



BRRR...EAKING NEWS!

RWTO/OERO St. Catharines Branch

January 2026

Warm Winter greetings from your President, Judith Bennoch

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and managed to stay healthy. Congratulations to our members for your generous support to Community Care - such a worthy cause. January's weather has certainly been unpredictable - but that is what a Canadian winter is all about.



Although we have no luncheons during the winter, our **Interest Groups** continue to function keeping our members busy while they continue to enjoy the camaraderie of others - keeping our connections strong.

Speaking of Interest Groups, you may remember that there was one special group advertised in May for a very specific purpose. The **Party Planners** members were given the responsibility to support me in the planning and delivery of our **70th Jubilee Celebrations**.

The **Party Planners** met for the first time at my home in early August 2025. At this meeting we came up with ideas on how to plan a meaningful celebration for our branch recognizing the 70th Jubilee of RWTO/OERO. Subgroups formed to focus on specific tasks with all members enthusiastic to make our April 22 luncheon celebration special, memorable and include active participation by our members. This is a special group of dedicated women. I thank each and every one of them for working so hard on this project.

We are very excited and assure you there is something for everyone included.

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

St. Catharines Branch 70th Jubilee Celebrations

Club Italia

\$40.00

2525 Montrose Road, Niagara Falls, ON

Money due by
April 8th

You won't want to miss this luncheon - here is what you can expect...and more...

- Doors Open at 10:00 am and the Celebration begins...from this time until almost 11:00 am, you will be encouraged to visit displays and enjoy a Welcome Celebratory drink
- Your Name Tag will include the YEAR you joined our branch - look for others from the same time and have a chat
- Displays around the room will share a history of our past in print and photos, our members, our three conventions - 2002 at the Americana, 2011 at the Hilton and 2019 at the Holiday Inn.... *plus more*
- 'Guess How Many' contest...take a chance at winning a prize
- At your table - a special momentum for each member and a Trivia challenge - the opportunity to work as a team to test your knowledge of RWTO/OERO and in particular about our St. Catharines branch

- Before we begin - a special group photo taken of all in attendance - a way to keep this memory alive in the future
- Guest speaker - Provincial President, Linda Sargeant. We are fortunate to have arranged well in advance to have Linda join us.
- A special 'instrumental' performance will set the 'tone' for lunch and the rest of our program
- 'Let's Remember' segments during lunch....*that's all I'm willing to share about this, at this time*
- Opportunity to lend your voice to a very special song presentation

It's going to be so much fun to celebrate this milestone together - let's dress up and celebrate each other and the wonderful organization that has brought us all together.

DON'T DELAY - SIGN UP TODAY!

May AGM / In Memoriam / Cora Bailey Awards Luncheon

Wednesday, May 27th, 2026

Betty's Restaurant

8921 Sodom Road, Niagara Falls (Chippawa)

Four Menu Choices



General Luncheon Information

- The May luncheon begins at 11:00 am. Doors open at 10:30 am, unless otherwise indicated.
- The name tags are on the table close to the entrance and are displayed in alphabetical order.
- The cost for the luncheon will depend on what the facility is charging.
- Payment for luncheons must be received by the Wednesday prior to each luncheon, whether by cheque or e-transfer. If you are late in mailing your cheque, let Linda Foster know that you are planning to attend and that your cheque is in the mail.
- There are no luncheon tickets. As your payment is received, your name is added to the list of attendees. You should receive a call or an email when the Treasurer has received your payment.
- Cheques are payable to: **RWTO St. Catharines** and mailed to Linda Foster.
- E-transfers, use the **rwto.stcatharines@gmail.com** address.
- Luncheon payments will be returned if cancelled by the Wednesday prior to the luncheon. Call Linda Foster to cancel.
- You will receive a phone call or email reminder several weeks prior to the luncheon.
- Pictures are taken at luncheons. If you do not want to be in a picture, speak up and tell whoever has the camera.
- Escorts needed. Sometimes our members need a ride to the luncheon. If you require a ride, or could offer assistance with driving, please call Kathy Trussell, Goodwill Convenor.

We are a Fragrance-Free Environment.



Calling All Members

RWTO St. Catharines is asking all members to thoughtfully consider helping out your local branch by serving on our Executive. If you think that you might enjoy learning more about how our branch works, helping others enjoy all of the opportunities that our branch offers, then this might be for you.

At this time, we are looking for a member to fill the position of Vice President. If you would like more information about this position, please contact Melanie Kelch, Past President.

Free to a Good Home

RWTO St. Catharines Branch has a Roland Digital Piano that we no longer need. We would be happy to donate it

to anyone who would like to have it. It is in good working condition and includes a stand and all electrical cords.

If you are interested, please contact Melanie Kelch to arrange to pick it up.

RWTO/OERO 69th Convention 2026

June 2-4, 2026. Theme: Chalk to Change

Location: University of Western Ontario, London

Seniors Wellness Fair instead of Workshops!

Sing with your friends at Karaoke on Tuesday evening

Enjoy the London/Middlesex Branch Choir on Wednesday

Residence: Clare Hall Western University

See RWTO.org/Convention for more information

COMING SOON!

IN-HOME AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES GUIDE

Be safe, comfortable and happy in the place you call HOME and in Niagara's Community at large.

Issues and Concerns: Marg Newby, Convenor and Chair of Continuum of Care Committee.



December Luncheon, Holiday Inn, December 4, 2025

Thank you, members, for contributing to **Community Care**. Beyond the \$10,300, additional contributions totalled **\$10,900.00**. That is impressive! Many people will appreciate the help you have given them.

Also, a big shout out and thank you to Carol Morningstar for all her hard work in putting together and conducting the Christmas Carol Sing-a-long. It was great fun and enjoyed by all. The hotel staff always say they love it when we come, as we are so positive and such great singers. Pat yourself on the shoulder. Well done!



Directory Additions and Changes

Addition:

Jennifer Bradbury

Changes/Corrections:

Fern Lackenbauer

Violette Hagerty

Janet Halsey

Lori Lehne

Margret Bousfield

Patricia Braun

Shirley Brown

Carol Morningstar

Louisella Zanatta

Toby Marr

(Fonthill and Fenwick areas are changing their postal codes, as they are moving from a rural village to an urban village). Wow! Expansion!)

Emily Lomas

Sharon Martinello

INTEREST GROUPS and OUT 'N ABOUT

Shaw Festival Theatre 2026 Play: "FUNNY GIRL"

Shaw Festival 2026

For the 48 of you that have already signed up, we have our Shaw Festival tickets to see FUNNY GIRL. Our show is FRIDAY, JUNE 19 at 1pm. Cost is \$105. Payments accepted now.

Payable by cash, cheque or e-transfer

It's a great day with great seats when RWTO St. Catharines is at the Festival Theatre!

Travelogue Interest Group



Left Travelogue Christmas Luncheon. Right: Socializing and treats after monthly presentation.

Joanne Atkinson shared a PowerPoint presentation on the British Home Children. Many children were sent to Canada to work on the farms, etc., during the mid 1800's to mid 1900's. Some were treated well, others not. This presentation was very interesting and informative. Thank you, Joanne. Our March meeting will be a presentation on Tanzania – Zanzibar and the April meeting on "Snowbirding" in Mexico, CA, AZ and FL.

Friday Afternoon Walking Group on a balmy November day. And again, in NOTL on a cold December day.

