon... just for the coming program year.

We would like everyone to be a photographer at the luncheons. We appreciate candid shots of speakers, greeters, groups, and individuals whenever you're together. Please send to Sharon J. and Peggy B.

Program Notes: Thanks to Program Committee members Norma B., Maureen D., Helen E., Betty D. Maureen was our source of many ideas. Norma hosted all our meetings (and fed us). Next year, we will try a small change in our program. There will be no entertainment/speaker for the Christmas Luncheon or the AGM as these meetings are lengthy. We will evaluate the decision in a year.

Claudia S. presented the BurlOak Cora Bailey Award to Mary Mc. accompanying a very flattering introduction. Mary knew that something was afoot when husband, Hugh, arrived for lunch. Mary hadn't forgotten anything, didn't need technical support, and hadn't need 911! There had to be a reason Hugh was there.

Our entertainment by **The Buskers**, was led by Bronwen Tregunno and Nancy Kumpf. They accompanied us with their ukuleles as we sang along to many great and familiar tunes. Many of us left the event humming.



Meet our new Executive

Lynne H., Mary Mc., Peggy B., Carolynn B., Pam Mac., Virginia Mc., Moira P., Lynne J., Linda Mac., Nancy S., Claudia S. and Carol M. Diane S. is missing from the photo.

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Cora Baily Award

Mary R. was a first born in Guelph Ontario. Her siblings were a sister who worked as an OR nurse and a successful businessman and jokester brother. She attended Hamilton Teachers College and began her teaching career in Burlington in 1964, shortly after marrying Hugh Mc. on August 8, 1964. Both of them worked and studied to complete their degree during summers and at night school. Their daughters Wendy and Nancy were born in 1972 and 1975. Mary completed her degree at McMaster in 1982 and quickly began working with York University and Brock University as a Special Ed additional qualification prof. Many of our colleagues learned to meet the needs of exceptional children in Halton schools, both public and separate, as well as many other Boards around the province. Mary's career is a legacy of her commitment to teaching and elevating children and teenagers in Halton who needed individualized attention and support to enable them to achieve their goals and have happy lives. Mary has been a maverick in teaching students and teachers throughout her career. She brought many of those same skills to her role with RWTO-OERO first in Burlington and now in BurlOak branch. Mary first became involved in RW in 2005 as a member. She began knitting hats, mitts, socks for donation to local needy schools. Mary took on the role of Membership in 2012-2013, moving onto the role of Secretary in 2013-2018. In 2018 she became a Vice President and then took on the role of President at one of the most challenging times of our lives during the Covid pandemic. Mary has always been an innovator and the social coordinator of her friends and family so taking that role on for RW came naturally to her. She initiated the Tea Room tours for members and during the pandemic she organized tea in a box and co-ordinated the delivery service to ensure everyone got their box and signed into Zoom so we could enjoy talking to one another and savouring the ambiance of sharing tea. She was also involved in our Lunch, and a Movie events. Mary organized car trunk donations at the Burlington Mall parking lot so we could collect and donate to local charities as we traditionally do for the holidays. Mary began the Knitting group in May 2016 to create dolls for a medical mission. This initiative became Burlington branch's first Feather In Your Cap award. Presently Mary is the chair of the Program committee and thankfully has organized all the lunch themes for this year and created a checklist for members to make sure everyone knows how to plan every aspect of a successful luncheon. Thank you hardly seems adequate to recognize you for all the elements you have been involved with over the years Mary. You are the epitome of caring and sharing and having fun. Thank you for all the work you have done for our members over the years. It is my honour and a privilege to present you with the very first Cora Bailey award From BurlOak branch in honour of your 20 years of membership! What a lucky day for us that was!



Thank you Mary



Membership Matters

Thanks to the 125 members who paid their memberships by July 31. Their names are in the draw for free membership. One lucky member will be drawn at the September luncheon. You don't need to be there to win, but we'd love you to join us for our first luncheon of the year.

Early Bird Winners of the free September Lunch Congratulations to Marilyn D. and Linda P., who won a free September luncheon at our June executive meeting. They paid their membership fees before the spring AGM.

Not Paid Up Yet? Your membership expires in August. September 1 is the start of the 2025-2026 membership year. I'll contact the 23 people who haven't renewed.

Reminder

- To participate in an interest group, you must be a paid up member in good standing.
- If you have RWTO Extended Health coverage, you must be a paid member to maintain it.
- If you don't renew, your health coverage is cancelled when the membership lists are sent to provincial.

New Members Welcome! Now that RWTO has voted to welcome employees from other Board groups, we are able to invite EA's, ECE's, CYC's, Social Workers or secretaries to join our ranks. Our members are our best ambassadors to recruit new members to join our ranks. Bring an education professional and help grow our BurlOak RWTO. *Moina P.*

RWTO/OERO Insurance Plans

Lynne J. will bring brochures and application forms to the September luncheon for anyone who is interested in the additional health insurance which is available to RWTO members. Lynne will be happy to answer any questions that you may have. *Lynne J.*

Photos from the Convention



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CARING AND SHARING

Food4Kids

Food4Kids Halton provides packages of healthy food for elementary age kids who have limited or no access to food during the weekend. The food packages are assembled by volunteers and delivered to schools each Friday. This ensures children have nourishment over the weekend. There are over 1,000 children in Halton struggling through each weekend without food. In 2017, the Oakville RWTO Branch began sending volunteers to assemble these bags. The BurOak RWTO Branch is continuing this service. Several members have participated this year: Diane S., Bev T., Bev H., Barb L., Gloria M., Betty D., Helen E., Leslie W., Marjorie J., Joyce M., Lorrie I., Valerie L., Cathy L., and Margaret P. We pack once in the Fall and three times in the Spring on a Wednesday morning. For more information or if you would like to help volunteer contact Diane S. *Diane S.*

Dates: October 8th and November 19th 2025, April 22nd and May 20th 2026

All Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



The Purse Project Network

Members of RWTOBurloak have the opportunity to participate in The Purse Project, a non-profit organization that fills gently used or new purses with the personal products required by needy women seeking to re-establish themselves in the community. This includes women who are recent arrivals to Canada, those in shelters, and those recently released from prison.

The Purse Project Network spans Ontario from Ottawa to Niagara, and each year, generous individuals like our RWTOBurloak members have donated thousands of filled purses.

If you wish to prepare a purse for donation, please ensure that all personal products are new and unused. For further information, visit www.thepurseprojectnetwork.com.

Maureen D. will collect your purse donations at the September and October luncheons.

We express our gratitude for your generosity. *Maureen D.*

Here's a list of essentials for the purse contents: toothbrush, toothpaste, body or hand lotion, deodorant, hand sanitizer, shampoo (or 2-in-1 shampoo/conditioner), body wash (or bar soap with a plastic holder), socks, hat or scarf, mitts or gloves.

Optional extras: coffee, Walmart or Dollar store gift card, journal and pen, facial cleanser, gum or mints, snacks or protein bars, mascara or eyeshadow, lipstick or lip balm, nail polish, nail file, emery board, nail clippers, foot scrubber, rain poncho.



ACTIVITY GROUPS

A Stitch in Time - Knitting and Crochet Group



We usually meet the second Thursday of each month at someone's home and would welcome new members.

For more information about our group contact: Norma B. *Norma B.*



Book Clubs

Burloak RWTO has two book clubs that meet monthly at the homes of their respective members. One group meets on the second Wednesday of the month, and the other group meets on the second Tuesday. This is a change from the previous meeting date. New members are welcome to join either group. Each member selects a book for everyone to read and then leads the discussion. We read one book per month, with a break during the summer. Our September books are “*Forgiveness: A Gift From My Grandparents*” by Mark Sakamoto and “*Long Island*,” a sequel to “*Brooklyn*,” by Colm Toibin.

Both groups occasionally host social events. In August, the Tuesday group met for lunch at The Watering Can restaurant. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and caught up on our summer news. This year, the Wednesday group plans to have both some social meetings and field trips. If you are interested in joining either group, contact Heather W.

Heather W.

Lunch Bunch 2025-2026

The Lunch Bunch is a group of random RWTOBurloak members who enjoy trying out different restaurants in this area. There is no commitment to attend, other than emailing your intention to attend for reservation purposes about 10 days prior to the selected dates, in response to an all-member reminder. Diners are expected to do due diligence re: food restrictions. Dates and restaurants are subject to change. Hope to see you there! *Maureen D.*

Friday Sept. 12/25 1 p.m.
Bahn Thai Restaurant
4490 Fairview Street, Burlington

Friday November 21/25 1 p.m.
Ancaster Mill Restaurant
548 Old Dundas Road, Ancaster

Friday October 17/25 1 p.m.
The Topsy Fox Pub and Grill
478 Dundas Street W., Oakville

Monday December 19/25 1 p.m.
Avani Asian Indian Bistro
2535 Appleby Line, Burlington



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Paper Crafting

After a hot summer, we ran sessions from June to August, extending our usual run from September to May. We were delighted to see members over the summer.

Starting in the Fall, we meet the second Thursday of each month at the Haber Community Centre in Burlington from 1:00-3:30 pm. We have a capacity of 12 and currently have 6 regulars. We usually make 2-3 cards. This year, we plan to meet monthly on the second Thursday. I'm awaiting city approval for my requested dates.

We welcome new and old members to visit on Thursday, October 9th. You can make a card, view our samples, and decide if you'd like to join us.

If interested, contact Bonnie F. to confirm attendance. *Bonnie F.*



BurOak Tea room Adventures

The Tea Room Adventures are open to any paid-up member of BurOak RWTO. Invitations are sent out by email and any member is welcome to attend. Dates for these events are chosen keeping in mind that many tea rooms are only open later in each week, and we tend not to do this in winter because of unpredictable driving conditions. This year attendance has been higher than ever before with 19 of us at The Dutch Mill Market, and 18 of us at Abigail's in St. George. There is a new one on this list for us to try - The Boathouse in Guelph. If you still aren't full after the meal in Guelph, this restaurant has a reputation for very fine ice cream. *Mary Mc.*



Travel Club

Travel Club meets 4 times a year on a **Friday** to share where we have been and where we hope to travel next. The discussion is lively as members often have travelled to the same destinations and so offer their own experiences, cautions, must sees, and tips to get the most out of your adventure. Recent travellers offer their recommendations for accommodations, airlines, cruise line preferences, and booking strategies. Travel insurance coverage is a big topic as several have had serious injuries or health issues and their words of wisdom help navigate the process. Hands down, our extended health coverage is the best, but you still need to be aware of what's covered in the plan and that you can get extra coverage with a phone call to Johnson's.

We also welcome armchair travelers. The next meeting is on Friday, October 3. The location is yet to be announced. ***note the error in the 2025 program brochure** Further meeting dates to be announced for January, March, and June. *Beu B.*

EVENTS

Book/Puzzle table at each luncheon Bring a book/puzzle (or a few) that you are ready to pass on for someone else to enjoy and/or pick up a book/puzzle that looks interesting to you. Enjoy.

At the end of the meeting, if your book/puzzle is still there, please take it home.



RWTO/EORO BurlOak Branch Luncheons are held at Tyandaga Golf Club 1265 Tyandaga Park Drive Burlington On L7P1N1

Doors open at 10:45 for coffee

11:30 Announcements

12:00 Lunch

1:00 pm Presentation

Annual General Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.

Payment Information: E-Transfer: rwtoburloak20@gmail.com By

Cheque: BurlOak Branch **No cash payments, please! Mail to : Carolynn B.**

No payments can be accepted or refunded after the due dates when the numbers go in to the caterer.

Monday, September 22, 2025 Lorraine Sommerfeld, journalist known to many of us for her regular Motherlode column in the Hamilton Spectator. She writes about family life, her sons, her cat, her hardwood floors, and happenings far and wide. This past year she was award the King Charles III Award that recognizes significant contributions to Canada or the community. **Payment due: September 12, 2025 Cost: \$ 50.00**



Monday, October 27 ,2025 Judy Lyons, Certified Quilt Appraiser returns to speak about her new book "Canada's Forgotten Artifacts". Judy collects and researches quilts made in Canada between 1867 and 1967, and tells the stories of the women who made them. **Payment due: October 17, 2025, Cost:\$ 50.00**

Monday, December 1, 2025 "Christmas Luncheon and Penny Sale"

Payment due: November 21, 2025, Cost \$50.00

