



January Newsletter

RWTO/OERO Newsletter BurlOak Branch

*"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire:  
it is the time for home."--Edith Sitwell*

We had a lovely mild autumn this year; however, as I work on this newsletter, there is a nip of winter in the air and I have started decorating the house for Christmas as Advent approaches. Forward this newsletter on to all your retired teacher friends who are not members and invite them to join us.



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"The information collected by the Membership Committee will be used by RWTO BURLOAK Branch to create a database of members. This database will be used to analyze membership trends, and to identify member interests. It will not be sold, loaned, or provided in any way to any other individual or organization. Some information will be provided to RWTO/OERO Provincial. RWTO BURLOAK Branch publishes a newsletter, e-notices, Facebook page and maintains an Internet Webpage. Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP) permission is needed to print/post images or information on our members. If you have any objections to your full name, picture, or member information being included on our website, e-notices, Facebook or newsletter, **please contact Sharon Jenkins.**"

**CHECK OUT THE WEB PAGE AT** <https://rwto.org/branches/branch-news/>

**CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK— RWTO BURLOAK**

Email For BurlOak RWTO [rwto-oeroBurlOak@gmail.com](mailto:rwto-oeroBurlOak@gmail.com)

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## MEMBERS REPORTS

### President's message

This year marks the 70th anniversary of RWTO-OERO, offering us a chance to revisit our history and growth at the provincial level. As a new branch, we have archives from previous branches to reminisce about shared friendships and activities. A display of the Archive binders at each luncheon will tell our story, showcasing the founders and the reasons for our organization's creation.

Our organization has championed various issues, achieving success through persistence.

We've fought for:

- A livable and equal pension for retired women teachers
- An increase in the number of days a retired woman teacher can supply-teach to augment her pension.
- Equal pay for equal work.
- Expansion of membership criteria to women who were educators of many types.
- And now – better Long-term Care facilities

We recognize the importance of women supporting women, demonstrating this ethic during our working lives and continuing it as retired women. We support each other through illnesses and losses. We celebrate additions of grandchildren and happy life events. Our organization evolves and faces new challenges.

Let's celebrate our 70-year legacy and remember our roots that inspire new endeavors.

We're looking forward to our February 9th Games luncheon, which will be fun and competitive. The Share the Wealth charity we're supporting, Dog Guides, will send a furry representative to the luncheon. If you have ideas to celebrate 70 years and have fun, please let us know. *Claudia S.*

### Membership Matters

I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to new members Andrea C., Susan D., Francine N., Carol P., and Heather P. We are delighted you have chosen BurlOak.

If you know a fellow Teacher, EA, ECE, CYC, Social Worker or Admin. Assistant who may be interested in joining us, please invite them to a meeting. Our members are our best ambassadors to help grow our RWTO.

#### *Member Emergency Contact Information*

It has been some time since member emergency contact information has been updated. I will be checking in with members for the *name and phone number* of an emergency contact for our files. *Moira P*

### December Luncheon



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## Over 90's

### Barbara Walley

Barbara W. was born in New Liskeard on February 22, 1935, grew up in Kingsville, Essex County, on Lake Erie. She earned her B.A. and B.Ed. from the University of Toronto, specializing in English. Barbara started teaching in 1954 and taught for 35 years. She taught from K to Grade 8 at the Essex County School Board and E.A. Orr and Paul A. Fisher schools of the Halton School Board. She also served as the Teacher Librarian for several years. She has Guidance and Special Education qualifications. Barbara was the Union representative for many years. She retired in 1993 and joined RWTO the same year, serving as the Secretary for the Oakville RWTO Branch and participating in the Bridge Club.

Barbara also volunteered at the Kerr Street Mission in Oakville.

Barbara has a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Barbara and her husband, Gary, married in 2003.

A BurlOak member who worked with Barbara describes her as a thoughtful and sincere person who was always ready to help new teachers, volunteer to take students from split classes, and help others plan a variety of programs.



### Marina Lloyd

Marina was born on October 6, 1935 in Norfolk County. She lived on a farm and learned to appreciate the simple things in life. After high school she attended Hamilton Teacher College and began teaching in St. Catharines in 1953. Two years later, she took a leave of absence to travel in Europe. After a summer of travelling in Germany she made her way to London, England where she taught at an all boys school (Daubney Roads). She taught 8 year old boys who had quite a Cockney accent. In honour of her 21st birthday, she received the key to the washroom.

Marina returned to Canada, teaching at Oakwood, Mohawk Gardens, and Pauline Johnson schools, where she worked with Special Education students. She earned a BA with an emphasis on Classical Civilizations from McMaster and in 1960, married her husband, Ken, also a teacher. She took time off to raise four children: David, Mary, Karen, and Timothy.

Retiring in 1991, Marina joined RWTO, and helped to prepare Penta Celebration baskets. She actively participates in her church through The Circle of Friends, helping isolated seniors socialize, and is a member of CFUW (Canadian Federation of University Women). She was involved with Stephen Lewis Foundation's UBUNTU grandmothers project.

Marina's efforts, from making sleeping mats for Haiti to creating pillowcases and sundresses, and knitted Pneumonia vests exemplifies the impact one person can make. Congratulations Marina on a life well lived.



## CARING AND SHARING

### Food4Kids

BurlOak Branch members volunteered at the Food4Kids warehouse on October 8<sup>th</sup> and November 19<sup>th</sup> this fall. At each session over 500 bags were packed for needy children in Oakville and Burlington.

Thanks to Jane C, Bev T, Valerie L, Leslie W, Barb L, Betty D, Cathy L, Gloria M, Diane S, and Helen E. The next packing sessions are in April and May. *Diane S.*



### Purse Project

Thank you for your generous donations of 29 filled purses this year! Members also donated products and cash. These purses will be distributed to needy women through organizations such as Women's Centre of Halton, Home Suite Hope, and Interval House (all 2024 recipients), and many more.

Empty purses, individual products and cash / gift cards are also gratefully received. Please check out the website, [www.the\\_purseprojectnetwork.com](http://www.the_purseprojectnetwork.com) for more information and volunteer opportunities.

“Fill a purse with love, and a woman's heart with hope.” *Maureen D.*



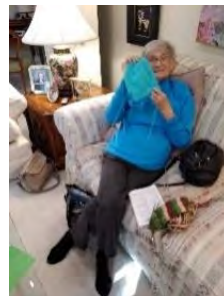
### Hats, Mitts and Socks

Thank everyone for their donations. I do not have the count. We have 3!!!! full bags of hats, mitts and socks to divide for three schools in Oakville and 3 in Burlington. *Peggy E.*



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## ACTIVITY GROUPS



### A Stitch in Time - Knitting and Crochet Group

Our knitting and crochet group meets the second Thursday of each month in the homes of our members. We welcome all skill levels.

For more info please contact Norma B. *Norma B.*



### Book Clubs

The Tuesday Book Club recently convened for a discussion of the mystery novel "Detective Aunty" by Uzma Jalaluddin. Their December book selection is "The Other Valley" by Scott Alexander Howard. The Wednesday Book Club recently engaged in a discussion of "Cracking the Nazi Code" by Jason Bell. Their December book is "The 7 Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" by Taylor Jenkins Reid. We have two distinct groups that meet monthly at each other's residences, taking turns leading the discussion of the book we have nominated. One club convenes on the second Wednesday, while the other meets on the second Tuesday. New members are cordially invited to join. For inquiries, please contact *Heather W.*



### Euchre

The Euchre group meets every other Tuesday. If you are interested in joining this wonderful group please call *Pam M.*

### Lunch Bunch

This year, RWTO Burloak foodies have enjoyed lunch at Bahn Thai (Burlington), The Tippy Fox (Oakville), Ancaster Mill, Avani Asian Indian Bistro (Burlington). We have scheduled three lunch meetings: one at Watermark in Waterdown on January 23, another at The Mandarin in Burlington on February 23, and a final meeting at El Spero Restaurant in Oakville on March 20. More restaurants will be announced later in the spring.

We are interested in trying a variety of types and price levels of restaurants in the Burlington Oakville area. Monthly emails are sent to members, stating the name and restaurant location. All you have to do is email Maureen D. with your intention to attend by the date required. Please do your own due diligence re: food restrictions.

Hope to see you there! *Maureen D.*



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## Paper Crafting

The card making group met four times between September and December. We are a small, creative group that has fun experimenting with new techniques.

At a recent session at the Alton Community Center, formerly Haber Center, we experienced some excitement during a lockdown drill. The police arrived and we were locked in a small windowless room. We were concerned that they would forget to let us out at the end of the drill and were relieved when we were released. We meet the second Thursday of most months in the new year. *Bonnie F*



## BurlOak Tea room Adventures

On October 30 eleven RWTO ladies went to The Golden Teapot for the final Afternoon Tea adventure of the program year. We will not plan more tea events until driving is predictably safe in late spring. There was great interest in traveling further afield for Afternoon Tea in Kitchener, Erin, Niagara-on-the-Lake and other not-so-near places. Watch for announcements detailing our next adventure. *Mary Mc.*



There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea.

*Henry James*

MissTeaPositive.com

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## Travel Club

The Travel Club met as a small group in October. Some members were travelling while others who are recovering from knee, hip and eye surgeries are looking forward to future travels. Some spent relaxing days at cottages, tending gardens, and attending nearby exhibitions. As always, there was lots of information sharing, chat, and laughter. Laura recommended the Downton Abbey garden exhibit at the RBG, special art exhibits at the McMichael Gallery in Kleinburg, and the Flemish exhibit at the ROM.

Mary returned from Germany, meeting friends and taking a Trafalgar bus tour from Hanover to Munich. The schedule was tight, but there are many advantages to coach touring. She enjoyed Saltzberg and the Sound of Music tour, and the October fest in Munich was amazing.

Heather did a road trip to explore the more rural parts of the US enjoying Chicago and the Wisconsin twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. She particularly liked a small theatre production of Cabaret.

Kathy hopes to travel back to Mexico this winter. She is researching Oaxaca a lovely city in the interior known for its art communities.

Lilli is starting to do research and planning for a future car and train trip to visit family in Slovakia, Macedonia. Laura and Bev will take a AMA Waterways cruise of the Rhine River Cruise this fall. The package includes extra days at the beginning and end of the cruise in Amsterdam and Zurich. They hope to see Rembrandt House and the Portuguese Synagogue. They've booked a February stay in Malta through Senior Discovery Tours. Mary is considering a river boat travel cruise in February. She's made many contacts as a solo traveler. Heather is planning March Break in Florida with her children and grandchildren. She has had good interactions with Floridians in a comfortable environment where she hopes to stay.

Future Meetings: Friday, January 9th @ 1:00 at Bev's apartment

Friday, April 9th at 1:00 location TBA *Bev B*



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## Information from the Travel Club

### Future Documentation Required for Britain and Europe

What is an EES (Summary provided by AMA (AmaWaterways))

#### How will EES impact my vacation?

From October 12, 2025, you will gradually begin to encounter EES as you pass through Immigration/Border Control at European airports in the 29 Schengen Area countries, including the following countries visited by AmaWaterways: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and Switzerland.

EES makes border checks quicker, safer and more efficient. It will gradually replace immigration officials and passport stamps with a digital system recording when travellers enter and exit Schengen Area countries. EES is expected to be fully implemented by April 10, 2026.

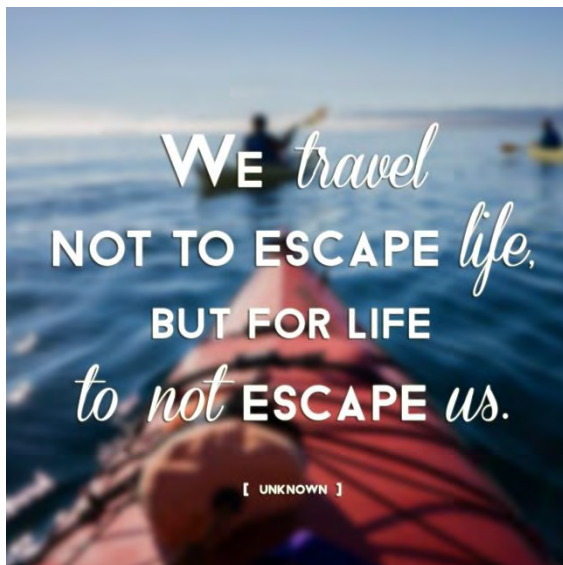
#### Who does EES apply to?

EES applies to you if you are a non-European national who either:

- Needs a short-stay visa to travel to the European countries using the EES OR
- Do not need a visa to travel for a short stay in the countries using the EES

PLEASE NOTE, IF TRAVELLING TO OR TRANSITING THROUGH THE UK (INCLUDING NORTHERN IRELAND): **Beginning on January 8, 2025,** Canadian travellers visiting or transiting through the United Kingdom will need to apply for an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) prior to their trip. For further information, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta>.

PLEASE NOTE IF TRAVELLING TO EUROPE: The European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) is scheduled to come into effect at the end of 2026. This means that you will be required to obtain an ETIAS to enter participating European countries. For further information, please visit the official ETIAS website: [https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias\\_en](https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias_en)



## EVENTS

**Book/Puzzle table at each luncheon** Bring a book/puzzle (or a few) that you are ready to pass on for someone else to enjoy and/or pick up a book/puzzle that looks interesting to you. Enjoy.  
**At the end of the meeting, if your book/puzzle is still there, please take it home.**



RWTO/EORO BurlOak Branch Luncheons are held at Tyandaga Golf Club 1265 Tyandaga Park Drive Burlington On L7P1N1  
Doors open at 10:45 for coffee  
11:30 Announcements  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 pm Presentation  
Annual General Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.  
Payment Information: E-Transfer: [rwtoburloak20@gmail.com](mailto:rwtoburloak20@gmail.com)  
By Cheque: BurlOak Branch **No cash payments**, please! Mail to : Carolyn B.

**No payments can be accepted or refunded after the due dates when the numbers go in to the caterer.**

**Monday, February 9, 2026**

**Brunch and Board Games**

**Payment due: January 30, 2026 Cost: \$ 50.00**



**Monday, March 30, 2026**

**Backed by Bees A local beekeeping business. The beekeeper will demonstrate the art of keeping bees and offer free samples of honey his bees produce**

**Payment due: March 20, 2026 Cost:\$ 50.00**



**Monday, May 4, 2026**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Payment due: April 24, 2026 Cost \$50.00**

