

THE SCRIBBLER

Sault Sault Ste. Marie RWTO/OERO Newsletter



Spring and Summer 2026

SHARING

CARING

HAVING FUN

Goodbye, But Not Forever by Patricia L.

As my journey as Sault Ste. Marie President comes to an end, I reflect on how I got here. In 2020, when I decided to move to the Soo, even before I moved, Joyce Ratz, Area 11 Director, phoned me to welcome me to Sault Ste. Marie. The next day, Brenda Ostaff, my Team Captain, phoned to welcome me. The following day, Sandy Fulcher, Branch President, phoned to welcome me and ask if I would like to join the Executive as a Member-at-Large. And I did! By the end of my first Executive Meeting, I was Second Vice President. Not too long after that I was First Vice President. Four years later, I am Past President locally and First Vice President Provincially. Who would have guessed? I will be forever grateful to Joyce, Brenda, Sandy and Barb. I felt welcome and I have learned so much.

I would also like to thank: Gerry for her friendship (and rides home from Hockey games), Beverley B. for her understanding of the RWTO/Manulife Insurance program (and her delightful sense of humour), Carmen for her invitation to join the Scrabble group, Steph for cluing me in to Anne C.'s exercise classes at Centennial Library, Susan and MaryAnne for their planning (and forgiveness when I didn't read the books) of Book Club 2, Winn for her friendship and numerous Branch members who made me feel welcome at our dining events at Queen's Tarts, Q Cafe, Blockhouse Pub, Gino's Fireside, the Mystery and many other venues, and each and every member of our Executive and Board.

Thank you, everyone, for your support as your President and as I move through the chairs at the Provincial Level. Thank you, Friends

Feb. 25, 2026 General Meeting

FUN AND GAMES

We met to play games, socialize and snack. Some members brought their favourite board, card, tile and other types of games, and Susan T., Social Convenor, brought some interesting word games. We collected \$120 in your generous donations to the “Public Library Children’s Book Collection”. Rita W. won the door prize of a large hard cover book of Games. Fun was had by all!



L to R: Darleen Z. and Sandy F. laid out **Mexican Train Dominoes**.



L to R: Carol R., guest Lorraine I., guest, Norma S. and Carmen C. playing **Quiddler**.



L to R. Carol G., Carol Mc F., Brenda G. and Gerry Y. had lots of laughs playing **Scrabble**.



GILBERTSON'S PANCAKE HOUSE

L to R: Brenda G., Darleen Z. and Marg W. took the scenic drive on March 9th to Gilbertson's Pancake House on St. Joseph Island. We enjoyed pancakes and Norwegian Waffles drizzled with fresh Maple Syrup. The weather forecast was iffy, but the sky cleared before we left and turned out to be sunny. We hope that many more of you will be able to join us next spring!



April 29, 2026 General Meeting

We started off with some important business. Sandy F., Treasurer, presented the 2025-26 Audit Report as well as the 2026-27 Proposed Budget. After questions and concerns, the members voted in favour of both motions.

Sherrill D., Constitution and Procedures Convenor, introduced the Slate of Executive Members who were installed that day along with Convenors for 2026-27. Changes include: Sandy F. as our new Branch President, Patricia L. as Vice-President, and Patricia L. as the Past President. Vacancies include: Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Member-at-Large and Issues and Concerns Convenor. We encourage you to try out a vacant position; you will enjoy it.

We thank Bernice W. for her enthusiastic and experienced contributions as a Member-at-Large over the years. She will leave a void as she steps away.

2026 Resolutions were discussed and most resolutions were carried except numbers 5, 6 and 7. Delegates brought our opinions to Convention in June.

We collected \$75 in members' donations for "Lunches for Learning" which Rita W. delivered to St. Vincent's Place.

Carol R. won the door prize of a bottle of Gilbertson's Maple Syrup.

The meeting concluded with colourfully iced birthday cupcakes and other tasty sweet and savoury treats. **Happy Birthday to All of Us was the theme.**

Recollections on the RWTO 70th Anniversary Convention

It was 10 years ago when I last attended an RWTO Convention and AGM. I don't think that at that time anyone was thinking of holding a Convention in a university setting. June 2nd to 4th, I had the privilege to attend the RWTO 70th Anniversary Convention as our Provincial Delegate with Janice Zimmer, our Branch Delegate. The convention this year was held at Western University in London, Ontario.

All the proceedings were held at Clare Hall, the girls' residence. The rooms were very comfortable. Everyone was in a two- bedroom unit sharing a bathroom. The unit Janice and I shared was at the end of the longest hallway I have ever seen. Janice and I got our steps in every day just to get to the sessions. The food was the best I've ever eaten at a university, better than what you get at many restaurants.



We were awarded for the first time the "The Feather in your Hat Award" (tier2). Patricia Lambert had written the submission about our members writing 523 Christmas cards in English and Finnish and delivering them to residents in long-term nursing homes. I was presented with a gorgeous magenta and red feather fascinator and for our branch a \$100 cheque and certificate. Submitted by Sandy Fulcher, President



Important Information for Us All to Better Understand Resolutions

Resolutions are classified as Constitutional or Monetary. They can be put forward by the Board of Directors or the Branches. Any resolution that has financial implication must be addressed before the Proposed Budget is accepted. All resolutions are open to question or amendment. All registered delegates have the opportunity to vote on each and every motion. Sometimes the discussions become quite lively. By Patricia Lambert, Provincial 2nd Co-Vice President

Keeping Our Minds and Bodies Fit to Age Superbly

An up-lifting keynote address by Dr. Angela Roberts, Dean of Education at Western U., focussed on how each of us can keep our minds and bodies fit. In order to live a better and longer life, we need to commit to daily exercises. They take only a few minutes as we wait for the kettle to boil, for example. We



enjoyed five- minute breaks throughout her address. We were on our feet doing refreshing activities with the small exercise ball that went home with each of us. See the picture of Sandy and me above with the balls. Dr. Roberts shared with us many of her slides from the studies being conducted at Western U. on “Canadian Super Aging” Research. By Janice Zimmer, Branch Delegate

Our RWTO Provincial 70th Anniversary & Sault Ste. Marie Branch 60th Anniversary Luncheon on June 24, 2026



Susan T., Social Convenor and organizer of the luncheon, welcomed us and thanked us for coming out to recognize our organizations' milestones.



We were given a quiz to work on created by Sandy F. Her fourteen questions tested our knowledge of our organization's provincial and branch history. Some of us highly competitive souls kept our answers private, while those not bent on winning a prize collaborated and laughed their way through the questions.

L to R: Carol C. and guest Kathy S.

After lunch, Sandy shared the quiz answers and handed out prizes for winners.

She read a very creative poem that Bernice W. had written for our 45th anniversary luncheon about our organization's history.

Sandy shared statements about women growing older from two books by Sandra Haldeman Martz entitled "When I Am an Old Woman, I Shall Wear Purple" and "If I Had My Life to Live Over, I Would Pick More Daisies". The statements, both humorous and contemplative, resonated with us as women of a certain age.



Door prize tickets were drawn and winners were excited. There were five gift certificates of \$20.00 to various restaurants in the city (which are named in our monthly calendar) and three other gifts.

With her door prize is Jenny K.



Erminia G. with her gift card.



L to R: Rita W. and Mary M.

Some important information about **Manulife Insurance** was shared by Patricia L.

“There was a time when a woman could not get insurance without the permission of her father or husband. The right to purchase insurance was one of the early rights that RWTO fought for. Now through Manulife we have a “top up” insurance which supplements areas that most insurance plans do not cover.

The money collected from our members is used for our members.

If there is money left over from these premiums, it is split between Manulife and RWTO. Approximately \$70 000 of RWTO’s income this year has come from Manulife premiums. Without this, our membership fees would be greatly increased.”

CORA BAILEY AWARDS

The Cora Bailey Award for 2025-26 was presented to two Branch recipients. The recipients were honoured with a description of the contributions they have made to our organization, a certificate and a pin. Barb P. (left) and Emily N.(right), two of our former recipients of the Cora Bailey Award, made the presentations.



Recipient # 1 in the centre is Patricia L., Sault Ste. Marie Branch President 2024-26 and Provincial Co 2nd Vice President 2025-26



Recipient # 2 in the centre is Carmen C., active member in many capacities within our Branch.



Overall, the luncheon was a wonderful time to review RWTO history, enjoy delicious generously portioned food, hear important announcements, honour award recipients and socialize with each other.

RWTO DISTRICT 11 DIRECTOR'S REPORT JUNE 2026 by Carol Neave

It was an honour to represent both Central Algoma and Sault Ste. Marie Branches in the 2nd year of my four- year term. Time goes by quickly when you are having fun and feeling like you are making a difference. The surprise was that there are many Zoom meetings. The good news is that they ARE on zoom and one can wear one's PJ bottoms to a meeting. The Soo Branch is fortunate to have Patricia Lambert who has been welcomed enthusiastically on RWTO/OERO's executive as First VP next year.

I serve on the Social Justice Committee which advocates for better senior care. That is an issue dear to my heart, and I hope to your hearts as well.

There are 12 Committees altogether and you may choose which interest you the most. I also serve on the Leadership and Branch Organization Committee, Employee Review Committee (there is only one employee), and new for me will be the Connections Newsletter Distribution and Financial Alternatives Committee.

Money and budgets are playing bigger roles in the discussions of the Board. Branch Members are dying. (Last year Central Algoma lost 8 members). Appointed Honorary Members all mean less revenue for both branches and the Board. Finding new and younger members is a focus and will determine the eventual future of RWTO/OERO.

The highlight for me this year was attending the Jubilee (70th) Convention held in London, ON, my home town. I was thrilled to be on hand to witness our two Branches in District 11 receive a total of three awards. Hurray for Northern Ontario's spirit, co-operation and FUN!

Only one other District, District 3, earned multiple awards (two), and that was London Middlesex which includes 5 Branches stretching from Chatham, through London, Sarnia, St. Thomas and Windsor. That makes our success even more special and it earned money \$\$\$ for both our Branches.

Can we do this again next year? Have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone in September with new and creative ways to share, care, prepare and have fun at our meetings and in our sub groups.

If I had my life to live over, I would pick more daisies...

Part of a poem by Nadine Stair



Newsletter by Brenda Gallander

Communications Convenor