

RWTO/OERO Owen Sound and Area

**We are celebrating 70 years
at our May 20th meeting!**

You can help us celebrate.

Please submit any pictures you have from past RWTO/OERO meetings or events that you think would be of interest to our group. A PowerPoint presentation will be made to highlight our group at the meeting. Send to lauriejames@bmts.com or bring them to the March meeting.

We are asking that if you have any RWTO/OERO pins to please wear them to the May meeting.



March RWTO/OERO Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 11:30

Georgian Shores United Church

GUEST: Linda Sargeant our provincial president

SPEAKER: John Hlynialuk - Galapagos Trip

Cost \$35.00

RSVP by March 20 - Sue Loyst 519-372-8660

silloyst@gmail.com

It's our 70th Anniversary!

I heard the red winged black birds yesterday morning. To me, this is always the first sign that spring is on the way!



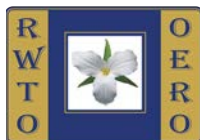
It has been a VERY long winter with weather challenges reminiscent of an old-fashioned winter! Many of us have missed the social time that we crave being housebound through so many storms. We have just the remedy for that with our upcoming March 25 General Meeting and luncheon. Our provincial president Linda Sargeant will be attending and sharing some words of wisdom with us. We will enjoy a program presentation by John Hlynialuk on his Galapagos trip. This will be just the ticket to get past the winter doldrums and into the fresh and hopeful spring season!

As you are all aware, RWTO/OERO is celebrating its 70th Anniversary this year. A provincial committee has organized a grand event including the Annual General Meeting, awards, festive events and grand meals. This is being hosted in London on the campus of the University of Western Ontario from June 2 – 4. If you would be interested in attending as a delegate or as a guest, please let me know and I will forward the pertinent information to you. The theme is From Chalk to Change.

Part of the meeting will include the deliberations from both branches and the provincial executive. These resolutions have been included in this newsletter for your review. If you have any questions, please let me know.

I look forward to seeing you all on March 25. It has been a long time since our Festive Event. We are due a good visit!

Yours in caring and sharing,
Cynthia Lemon



REMEMBERING

Memories are treasured things
That keep the heart aglow,
Linking years with yesteryears
And loves we used to know.

Memories are links of gold
Connecting old and new,
The dearest recollections
Of things we used to do.

Memories are treasured bits
With dream-thoughts most sublime,
Reweaving life's true journey
To join the hand of time.

Written by Mamie Ozburn Odum

Submitted by Mary Mackenzie



March 21, 2018



Friends 2018



2019
We love to eat!

Insurance Matters

Reminder: -Claim your RWTO insurance premiums from Manulife on your income tax if you have insurance through RWTO

The Home Nursing benefits under RWTO insurance policy covers: -80% of incurred expenses for nursing services at home as a result of injury or sickness

-\$1500 maximum for any one injury or sickness

-must be recommended by a physician

-services to be provided by Registered Nurse, Practical Nurse or Personal Support Worker (cannot be a relative)

To Access Home Nursing Benefit:

-you must have prior authorization from Manulife

-forms are available on RWTO provincial website, just click on members, insurance plans, prior authorization form

-forms also available on Manulife Secure serve site

-as soon as you become aware that you need this benefit, fill in the form and email or mail it to Manulife

-if an emergency, please call Manulife at 1-800-268-3763

Feel free to call or send an email to me if you have questions regarding insurance matters.

Take Care,

Rhonda O'Reilly

519-371-9240

rtoreilly@rogers.com



It has been some time since our last Newsletter. We hope that you had a lovely Christmas and have been able to take pleasure in the snow and scenes of winter.

Since the last Newsletter we have sent many cards. Sympathy cards went to Marjorie Davison at the passing of her sister, to Marcia Masuda at the passing of her mother, to Diane McLean at the passing of her daughter. Online condolences were sent to the family of Joan Vassella.

A Thinking of You card was sent to Carol Hopper who underwent two surgeries in London, Ontario.

Since the November Newsletter, all our over 90 members received Christmas cards, and Valentine cards.

A Birthday card was sent to Armintha Belbeck, and belated birthday phone calls went to Joan Downie and Donna Steinacher.

Head Office has asked that we forward any birthday information that we have as they want to be aware of members who reach 90, so that greetings can be sent from Head Office to those members. We have 12 members whose birthdays are not recorded in our birthday book. Could you please check with Mary Hall, Lorraine Dunning or Penny McKay to be sure that your birthdate is recorded. Thank you so much. Yours in Caring and Sharing,

Lorraine Dunning 519-376-5017

taydun@sympatico.ca





Belmore Maple Syrup Festival Belmore, Ontario

Thursday, April 9 & Saturday, April 11

Arrange to get together with a group of friends
or retired teachers.

Transportation is car pooling.



31 DAYS IN THE MONTH

Womens History Month

National Crayon Day

Pi Day 3.1415

National Craft Month

Daffodil

Aquamarine Birthstone

National Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Day is March 19

Dr. Seuss' Bday & Read Across America

St. Patrick's Day Mar 17th

3rd Month of The Year

Goodbye Winter

Hello Spring

Coca-Cola was invented in March 1886.

Astrology Signs
Pisces Aries

MARCH FUN FACTS

March 25, RWTO/OERO Meeting



Resolutions from the Branches

Resolution #1- Submitted by Hamilton-Wentworth

Be it resolved that Constitution: Article III Membership and Fees

1. 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

1. 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

1. 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 Staff

be 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 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.

R a t i o n a l e :

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 C o n t i n u e d 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. 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.

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.

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

Resolution #8

Be it resolved that Constitution Article IV Organization, 1. 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: 1. 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,
 - c. Chair the Convention Handbook Review Committee.
- The current 1 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: 1. 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: 1. 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 1. 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 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 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 #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

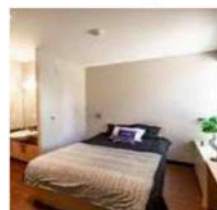
Be it resolved that the Constitution Mission Statement, be amended to read as follows: RWTO/ OERO is a Not-for Profit, social organization that meets the interests and needs of Retired Women Educational Professionals.

Rationale:

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



**RWTO/OERO Jubilee Convention 2026
Chalk To Change
June 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 2026**



Clare Hall Western University
 217 Ramsey Road
 London, ON N6G 0S2
 Call: 519-858-5150
 For more information contact:
 Judy Massey - conventionconvenor2626@gmail.com
 Jane Macdonald - rwtoeregistrarcon2026@gmail.com

**Seniors Wellness Fair instead of Workshops!
Staycations**



Sing with your friends at Karaoke on Tuesday and sit back and enjoy the London/Middlesex Branch choir on Wednesday Evening!

Enjoy the Wellness Fair all afternoon on Tuesday including speakers and yoga!

Participate in tours or stay for a walk/hike on Wednesday afternoon!

Entertainment after the Banquets on Tuesday and Wednesday

Local tours to take part in, on a bus or walking tours on Wednesday afternoon.