



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario / Organisation des Enseignantes Retraitées de l'Ontario

President's Message

Celebrate our 70th Anniversary!

Invite your friends from educational professions to join your Branch and take part in the fun!



- It is a year to commemorate our history and plan for our future!

- Did you know that all members are welcome to attend our AGM Conventions, whether or not they are delegates? Plan on travelling with your Branch delegates and

friends, which cuts down on transportation costs, and makes the travel even more fun!

- Western University (Huron College) in London housed the second and fifth full meetings of our organization, which was founded in Toronto in 1956. The second meeting was also the first AGM Convention, held in 1957. It is only fitting that we return to Western University (Clare Hall) to celebrate our 70th anniversary!

- Check out the Wellness Fair, on Tuesday afternoon, trips on Wednesday, banquets and entertainment, awards and special events, and if you wish, observe the business meetings that keep our organization

vibrant.

- Planning an AGM Convention is a 2-year planning process that Area 4 accomplished in only one year! A 12-person core planning team from Brant, Haldimand, and Hamilton-Wentworth, under the leadership of Lynn Anderton organized an exciting 2025 event with great tours and entertainment, workshops & meetings, a Silent Auction and a Hospitality Room, thanks to the tremendous help of our many volunteers! Thank You!

- Did you know that 70th Anniversary mementos are now available through the RWTO Shop? We have a new 70th Anniversary pin, thanks to LeAnne Taylor, as well as a special pen and 'cling-on' that sticks to smooth surfaces ... great to place on a window or mirror for your members in seniors' homes! They'll also look great on a water bottle or on a window of



Linda Sargeant,
Provincial President

Retired Women Teachers of Ontario Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario

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President's Message - Ctd.

your car. Check out rwto.org. The Shop link is under the Members tab.

"Your incredible Board of Directors team met for 3 days in August, at Clare Hall, a Western University women's residence, where we are holding the 2026 AGM Convention. Much was accomplished by this articulate motivated group, and it helped our

Convention planning as well! (... and the serve yourself meals - great choices and absolutely delicious!)"

- It is a tremendous honour to represent RWTO/OERO as your President this year!
- Enjoy our future!

Convention 2025 – "A Grand Getaway"

From June 3 to 5, 2025, members from across Ontario gathered in Brantford for the RWTO/OERO 69th Annual General Meeting and Convention. The event offered a wonderful mix of learning, networking, and fun.

The convention kicked off Tuesday afternoon with a series of engaging workshops focused on key topics including Treasurer responsibilities, Insurance, Social Justice, and Marketing. For those preferring a more relaxed pace, the Hospitality Suite — generously sponsored by Chartwell — provided a welcoming space to unwind. Members also had the opportunity to drop off contributions for the Silent Auction.

Tuesday evening's Welcome Banquet was a lively affair, featuring the ever-popular "Elvis in Paris" performed by Brad Boland. His energetic show had many up on the dance floor, while others reconnected with friends and acquaintances from past conventions. Attendees also took time to browse and bid at the Silent Auction.

Wednesday morning was dedicated to official business. Delegates were seated with their respective Area Branch members, where they shared creative Branch initiatives. For example, Durham North offers Tim Bits to teachers, members create handcrafted cards for teachers' personal use, and Orillia promotes intergenerational connections through "Friend Cards" exchanged between students and seniors.

The business session proceeded efficiently. Resolutions 1 through 4 were passed without delay, including a notable change allowing smaller Branches with fewer than 100 members to have two voting delegates. Resolution 5 was deferred for further clarification

on the definitions of "associate member" and "social member." Resolutions 7 to 13, mostly clerical in nature, were all approved.

Between sessions, there were ample opportunities to socialize with fellow members — one of the many benefits of attending the convention. It's important to note that conventions are open to all members, not just delegates, and everyone is encouraged to participate in future gatherings.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m., freeing members to enjoy a variety of afternoon excursions under sunny, warm skies. That evening, the Gala Awards Banquet celebrated the accomplishments of members, followed by an entertaining cabaret performance by Erin Bree Pierce.

Thursday's highlight was the 90s Luncheon, where a Town Crier added a festive touch, and over 20 women were honoured for their contributions to the organization. The new Board for 2025-2026 was then introduced and installed, with the ceremonial passing of the President's gavel from Jan Murdoch to Linda Sargeant.

If you've never attended an RWTO/OERO convention, consider joining your colleagues next time — it's a fun-filled experience rich with learning, connection, and inspiration. Everyone is welcome.

Submitted by
Jan Murdoch
Past President



Honorary Membership Award Recipients for 2025

Honorary Membership is the highest attainable award bestowed on a member for exemplary service to RWTO/OERO Provincial. The Committee members are pleased to introduce the two recipients nominated to receive this prestigious award. These members demonstrated outstanding leadership skills, shared ideas and carried out many responsibilities while on the Provincial Board.

We are pleased to honour Jan Murdoch and LeAnne Taylor for their dedication to our organization.



Jan Murdoch

Jan Murdoch has been our Provincial President for the 2024-2025 year and is awarded with the prestigious Honorary Membership Award for her commitment and accomplishments at the Provincial level. She is supported by her RWTO/OERO Durham North Branch.

Jan began her RWTO/OERO experience with the St. Catharines Branch in 2015 and after relocating she joined Durham North Branch. In 2017 she accepted the position of Provincial Newsletter Convenor. Her technological background and excellent organizational skills enhanced the presentation of our Newsletter *Connections*. She introduced themes for our Branches to use in the newsletters. Jan continued in this role for five years, when she became a member of the executive as 2nd and 1st Vice-President and this year serving the Provincial Board as our President.

At the Provincial level, Jan has been an outstanding participant and has made many contributions to several Ad Hoc Committees throughout her years on the executive. She has served on the following committees: Constitution and Resolutions, Goodwill Convenor, chaired the Finance Committee, Stand-

ing and Appointed Committees, Social Justice and was very instrumental in her participation in the Marketing Team. She participated in many other meetings as an ex-officio member.

With Jan's travels this year visiting so many RWTO/OERO Branches she saw firsthand the passion and commitment of each Branch. All our Branches are unique, but they all share our Motto of "Caring and Sharing." She supported many Branches, gave guidance where required, enjoyed many new friendships at luncheons and has helped and encouraged executives to consider different ways to make their respective Branches work effectively.

Jan is a lifelong learner who willingly and effectively shares her knowledge with others. We thank you for your commitment, dedication and contributions to our organization RWTO/OERO.

Congratulations Jan for your leadership this year!

LeAnne Taylor

LeAnne is very deserving of the Honorary Membership Award. Her exceptional contributions and professionalism at the Provincial level have been admired throughout her tenure in the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario. She is supported by her Lydia Snow North Halton Branch for her accomplishments at the local and provincial level.



She began her journey on the Provincial Board in 2019 as Area 12 Director. Her roles and accomplishments at the Board Level have been overwhelmingly successful with new ideas and great work ethic. The Ad Hoc Committee on Membership Extension was chaired by LeAnne. She developed a survey that was distributed to all members and produced a resolution related to the outcomes of this survey. This



Honorary Membership Award Recipients for 2025 ctd.

is still ongoing today as we open our organization to other women educators.

In 2021, LeAnne became Assistant Insurance Convenor. In this role she conducted many meetings with Branches throughout the province. She wrote the job description for Assistant Insurance Convenor for Policies and Procedures and in 2023 became Insurance Convenor. With her technological skills, her presentations always had a mouse helping us through the facts. With the Open Window this past year and lobbying all Branches to participate, Branches did receive \$100 for booking. Thank you LeAnne.

LeAnne was active on many other committees. She served as Co-Chair and Secretary on the Virtual

Convention Committee, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Financial Realignment of Article XIV of Policies and Procedures, served on the committee for P&P Ad Hoc Committee and has agreed to chair the Jubilee Committee to celebrate our 70th anniversary in 2026.

LeAnne has been and still is an exemplary member of our organization. Her professionalism, dedication and leadership has strengthened RWTO/OERO. Congratulations on receiving the Honorary Membership Award for your dedication and contributions to our organization!

Congratulations LeAnne!

Judy Drummond
Past Honorary President



Feather In Your Hat Award

The Feather in Your Hat Award recognizes creative, innovative, and successful activities, carried out by a Branch or group of Branches, that have clearly enriched the programs offered by RWTO/OERO.

Submissions for this award must be made to the Membership Convenor between January 1st and March 1st, annually. Submissions should include Area and Branch names, total number of members, number of members involved in this project, clear identification of the project, ongoing photos from start to finish, and outcomes of the project.

In order to ensure that the submission has been received, please notify the Membership Convenor by email and send the submission (i.e. hard copy) by mail. The Membership Convenor will confirm its arrival by email.

2025 Feather in Your Hat Winners

Tier One

- 1st St. Catharines Branch
- 2nd Ottawa-Carleton Branch
- 3rd BurlOak and Hamilton-Wentworth Branch

Tier Two

- 1st Lanark Branch
- 2nd Lydia Snow North Halton Branch
- 3rd Peel North Branch

Tier Three

- 1st Dundalk-Flesherton and District Branch

Please check the Awards Page on the RWTO/OERO website for details on each project.

Award Winners

Barbara Bain Membership Award

The Barbara Bain Award is named in honour of our longtime London-Middlesex member, Barbara Bain, who served on the Provincial Board of Directors for 11 years as an Area Director, Assistant Insurance Convenor, Insurance Convenor, Second and First Vice-President, President, Past President, and Honorary President, as well as being the Membership Convenor.

The formula for calculating the award is straightforward. How many members join your Branch minus the number of existing paid members who do not renew during the April 1st to March 30th period. These calculations are done by our Provincial Secretary-Treasurer Linda Huffman.

2024-2025 Barbara Bain Membership Winners

Tier One

1st place - \$400 - BurlOak
2nd place - \$300 - Guelph-Wellington
3rd place - \$200 - Chatham-Kent

Tier Two

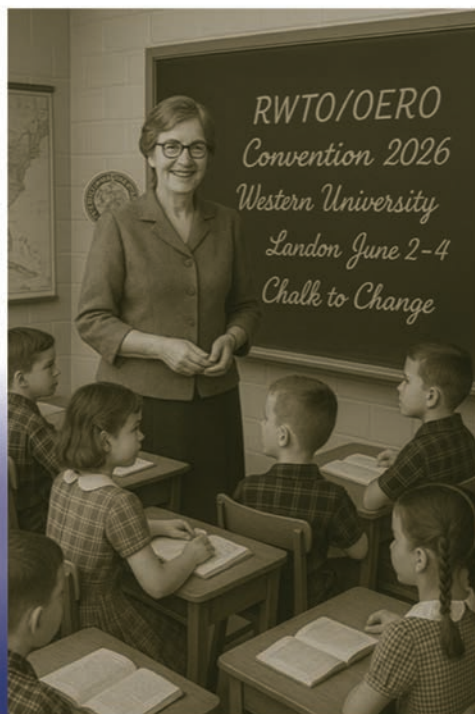
1st place - \$400 - Sault Ste. Marie
2nd place - \$300 - Peterborough
3rd place - \$200 - Lydia Snow North Halton
3rd place - \$200 - Owen Sound

Tier Three

1st place - \$400 - East Parry Sound
1st place - \$400 - Niagara South
1st place - \$400 - Rendezvous
2nd place - \$300 - Gananoque
2nd place - \$300 - South Bruce
3rd place - \$300 - Wiarton

Respectfully submitted by the Membership Committee
(2024-2025)

Joan Gamble (Gananoque)
Anne Graham (Lanark)
Brenda Johnston (Lanark)





Insurance Matters

Seems like we have only just returned from Convention, and we're speeding into fall! Trees will soon be showing their spectacular colours and hinting at cooler days ahead.

Speaking of Convention, congratulations to Area 4 for a wonderful Convention 2025! The efforts of the Convention Committees of Brant, Haldimand and Hamilton-Wentworth made for a great time for all attendees. It was so wonderful to gather in person and to reconnect with old friends and to make new ones!

In September last year Manulife and your Insurance Team consisting of LeAnne Taylor, who was the Provincial Insurance Convenor, Kathy McLean, the Assistant Provincial Insurance Convenor and Terry Kennedy, Broker, conducted an Open Enrolment Period. During that time, uninsured members and/or their spouses could enrol in the plan and their acceptance was guaranteed...no medical questionnaire required. LeAnne, Kathy and Terry visited many Branches and made presentations to share information about our wonderful insurance plan. Despite the mail strike that occurred mid-way through, approximately 350 new plan participants enrolled during this time. Periodically, Manulife will open this window to encourage participation in the plan. Newly retiring members can enrol in the plan at any time during their first year of retirement and have this same guaranteed acceptance. After that time, a medical questionnaire will have to be completed to determine eligibility. The reason Manulife does this is because participation in the plan drops due to natural attrition...some members leave the Association while others become ineligible due to entry into Long Term Care facilities. Sadly, other members pass away. As the participation decreases, there is an impact to the Profit-Sharing Plan. Reserves which are required by law to ensure claims are paid, begin to decline and become over-funded which results in a release of reserves. When an Open Enrolment Period occurs, these same reserves must be built back up to a fully funded position. That was the financial position of the plan going into this recently ended plan year.

The Hospital & Home Care Plan continues to perform well, and premiums again remain

unchanged for the new plan year. It generated a profit to be shared with the Association this year, and a cheque in the amount of \$72,029.78 was presented to President Jan Murdoch by Terry Kennedy. There are ongoing Administration Fees paid to the Association which amount to \$21,004.86 that generated total revenues to the Association of \$93,034.64 from the Hospital & Home Care Plan.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to LeAnne Taylor for all her hard work as Provincial Insurance Convenor. Her efforts and enthusiasm, not to mention her skills with Zoom and AI will be missed. Kathy McLean now capably moves into the role of Provincial Insurance Convenor, and we welcome Claudia Stewart to the role of Assistant Provincial Insurance Convenor. Thank you as well to all Branch Insurance Convenors program within your Branch, sharing information, providing brochures and contact information for Manulife and the RWTO/OERO website. We greatly appreciate you.

Kathy McLean
Insurance Convenor

RWTO/OERO recognized Terry Kennedy at our 69th AGM Convention for her 25 years of service as our Provincial Insurance Broker. She created and regularly updates our plan to meet the needs of our membership. Thank You, Terry!

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Resolutions for 2025 Annual General Meeting

Resolution #1:

Be it resolved that Constitution: Article X Annual Meeting 5. Voting Delegates be amended to read, c) Each Branch is entitled to eligible delegates according to the following 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.

Carried.

Resolution #2:

Be it resolved that Voting and Election Procedures Handbook IV. Who Can Vote? A. Delegates be amended to read,

“c. Branch Delegate - All other voting delegates are called Branch Delegates. Each Branch qualifies to send one or more Branch Delegates, depending on the number of their paid members, not including Life Members.”

(Note - delete d. The position of Branch Delegate will replace the Alternate Delegate that Branches with up to 50 members were previously sending to the AGM Convention.)

Carried.

Resolution #3:

Be it resolved that Policies and Procedures Article X: Annual General Meeting (AGM) 5. Branch Delegates b. Delegate Categories be amended to read,

“ii.) Branch Delegate - All other voting delegates. Each Branch qualifies to send one or more Branch Delegates, depending on the number of their paid members, not including Life Members.”

iii.) Alternate Delegate - delete

Carried.

Resolution #4:

Be it resolved that Constitution: Article X Annual Meeting 6. Delegate expenses b. & c. be amended to read, “b. RWTO/OERO Provincial Office will reimburse one Branch Delegate per Branch for the Convention Package Fee (registration and meals). Travel will be paid for only the distance that exceeds 800 kilometres return.” (Note: delete C, changing subsequent lettering.)

Carried.

Resolution #5:

Be it resolved that Constitution: Article III Membership and Fees be amended to include the addition of, #5 Branch Social Member: (moving Fees to #6)

“a. A Branch Social Member shall be a Woman Educational Professional who is currently employed in the workplace, and who could potentially become a Regular Member upon retirement.”

b. A Branch Social Member:

i. must contact the Branch Executive and give them contact information.

ii. may be asked to pay a Branch Membership Fee only, to be set by the Branch Executive and paid to the Branch Treasurer.

iii. may attend Branch activities and events when available.

iv. will receive Branch emails, newsletters or other communications.

v. may access Provincial information and newsletters by accessing the Provincial website, rwto.org, or Facebook.

c. A Branch Social Member shall not become a Provincial member until retirement, and her name will not be submitted to the Provincial Office until that time, or be placed in the Branch Provincial database.

d. A Branch Social Member shall not hold a Provincial or Branch Executive position (but are welcome helpers), vote in elections, be a delegate at an Annual Meeting, or be eligible for the insurance plans of RWTO/OERO until retirement.”

Referred to Board of Directors.

Resolution #6:

Be it resolved that Constitution: Article III Membership and Fees 1. Regular Members a. iv be amended to read, “Retired Women Child & Youth Care Workers/Counsellors”.

Carried.

Resolution #7:

Be it resolved that Constitution: Article VIII Duties and Structure of Provincial Committees A. Standing Committees be amended with the addition of: 10. Social Justice Committee - The Social Justice Committee shall:

a. be chaired by a member of the Board of Directors.



Resolutions for 2025 Annual General Meeting - Ctd.

b. consist of at least 3 members from the Board of Directors and invited/interested members-at-large, the number determined by the committee.

c. research and provide information, including position papers, about issues affecting the livelihood of our membership, and the welfare of women and children in general.

d. make connections and develop relationships with like minded organizations to enhance our educational and advocacy base.

e. determine ways to engage elected officials at the federal, provincial or municipal level, to advise them about the needs of senior women.

Carried.

Resolution #8:

Be it resolved that Constitution Article V Duties of the Board of Directors 1. Executive: f. be amended to read, "discuss, amend as necessary and approve a preliminary budget prepared by the Finance Committee."

Carried.

Resolution #9:

Be it resolved that Constitution Article VI Duties of the Executive Officers:

1. Past President: be amended by the addition of: h. "be a member of the Finance Committee."

2. President: be amended by the addition of: j. "chair the Finance Committee," k. "chair the Audit Committee."

3. First Vice-President: be amended by the addition of: e. "be a member of the Finance Committee", f. "be a member of the Audit Committee."

4b. Second Vice-President: be amended to read, "b. be a member of the Policies and Procedures Committee, c. be a member of the Audit Committee, d. be a member of the Finance Committee" (Thus changing the current 'c' into "e").

Carried.

Resolution #10:

Be it resolved that Constitution Article VI Duties of the Executive Officers: be amended to read, d.

"Prepare, along with the Finance Committee, a preliminary budget."

Carried.

Resolution #11:

Be it resolved that Constitution Article VIII Duties and Structure of Provincial Committees A. Standing Committees 4. Finance Committee - The Finance Committee shall: be amended to read,

a) be chaired by the Provincial President

b) consist of the Past President, President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President and the Executive Secretary-Treasurer

c) prepare a preliminary budget for the May Board of Directors Meeting.

Carried.

Resolution #12:

Be it resolved that Constitution Article X Annual Meeting 6. Delegate Expenses be amended to read, d. "Reimbursement for public transportation (i.e. bus, air, train) will be calculated on the regular mileage rate paid on the applicable distance between the member's home and the Convention venue using Google Maps."

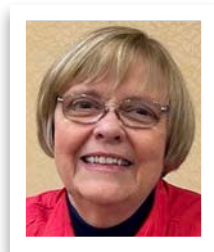
Carried.

Resolution #13:

Be it resolved that Constitution Article IX Branch Organization 4. be amended to read, "The Executive will be responsible for overseeing all Branch activities with the assistance of Branch member volunteers who may be delegated to share responsibilities i.e. event planning. Branches may have Executive members who work in pairs, or as teams. Other Branch members may volunteer at specific times. Each Branch can decide what works in their situation."

Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Sargeant, Provincial
President



Resolutions for 2026 Annual General Meeting

Resolutions for the June 2026 AGM and their rationale must be submitted to Betty Lee-Daigle, Convener of the Resolutions Committee, by November 15, 2025.

Each resolution must contain only one key issue for decision. The intent of the resolution should be clear and concise. (ARTICLE X: AGM, 2. Resolutions)

Resolutions to amend the Constitution, Policies and Procedures Manual, or other issues are acceptable. You will find the newest editions of our documents on the website under the ABOUT and GOVERNANCE tabs.

<https://rwto.org/>

When your Branch is preparing to submit a resolution,

questions and concerns should be directed to Betty Lee-Daigle, First Vice-President and Jane Cartier, Parliamentarian. rwtoparl@gmail.com

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Betty Lee-Daigle

First Vice-President,
Convener of the Resolutions
Committee

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rwtolstvp2526leedaigle@gmail.com



Issues and Concerns

Falls and Fractures

Over the last two years several members of my Branch and/or their spouses have had a fall which resulted in a fracture. According to the National Institute on Aging, more than one in four people age 65 years or older fall each year. The risk of falling, and fall-related problems, rises with age. However, many falls can be prevented. For example, exercising, managing your medications, having your vision checked, and making your home safer are all steps you can take to prevent a fall.

The Issues and Concerns articles this year will focus on making your home safer to decrease the likelihood of a fall, exercises you can do to improve muscle strength and balance, and the reason that falls by seniors, especially women, are more likely to result in a fracture. This article will outline some of the ways that you can ensure your home is safe, and best practices to avoid a fall.

Keep areas where you walk tidy. Don't leave items on the floor or stairs.

Ensure there are handrails on both sides of any stairs, and make sure they are secure. Hold the handrails when you go up or down stairs, even when you are carrying something. Don't let anything you're carrying block your view of the steps. Ensure there is good lighting with light switches at the top and bottom of stairs and on each end of a long hall.

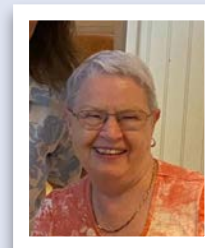
Check that all carpets are fixed firmly to the floor, so they won't slip. Put no-slip strips on tiles and wooden floors. Don't use throw-rugs or small area rugs. Don't walk on slippery, newly washed floors. Mount grab bars near toilets and on both the inside and outside of your tub and shower. Remember to leave a light on in the bathroom at night or use a night light that turns on automatically in the dark. Put a non-slip rubber mat or self-stick strips on the floor of the tub or shower.

Put night lights and light switches close to your bed. Keep a flashlight by your bed in case the power goes out and you need to get up and have a landline or well-charged phone near your bed.

In the winter, watch out for slippery surfaces, including your own sidewalk and steps.

And finally, avoid risky behaviour. If you think something might be risky to do, don't do it!

Submitted by
Diane Sinden
Issues & Concerns Convener





Ad Hoc Report on Name Change

Committee: Judy Drummond (Chair), Jane Macdonald, Nancy Strutt, Sharon Chop, Glennda Olivier, Marie Solariski, Patricia Lambert, Linda Sargeant, Margaret Geare, Margaret Dempsey

We began our research with the Motion from the minutes of our Board meeting May 12-13, 2021: Motion # 74 2020-2021: Moved by Lynn Sulman, seconded by LeAnne Taylor “that following a positive response from the results of the survey to admitting other educational professionals into our organization, the Board of Directors recommend the following:

- the RWTO/OERO name will remain the same,
- the Provincial Membership Fee will be the same for all,
- all members will have equal opportunity within the organization at the Branch and Provincial levels, and
- Insurance Programs will be available to all joining members.”

In a short presentation, we were reminded of the facts about the problems that RTO was having with their name change. It was noted that any changes need to be done slowly and with approval of our members.

A short survey was distributed to all our Presidents through our Program Coordinator on January 13 and were returned by January 31st. The results of the survey showed 63% of Branches returned their survey. At the time of this survey there were 12 new members in the 23-24 year and 18 new in the 24-25 year. We felt that it was not a true picture because so many surveys were not returned.

We attempted to look at cost (hundreds, thou-

sands), our website consultant Kim MacIntyre said it would be best to chat with a lawyer and gave us these things we would need to do to change the name of a non-profit organization:

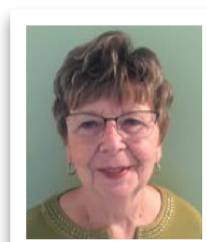
- Conduct a NUANS name search
- Obtain Board approval
- File Articles of Amendment with the Ontario government
- Update internal documents like bylaws and corporate records
- Notify relevant parties like banks and government agencies about the name change
- Ensuring compliance with the Not-for-Profit

Corporations Act, 2010 The committee felt we are not ready to change our brand of RWTO/OERO. With unknown costs ahead it is very difficult to budget for this.

It was moved by Nancy Strutt and seconded by Sharon Chop to defer this Name Change for 3 years and revisit it in 2028.

Rationale:

1. Give more time to grow the number of members who are non-teachers.
2. Provide strategies at the AGM to recruit educators at the Branch level.
3. Membership Form – add “the job you had at retirement”.



Submitted by
Judy Drummond
Past Honorary President

Board Reports

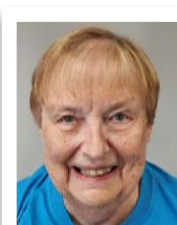
Provincial Program Coordinator

As our organization embarks on celebrating our 70th Anniversary, I'd like to welcome our returning Area Directors: Nancy Strutt, Area 1; Colleen Robertson, Area 2; Mary Maxwell, Area 3; Judy Anderson, Area 5; Pat Steers, Area 6; Lynnda Sommers, Area 7; Henedine Weiman, Area 10; Carol Neave, Area 11; Diane Sinden, Area 12 and new to the role, Lynn Anderton, Area 4; Glennda Olivier, Area 8; Margaret Dempsey, Area 9; Patti Malkiewich, Area 13 as well as thank all the Branch members who have volunteered to take on the important role of Team Leaders for 2025-26. Thank you for your commitment, so that together, we are moving our organization into the future.

For me, the role of Provincial Program Coordinator is an honour and I look forward to supporting and working with all of you. In August,

the Area Directors will be sending the President's Timelines and contacting the Branches for meeting dates for their area. The Insurance team is looking forward to meeting in person with most of the Area Insurance Convenors. Our website under Branch Activities has great recruiting new membership ideas and under Branch Resources several program ideas that individuals new to the leadership role might find useful.

Feel free to contact me at any time.
Margaret Geare,
Provincial Program Coordinator
rwtoprogramcoordinator2024@gmail.com



Website Convenor

Our wonderful, hot summer has brought many exciting activities across our Branches from breakfasts, luncheons, high teas and picnics to hikes, run/walks, canoeing and paddleboarding, to theatre performances, musicals and shopping excursions. Our members just love to have FUN and you can check out all these fun activities under BRANCH NEWS & EVENTS on our website at rwto.org.

If you haven't been to our website recently, go and check out our NEW SHOP page found under the MEMBERS tab on our HOME page. There you'll find all our swag including our 70th anniversary pins, cling-ons, and pens. You will find all the necessary information there to send in your order to our new Sales Convenor Patti Malk-

iewich.

I am looking forward to working with all our new and returning Branch Website Convenors, and to get things started, watch for a chance to participate in a Zoom Training session coming up later in September. In the meantime, if you are having any trouble sending in your News & Events to be posted on your Branch page, just remember I AM ONLY AN EMAIL AWAY at: rwtowebite@gmail.com

Respectfully Submitted By:
Jane Macdonald
Communications Website
Convenor





Connections Newsletter

This year RWTO/OERO is celebrating our 70th anniversary so there will be lots of information about our history and the changes that have occurred over the decades. The Branches will be sharing a piece of their story and celebrating some of the women that led them along the way. It will be fun to read the stories of RWTO/OERO.

Thanks to Christine Roberts (South Bruce) and Sharon Chop (Ottawa-Carleton) who are so valuable to me as editors for the newsletter and

Erica Miles (graphic artist) for her expertise as well.

Please keep your contact information updated with Linda Huffmann (info@rwto.org) so that you receive all communications from RWTO/OERO.

Kathy Smith
Communications Newsletter
Convenor



Archivist Report

I would like to express my appreciation to the Area Directors and all the participants for their contributions to the “In Memoriam Service” at the Convention 2025.

Thank you to the ladies who are forwarding the names and the pictures of the deceased members in their Branch. I place them in the “In Memoriam” folder 2025-2026 in preparation for the PowerPoint presentation. By working together, we are able to create a heartfelt tribute that reflects the spirit and memory of those we have lost.

The archives are current, starting September 2024. I’m adding the recipients of the Cora Bailey awards for 2020-2021. Because of COVID, there are fewer names for 2020.

Caring and sharing
Hénédine Weiman
Provincial Archivist
email: hen.wei29@gmail.com



News from the Branches – "Our Beginnings in RWT0"

Rendezvous

Rendezvous Branch is already working on the 70th anniversary project. Our goal is to complete the 300th milk bag mat that many hands have touched throughout the process. We gather milk bags from collection boxes at grocery stores, friends in our clubs and strangers in our communities who have heard about how we recycle 175 milk bags per mat! Canada Save The Children uses some of the mats as packing material in boxes of donations sent around the world. There is something for each of us to do at Mat Making Sessions. Flatten, fold, trim the top and bottom and cut the bag in half creating two loops that can be plaited into a chain. Stretch long chains on the loom and weave short chains across. Cast off the edge as in knitting and tie a knot. It takes a good eye to choose the vividly coloured milk bags for each chain. The results are amazing!

Submitted by
Judy Anderson
Branch President

Scarborough

Looking back to 1970, Scarborough Branch, with only six members meeting three times a year, how things have changed. Our numbers have grown along with our activities and adventures.

Our spirit has remained strong in supporting each other as well as women and children in the community. Our 80 and 90 year-old members are recognized and celebrated for their part in the history of the Scarborough Branch.

Our outreach into the community is well established and recognized by those in need of support.

As our membership grew so did our executive who now organize, support, and create special events, trips and guests like David Onley and his wife along with Lloyd Robertson.

Our Branch has grown into a strong group of dedicated women, much like the original six members back in 1970 who had a vision and worked to see it come to be.

Submitted by
Cathie MacGillivray
Branch President

Blue Mountain

In earlier times our meetings were more formal. They were held in local churches where the church ladies catered the meal. Now local churches no longer cater to our meetings.

The Provincial office was considered to be equal to "Queens Park", something formidable. However that has changed as we got to know our provincial presidents, area directors and insurance convenors.

More Branch members were willing to try taking on a position of responsibility, like treasurer or secretary. Now lack of interest and fewer new and younger members has resulted in fewer members doing more.

For approximately 17 years we have done the Book for Babes project. We recognize members with Cora Bailey Awards and have honoured our over 90s and over 100s members.

A significant change has been a decrease in



News from the Branches – "Our Beginnings in RWTO"

membership. Therefore we are an even smaller Branch. Now our meetings are less formal, but caring and sharing and having fun are still an important part of our philosophy.

Submitted by
Lois Plowright
Branch Co President

Daisy Wilson Coldwater

According to some of the more long-standing members of the Daisy Wilson Coldwater Branch, the kindness of the Branch members and the good food at meetings are what they remember the most. Many of our members were originally introduced to our Branch by an invitation to join one of our luncheons for free. This has been a long-standing tradition that we have continued. In spite of being occasionally overwhelmed by the technology, our members keep referring to the social aspects of the Branch activities and our focus on inclusive and fun events. In the past we would use the telephone to share news. Technology may have changed the way we disseminate information but the core values of caring, sharing and friendly, welcoming members remain the same.

Submitted by
Esther Lauzon
Communications

East Parry Sound

East Parry Sound members enjoy gathering five times a year for our luncheon meetings. Finding suitable venues and catering presents

a challenge.

We often speak fondly of our earlier gatherings provided by local churches. We looked forward to the delicious hot lunches prepared by our excellent hostesses. Home cooked meals of turkey, roast beef or ham lovingly served with homemade relishes, jellied salads and special desserts on beautifully set tables were special treats. We could always be guaranteed an excellent spread and we were warmly welcomed. The price was right too, usually a donation to the church.

Sadly, as we all aged, so did our congregations and the buildings. Hosting full meals is a lot of work and over time we saw our favourite locations gradually fade away. Some churches were sold. We look back now in appreciation and we miss those good old days.

Submitted by
Susan Rose
Branch President

Orillia

Researching into our Orillia Branch from the 1950s to 1999 concerning OASWT (Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers) becoming RWTO (Retired Women Teachers of Ontario), we were pleasantly surprised.

Firstly, note the enclosed picture of Orillia



News from the Branches – "Our Beginnings in RWTO"

members entertaining with a skit before OASWT was renamed RWTO in 1999. The teacher holding the "O", Maisie Tremaine, remains a very active member of our Orillia Branch at the age of 99.

Marie Smith, also an active member of the Orillia Branch, was Provincial President in the year 1999 - 2000. She remembers that many provincial board members felt that OASWT was too long a name, and wanted the change to RWTO.

Marie was on the committee that published the third edition of the Handbook, containing the Constitution, in 1999. We are very proud of Maisie and Marie, for their part in the history of Retired Women Teachers of Orillia.

Submitted by
Yvonne Bromley
Communication Convenor

Brockville

I discovered that the RWTO executive kept very detailed records in the early days. I also discovered that there were many similarities between today's retirees and those from earlier days of the organization. Many of the RWTO members enjoyed travelling, socializing, volunteering, and having fun! Goodwill communications were, and still are, a valued service.

In 1994, \$5,000.00 was bequeathed to our Branch to be used for the enjoyment of our members. We are still benefiting from the interest this fund generated!

Our very competent treasurer, Helen Earl, was

also the secretary back in 1999. She has been our treasurer since 2007!

Many meetings were held at the homes of executive members with special dinners being held at local churches, golf clubs and halls.

The members enjoyed turkey dinners, guest speakers, and musical entertainment, which are all popular group events today too!

Submitted by
Karen Kerr-Kennedy,
Branch President

Gananoque

The Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers (OAWST) of Gananoque originally met twice a year in a church for lunch, a biannual meeting with a guest speaker or entertainment.

In 1999, the name of the group was officially changed to the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario (RWTO/OERO). We took in a large geographical area from the St. Lawrence River to the Rideau Lakes. Around this time our group decided to have frequent social gatherings and meet eight times a year.

Since the beginning the ladies have kept fun alive and have taken care of their aging sisters. They have donated to local fairs for the children's programs, local food banks and many charities aiding the children and women in our community. Our membership has declined over the past few years but we are working to get our name and cause out there.

Submitted by
Joan Gamble
Branch President



News from the Branches – "Our Beginnings in RWTO"

Upper Canada East

"May 26, 1972, 15 retired teachers from Edwardsburg Township, met at Mrs. King's home to form a unit of the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers." (Elsie Simpson).

The officers elected were President, Mrs. King; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Simpson; Extension Chairman, Mrs. Adams. A Programme Committee and Card Convenor were to be elected later. Mrs. King and Mrs. Simpson attended the 16th Annual Convention at Western University, London.

Long time members Goldie Connell held the office of Archives from 1972 to 2000, while Marie Stephenson continued until 2025.

In 2008, Grenville East became Upper Canada East which represents Prescott, Cardinal, Iroquois, Morrisburg, Maynard, Brockville along the St. Lawrence River and Chesterville, Winchester, Spencerville, Kemptville and South Mountain north of the river.

Upper Canada East supports 12 child-related charities and other community projects to help children and women as all Branches do across Ontario.

Prepared by
Lynda Stroulger-Leader
Insurance Convener

Napanee

The Napanee Branch of the RWTO dates back to the early 1970s. However by the early 1960s the retired teachers of nearby Kingston had formed their Branch of OASWT and a few from the Napanee area became members in Kingston and were even serving on their executive.

In 1973 Miss Marguerite Way invited all interested in forming a Branch to a meeting in her home. Much interest was shown and a tentative slate of officers was drawn up.

The next year Cora Bailey, Provincial Executive Secretary of OASWT, spoke to a group assembled about the interests and benefits of forming a Branch. The executive was installed and a membership of thirty was noted in the 51st Branch of OASWT. By 1981 the membership had grown to 63 members and 2 associates.

The Napanee Branch has enjoyed working to present three provincial conferences – in 1996, 2005 and 2023. One ongoing activity has been the distribution of book and CD kits to all children born at the local hospital. While the Napanee Branch is functioning without an executive currently it continues to have a few social meetings a year as well as recognizing the passing of members through memorial donations to the local library and continuing to support some local charities. We continue to have about thirty members.

Submitted by
Sylvia Dopking
Communications

News from the Branches – "Our Beginnings in RWTO"

Sudbury

Having joined in 1971-1972, the Sudbury Branch proudly hosted the 1987 and 1999 Conventions. Since one of its members, Eve Kendel, was the Provincial President, the 1999 Convention was significant. Valma Mongeon was tasked to promote the city. She wanted to showcase that the Nickel capital of the world was more than a mining town. The above ground natural resource was highlighted.

Picking by herself 22 large baskets of blueberries, receiving a huge basket from Thérèse Bradley, Valma filled 325 small jars with sweet jam, adorned the lids with blueberry fabric and a blue ribbon. Imagine the elated delegates as they entered the convention room! Delegates kindly nicknamed her the "Blueberry Lady".

Valma's determination to this day inspires us. We honour the dedication of the Branch's pioneers by reflecting on the past to gain insight into various aspects of leadership. We learn to navigate challenges. We grow.

Submitted by
Suzanne Rondeau
Branch President

Central Algoma

In the early days of local O.A.S.W.T., the retired teachers in the Central Algoma area were members of the Sault Ste. Marie Branch which had been formed in 1964. As these members grew older, the 50 mile trip to the Sault to attend meetings became less inviting, especially the return trip.

The first attempt to organize a Branch failed because of poor attendance. However, a suc-

cessful organizational meeting was held at the Bruce Mines United Church on May 18, 1972 with 19 members on the roll call. Three meetings were held each year and in 1974 a 25 cent membership fee was approved. Provincial First Vice-President, Mrs. Edna Mertes of the Sault Branch, was very supportive of the group and helped the local members to gain knowledge about their newly formed organization.

Sharing and Caring was a priority and stories about one room schoolhouse experiences in rural areas, helping out with donations to local nursing homes, and local high school scholarships, etc. were important. The first meetings included entertainment, birthday celebrations, reminiscing, recitations and arm-chair travelogues.

Each meeting had its share of laughter and still does.

Submitted by
Nancy Konzuk
Communications

Sault Ste. Marie

Sault Ste. Marie RWTO was formed when it was still known as OASWT in 1966. There were eight members. The meetings were held in the reception room of St. Andrew's United Church in the afternoon with tea and cookies. From 1973 to 1975, Edna Mertes was the first ever Provincial President from northern Ontario. She was followed by Annabelle Harten from 1975 to 1976. The first ever provincial convention held in northern Ontario was in 1997. It was followed in 2012 by Algoma.

The membership has grown from 25 in 1993 to 66 members in 2025.



News from the Branches – "Our Beginnings in RWTO"

From 1971 to 2021, 160 bed kits were purchased for Sleeping Children Around The World. Now we support a variety of charitable organizations. The executive has been recycled a number of times. During COVID, Zoom became the meeting format. We are a

social group, with an activities' monthly calendar, something for everyone.

Submitted by
Sandy Fulcher
Branch Treasurer



RWTO/OERO Board of Directors 2025-2026

Past President	Jan Murdoch	905-691-8407	rwtopastpresident2526@gmail.com
President	Linda Sargeant	905-575-3831	rwtopresident2526sargeant@gmail.com
First Vice-President	Betty Lee-Daigle	519-995-5878	rwto1stvp2526leedaigle@gmail.com
Second Vice-President	Patricia Lambert	705-257-9393	rwto2ndvp2526lambert@gmail.com
Second Vice-President	Sandie Bender	289-389-5799	sbender1@cogeco.ca
Recording Secretary	LeAnne Taylor	905-877-7030	rwtoecsectaylor@gmail.com
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Insurance Convenor	Kathy McLean	613-277-9771	rwtoinsurancemclean@gmail.com
Assistant Insurance Convenor	Claudia Stewart	905-320-6639	rwtoinsurancestewart@gmail.com
Honorary President	Sandra Salerno	905-765-0201	smsalerno@rogers.com
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Goodwill Convenor	Sandie Bender	289-389-5799	sbender1@cogeco.ca
Nominations Convenor	Jan Murdoch	905-691-8407	rwtopastpresident2526@gmail.com
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Comm. Website Convenor	Jane Macdonald	519-495-2337	rwtowebsite@gmail.com
Marketing Convenor	Lynn Anderton	905-308-1133	rwto.lynn@gmail.com
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Director - Area 08	Glennnda Olivier	613-328-0958	glennndaolivier@yahoo.com
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Director - Area 10	Hénédine Weiman	705-969-1795	hen.wei29@gmail.com
Director - Area 11	Carol Neave	705-575-8383	gcneave@live.ca
Director - Area 12	Diane Sinden	905-257-1408	rwtoarea12sinden@gmail.com
Director - Area 13	Patti Malkiewich	905-356-4132	rwtoarea13malkiewich@gmail.com

RWTO/OERO Calendar 2025 - 2026

Aug. 12-14, 2025	Provincial Board of Directors Meetings - Clare Hall, Western University, London.
Sept. 1, 2025	Annual Provincial Membership Fees due - to be sent to the Provincial Office by Oct. 15th. Fees for new members must be forwarded to the Provincial Office when received.
Oct. 2-3, 2025	Provincial Board of Directors Zoom Meeting.
Oct. 31, 2025	Submissions due for December Newsletter Areas: 2, 3, 9, 12.
Nov. 15, 2025	Resolutions due for 2026 Annual General Meeting. Submit to Betty Lee Daigle. Resignation of any Directors to Provincial President.
Nov. 30, 2025	Calculation of Branch Delegate numbers for the 2026 AGM - based on the official membership count as received and recorded in the Provincial Office.
Jan. 5-10, 2026	Branch Membership Lists Sent to Branches.
Jan. 15, 2026	Submission of each new Area Director's name to the Provincial President.
Jan. 29-30, 2026	Provincial Board of Directors Zoom Meeting (if required).
Jan. 31, 2026	Nominations for the 2026-2027 Provincial Board to the Provincial Past President. Nominations for Honorary Membership Awards for 2026 AGM sent to Sandra Salerno. Submissions for March Newsletter Areas: 1,4,7,13.
Mar. 1, 2026	Submissions for Feather-in-Your-Hat-Award are sent to Mary Maxwell.
Mar. 15, 2026	Branch Annual Reports due to Area Directors (150 words).
Mar. 31, 2026	Area Director reports due to the Program Coordinator. Unpaid members are removed from membership lists. Insurance may be in jeopardy. Branch and Provincial Financial Year End.
Apr. 12, 2026	All registrations are due for Convention 2026.
Apr. 15, 2026	All AGM Delegate names are to be in to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer.
Apr. 30, 2026	Branch Financial Reports are due to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer.
May 5-7, 2026	Provincial Board of Directors Zoom Meetings.
May 15, 2026	Branch Executive names for 2026-2027 due to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer.
May 28, 2026	Provincial Board of Directors Zoom Meeting (if needed).
June 2-4, 2026	70th Anniversary - 2026 AGM Convention, Clare Hall, Western University, London.
June 11, 2026	Provincial Board of Directors Post AGM Zoom Meeting.



RWTO/OERO

RWTO/OERO Provincial Office
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Tecumseh, ON, N8N 0H9

PM Agreement
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