

**Lydia Snow North
Halton
January 2026
Newsletter**



We hope everyone who attended the Granite Ridge Christmas lunch had a wonderful time. **Many thanks to all of our volunteer greeters and organizers who helped make this event a huge success.**

We want to thank our members for their generosity and kindness in contributing items for the silent auction, purchasing draw tickets, and making donations to SCAW.

We raised \$1399 for the Lydia Snow Branch Generated Income Fund from which our Outreach funds are taken.

Thanks again, everyone!

RaffleTable: \$1170 **50/25/25 Draw:** \$157 **Scaw:** \$57 **Decal Sales:** \$12

Our members were also able to make the Christmas Season a little brighter for families at Halton Women's Place. Thanks for your monetary donations, gift cards, and numerous donated items. Once again, Lydia Snow members have demonstrated "Caring and Sharing" for our community.

GETTING READY FOR OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

As you may know, the January and February Lydia Snow meetings will take place via **Zoom**.

Please Note: The log-in/sign-in details will be sent in a separate email prior to the meeting.

If you do not have Zoom, you can download the app to your phone/tablet/computer. It is very important that everyone has the latest version of Zoom. This can be easily done by clicking on “yes to updates” when signing on to the meeting.

If none of those are available to you, use the phone number provided and you will be able to connect to the audio of the meeting.

OUR JANUARY ZOOM MEETING.....

Date: Tuesday, January 20th, 2026

Sign in On Zoom: 11:50 a.m. for the 12 noon business meeting

Guest Speaker Presentation: 12:30 p.m.

Megan Hassard is our guest speaker.

Megan holds an undergraduate degree in Indigenous Environmental Politics and a Masters of Teaching from the University of Toronto. Her studies have brought her to Haida Gwaii, to learn about the politics of natural resource sovereignty, and into graduate research on Ontario's curriculum reform in the context of reconciliation. She currently works at the crossroads of Indigenous politics and education with an Inuit company dedicated to preserving and promoting Inuit language and culture in Nunavut. She was involved in advising Nunavut's recent education reform in the interest of Inuktitut revitalization and is now working with Inuktitut film and television.

Business Meeting

Outreach Possibilities- we want to collect input from our members regarding where our Outreach Funds should be sent this year. Potential charities include: **Food for Life, Halton Learning Foundation, Halton Catholic Children's Foundation** as well as adding to the funds set aside for the **Townsend Smith Foundation**.

Important News From Provincial RWTO:

Our



RWTO/OERO (Retired Women Teachers of Ontario) ...

Linda Sargeant · Dec 21 · 🌐

Greetings! My name is Linda Sargeant, and I am honoured to hold the role of RWTO/OERO President for 2025-2026. It saddens me to have to make the attached post, which I ask you to read carefully. Unfortunately, as senior women, we are targets for thieves who use email fraud as a means to make a quick buck. They do not have access to the email addresses of our members, but can find email addresses for some of the Provincial Board of Directors, and Branch contacts. Please check out the poster, and thank you for not ever buying gift cards for anyone who asks for them on-line.

RWTO EMAIL SCAM

If you receive an email from the Provincial or a Branch President, or an Executive member, that asks if you have a moment, or are you busy, it is a SCAM! If you reply, you will be asked to buy gift cards and send them. Our email accounts have NOT been hacked. Someone is creating new ones, pretending they are us. If you receive one of these, block the sender and put the email in your trash. Please let the person know, who supposedly sent it to you, so they are aware. We never use gift cards as currency, and would never be asking you to handle the financial aspects of our duties.

How Does the Provincial Organization of RWTO/OERO Spend My Membership Fee?

Provincial membership fees are currently **\$50** a year. Some of our 46 Branches also include a smaller top-up fee to assist with their own expenses.

Provincial current sources of income:

- Membership fees (our only guaranteed funds)
(Life Members - elderly/infirm who are unable to attend activities pay no fees)
- Manulife insurance - annual premium rebate & promotional support
- Bank investment income
- Convention surplus - if any
- Bequeathment by members (occasionally) – something to consider?

Expenses:

- Note - 30% of your membership fee is returned to your Branch (\$15), leaving Provincial with \$35 of your fee to assist with the following items:
 - Convention costs (approx. \$80,000 - \$100,000) - reimbursements to delegates, Over 90's Luncheon, workshops, printing, etc.
 - Connections Newsletter, creation, as well as printing and postage for the 2500 members who do not receive it by email X 3 times a year
 - Website expenses - domain costs, creation, updates
 - Salary - Executive Secretary-Treasurer
 - Liability Insurance
 - Annual Branch Awards - Barbara Bain (Branch membership increase), Feather-in-your-hat (Branch projects), Cora Bailey Award Pins
 - Special Awards - Honorary Members (Provincial Service Award), Centenarian Awards (for each member who turns 100), Honorarium for the Provincial President and Recording Secretary
 - Small Branch Grants -12 small Branches receive \$400 annually to help costs
 - Branch Grants - given periodically (e.g. \$200 this year to each of our 46 Branches to help celebrate our 70th anniversary.)
 - Board of Directors Meetings (once or twice annually - 3 days each)
 - Goodwill Committee - mails 3 cards each year to each member 90+
 - Committee Projects & Expenses, e.g. brochures, sales & materials
 - Office expenses (computer programs, postage, supplies, etc.)
 - Area Director Meetings with their Branches
 - Insurance Meetings with Branches
 - President's visits to Branches

Provincial Membership - March 2025 - 4423

Over 90	293	Most are life members
80 - 89	1,148	
70 - 79	1,519	
60 - 69	338	
50 - 59	49	
No birth dates known	1,076	

February Zoom Meeting.....

Mark your calendars for the Zoom meeting taking place on Wednesday **February 18** at 10 AM. We will welcome guest speaker Adam Brylowski of the Bruce Trail Association.

Adam's presentation will focus on the Bruce Trail. In his role as an ecologist, Adam specializes in the diversity of life on the trail as well as endangered species. If time permits, he may speak about the history of the Bruce Trail and the various initiatives to protect and expand it.



Finally,

If you have had a change of mailing address, e-mail address, phone number or emergency contact person, please contact Linda Frey (lindajofrey@gmail.com or 519-993-3402) or Jan Hassard (hassardj1982@gmail.com or 905-703-0005).