

# Cambridge Branch



Sept. 2025      Newsletter #34 Online

Cambridge R.W.T.O. Executive

2025-2026

Email [rwto.cambridge@gmail.com](mailto:rwto.cambridge@gmail.com) to contact:

President: Mary Jane N.

Past President: Terry H.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: **Vacant**

Secretary/Archivist: Pat T.

Treasurer: Janice L.

Lunch Co-ordinator: Cheryl O.

Goodwill: Margaret M.

Insurance Convenor: Cheryl C.

Silent Auction Convenor: Heather W.

**Emailers/callers:** You will be contacted by email unless you don't have an email address, then you will be phoned.

Donna Mae

Margaret

Caroline

Carol (Carol is looking for someone to replace her)

**Please reply to your caller about EACH meeting.**

**Meetings are Wednesdays: Oct. 1, Dec. 3, Feb. 4, Apr. 1, 11:30-2:00**

**Ainslie Hall, Wesley United Church, 6 Cambridge St. , Cambridge. Lunches are \$30.**



## Treasurer's Report:



I'm Janice, your new treasurer, and I hope to carry on the excellent work that Anita has done over the past years. Anita's careful bookkeeping and the time she spent preparing me for this role have been invaluable, and I'm very grateful for her guidance.

### Membership Fees

Membership fees of **\$50.00** are due between **September 1st and 30th**. Please try to submit your payment this month, although late payments will still be accepted until Oct. 15.

It's important to note that the number of *paid* members as of **November 1st** determines how many delegates we may send to the Annual General Meeting

### Payment Options

**E-transfer (preferred):** Send to [rwto.cambridge@gmail.com](mailto:rwto.cambridge@gmail.com) and include this phrase in the comment box:  
*"RWTO membership payment for 2025–26 from [Your Name]"*

**Cheque:** Mail to  
J. Little  
1609 Cheese Factory Rd.  
RR#1  
Branchton, ON N0B 1L0

(continued)

## Cambridge Branch

Receipts and membership cards are available upon request. Please remember that membership fees are **not tax-deductible**. **Member Information** To help us keep our records current, please notify me at **519-654-8708** if you have any changes to your mailing address, email, or phone number.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Thus, at our Oct 1st luncheon, we will be collecting donations for the mammography dept. at CMH. The hospital has offered to give us an organized walk through wings A & B. Plan to come on the tour. Details of the date and time to follow.

"I'm looking forward to a fun and memorable year together!

Warm regards,  
**Janice**  
Treasurer

**NOTE You are able to contact any of our Executive members through this email:**  
[rwto.cambridge@gmail.com](mailto:rwto.cambridge@gmail.com)



### Goodwill:

As your Goodwill Convenor, I send sympathy, get well, thinking-of-you, and congratulatory cards for occasions like special birthdays and anniversaries, new grandchildren etc., to our members. Following our luncheons, I send thank you e-cards to 'Meals In A Hurry', our Callers/E-mailers

and to Executive members. Please send me an email if you know of anyone who should receive a card on behalf of our group.

Every week I post on our RWTO Cambridge Branch Facebook page, a **Monday Morning Morsel (MMM)** as well as messages of inspiration and/or information on special calendar days. Check out our Facebook page — is a fun way to connect with our members and to stay informed on various club activities.

Margaret M.



### President's Report for 2024-25 year:

This past year we met four times, on the first Wednesday of October, December, February and April. The Executive met on alternate months. We have several new members on the Executive for 2025-

26. Anita Mullin has retired as Treasurer after 7 years. I thank Anita for her hard work as it's not an easy position. Taking over is Janice..

Cheryl C. is our new RWTO Insurance Convenor, taking over from Sheila who was our insurance rep for the past 5 years. Prior to that Sheila was our President and Past President and has served on the Executive for 21 years. Thank you, Sheila, for your dedication for over two decades.

Heather along with Sheila were our Silent Auction convenors this year. Heather will continue in this role for our Silent Auction on April 1, 2026.



Pat T., Cheryl O., Margaret M., Sue M. and myself are returning to the positions of Secretary, Luncheon co-ordinator, Goodwill Ambassador and photographer. I am looking for someone to become co-president this year which is what some of our branches do.

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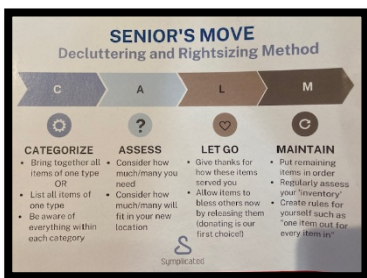
Our meetings were fairly well attended this past year, including April when there was a surprise snow storm. Coming out of the meeting wearing ballet flats, and stepping into 10+ cm of wet snow was unexpected. Our Area President Colleen Robertson who was our speaker spent 3 hours driving to her home in Hanover. Our April luncheon was also our Silent Auction which raised \$1400 which was split evenly between the Food Bank and the YWCA.

Kim Decker, YWCA Executive Director was our December speaker. At that time the new women's emergency shelter was in the process of opening.



Our branch collected items for the shelter as well as cash donations. Twenty women now live there.

Terry Kennedy, Provincial Insurance rep was our speaker on Oct. 2. Since that time we have two new members who have joined and subscribed to the insurance plan.



In February Bethany Mazereeuw from "Seniors Move" told us how the generations view material possessions differently. Most of us are the "Silent Generation" or "Baby Boomers" who are more attached to their possessions than those born after

1965. She suggested creating a legacy for your descendants through memories, not material items. Bethany's company helps seniors organize and donate their household items prior to downsizing.

Three new members joined in 2024. We welcome Anne C., Kathy C. and Aline C. If you know of any retirees with a background in education at any level, please encourage them to join RWTO.



Hiking SIG:



Our hiking group has continued to grow and we currently have 24 women on our list, many of whom come out on a regular basis. Most of our newer members are members of Probus Riverside. Those members pay a "social fee". During the school year we hike on Thursdays from 9:30-11:00. In the summer months our hikes are from 9:00-10:30. Most of our hikes centre around the three communities which make up Cambridge. We do go as far as Paris and the southern part of Kitchener at times. After each hike I post some photos on our "RWTO Cambridge Branch" Facebook page. Please consider joining this group.

Contact Mary Jane [rwto.cambridge@gmail.com](mailto:rwto.cambridge@gmail.com)



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## LIFE Members Celebrate

On February 16 our LIFE Member **Phyllis Hemingway** turned 100. Provincial RWTO provides the local branch with \$100 to recognize this milestone. We purchased a bouquet of yellow roses and donated to Phyllis' church. Most of Phyllis' career was with the Hamilton-Wentworth Board. She graduated from Stratford Teachers' College in 1945 and taught primary students in Stoney Creek and Millgrove. She moved to Cambridge in the 1970s and retired in 1981. Phyllis was branch president in 1985. She lived in her own home until 2021 when she moved to Queen's Square Terrace after a fall.



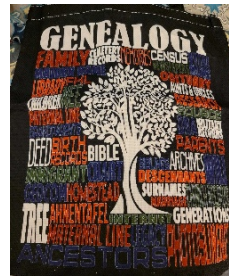
## Pauline Cole

On June 6 Pauline Cole attended the “Over 90s” luncheon at the RWTO Convention at the Paris Convention Centre along with her caller Carol. Pauline moved from Cambridge to Tranquility Place in Brantford to be closer to her family. She was presented with a plaque and an Eiffel Tower.

All members over ninety are sent cards three times a year from the provincial office of RWTO, but they need to know who you are!



## RWTO Cambridge Genealogy Club: Catharine M.



Our dedicated group has begun its ninth year! Over this time our members have been growing in research skills and in tracking down records. Even so, our focus has remained upon the reason we started this club in the first place: to hear and honour the stories of our ancestors.

During the past year, we experimented with a new format. Many of the veterans have developed excellent research skills and were looking to work on individual research projects; at the same time, others preferred to continue practising their skills with support, and we were becoming aware that some new members were interested in joining. For this reason, we decided to split into two groups: novice (led by Mary-Jane) and advanced (led by Catharine). Both groups have followed a monthly meeting schedule, and then gathered for purely social events in December and June, where we were able to get together as a group for a purely social session (many thanks to our generous hostess with the mostest - Marg G.!) where we could catch up with each other about our progress and enjoy being together. We have decided to continue with this format for the 2025/2026 year. Our new season will begin in October.

The advanced group decided to meet in-person during the good weather months, where members could bring their technology and continue with their own research projects, supported by leadership. During the winter, we shifted to Zoom, where we continued to advance our skill level (e.g., by learning about the Leeds method for clustering DNA matches and using ScreenShare on Zoom)

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and were able to make brief presentations on topics such as what we'd like to discover next and how our research was touching our hearts or stirring up emotions. Following this, a member would share a brick wall within their own research, and members would offer support and ideas. While a number of our folks are accessing many of the many amazing webinars from the Ontario Genealogical Society, this year saw many of our members take advantage of FamilySearch's RootsTech free online conference, and we were inspired by the ideas shared by the wider genealogical community. To end the year, we had our first ever field trip! Members headed to the Old Blair Memorial Cemetery where we got a chance to hear stories from 98-year old area native Doreen Mary McIntosh, check out the improvements made by the City of Cambridge, and marvel at how stones could speak for those no longer with us.

We've continued to be in touch between sessions by asking questions and/or sharing our accomplishments through our Facebook page: [Cambridge Retired Educators Genealogy Group \(facebook.com\)](https://www.facebook.com/Cambridge-Retired-Educators-Genealogy-Group/). Our Facebook group is a closed group (open only to our members), which keeps it a safe place for us to ask questions and share with each other details, photos, and stories about our ancestry.

We are always delighted to welcome new members with an interest in learning more about family history - no previous genealogical experience is required! We generally meet one Friday a month, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please contact Catharine ([bflows@sympatico.ca](mailto:bflows@sympatico.ca)) if you are interested in joining us in this fun and fascinating field!



### Novice Genealogy: Mary Jane Novak

Our group meets on Fridays once a month from 1:00-3:00 at Mary Jane's home. In the past year our four members learned basic research skills to create a family tree using Ancestry.com software. Members work individually on their trees with Mary Jane providing suggestions and support for part of the meeting. We also spent time developing research strategies such as using Family Search full-text AI transcriptions or viewing some of the RootsTech conference videos and Webinars provided by the Ontario Genealogical Society. One of our members printed a Family History with detailed family trees for each of her children. Much of her work was done at Cambridge Public Library using their free software. We joined the Advanced group for a social time in December and June. New members are always welcome to join our group. Meeting dates for the coming year are Sept. 5, Nov. 7, Dec. 12 Social, Jan. 9, Feb. 6, Mar. 6, May 1, Jun. 19 Social.



December social sharing time

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### Book Club One: nourishment through love, joy, and connection

Anne B., co-ordinator

August 2025

It was a glorious fall day in **October** when most of the group enjoyed the drive to Wellesley where Wendy hosted the discussion of Looking for Jane by Heather Marshall postponed from March. I missed the delicious treats that Wendy is famous for. The book reminds us that health choices for women remain topical. Angela Creighton is determined to search back to the 1970s when a group of daring women operated an illegal underground abortion network in Toronto known only by its code name: Jane...This has been a year of extraordinary change in the personal lives of our group and Jean's move to retirement residence meant we joined her there to talk about Motorcycles and Sweetgrass by Drew Hayden Taylor in **November**. Otter Lake is a sleepy Anishinaabe community where little happens. Until the day a handsome stranger pulls up astride a 1953 Indian Chief motorcycle – and turns Otter Lake completely upside down. Maggie, the Reserve's chief, is swept off her feet. In **December** once again we enjoyed a delicious lunch at Karen's home to celebrate the season. I always appreciate the package of take home goodies too. There's never an end to the conversation around her dining room table! We have recently decided to **omit January** when it comes to meeting because of the weather mostly, but a few of our members are often away

somewhere warm at this time of year. So in **February** a slightly smaller group met at Sue M's having read James by Percival Everett. It's a story you know –The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn—it's transposed by its point of view. An enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, & separated from his wife and daughter forever. He decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father. So begins the dangerous journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the promise of the Free States. Jim's intelligence and compassion are shown in a new light while Huck remains Huck! Our plans in **March** morphed into lunch at Captain George's for fish and chips. We saved our discussion of Seven Sisters by Lucinda Riley but offer this short version for you. Maia D'Apliese and her five sisters gather together at their childhood home, "Atlantis" on Lake Geneva -- their father, who adopted them all as babies, has died. Each sister is handed a clue to her true heritage—a clue that takes Maia across the world to a mansion in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This novel includes the history of the construction of the huge statue that will become Christ the Redeemer, and the fiction solves a personal mystery for Maia. You might enjoy this author as she has written a story for each sister. Liz hosted us on a beautiful spring day in **April**, bird watching from her great room is always a complement to her generous hospitality. We discussed The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah. In 1974 Ernt Allbright came home from the Vietnam War a changed and volatile man. When he loses yet another job, he makes the impulsive decision to move his wife Cora and thirteen year old daughter Leni north where they will live off the grid in Alaska. The long, sunlit days and the generosity of the locals make up for the newcomers' lack of preparation and dwindling resources. But as winter approaches Ernt's fragile mental state deteriorates. Soon Leni and her mother learn they are on their own. The back porch at Karen's has become an



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anticipated special garden location where in **May** our book **Here One Moment** by Liane Moriarty begs the rest of the saying: "Here one moment....gone the next". A feeling of dread changes as you wend your way through the plot. On an ordinary, short, domestic flight people learn how and when they are going to die predicted by an unassuming elderly fellow passenger. Tenterhooks for you! Ok, in **June** Glenna turned me into a cheesy popcorn addict, she was kind enough to put out another bowl. Regretfully I ate the whole thing... not! What a character is the Duchess, in our book **We begin at the End** by Chris Whittaker we've met a few like her I think. Duchess Day Radley is a thirteen-year-old "outlaw". Rules are for other people. She is the fierce protector of her five-year-old brother Robin, and the parent to her mother, Star. Walk, the local chief of police has never left the coastal California town where he and Star grew up. He sent his best friend Vincent King, to prison decades before and Vincent is being released – voila, some Star crossed lovers—if you'll pardon the reference. Marnie tried out the book club lending program from the library which provides all members with a copy of a chosen book (from a limited selection). In the heat of **July** we thoroughly enjoyed **Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting** by Clare Pooley. Every day Iona, a larger-than-life magazine advice columnist, travels the ten stops from Hampton Court to Waterloo Station by train, accompanied by her dog, Lulu. Every day she sees the same people, but one morning a fellow commuter chokes on a grape and is saved by a nurse also travelling to work. This single event starts a chain reaction, and an eclectic group of people discover that a chance encounter can turn into much much more. As you read this in **September** we will be heading to Bonnie's to share the enjoyment of a mystery: **What Have You Done** by Shari Lapena.

Membership in RWTO now includes the following groups in addition to Teachers:

- Audiologists
- Child & Youth Care Workers/Counsellors
- Early Childhood Educators
- Educational Assistants
- Early Childhood Educators
- Office Support Staff
- Psychologists
- Social Workers
- Speech and Language Pathologists

New members don't pay for their first lunch.

**Book Club 2** Barb W., Convenor



Book Club Two shared many interesting books over eight months, from September, 2024 to May, 2025. The books we read were Maisie Dobbs by Jacqueline Winspear, The War We Won Apart by Nahlah Ayed, The Secret Keeper by Genevieve Graham, Inheritance by Dani Shapira, Within Arm's Reach by Ann Napolitano, The Seamstress of Sardinia by Bianca Pitzorna, The Good Women of Safe Harbour by Bobbi French and A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles.

At our meetings we enjoyed discussing the books, socializing, and sharing delicious snacks. Our stimulating book discussions were each led by one of our members. We also took turns hosting our meetings, which were held at members' homes, at Monograms upstairs room, and at The Old Post Office Library upstairs. In June we celebrated our year end with a delicious lunch at The Charcoal Steakhouse, where we also chose our books for the coming year.

Submitted by Pat T.

# Cambridge Branch

## Convention 2025

### Pat T. and M.

From Tuesday, June 3 to Thursday, June 5, an exciting RWTO/OERO Convention was held at the Hilton Hampton Inn and the Marriott Towne Place Suites between the city of Brantford and town of Paris. Both places are situated along the Heritage Grand River. The Convention had a Parisian Theme and quite a Parisian Flair.



Mary-Jane attended the whole Convention as our Provincial delegate. Margaret and I split the role of Branch delegate for the Cambridge Branch. I attended the Welcome Banquet on Tuesday evening and the AGM and Parisian Garden Luncheon on Thursday. Margaret attended the AGM on Wednesday morning and the Gala Awards Banquet that evening. I also attended one of the optional events for Wednesday afternoon, the Grand River Cruise.

Janice, our new treasurer and Anita, outgoing Treasurer attended an insurance workshop on Tuesday afternoon.



An enjoyable "Elvis in Paris" Banquet was held on Tuesday evening, in a banquet room decorated in Parisian style, with plenty of Eiffel towers and floral arrangements. We, the members, dressed in either fifties clothing (e.g., poodle skirts, saddle shoes, neckerchiefs) or Parisian style

Beatnik clothing (e.g., French berets, neckerchiefs, striped shirts). After a delicious dinner, members enthusiastically sang along and danced to the tunes of our talented Elvis impersonator, Brad Bolton.

On Wednesday afternoon members were able to choose their activity. As part of this 'Grand Getaway', members were able to choose their activity on Wednesday afternoon. Some stayed at the Hotel and attended special sessions or just relaxed. A variety of excursions were available to choose from, such as a sightseeing bus tour of Brantford, a tour of the Alexander Graham Bell Homestead and a tour of the Woodland Cultural Centre, and some outings in Paris. Mary-Jane and I enjoyed a lovely three hour cruise on the Grand River. A delicious lunch was served as we cruised along the Grand, watching the beautiful scenery and wildlife that we passed, while our tour guide told us about the area and its history.



The Wednesday evening Gala Awards Banquet was a 'magnifique' event. Members were encouraged to wear haute couture style attire. Mary-Jane and I (Margaret) attended the Gala in our best 'runway' look. The room and tables were decorated in a 'black and white affair' theme with many glitzy accessories, and the meal was 'superbe'. Following the awards, we spent a delightful evening in Paris. A local musician entertained us with a wonderful repertoire of songs while a slide presentation of scenes from the French capital played in the background.

At the Annual General Meetings many resolutions were discussed and voted on. Most were carried. The minutes of these meetings are posted on the RWTO website.

On Thursday morning, before the AGM, we had an In Memoriam Service, honouring the members who passed away in the last year.

A lovely Parisian Garden Luncheon was held on Thursday. There were flowers galore, and we, the members, were wearing floral outfits. Many members who are over ninety joined us for this Luncheon. It was special for us that Pauline, from our Cambridge Branch, was in attendance and honoured with the other over nineties. She was



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accompanied by Carol from our branch. It was a lovely tribute to our older members!

At the end of this Luncheon, we had the Installation of the new Executive for the 2025-2026 year. We also had the Call to Convention for 2026. It will be held in London, and will have special events as it will be RWTO's seventieth Anniversary.

This year's convention was truly a 'Grand Getaway' and it was a privilege to represent our Cambridge Branch of RWTO.

Convention 2026 will be held at Western in London and will recognize the "Platinum Jubilee" of RWTO.



### **Cora Bailey Award 2025: Margaret M.**

Retired from WRDSB and joined RWTO Cambridge Branch in 2019. She became our Goodwill Convenor in 2021. Since that time, Margaret has done an outstanding job sending cards and ecards to our members. She also posts a

timely 'Morning Morsel' several times a week on our Facebook page. These are inspirational messages are often reposted on our provincial RWTO Facebook page.

Margaret's enthusiasm and support for RWTO is very inspiring. In addition to being our Goodwill Convenor, she is also one of our callers. In this role she compiles the witty invitations sent out to our members for our luncheons.

Beyond RWTO, Margaret is active in her community of Glen Morris. She is a life member of Glen Morris United Church where she was co-president of UCW, and was a member of the Pastoral Care Team and the church's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. She currently is a trustee on the church council. In her hometown Margaret is a member of the Sole Sisters trail walking group,

the horticultural society, the book club and Koininia Women's Friendship Group.

IN SHORT, A TALENTED WOMAN WELL  
DESERVING OF THE CORA BAILEY AWARD.

Margaret will receive her pin at the Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**Questionnaire:** Along with this newsletter I am attaching a questionnaire to help guide us in new initiatives and programming. It will be returned to our branch email [rwto.cambridge@gmail.com](mailto:rwto.cambridge@gmail.com) moderated by Janice. Names of those members who return their completed form by Oct 1st will be put in a draw for a free 2025-26 membership. This draw will take place at the Oct 1st luncheon. So please join the bandwagon and be a part of moving our group forward.