



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

President's Message



Greetings!

It's going to be lovely to say goodbye to the winter of 2025-2026! Now is the time that the RWTO/OERO Branches blossom like the flowers of spring, as they become more active ... when it is much easier for our members to travel to Branch and Interest Group activities, and meet with Branch friends again.

I hope you enjoyed our special December edition of *Connections*, which celebrated our 70th anniversary! Our Jubilee Committee did an excellent job delving into our history and inviting members to share their comments about our organization. Over 90 comments were sent in by our members, so many that they could not all be printed in our newsletter! For those able to browse our website, if you click on a link on the main page, it will take you to a list of all of the comments. They are delightful to read ... thank you to those who participated!

We now move on to another exciting chapter in our history ... our 70th annual RWTO/OERO Convention in London Ontario! You will find the information

needed on the last few pages of this edition, including the sign-up page to attend.

A reminder that we have room at the women-only residence, Clare Hall, not only for the Delegates from our Branches and the Board of Directors, but for about 150 more Branch members to stay over and attend the festivities, banquets, trips and Tuesday Wellness Fair! Some Branches annually have members who attend with their friends, recommending it as a safe getaway with their peers.

The impressive Convention Planning Team, under the care of Judy Massey, has members from a dozen or more Branches volunteering to help. Those attending might even consider lending a hand! As Judy says, "Volunteers are the heart of any organization, and will ensure and promote a happy and well-run Convention."

Are you one of our organization's younger members (or young at heart)? Please consider volunteering for roles within your Branches, or at the Provincial level! Many



Linda Sargeant,
Provincial President

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

Provincial President:

Linda Sargeant

905-575-3831

rwtopresident2526sargeant@gmail.com

First Vice-President:

Betty Lee-Daigle

519-995-5878

rwto1stvp2526leedaigle@gmail.com

Insurance Convenor:

Kathy McLean

613-277-9771

rwtoinsurancemclean@gmail.com

Manulife Financial 1-800-268-3763

Broker: Terry Kennedy

The Dolphin Consulting Group

519-583-0098 • Fax: 519-583-2876

tkennedy34@bell.net

Provincial Office

Executive Secretary-Treasurer:

Linda Huffman

2736 Twelfth Conc,

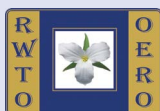
Tecumseh, ON, N8N 0H9

Toll Free: 1-877-607-6696

Phone: 519-979-7030

Email: info@rwto.org

Website: **RWTO.org**



President's Message – continued

members are now sharing roles with their friends and peers, and there are often mentors available to assist you.

Our 28-member Provincial Board of Directors has worked diligently on many new concepts this year, seeking to help our organization thrive. Several of our Provincial Committees welcome Branch members to participate, as they often bring refreshing “outside

the box” ideas.

Please remember that we are a “Come when you can organization”, for as retirees, we often lead active lives, including family, friends, faith, community and travel.

Enjoy our future! 2026 and beyond!

Issues and Concerns

Falls and Fractures

In this third article concerning falls and fractures I will provide information about bone health - what affects it, and how we can promote it.

Osteoporosis (meaning “porous bone”) is a disease that occurs when the body loses too much bone, makes too little bone, or both. As a result, bones become weak and may break from a fall. Osteoporosis is most common among Canadians 50 years of age or older. 2.3 million Canadians are living with osteoporosis, two thirds of this number being women. The drop in estrogen during menopause speeds up bone loss since estrogen is essential for bone health. When estrogen levels drop at menopause, bone breakdown speeds up and bone building cannot keep up, leading to bone loss. In men, testosterone helps preserve bone mass, but its decline is more gradual, resulting in a slower progression of osteoporosis.

Walking and other exercises keep bones healthy, but high impact exercises should be avoided if osteoporosis already exists; a bone density test can determine whether this is the case.

Taking Vitamin D and calcium can help improve bone health. Vitamin D is essential for calcium absorption but is found in very few foods. Skin makes vitamin D in reaction to sunlight and stores it in fat for later use, but getting enough sunlight is quite

difficult, especially as we age. Health Canada recommends that all Canadians 50 years and older supplement their diet with 400 IU (10 µg) of vitamin D to help meet their daily requirements.

Calcium can be found in a variety of foods including dairy products, dark leafy vegetables, some kinds of fish, and calcium-fortified foods and beverages. The amount of calcium you need from a supplement depends on how much you get from food. Only take a supplement if needed to achieve the recommended daily allowance, which is 1200 mg daily. There is no added benefit to taking more calcium than you need. Several different kinds of calcium compounds are used in supplements, the two main kinds being carbonate and citrate. Calcium citrate is the best form for older adults, since it is absorbed more easily than calcium carbonate, can be taken with or without food, and is less likely to cause constipation. It is important not to take too much calcium since an excess can cause unwanted risks.

Thanks to Google for all the information!

Diane Sinden
Area 12 Director



Board Reports

Archives

Thank you for the “In Memoriam” photos you have provided since February 2025. I will be cross-checking the photographs you have submitted with the list of “In Memoriam” names published in the March 2026 issue of “*Connections*.” This ensures that nobody has been overlooked. Starting in February 2026, I will maintain a separate folder to organize the names and pictures you e-mail. This will aid in the smooth transition of responsibilities as my term as Provincial Archivist concludes in June 2026.

Membership

Membership in RWTO/OERO is essential for our organization to continue growing. Continue inviting women teachers, educational assistants, early childhood educators, child and youth workers/counsellors, audiologists, office support staff, and psychologists who have been employed by a Board of Education, private school, college or university anywhere in the world, at any time in their career.

We honour Barbara Bain, a Past Provincial President and Membership Convenor, with the Provincial Barbara Bain Award. This award recognizes the largest increase in membership from April 1st to March 31st as established by Linda Huffman, our Provincial Secretary-Treasurer. The awards are \$200 for third place, \$300 for second

It has been my pleasure to prepare the “In Memoriam” service in honor of our deceased members. Thank you for your continued support. Remember to prepare the Cora Bailey binders for the display at the convention in June 2026.

Caring and sharing
Hénédine Weiman
e-mail:hen.wei29@gmail.com
Provincial Archivist

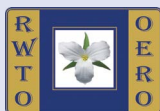


place, and \$400 for first place within each of the three tiers based on Branch size. A big “Thank you” to all the hardworking Branches for their “Feather in Your Hat” submissions from previous years. The membership committee looks forward to reading your submissions for the current year that are due by March 1. Please check the RWTO/OERO website for the procedure and criteria required when making your “Feather in Your Hat” submissions next year.

Mary Maxwell,
Membership Convenor



Continued ►



Board Reports

Program

Branch Presidents and Area Directors:
It is March – heralding in a spring of renewal – and ushering in a very busy time for you! Check your Timelines for Presidents, as March is full of deadlines for important tasks, including the end of your fiscal year.

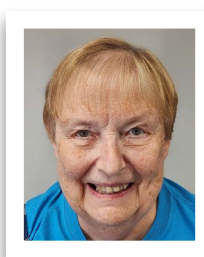
You received your Membership Information and Delegate Form in the middle of January and my Convention 2026 Newsletter not long after. These documents both contain very important information regarding Convention 2026. It is strongly encouraged that you review and print the Convention Newsletter for easy reference.

The final piece of vital information for your Branch is the list of resolutions included in the

March 2026 issue. It is imperative that you, your executive and Branch members become familiar with the content of the resolutions and discuss how to vote as a group. This will enable you to have a clear understanding of the intent and context of each, and to provide a clear direction for your delegates representing your Branch at the AGM.

Hope to see you at the 2026 Convention “Chalk to Change” in London at Western University, Clare Hall.

Margaret Geare,
Provincial Program Coordinator



Nominations

As of January 31, 2026 we have not had any candidates come forward for the position of 2nd Vice President or Recording Secretary. Any delegate may make a motion at the Annual General Meeting for these positions when the elections are being conducted.

We have a candidate for the position of Parliamentarian. This is an appointed position, members of the Nominations Committee will conduct an interview with the candidate. The candidate

will be introduced to the members following the elections at the 2026 AGM.

Committee Members: (Chair) Jan Murdoch, Past President; Patti Malkiewich, Area 13; Judy Anderson, Area 5; Linda Sargeant, President

181 Pitts Cove Rd. Dunsford,
ON K0M L1O
rwtopastpresident2526@gmail.com



Be our 2nd VP for 2026-2027!

This very rewarding endeavour helps our organization thrive!
Ideal for our younger members, it is a 5 year commitment moving through the Presidential Chairs.
Sandra Salerno, Honorary President has volunteered to mentor our 2nd VP for one year.
Contact Jan Murdoch for more information!

Board Reports

Sales and Materials

The Jubilee Year is here!

Branch Presidents,
Have you considered?

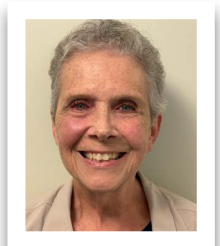
- 70th Jubilee Pins for your over 90's, for your executive, or just to jazz up your outfit?
- Jubilee Pens for your members, new and old, and for guests and speakers at your luncheons this special year?
- An additional 70th special pin for your Cora Bailey recipient(s).
- 70th Decals for your car and/home front window

Go to the RWTO website SHOP and place your orders in time for your Jubilee 2026 Celebrations!



<https://rwto.org/membership/materials/>

Patti Malkiewich
Area 13 Director



Social Justice

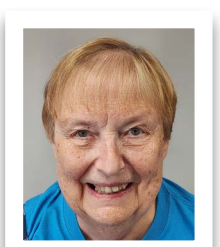
This year, the Social Justice Committee's focus was to support the healthy aging of our members. The Women's Hospital Lab on Aging states this: **"To stay healthy as we age, we need social services in the community we can rely on and health care services that pay attention to our unique health and social needs. But for older women, that's not happening."**

To support our members in developing health choices for themselves, our committee organized a five-part Zoom workshop series titled "Strategies for Living Our Best Lives" based on the book "Options Open" by Sue Lantz. This series is designed to empower older women with practical strategies for aging with options in health, home, social network, caregiving team and other resources including finances. The workshops fostered a supportive and connected community

through open discussion during and after the presentation.

At the 2026 70th Anniversary Annual General Meeting in London on June 2nd, there will be a Women's Healthy Aging Wellness Fair. To this end, the committee members have invited health-care providers, RWTO/OERO members and community-based organizations. On June 3rd, there will be two Staycation workshops given by Dr. Angela Roberts, Western University, Superagers Research and Dr. Jean Hewitt, Aging and Optimism.

Margaret Geare
Chair, Social Justice Committee





Board Reports

Communications Newsletter

The *Connections* Newsletter is published three times a year in September, December and March. It is the official communication of RWTO/OERO to all members. The business of the Board, committees and executive are included as well as items of interest from the Branches. The Newsletter Committee is going to be asking you to provide feedback on the various elements of the newsletter shortly. We sincerely hope that you will complete the survey (it will be simple and not time consuming) so we can review your feedback, develop any changes and implement your ideas.

Thanks to Christine Roberts (South Bruce), Sharon Chop (Ottawa Carleton) and Erica Miles (Graphic Artist) for all their help with the development of the newsletter. Jan Murdoch takes care of the distribution so updated emails are essential. It takes a hard-working team and I thank everyone for their assistance.

Kathy Smith
Communications Newsletter
Convenor



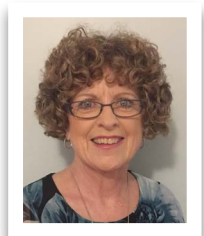
Communications Website

Winter certainly arrived with a force in January this year. I hope everyone enjoyed those snowy days we had. Our website is getting a facelift with a whole new look. It will be launching this spring so check back regularly to see information about the launch. I know you're going to love the new look and ease of finding things.

Registration will open for this year's Jubilee Convention on March 1st. Registration instructions will be posted but remember, I'm only an email away if you're having any difficulties. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Jubilee Convention in London. Keep checking our RWTO home page for all new and exciting things!

It's been a pleasure to see all the wonderful events that are happening within all our Branches to celebrate our 70th Jubilee Year this year. **Keep your News & Events coming using the form on the BRANCHES News & Events page but send your Branch Newsletters directly to me at rwtowebsite@gmail.com.**

Jane Macdonald
Communications Website
Convenor



**71st AGM 2027
GREAT NEWS!**

**London-Middlesex Branch
has volunteered to host an
in-person AGM Convention!**

Insurance Matters

We're still in the depths of winter but we are anticipating spring's arrival. Not only are we anticipating spring's arrival but we're also anticipating the upcoming 70th anniversary of the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario at the Annual Convention in London in June. A wonderful time to reconnect with friends and a chance to make new friends and connections. Your Insurance Team is looking forward to participating in the Wellness Fair at the Convention and we invite you to stop and visit with us. Please bring your questions and suggestions as they are always welcome.

February reminds us that tax time is just around the corner and this is a time when we receive many queries about **tax receipts for premiums paid to the Hospital & Home Care Plan.**

Members and spouses who have registered their ID cards at Manulife's SecureServe site can download their receipt for 2025 premiums. For those members or spouses who do not have a printer or who would rather receive their receipt via Canada Post, please contact Manulife's Customer Service department at 1-877-222-7340 and request this. You will need your Plan Number (17777C) and your unique Identification Number which is located on your ID card.

Recently I received a query regarding **Life Membership and the Insurance Plan.** As you may be aware, the Hospital & Home Care Plan is available to members in good standing and their spouses. A member who is awarded Life Membership is in "good standing" despite no longer being required to pay dues to the Association. Life Membership has no impact upon the insurance program.

Another question I recently received was regarding the passing of a member and the continuance of **spousal coverage.** When a member passes away her spouse may continue to be insured under the Hospital & Home Care Plan provided he or she continues to pay premiums

to Manulife when they are due. The spouse does not pay dues to the Association to continue participation in the Hospital & Home Care Plan. When a member passes away Manulife requires a copy of the Funeral Director's Death Certificate to cancel coverage. Premiums paid beyond the date of death will be refunded.

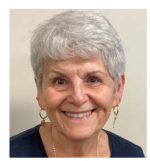
And finally, a reminder that when an insured member or spouse enters **Long Term Care** (i.e. a facility that provides nursing services as part of the residence fee), she or he must cancel their Hospital & Home Care Plan. The Plan was designed to help insured participants retain their independence. When your living situation is no longer independent you are no longer eligible for the plan.



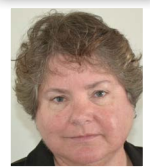
Insurance Convenor
Kathy McLean
613-277-9771
rwtoinsurancemclean@gmail.com



Assistant Insurance Convenor
Claudia Stewart
905-320-6639
stewartcj@me.com



Manulife Financial 1-800-268-3763
Broker: Terry Kennedy
The Dolphin Consulting Group
(519) 583-0098 Fax: (519) 583-2876
tkennedy34@bell.net



Resolutions for 2026 Annual General Meeting

Resolutions from the Branches

Resolution #1 - Submitted by Hamilton-Wentworth

Be it resolved that Constitution: Article III Membership and Fees I. Regular Members.

- a. Regular Members include Retired Women Educational Professionals who have worked in schools as listed: be amended by the addition of:
 - x. JK-12 Educational Administrators.

Rationale:

- This category includes retired women educational professionals such as Directors, Superintendents, Principals, Vice Principals and Consultants.
- At one time, our membership included any woman who had been a teacher at some point in her career. When we expanded our membership, the list became role specific, possibly leaving a gap in the Educational Administrator category. Those new to the organization would not be familiar with our “teacher at some point” history.
- JK-12 is used to clarify Educational Administrators as being elementary and secondary.
- Short categories assist in the printing of brochures and documents.

Resolution #2 - Submitted by Hamilton-Wentworth

Be it resolved that Article III: Membership and Fees I. Regular Members.

- a. Regular Members include Retired Women Educational Professionals who have worked in schools as listed: be amended by the addition of:
 - xi. Post-Secondary Administrators & Faculty.

Rationale:

- This category includes retired women educational professionals such as university, college, and institute retired women educational professionals such as Presidents, Provosts, Deans, Administrators, Professors and Instructors.
- Retired women educational professionals who were Post Secondary Faculty have been welcome in RWTO/OERO for many years, but the category is not on our current membership list.

Resolution #3 - Submitted by Hamilton-Wentworth

Be it resolved that Article III Membership and Fees I. Regular Members.

- a. Regular Members include Retired Women Educational Professionals who have worked in schools as listed:
 - Retired Women Teachers
 - Retired Women Educational Assistants
 - Retired Women Early Childhood Educators
 - Retired Women Child & Youth Care Workers/ Counsellors
 - Retired Women Educational Speech & Language Pathologists
 - Retired Women Educational Audiologists
 - Retired Women Educational Social Workers
 - Retired Women Educational Psychologists
 - Retired Women Educational Office Support Staffbe revised to read: a. Regular Members include Retired Women Educational Professionals who have worked in education as listed:
 - Audiologists
 - Child & Youth Care Workers/Counsellors
 - Early Childhood Educators
 - Educational Assistants
 - Office Support Staff
 - Psychologists
 - Social Workers
 - Speech & Language Pathologists
 - Teachers

Rationale:

- Changing the phrase “worked in schools” to “worked in education” expands our venues to include Board offices, post-secondary facilities, and educators who worked in other environments such as hospital settings or group homes.
- The words “Retired Women Educational” are part of the lead sentence to the list of occupations, and do not need to be repeated unless the word

Resolutions - continued

Educational is part of the job title or clarifies the role.

- The original list was written in the order that potential member categories were added to the membership. This has been changed to alphabetical order.

Resolution #4 - Submitted by Area 7 (Belleville, Durham North, Northumberland-South Durham, Peterborough, Trenton & District)

Be it resolved that Constitution: Article X Annual Meeting 1. to 8. be amended by the addition of:

9. A wireless microphone shall be made available.

Rationale:

- The RWTO/OERO Vision Statement mandates that RWTO/OERO continually works to be a fully accessible organization. This resolution offers improved accessibility of the microphone to any Delegate.

Resolution #5 - Submitted by Area 7 (Belleville, Durham North, Northumberland-South Durham, Peterborough, Trenton & District)

Be it resolved that Constitution, Article X Annual Meeting, 7. Any Past Provincial President attending the Annual General Meeting, not as a voting delegate will be considered an Honorary Delegate, be amended by the addition of:

- d. Any Honorary delegate(s) already in the speaker's line, shall be given a point of privilege if a registered delegate calls the question and stops debate at the AGM. The Parliamentarian shall allow any Honorary delegate(s) to speak for the usual 2 minute timed limit.

Rationale:

- At a recent AGM an Honorary Delegate did not have the opportunity to speak, after the question was called, although she was in line and prepared to speak. As a result, the expertise, past experience and views of an Honorary delegate were overlooked.

- After the question has been called, the Parliamentarian shall ask if there are any Honorary Delegate(s) in the speaker's line, who wish to speak to the resolution under debate. The Parliamentarian shall allow the Honorary Delegate(s) to speak for the usual 2 minute timed limit.

Resolution #6 - Submitted by Area 7 (Belleville, Durham North, Northumberland-South Durham, Peterborough, Trenton & District)

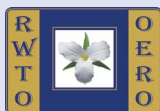
Be it resolved that Article X Annual Meeting #6 Delegate Expenses

- a. RWTO/OERO Provincial Office will reimburse one Provincial Delegate per Branch for their Convention Package Fee (registration and meals), travel and accommodation.
- 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:
be amended in section b to read:
- b. RWTO/OERO Provincial Office will reimburse one Branch Delegate per Branch for the Convention Package Fee (registration and meals), and travel. This amendment will be effective immediately with the June 2026 Convention.

Rationale:

- To ensure that consistency exists with members involved in RWTO/OERO business as per RWTO/OERO Policies and Procedures Manual p. 80, 8. Reimbursement of Expenses, a. The primary goal of this policy is to reimburse members for their expenses in a fair and consistent manner so that all members and all Branches are treated equally, while being fiscally responsible to the membership. These provisions provide for the reimbursement of reasonable expenses necessarily incurred for RWTO/OERO business and do not constitute income or other compensation that would open the way for personal gain. (June 2024)
- Per Policies and Procedures Manual p. 81, Other

Continued ►



Resolutions - continued

Expenses: Travel: a. Expenses shall be reimbursed for transportation from the member's home address to the destination and back based on Google Maps, no matter what the member's mode of travel.

- Making the amendment for one Branch Delegate would ensure that we continue to operate within the terms of the RWTO/OERO Policies and Procedures.
- This amendment would ensure all Provincial and one Branch Delegate per Branch, are treated equally.
- This amendment reduces expenses that the Branch may have to pay to one Branch Delegate.

Resolution #7 - Submitted by Area 7 (Belleville, Durham North, Northumberland-South Durham, Peterborough, Trenton & District)

Be it resolved that Article X Annual Meeting #6 Delegate Expenses.

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:
be amended to read:

b. RWTO/OERO Provincial Office will reimburse one Branch Delegate per Branch for the Convention Package Fee (registration and meals), and accommodation. This amendment will be effective immediately with the June 2026 Convention.

Rationale:

- Accommodation - Making the amendment for one Branch Delegate per Branch would ensure that we continue to operate within the terms of the RWTO/OERO Policies and Procedures. (Page 81)
- This amendment would ensure both Provincial and one Branch delegate are treated equally.
- This amendment reduces expenses that the Branch may have to pay to one Branch Delegate.

- In the current Policies and Procedures document and in the Constitution, it repeatedly encourages members to participate in Provincial matters. One Branch Delegate per Branch who attends the Annual General Meeting is participating in Provincial activities and should have both their mileage and Convention expenses paid by Provincial.

Resolutions From the Board of Directors for the 2026 Annual General Meeting

Resolution #8

Be it resolved that Constitution Article IV Organization, I. Board of Directors b. Executive Officers

be amended to read: a. Executive Officers i. Honorary President. The current i through ix and a through g would be renumbered.

Rationale:

- The Honorary President would become an Executive member.
- The expertise of the Honorary President would assist decisions made by the Executive.

Resolution #9

Be it resolved that Constitution Article VI Duties of the Executive Officers be amended by the addition of: I. Honorary President

The Honorary President shall:

- Install the elected officers and members of the Board of Directors at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting,
- Chair the Honorary Membership Committee,
- Chair the Convention Handbook Review Committee.

The current I through 9 would be renumbered.

Rationale:

- To align with resolution #8.

Resolution #10

Be it resolved that Constitution Article VII Duties of Other Members of the Board of Directors be amended by the deletion of: I. Honorary President

The Honorary President shall:

- a. install the elected officers and members of the Board of Directors at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting,
- b. chair the Honorary Membership Committee.

The current 2 through 6 would be renumbered.

Rationale:

- To align with resolutions #8 - 9.

Resolution #11

Be it resolved that Policies and Procedures Article VI Duties of the Executive Officers be amended by the addition of: I. Honorary President

The Honorary President shall:

- a. Serve on the Board of Directors for one year.
- b. Attend the September, the May, and the Pre-Annual meetings of the Board of Directors.
- c. Install the elected officers and members of the Board of Directors at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting. (September 2023)
- d. Chair the Honorary Membership Committee.
- e. Chair the Convention Handbook Review Committee.

The current 1 through 9 will be renumbered.

Rationale:

- To align with Resolutions #8 - 10.

Resolution #12

Be it resolved that Policies and Procedures Article VII Duties of Other Members of the Board be amended by: the deletion of I. Honorary President

Rationale:

- To align with the Resolutions #8 - 11.

Resolution #13

Be it resolved that Constitution Article II Structure: The RWTO/OERO shall be the provincial body comprised of the Provincial Executive, Board of Directors, the Branch Executives, and the Members-at-large be amended by the replacement of Members-at-Large with Branch Members to read:

The RWTO/OERO shall be the provincial body comprised of the Provincial Executive, the Board of Directors, the Branch Executives, and the Branch Members.

Rationale:

- Branch Members rather than Members-at-Large is the term used to refer to the General Membership.

Resolution #14

Be it resolved that Constitution Article IV Organization, 4 b. If more than one candidate is nominated for any position, then a secret ballot shall be held. Election of these candidates shall be by majority vote of the registered delegates present at the Annual General Meeting, be amended by the addition of: If no candidate is nominated, the Board of Directors will appoint an individual to the vacant position.

Rationale:

- The organization requires a full complement on the Board of Directors.

Resolution #15 - with support of Hamilton-Wentworth

Be it resolved that Constitution Article III Membership and Fees, 4. Interim Member, be replaced with the following:

4. Interim Member

- a. A Branch Interim Member shall be a Woman Educational Professional who is currently employed in the workplace, and who could

Continued ►



Resolutions - continued

potentially become a Regular Member upon retirement.

- b. A Branch Interim 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 Interim Member shall not become a Provincial member until retirement, at which time her name will be submitted to the Provincial Office and be placed in the Provincial database.
- d. A Branch Interim Member shall not hold a Provincial or Branch Executive position, vote in elections, be a delegate at an Annual General Meeting, or be eligible for the insurance plans of RWTO/OERO.
- e. Branch Interim Members are invited to assist in any activities for which they are eligible.
- f. Retired Women Educational Professionals shall be eligible to receive benefits and privileges as a Provincial Member.

Rationale:

- This is in response to the deferred Resolution from the 2025 AGM.
- Increases awareness of our organization
- Encourages future membership
- Creates youthful outreach into schools

Resolution #16

Be it resolved that Policies and Procedures Article X: Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2. Resolutions

- c. Each resolution must contain only one key issue for decision. The intent of the resolution should be clear and concise, be amended by the addition of: Administrative changes may be combined for

efficiency.

Rationale:

- In response to a question raised at the 2025 AGM as to why we couldn't group administrative changes into a single resolution rather than having each change as its own resolution.

Resolution #17

Be it resolved that the Constitution Mission Statement, be amended to read as follows: RWTO/OERO is a Not-for-Profit, social organization that meets the interests and needs of Retired Women Educational Professionals.

Rationale:

- Members and non-members will be aware of what is entailed in our organization, including that we are a Not-for-Profit organization.

News from the Branches – "Recalling the Early Days of our Branch"

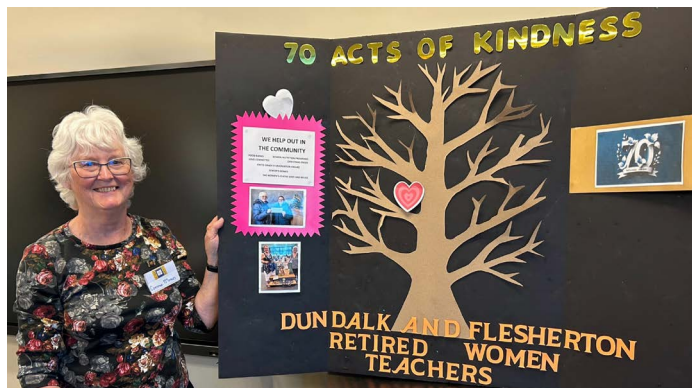
Dundalk-Flesherton

The Dundalk-Flesherton and District Branch of RWTO/OERO was formed in 2020 when the Flesherton and Dundalk-Highpoint Branches decided to amalgamate.

But first, in 1973, Mrs. Bea McIntyre of Owen Sound visited a group of women teachers in Dundalk and in Flesherton and convinced them to form their own Societies of Superannuated Women Teachers and thus our history began. Both Branches met regularly balancing their business agendas (support of public speaking, foster children, and continued support of grade 8 graduations, local foodbanks, women's centers and local Christmas toy and food drives) with their social calendars of trips to other Branches for food and fun and tours to attractions of interest.

As times changed and we became RWTO in 1999, we faced the challenges of declining membership by moving forward as one Branch and are working toward our 70 Acts of Kindness for RW's 70 years.

Submitted by
Barb Henry, Branch Co-President



Owen Sound and Area

While the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers began in Toronto around 1955 we are not sure when the local Owen Sound

Branch was formed. We do know Miss Ethel Simpson was president in 1959.

In 1976 Bea McIntyre, an Area Director of OAS-WT and member of the Owen Sound Branch, urged members to join Citadel Insurance which provided supplementary coverage to O.H.I.P. for our members.

Alma Wilson and Doris Mundle prepared a booklet, "**Caring With Class**" containing poems, stories and anecdotes from members across Ontario and reminiscent of teaching days. This was published in 1984.

It's recorded that our Owen Sound Branch has had up to 99 members.

Owen Sound and Area Branch has had three Provincial Presidents: Alma Wilson 1987-1988, Marie Vaughan 1996-1997 and Joy Patyk 2005-2006.

Annual provincial meetings were popular with our members, with up to 20 attending and traveling by chartered bus.

In 2004, the first recipient of the Cora Bailey Award in our group was Ferne Pitman. She was our treasurer for 27 years! (1976-2003). Each treasurer's report displayed her humour, her love of poetry and/or memorable life-sustaining quotes.

Led by our enthusiastic, wonderful volunteer member, Linda Murray, the Owen Sound Branch received the "Feather in Your Hat" award on many efforts in the completion of the Schoolhouse Project in 2010. The one room schoolhouse is part of the Grey Roots Museum village.

Submitted by
Mary Mackenzie, Branch Archivist

Continued ►



News from the Branches – "Recalling the Early Days of our Branch"

South Bruce

Today's RWTO/OERO South Bruce Branch owes its beginnings to the Walkerton-Hanover Branch which formed in 1967. Margaret Dippel was elected president and there were 18 members at the first regular meeting in April 1968. Members paid a fee of 25 cents per member per year. Over the years, the membership expanded to over 80 members and covered a large geographical area. In 2001, the Branch nearly folded as no one was willing to take on leadership positions. However, a group of members from the Kincardine area stepped up. As a result, a new executive formed with Eva Wilken as president, and the Branch was unanimously renamed in April 2001 to "South Bruce" to better reflect the geography of its current members. The "new" Branch was very active in the surrounding communities connecting with local schools, going on bus trips, having lunch dates and banquets, and hearing from local speakers about a variety of topics. The South Bruce Branch continues to thrive with over 50 members and regularly practises the RWTO/OERO motto of Caring and Sharing.

Submitted by
JoAnn Ruetz, Branch President

Wiaraton

The Wiaraton Branch was formed in 1971. Meetings were held in various churches across a vast area stretching from Tobermory to Chesley. Children from nearby schools were often invited to provide entertainment. Many groans could be heard as members climbed long staircases, carrying their bag lunches with them.

The Area Director always attended, bringing greetings from Head Office and encouraging members to become actively involved both locally and provincially—particularly by serving on the

executive or assisting with organizational duties. Eventually, church groups were asked to cater a noon meal. These meals quickly evolved into what could only be described as banquets. Naturally, some members complained that it was a bit much when they were also expected to serve a large meal to their families later that evening. Despite the complaints, no menu changes were made! The 25th anniversary was celebrated at Tara United Church in 1996, and the 40th anniversary took place at Wildwood Lodge in Red Bay in 2011. Now in our 55th year, we continue to enjoy catered noon dinners three times a year at the fully accessible Wiaraton Propeller Club. We also host a summer picnic in Tara, along with other outings for those who wish to participate.

Each year, donations are made to four food banks and to local Agricultural Societies in support of Fall Fairs. Several members also volunteer and participate in these fairs.

We look forward to many more years of sharing, caring, and fellowship at the Wiaraton Branch.

Submitted by
Vi Hill and Marnie Davidson

Brant

The Brant Branch celebrated 70 years of RWTO/OERO with a "Mad Hatter's Tea Party". Members were encouraged to create their own "Mad Hatter's Hat" depicting 70 years of history. We have some very creative ladies in our Branch. The hats were fabulous



News from the Branches – "Recalling the Early Days of our Branch"

and prizes were awarded to three winners. Area 4 director Lynn Anderton gave a history of our organization RWTO/OERO, from its humble beginnings to present day. All attendees enjoyed an afternoon of tea, a "Happy 70 Years" cake and much laughter and fellowship. Thank you to our organizers Joan Brent and Anne Porr. Great job!

Submitted by
Anna Brady, Branch President

Haldimand

Our Haldimand archives provided a treasure trove of information about the early years of Haldimand RWTO/OERO.

The following excerpts are from the first executive meeting and the first luncheon, both held in Caledonia.

"Monday October 29, 1973.

An executive meeting called by President Edith Filsinger was held at Mabel Donnelly's hillside apartment in Caledonia. Those present on a very rainy, windy day (courtesy of Hurricane Gilda) were Edith Filsinger, Maude Spencer, Mabel Donnelly and Ruth Rushton.

The problem of when and where to meet as a county group was discussed. Compiling a complete list of personnel in order to keep in touch was begun. A lovely lunch was served."

"The first Spring Tea was held at Seneca Cottage, Caledonia on March 21st 1974. Twenty Haldimand retired women teachers were hosted by Ruth Rushton."

Not much has changed since then! Our executive still meets at someone's home and we enjoy a potluck lunch. Our membership has increased over the years and we continue to meet at local churches to enjoy a homemade lunch. On average, 60 members attend.

Submitted by
Anne Mageran, Branch President

Hamilton-Wentworth

We continue to attract new members, reaching 204 including Life Members, although we are down in numbers of members from last year. With Caring and Sharing our motto, our highlights include donations from our generous members, raising \$1362 for Hamilton Foodshare at our Harvest Luncheon and \$1539.50 at our "Holiday Happenings". The Christmas event raised money for the "Eva Rothwell Centre", a non-profit that partners with people living in poverty, empowering them to become self-sufficient.

We added a couple of new interest groups this year. We have 18 interest groups that meet throughout Hamilton-Wentworth once per month, including a new book club (which brings it back to four book clubs) and a swimming pool friendship group for Sunday afternoons to help encourage members to be active.

We enjoyed the Tiger-Cats football game together in October, as well as a Karaoke night. Upcoming is our yearly "Friendship Lunch" where members of RWTO/OERO can bring other educational professionals who are not members. We hold a silent auction, where funds are directed to go back to support the costs of venues for interest groups. After the "Friendship Lunch" in April, is our "Spring Fling & AGM" in May. We hope to see about 100 of our ladies at these two events. We know the importance of social times together as we join in these wonderful experiences.

Submitted by
Ann Louise Gloyn, Branch President

Belleville

On December 13, 1950, a small group of retired Belleville teachers met to form a club. The four founding members were Myrtle Barnum, Winifred Leslie, Myrtle Peck and Grace Tucker. The club focused on support for retired women teachers. By 1952 it became known as The Re-

Continued ►



News from the Branches – "Recalling the Early Days of our Branch"

tired Teacher's Club with Pearl Campbell as the president. She was president until 1957 when the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers was formed as a provincial organization. Better pensions became a focus. The Belleville group was active until 1969. From 1969-1972 the group was inactive. The actual first year of Belleville being part of the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers was in 1972. Belleville celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1997. Then in 1999 the Provincial Organization changed its name to RWTO – Retired Women Teachers of Ontario. Belleville celebrated 50 years in 2022. The Belleville Branch continues to offer support, entertainment and relevant programs for all members.

Submitted by
Lynda Rollins, Branch Communications

Durham North

Durham North retired teachers first met on October 18, 1973, at Hazel Jewell's home in Cannington, forming the Ontario County Branch of the Superannuated Women Teachers. Twenty-five members joined that day, each paying a \$1 fee. By 1977, gatherings moved to Sunderland United Church, where UCW volunteers served roast beef dinners. Attendance grew to 65–70 women from communities across the region, including York and Victoria County, Durham South, Peterborough, Gamebridge, Brechin, Kirkfield, Beaverton, Cannington, Woodville, Sunderland, Uxbridge and Port Perry. A frequent guest was Cora Bailey, Executive Secretary of OASWT and later the Branch's Honorary President. Semi annual meetings featured executive reports, memorials, guest speakers, sing-alongs, and poetry.

By 2013, the Executive introduced more frequent social events - coffee meetups, and card games -

expanding to monthly activities by 2017 to encourage participation and connection. During Covid-19, the Branch stayed in touch through regular emails with articles and humour, ensuring no member felt isolated. The Branch continues to embody its motto: Caring, Sharing, and Fun.

Submitted by
Wendy Campbell, Branch Communications

Northumberland - South Durham

On October 21, 1977 the OASWT Northumberland West Branch was formed. Superannuated Women Teachers met at Dalewood Golf Club in Cobourg. Cora Bailey and Mary Lori Akiens of Peterborough spoke about the organization. Our first president, treasurer, and secretary were elected. At a meeting in 1978 our 40 members agreed that the Northumberland West Branch would include Cobourg, Port Hope, Hope and Hamilton townships.

When the OASWT was renamed RWTO in 1999 we dropped the West from our name becoming Northumberland. We had over 70 members and held three luncheon meetings a year.

Over the years we attracted members from the Clarington and South Durham area who weren't included in any named Branches. In 2011 the executive voted to amend our name to Northumberland – South Durham to better reflect our membership and attract more members from the growing western population of our area which now stretches from Pickering to Brighton.

Submitted by
Sandra Nolte, Branch President

Peterborough

The Peterborough Branch was one of the origi-

News from the Branches – "Recalling the Early Days of our Branch"

nal twelve Ontario centres to send representatives of the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers to present briefs regarding pensions to the Premier and the Committee on Education on April 3, 1956 which Toronto's Rendezvous Club initiated. In 1964, Olive Armstrong was the Provincial President and today her daughter, Carol Nixon, is a member of the Peterborough Branch. In 1971 the Central Office was set up here with Cora Bailey as the first Executive Secretary, a position she held for eleven years and upon retirement, Dorothy Montgomery replaced her. (Interestingly, they also followed each other as Principal of Parkhill P.S.) Peterborough members put together the Provincial Newsletter in Dorothy's basement. Cora also wrote the first history book about our organization covering the years, 1956 to 1976. The Peterborough Branch hosted the Provincial Annual General Meeting in 1984. Jean Axcell was Provincial President in 2007 and Joyce Fee served as Provincial Communications Convenor. Throughout the years, Peterborough members have participated in many ways!

Submitted by
Judy-Anne Tumber, Branch President

Trenton

Our Trenton and District Branch was formed between 1971 and 1973 and according to our archives fifteen ladies met at Marmora Street School with Cora Bailey from Peterborough to discuss forming a Branch. The president was L. Phillips, secretary was M. Cochrane and treasurer was H. Henderson. Everyone agreed to pay \$1 in fees for every \$1000 pension they received. Over the course of the next few months these retired ladies toured Glanmore House in Belleville, went to a flower show at the O'Keefe Centre, had afternoon craft time and played cards. By 1978 membership had increased to 19 and a few years later there were 29 members.

In 1998 our Branch felt ready to organize the

34th Convention called "Navigating the Nineties". Offered were trips to Trenton Air Base, tour of the Ameliasburg Museum and a boat trip up the Bay of Quinte. Costs of these varied from \$8 to \$18! Many members of the Trenton Branch were involved in some capacity. Sadly, many of these ladies are now recorded in our In Memorial book. Caring and Sharing lives on!!

Submitted by
Linda Huizenga, Branch President

Niagara West

On September 12, 1970, three ladies met for a cup of tea and decided to form a group of retired teachers. Fifteen teachers attended a second meeting to elect their first president, first secretary and first membership secretary. (By June 1971, there were 21 members.) They agreed to have three meetings a year, on the third Wednesday of October, February and May. The membership was divided into three groups: Smithville, Vineland, and Beamsville with Grimsby. Each group was responsible to plan a meeting, choose the place and the programme and serve the refreshments.

Yearly membership cost was \$1.00. Enrolment in the Co-operative Health Services cost \$2.00 a month. The sum of \$5.00 was used to send cards to members who were sick.

Much has changed since those early days, including our name. Originally known as Lincoln West, we are now known as the Niagara West Branch.

Submitted by
Diana Bujas, Past President

Continued ►



News from the Branches – "Recalling the Early Days of our Branch"

Niagara Falls

According to legend, retired women teachers in Niagara Falls created a friendship group before 1956. When the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers was formed, the group joined as the Niagara Falls Branch. Every year, the Branch held several luncheon meetings at venues such as hotels, churches, and even members' homes. We now hold luncheons at a local restaurant, but the original format of a delicious meal and stimulating presentations by guest speakers continues. Members of past executives often served for many years; this is still the case today. From the beginning, the Branch contributed to worthy causes supporting women and children, a tradition we've also maintained. While we no longer have interest groups, members can stay connected through our Branch Facebook page. We'll honour RWTO/OERO in style with a 70th Anniversary Celebration Tea in April. Niagara Falls will remain a fun and supportive group, and we look forward to a bright future.

Submitted by
Diane Ewen, Branch President

Niagara South

The Niagara South Branch of the organization now known as the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario (RWTO/OERO) has its roots in a period of rapid growth and reorganization. On September 29, 1970, a regional meeting led to the swift formation of a new Branch of the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers (OASWT). At that time the larger St. Catharines unit was formed. The Niagara South Branch was formed to serve members in Welland, Port Colborne, and the surrounding rural communities. The first officers were appointed with Mrs. Ina Hamre as President, Mrs. Ada Cuthbert as Secretary, Mrs. Grace Biederman as Treasur-

er, and Mrs. Rhoda Leitch as Social Convener. The Branch held its first executive meeting in November 1970 and quickly established a tradition of both executive and general meetings and luncheons, along with popular annual picnics at members' cottages that fostered strong social connections. In 1999, following major provincial constitutional changes, the organization officially became the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario.

Submitted by
Lidia DiLorenzo, Branch President

St. Catharines

St. Catharines Branch organized in 1970, celebrating 55 years in 2025! Our first president, Marion Houston, held this position for three consecutive years with 47 different presidents following in her footsteps. We have hosted three Provincial Conventions in 2002, 2011 and 2019. Our membership grew, topping 400 at one time! Although our numbers have declined since COVID, as experienced across the province, we have maintained just over 300 members. Our members enjoy our five yearly luncheons, 15 varied Interest Groups and additional Out and About events. Special celebrations for RWTO/OERO's 50th and 60th anniversaries were held and this April we will hold a very special 70th Jubilee luncheon. It will include a variety of interesting displays, special music and opportunities for members to participate. We are excited that President Linda Sargeant accepted our invitation to be our guest speaker.

Submitted by
Judith Bennoch, Branch President

In Memoriam

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Branch</i>
Amoah, Jennifer	Mississauga	Mississauga
Armstrong, Pat	Hastings	Trenton
Atkins, Anne	Newmarket	Trenton
Baker, Kim	Guelph	Guelph-Wellington
Barfoot, Barbara	Georgian Bluffs	Warton
Beekhuis, Freddie	Amherstburg	Windsor-Essex
Bell, Nancy	London	London-Middlesex
Boyde, Louise	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
Bray, Ileen	Shelburne	Peel North
Brown, Marilyn	Orillia	Orillia
Brown, Pauline	Mount Forest	Palmerston and District
Butson, Margery	London	London-Middlesex
Cahill, Noreen	Sudbury	Sudbury
Carroll, Margie	Iona Station	St. Thomas-Elgin
Cavanagh, Marion	Pakenham	Lanark
Cayley, Barbara	Coldwater	Daisy Wilson Coldwater
Clark, Barbara	Nepean	Ottawa-Carleton
Coates, Arlene	Lindsay	Durham North
Conetta, Angela	East York	Rendezvous
Cristoveanu, Frances	Kingston	Kingston
Dale, Donald	Brampton	Peel North
Daly, Carol	Grimsby	St. Catharines
Darville, Coronna (Wendy)	Newmarket	Ottawa-Carleton
Degelman, Patricia	St. George	Brant
Di Censo, Lucille	Hamilton	Hamilton-Wentworth
Dmowski, Mildred	Belle River	Windsor-Essex
Douey, Marian	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton
Drummond, Ruth	Nepean	Ottawa-Carleton
Dube, Joyce	Tecumseh	Windsor-Essex
Dykeman, Sheila	Stratford	Stratford
Eaton, Carmen	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
Ellis, Vera	Brantford	Brant
Emmerton, Elaine	Kincardine	South Bruce
Faulkner, Suzanne	Kingston	Kingston
French, Jean	Collingwood	Dundalk-Flesherton and District
George, Eveline	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton
Hall, Joan	Fergus	Guelph-Wellington
Harrison, Mary	Uxbridge	Durham North
Hext, Sherrill	Petrolia	Sarnia-Lambton
Higgs, Joan	Port Severn	Daisy Wilson Coldwater
Hill, Marilyn	Dundas	Hamilton-Wentworth
Hodgins, Shirley	Merrickville	Upper Canada East
Hoover, Shirley	Hagersville	Haldimand
Houston, Shirley	Chatham	Chatham-Kent
Howard, June	Guelph	St. Catharines
Hyatt, Irene	Markham	Scarborough



In Memoriam

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Branch</i>
Irving, Brenda	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
Jackson, Jean	Rockwood	Guelph-Wellington
Janvary-Pool, Paisley	Niagara Falls	Niagara Falls
Kaufman, Ruth	Owen Sound	Owen Sound
Kelterborn, Margaret	Stratford	Stratford
Kent, Shirley	Sault Ste. Marie	Central Algoma
Kierstead, Elaine	Brampton	Peel North
Kissick, Jean	Oakville	BurlOak
Knight, Doreen	Shedden	London-Middlesex
Kuehnel, Christine	Burlington	BurlOak
Lacombe, Marie	North Bay	East Parry Sound
Levy, June	London	London-Middlesex
Loney, Mary	Smiths Falls	Lanark
MacLean, Fran	Brantford	Brant
MacPhie, Cathy	Waterloo	Kitchener-Waterloo
Maltais, Lucy	Stoney Creek	Hamilton-Wentworth
Manahan, Irene	Scarborough	Scarborough
Mann, Anne	Sombra	Chatham-Kent
Marchuk, Gladys Evelyn	Fort Erie	Niagara South
Matthews, Doreen	Aylmer	St. Thomas-Elgin
McBride, Emily	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
McCallum, Marcia	Tecumseh	Windsor-Essex
McDowell, Ruth	Oshawa	Niagara Falls
McGillivray, Jacqueline	Port Elgin	South Bruce
McNay, Joyce	Kitchener	Kitchener-Waterloo
Mills, Kathryn	Burlington	Hamilton-Wentworth
Millward, Andrea	Victoria Harbour	Daisy Wilson Coldwater
Minielly, Marcia	Wyoming	Sarnia-Lambton
Mustard, Lamoine	Scarborough	Scarborough
Nelson, Sandra	Brantford	Brant
Newell, Mary	Vineland	Niagara Falls
Oliver, Agnes	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
O'Neil, Alberta	Ingersoll	London-Middlesex
Page, Janice	Tillsonburg	Hamilton-Wentworth
Palamides, Deirdre	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
Palmer, Jane	Mindemoya	Guelph-Wellington
Parr, Shirley	London	London-Middlesex
Peachey, Muriel	Burlington	BurlOak
Peacock, Dorothy	Leamington	Windsor-Essex
Peck, Barbara	Cobourg	Northumberland South Durham
Petryna, Ruth	St. Catharines	St. Catharines
Phillips, Joan	Powassan	East Parry Sound
Purcell, Rita	Smiths Falls	Lanark
Pushie, Carol	St. Catharines	St. Catharines

In Memoriam

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Branch</i>
Putherbough, Judy	Mississauga	Mississauga
Randell, Adele	Niagara Falls	Rendezvous
Rapaich, Dorothy	Lasalle	Windsor-Essex
Rogers, Barbara	Ancaster	Hamilton-Wentworth
Roland, Doreen	Kingston	Peterborough
Salazar, Carmelita	Toronto	Rendezvous
Schmidt, Carole	Gloucester	Ottawa-Carleton
Schultz, Elizabeth	Mississauga	Mississauga
Serviss, Tina	Morrisburg	Upper Canada East
Smith, June	Elgin	Gananoque
Smith, Sara	Guelph	Guelph-Wellington
Sparling, Eva	Nepean	Ottawa-Carleton
Spears, Helen	Brantford	Haldimand
Speck, Cheryl	Niagara Falls	Niagara Falls
Swann, Frances	Sault Ste. Marie	Central Algoma
Swayze, Kay	Dunnville	Haldimand
Swerdfeger, Pat	Ottawa	Ottawa-Carleton
Tarc, Elizabeth	Palmerston	Palmerston and District
Tilley, Lynda	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton
Townsend, Laurita	Durham	Dundalk-Flesherton and District
Tweedie, Barbara	Ancaster	Hamilton-Wentworth
Van Keulen, Edith	London	London-Middlesex
Van Wijngaarden, Judith	Essex	Windsor-Essex
Vanecko, Carol	Peterborough	Peterborough
Vernon, Mary C.	London	London-Middlesex
Vey, Elisabeth	Waterloo	Kitchener-Waterloo
Walsh, Dr. Marian	St. Catharines	St. Catharines
Ward, Alice	Hilton Beach	Central Algoma
Watt, Sheila	Peterborough	Peterborough
Weatherhead, Faith	Belleville	Trenton
Wemp, Doris	Napanee	Napanee
Wilkins, Mona	Wallacetown	St. Thomas-Elgin
Will, Carol	Sudbury	Sudbury
Williamson, Barbara	London	London-Middlesex
Woodford, Pat	Guelph	Daisy Wilson Coldwater
Wright, Patricia	North York	Scarborough
Wright, Sheila	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
Young, Margaret	Belleville	Trenton
Zaryski, Susan	Harriston	Palmerston and District



A message from your Convention Convenor & Registrar.

Dear Members.

It's that time of year again when we're thinking about our annual Convention, reminiscing about the past and looking forward to our **Jubilee Celebration coming in June.** Our theme this year is "Chalk to Change"! A copy of this Year's Registration Form can be found in the March issue of *Connections*. Beginning in early March you can also find the Registration Form on our Provincial Webpage under the CONVENTION dropdown menu. We encourage using the preferred online registration form. It is a faster and free way to register with no fear of being lost in the mail.

Using e-transfer to send the registration fee is also a fast and secure way to send your registration fee. The email address to use for you e-transfer is

rwtoregistrarcon2026@gmail.com

There will also be instructions for booking rooms starting in early March, using a new and secure booking program.

Best wishes from this year's convention committee.

Judy Massey Convenor and Jane Macdonald Registrar

ENTERTAINMENT

Tuesday Evening

Get ready for an informative address from our guest speaker and then warm up your voices to join your friends or sing on your own during a fun evening of Karaoke.

Wednesday Evening

Sit back and relax as the choir of London/Middlesex Branch performs for you!

HELPFUL CONVENTION INFORMATION

FREE WELLNESS FAIR

Join in on Tuesday June 2nd from 10am – 3pm and visit our free Wellness Fair. Over 200 participants/vendors have registered to be part of this exciting and informative event! All are welcome. Hope to see you there!

STAYCATIONS

Super Aging with Angela Roberts

Principal Investigator, Assistant Professor Co-Director, Collaborative Specialization in Machine Learning in Health and Biomedical Sciences Canadian Super Aging Research, School of Communication Sciences and Disorders - Western U **FREE**

Skincare for Aging Skin

Help Prevent premature skin aging with a scientifically proven skin care regimen called the "Mary Kay Miracle Set." Let me teach you how you can have this too! **FREE**

Guided Walking/Hiking

Step out from the doors of **Clare Hall** and into a 1-hour walking tour that blends history, architecture, and nature. This guided hike follows the course of Medway Creek to the north branch of the Thames River. Learn about the history of the area (First Nations settlements) as well as the natural history of the biome. Hikers need to have a moderate level of fitness, (hills/steps) and wear suitable hiking footwear. *Hike is dependent on suitable weather/trail conditions (a campus walk might be substituted if conditions are wet.*

Max: 12 people **FREE**

Aging & Optimism with Jean Hewitt

Jean's belief in the need for seniors to be involved in interactive learning led her to begin a senior learning organization in Stratford. She is currently involved in the 'Super Aging' project at the University of Western Ontario. Come and hear about these amazing programs. **FREE**

TOURS

Port Stanley Adventure

Join us for a delightful trip to the charming beachside town of Port Stanley! This relaxing trip is the perfect chance to enjoy scenic views. Stroll along the main streets, browse unique local shops, and enjoy a delicious meal (not included) at the restaurant of your choice. With comfortable transportation and a leisurely pace, this outing is designed for enjoyment and ease. Walking required.

Cost: \$60 Limit: 39 max. Level: All.

Heeman's Greenhouse.

Attention Gardeners!

First stop will be at Kantana Kafe where you can enjoy the included lunch while watching flights at the local airport, then off to **Heeman's Nursery**, with 300 acres of "planty goodness". You can stroll through beautiful plants, explore seasonal displays, buy local produce, and enjoy a touch of nature at your own pace.

Cost: \$90 Limit: 39 max Level: All

Pincroft Relaxation:

Enjoy a relaxing and scenic afternoon at **Pincroft in Elgin County!** Travel in comfort as we journey to this charming destination, where you'll have time to browse a unique Gallery and Gift Shop, Pottery Studio, and indulge in a delicious meal (included) at the Green Frog Tearoom, Pincroft's renowned restaurant. Located in an original cabin built in 1934, it overlooks an expansive pond which attracts a great variety of wildlife. It's a wonderful opportunity to socialize, unwind, and savor a pleasant afternoon out.

Cost: \$100 Limit: 39 Level: All.

London Charm

Discover the charm and history of **London**, on this enjoyable tour through the city! Travel comfortably as we explore notable landmarks and scenic neighborhoods, with highlights including a guided visit to the historic **Eldon House**, one of London's oldest and most beloved heritage homes. We'll start the afternoon with a stop at Covent Garden Market giving you time to choose your own lunch (not included) and explore. With additional points of interest along the way, the tour offers a perfect mix of culture, history, and leisure for a memorable afternoon out.

Cost: \$75 Limit: 39 max Level: All

See You June 2nd in London



70TH Jubilee Convention – Chalk to Change
Clare Hall Western University
217 Ramsey Road, London Ontario N6G 0S2
June 2nd, 3rd, & 4th 2026



Name: _____

Address: _____

Branch: _____

Phone# _____

Email: _____

_____ **Branch Voting Delegate**

_____ **Member**

_____ **Provincial Board of Directors**

_____ **Provincial Past Presidents**

_____ **Provincial Voting Delegate**

_____ **Guest** (Check one only please)

All WELCOME TUESDAY FOR WELLNESS FAIR 10am – 3pm
CHECK OUT THE SILENT AUCTION - Ongoing

CONVENTION REGISTRATION	FEE	MY COST
Full Convention Package includes Early Bird Rate for 3 Day Registration, All AGM Meetings, breaks, hospitality rooms, Tuesday Banquet, Wednesday Banquet, Thursday Luncheon & In memoriam	\$300.	
Full Package after April 15th	\$325.	
Tuesday single Day includes: Wellness Fair, Banquet & Evening Program	\$100.	
Wednesday single day registration includes: AGM, Coffee break, Banquet & Evening Program	\$200.	
Thursday single day registration includes: AGM, Break, Lunch Banquet & In memoriam	\$150.	
INDIVIDUAL MEALS		
Tuesday Banquet & Entertainment	\$75.	
Wednesday Banquet, Awards & Entertainment.	\$100.	
Thursday Banquet Luncheon	\$75.	
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON Tour or Staycation Choice is not included in registration Pkg. Enter the cost of 1st choice	X	
TOTAL COST		

Indicate Your Current Role at Convention

Special Needs: Mobility or Dietary including accessible parking permit.
 Please be as specific as possible.
 Attach a separate page if needed.

WEDNESDAY STAYCATIONS (Number by Priority)

Time	Activity	Cost
1:30-2:30	Super Aging – Angela Roberts	FREE
1:30-2:30	Caring for our Aging Skin	FREE
2:30-3:00	Guided Walking/Hiking maximum 12 people	FREE
2:30 3:30	Aging & Optimism - Jean Hewitt	FREE

WEDNESDAY TOURS (Number by Priority)

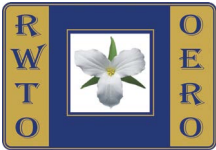
Time	Tour	Cost
12 – 3:30	Port Stanley Adventure	\$60
12 – 3:30	Tour Heeman’s Nursery	\$90
12 – 3:30	Pincroft Relaxation	\$100
12 – 3:30	London Charm	\$75

CANCELLATION: Registration Fee refundable, less \$25 service fee, upon receipt of written notification before May 1, 2026. After May 1st, refund will be considered if possible. I understand that I may appear in convention photos or videos posted on the RWTO/OERO website, Facebook, or in Branch or Provincial Newsletters. I have read, understand & agree with all Convention Info on this form **Please initial here** _____

E-Transfers are preferred and sent to
rwto REGISTRARCON2026@gmail.com

Cheques payable to **RWTO/OERO Convention 2026**

Please, complete & mail form to:
 Jane Macdonald, Registrar
 4224 Glen Spring Road,
 Crystal Beach, ON, L0S1B0.



RWTO/OERO

RWTO/OERO Provincial Office
2736 Twelfth Concession,
Tecumseh, N8N 0H9

**PM Agreement
40739021**