

RWTO/OERO

Owen Sound and Area

RWTO/OERO SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 11:30 am

Georgian Shores United Church

Cost: \$35.00

11:30 Meeting

12:00 Lunch

**1:00 Program - Scams & Fraud - presented by a
representative from the Ontario Provincial Police**



RSVP by Sept 19 - Sue Loyst 519-372-8660 sloyst@gmail.com



**Our branch - Owen Sound and Area
received recognition for our increase
in membership in 2024-2025.
Keep up the good work!**

We have a remarkable history!

Fall greetings everyone,

How did we land in September so quickly? Just yesterday we were at our Annual Meeting in May, enjoying great visits with friends, a musical interlude by Makin' Waves, and a fabulous lunch! The time passes so quickly!

This is an important year! RWTO/OERO is celebrating its 70th Anniversary. The platinum anniversary! This is a big deal! I thought it was important to remind us all of our history.

The Retired Women Teachers of Ontario/ Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario organization was formerly known as the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers (OASWT). It was formed in April 1956 by a small group of retired women teachers in Toronto known as the Rendezvous Club. Their purpose in forming the organization was to persuade the Ontario Government to raise the level of pensions for retired women teachers to the same level as their male colleagues.

Each year a small group, armed with a well-researched brief, met the government officials to lobby for improved pensions. This group of Toronto teachers soon realized that it could

present a stronger case to the government if other groups of retired women teachers throughout the province were organized to lend support.

In the following years, many new Branches were formed. In 1967, success was achieved when the government agreed that the minimum pension should be raised to \$1200 per year. We have come a long way since then! It was our group which gave rise to the formation of RTO/ERO – the group which represents both retired women and men teachers. This is now the group which continues the dialogue with government on pension matters on behalf of all retired teachers. RWTO/OERO continues to exist because there is still a need for an organization that cares for the special interests and well-being of retired women teachers. - RTO/OERO website

We look forward to some special local celebrations at our Annual Meeting in May. We have much of which to be proud, and much to look forward to. There is nothing quite like a group of women working with and for women!

Happy Anniversary!

Cynthia Lemon - President



We hope that everyone had a lovely summer and were able to survive the hot temperatures. Hopefully we will have a beautiful fall season.

Since our May newsletter, several greeting cards have been sent on behalf of our members.

We sent a **Thank You card** to Seasons Retirement Home for

the wonderful picnic lunch they provided for us. I'm sure anyone who attended, will agree it was lovely.

Birthday cards were sent to Helen Johnston, Marjorie Davison, and Betty Ritchie.

Sympathy cards went to Dianne Carlson at the passing of her brother Bill Beckett, and a card went to Mary Mackenzie

at the passing of her brother-in-law, Fred Warren.

A Get Well card went to Marg Abra after surgery, and a **Thinking of You card** was sent to Joan Vasella who is bravely dealing with health issues.

Yours in Caring and Sharing

Lorraine Dunning - Goodwill Convenor 519-376-5017

In 2026 RWTO/OERO will be celebrating 70 years! 1956 - 2026



The Provincial Board is planning to publish 70th anniversary information in our December **Connections** issue. Branch involvement is very important. The centre pages will be devoted to RWTO/OERO Branch members' responses to this question: **"How has RWTO/OERO impacted your life?"**

Answers should be brief – only one or two sentences. Each member can send her response to Sandie Bender at sbender1@cogeco.ca or to Sandra Salerno at smsalerno@rogers.com. She must include her name and Branch. The due date is **October 15**.

We hope that many of our members participate to help make this issue a memorable one. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the centre pages are filled with responses from all Branches in the province!



Greetings! The fall meeting on September 24th is a perfect time to reminisce about our classroom days or newer summer adventures. It is also the day to renew our Memberships. (\$60.) If you don't attend the meeting, a cheque needs to be sent ASAP to Mary Hall at 359522 Bayshore Road, Annan, Ontario N0H 1B0.

"Word of Mouth" is a very effective way of recruiting members. Please continue to share the benefits of an RWTO membership with newly retired women teachers you know.

Membership Benefits

The purpose of this group is to provide fellowship, friendship, communication and support to retired women teachers.

We offer:

- ★ A Branch Insurance Convenor who is understanding and always helpful.
- ★ A unique Health Insurance Plan
- ★ RWTO/OERO Hospital and Homecare Plan
- ★ Personal Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan
- ★ Regular Newsletters: Provincial & Local
- ★ 4 General Meetings yearly (September, November, March and May) where we have a lovely lunch, an interesting speaker and time to visit and make or renew friendships.



Read more at: rwto.org

Penny McKay, Membership Convenor

INSURANCE

**We're not your
average group**

MATTERS

It is important to pay the Branch Membership fees in September to ensure continuing coverage in the RWTO Hospital and Home Care Insurance Plan. This plan is available only to RWTO/OERO members and spouses. It is a good top up to OHIP or another extended health care plan.

If you would like a brochure to read about the benefits of the plan, please call me and I will be happy to drop a brochure off for you to peruse. It is reasonably priced at \$14.49 per month for members and \$15.57 for spouses.

There is also a plan for Personal Accidental Death and Dismemberment through RWTO/OERO.

If you would like any information regarding claims or enrolment, please feel free to contact me. Thank You.

Take Care,

Rhonda O'Reilly

519-371-9240

rtoreilly@rogers.com



At our last meeting on May 21st we were entertained by Marcia's group "Makin' Waves" from Port Elgin. The music was lively and familiar and enjoyed by us all.



As usual the table decorations were amazing! We are so fortunate to have Bobbie and Marilyn, two very talented ladies!

Styn Furness and her wonderful hostess group provided us with another delicious meal.

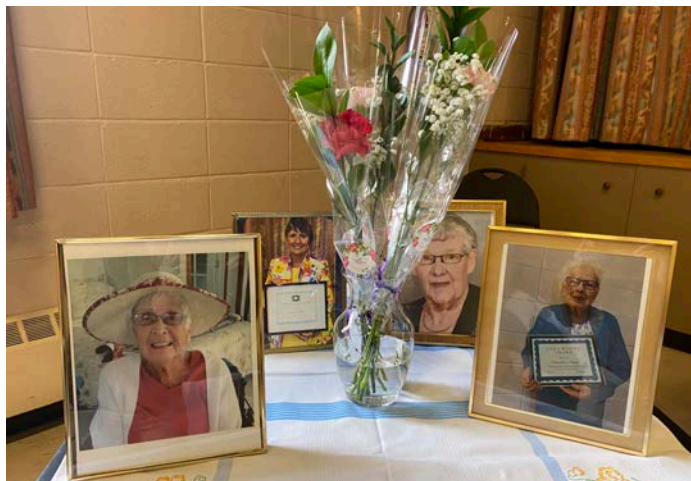
**We honoured four of our lovely members
who passed away this year.**

Verna Killam - Aug. 24, 1925 - June 30, 2024

Sandra Houlgrave - Oct. 30, 1947 - Nov. 11, 2024

Ruth Kaufman - Sept. 6, 1938 - Mar. 6, 2025

Donaldene Waugh - Dec. 30, 1928 - Aug. 12, 2024



We have a large, faithful and hard working executive.

L - R - Laurie James, Rhonda O'Reilly, Cynthia Lemon, Rebecca Hlynialuk, Bobbie Harris, Mary Hall, Sue Loyst, Carol Fraser, Marilyn Goldie, Penny McKay, Louise Lipsett, Mary Mackenzie, Suzanne Vamplew, Donna Hemeon

**Congratulations to
Marjorie Davison**

Flowers were presented to Marjorie who is one of the ladies in our over 90 group.



**Congratulations to
Donna Steinacher**

Flowers were presented to Donna who is one of the ladies in our over 90 group.



Our director Nancy Strutt was our guest and brought us greetings and updates from RWTO/OERO.



FROM THE Archives

Convention in Collingwood June, 2008

When our Branch went to Convention 2008, one of our jobs was to decorate the main room and provide different table decorations for each of the meals. Marilyn Goldie and Bobbie Harris were two of the main people doing it, along with other members. One of the creative ideas they came up with was to give some artistic members of the community a small sap pail and they were to turn it upside down and paint a picture on it. The invitation said "Mountains of fun in Area One". The pails represented mountains. When Mary Mackenzie looked at them she thought of lighthouses. Thanks Mary for sharing these wonderful photos with us.



Bobbie setting one of the tables.

