HAMILTON-WENTWORTH BRANCH

Newsletter

JAN. – MAR.

Contents:

President's Message p.1

Membership p.2

Happenings p.7

Interest Groups p.14

Community Events p.23



Please send articles and photos for our RWTO/OERO Hamilton-Wentworth April 2025 newsletter by Wednesday, March 26, to trandles@rogers.com.

President's Message



I always rejoice when I see snow! As a child growing up in Sudbury, my sisters and I were always fully dressed in our outdoor clothing: furry hats that did up at the neck with a thick button, mittens that had strings to keep them together and fur-lined boots to keep our toes warm. Wool socks would be mended by Mother. Coats were "hand-me-downs" from the older siblings.

With the uncertainties for the new year caused by the climate crisis, supply chain issues, and unstable global geopolitics, we can revel in the consistency of our Retired Women Teachers of Ontario events! What a festive "Holiday Happenings" gathering at St. Naum of Ohrid Church on December 4th! Many complimented the Executive on the choice of the beautiful facility and the delicious turkey dinner, so we are looking at booking this venue again for next December! The staff of St. Naum's and the Executive worked hard to make the event a success. Much thanks to entertainer Melissa Marie Walker and her delicate voice.

If you missed "Harvest Luncheon" on October 2nd at the Waterfront Centre, you missed the intimate setting overlooking the harbour. Perhaps in the future you will be able to enjoy the company of old and new friends and acquaintances, a delicious meal, and music provided by Mike Woods. "Friendship Lunch" is coming in the Spring at the Courtyard Marriott. We hope that you consider donating treasurers for our silent auction at this event. This year there will be strict limits for starting bids. Funds collected at the event will go to our own RWTO non-profit and the CNIB Foundation Early Years Digital Literacy Project. Finally, we can also look forward to the "Spring Fling & AGM", on May 14th at the Waterfront Centre.

Many of you asked why I will not be President next year. Our Bylaws commit us to a "one-year" term. First V. P. Lesley Devries is waiting in the wings to become President. We need a Second V.P. this year, and a treasurer for next year as Lesley graciously took the role as interim treasurer this year. The Executive is an amazing, helpful and kind bunch – consider being a part of the RWTO Executive!

-President Ann Louise Gloyn, rwto.annlouise@gmail.com, (289) 921-0705

Happy New Year

MEMBERSHIP



Hamilton-Wentworth Branch
Executive 2024-2025

New Members



These new members attended the New Member Breakfast in September … L>R Priscilla Harding, Karen Tsuji, Isabella Marchese, Heidy Peragine, Annette Braun, Jennifer Kerr-Dittrich, and Anita Granda

We would also like to welcome the following members … most are new, a few are returning, one was an Associate, and one transferred Branches! Kathryn Andrews, Irene Bateman, Sandra Bowman, Lynn Howarth, Julia Hutchison, Louise McDonald, Cora Milligan, Laura O'Neill, Denise Thompson, and Jacquie Young

RWTO/OERO HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CORA BAILEY RECIPIENTS

2005	Carol Burnell
2005	Frances Hurley
2005	Frances Yoshida
2006	Mary Bradica
2006	Willemina Nieberg
2007	Judy Coombe
2007	Jeannie Hrycenko
2007	Margaret Parsons
2007	Liz Verrall
2008	Marlene Bohn
2008	Eileen Collins
2009	Judy Taylor
2010	Marilyn dePass
2011	Gail Gulas
2012	Linda Cowan
2012	Lorraine Yamamoto
2013	Mardie Panabaker
2014	Marilyn Blight
2014	Gwen Kirkpatrick
2014	Rosemary Marcotte
2015	Annette Rhodes
2015	Kathy Shields
2016	Sandie Bender
2016	Nancy Hodson
2016	Judy Moore
2017	Mary McCracken
2017	Nancy Papiez
2017	Ursula VanderPloeg
2018	Marion Jutzi
2018	Jan Lukas
2018	Sylvia Meyer
2019	Diane Keesmaat
2019	Hope Leon
2019	Jennie Robson

The Cora Bailey Award is the highest honour a Branch can bestow upon a member for outstanding service to her Branch.

Cora Bailey was the first Provincial Executive Secretary-Treasurer, a position she held for eleven years until 1982. She also wrote a history book about our first 20 years, "OASWT 1956-1976", when our organization's name was the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers. Provincial created the Cora Bailey Award in 2003 in her honour. Hamilton-Wentworth began selecting recipients in 2005.

Please suggest names of potential recipients for 2024-2025, by contacting Ann Louise Gloyn by January 31st. Any Branch member who has provided assistance to the Branch qualifies, whether or not they have served on Executive. Their service may have been in past or present years.

rwto.annlouise@gmail.com

289-921-0705

2021	Danielle Chouinard
2021	Pinky Moro
2021	Linda Sargeant
2022	Patty Alexander
2022	Lynn Anderton
2022	Linda Monteith
2023	Lynn Gillie
2023	Janice Jacobs
2024	Georgina Hewitt
2024	Anna Iskat
2024	Karen Kasik



Insurance Minute

Hello Ladies,

A few Insurance reminders.

If you have a claim to submit you can do it online through manulife/ secureserve.ca. You do not need to have your doctor fill in the last two pages of the claim form. If anyone needs assistance with doing this, they can phone LeAnne at 905-875-5953.

In journeys around the province, we have all heard "I didn't know I could claim that". Of course, as responsible adults, each subscriber should know what the Policy offers, but we all put the information away in a file and - out of sight, out of mind! Remember, our Insurance offers things that other plans don't - such as the Fracture Benefit, Convalescent Care, or Comfort Care . Also it can connect with other Insurance plans - such as doctor recommended Physio after a hospital stay, CPAP therapy equipment, or mobility aids. At our Christmas celebration, one of our members came to me and thanked me for doing the presentation. She had dealt with some medical issues in the last year. Her claim amounted to $800.00. Hearing the presentation helped her realize she had things that she could claim! Lynn Anderton Branch Insurance Convenor rwto.lynn@gmail.com



In Memoriam



Marilyn Blight
1946 - Sept 25, 2024

RWTO OERO
Hamilton-Wentworth

Marilyn started teaching in 1969 and worked at Flamborough Centre School, Millgrove, Balaclava and Dundana. In 2000 she retired and in 2008 joined RWTO. Within a year she was working with Gwen Kirkpatrick as events co-ordinators, which at that time included booking venues, choosing menus, preparing decorations and getting entertainment. She continued in that role until 2015. In 2014 she received the Cora Bailey Award. She never let the arthritis that moved through her body stop her from volunteering in the community with Canadian Blood Services, the Red Cross, and Animal Adoptions of Flamborough. She also loved to travel, read and spoil her cats. Flamborough Today published a story about Marilyn and the impact that she had on her students and the community. She will be missed.
Gwen Kirkpatrick

Shirley MacDougall
1955 - Oct. 21, 2024



An RWTO member for over fifteen years, Shirley began her teaching career in Newfoundland, where she was born, and completed her career teaching elementary grades for the HWDSB. Shirley was best known in the community for her musical expertise including as the Music Director at Westdale United Church. Her favourite composer was Sir John Rutter noted for his choral work. Shirley's expertise on the piano and organ brought much joy at the Westdale Services. Dorothy Gruggan



Arlene Grant
1938 - Oct. 26, 2024

Arlene Grant retired from the elementary panel of the HWDSB in 1997 after a career of over 30 years as a kindergarten teacher. She received an Ontario Trillium Award for over 60 years of volunteering service with the Girl Guides of Canada, and enjoyed organizing Sunday School programs at Chedoke Presbyterian Church. She was passionate about learning new skills, like tap dancing or quilting, and was the family cheerleader at their sporting events. She enjoyed Branch luncheon events and activities until her health became a concern.

In Memoriam



RWTO OERO
Hamilton-Wentworth

Janice Page
1937- June 26, 2024

Jan taught for 32 years for the HWDSB, and enjoyed an equal number of years of retirement. During this time she cared for and enjoyed the company of family and friends.

"I have such fond memories of Jan dating back to my first teaching assignment in Hamilton. Jan welcomed me and often took me for lunch at her place near Delta school on our long lunch breaks. She had a great sense of humour and was always such a positive person. She met obstacles with confidence and was always happy to renew acquaintances. Our paths connected in so many ways throughout the years but we seemed to lose track of one another when she moved from Hamilton, however the good memories will remain with me." Rosemary Marcotte



HAPPENINGS


Lynn Gillis
Carolyn Hounsell
Joanne Kovaluk
Gwen Kirkpatrick
Jan Lukas
Mary McCracken
Linda Moore
Lynn Shedden
1 for $1
3 for $2
Harvest 2024



Holiday Happenings Luncheon 2024



With over a hundred registrants, Hamilton-Wentworth members braved the blustery Wednesday weather to attend our Holiday Happenings Luncheon at St. Naum of Ohrid Macedonian Orthodox Church. Our turkey dinner with all the trimmings was fabulous, the entertainment lovely, and chat and laughter filled the

banquet hall. We are honoured to be able to assist St. Matthew's House with a contribution for their early childhood education and seniors' housing projects. Caring, sharing and fun! – Linda Sargeant

Outreach

Report by Ruth Settle, Outreach Convenor, RWTO Hamilton Wentworth

At our first meeting, the Executive approved all the fundraising proposals for the four luncheons.

Fundraising at the Friendship Luncheon on Wednesday, April 9th will be to support the CNIB-Early Years Digital Literacy Project, funded by Canada's Early Learning and Child Care Innovation Program. Families with children who are blind or have low vision are eligible for a free iPad to use. An Educational App the CNIB has developed, available in English or French, features swiping and tapping that will be introduced through interactive modules. It provides the opportunity for learning necessary digital skills for future online learning and school readiness. I hope you will look forward to supporting this worthy project.



Three Executive members dropped off our Branch cheque ($1645.24 raised at the Christmas Luncheon) for the St. Matthews House "Holiday of Hope" Campaign. Ann Louise Gloyn - President, Lesley Devries - 1st VP & Treasurer and Ruth Settle - Outreach, met on Barton St. at the old PetSmart store. The building was empty and was donated to be used for their "Holiday of Hope" headquarters. We were greeted by Madeleine Bond, who was overseeing registration for families and seniors. Christmas music was playing in the background, and we met two hard-working volunteers. Donations were being dropped off as we were given a tour. Rubbermaid bins were lined up alphabetically along the hall with many brightly wrapped gifts on top. The registration form was shown to us and great care was given to try and buy exactly what clothing and toys each family hoped for, including gift cards for food at stores of their choosing. The same was provided for seniors – except that their program delivers individually to the senior's homes – a wonderful gift itself. Madeleine Bond was very appreciative of the generous donation from our group. It was magical to see and hear about the dedication that Madeleine has given to their campaign for many years. Ruth Settle, Outreach

Read a report by Hope Leon, on the last 10 years of the Special Outreach Projects, following the Interest Groups section of the newsletter.



Friendship Luncheon

& Silent Auction

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

10:30 – 2:30

Courtyard Marriott 1224 Upper James St. Hamilton

Tickets ~ $40.00 (book by Wed. March 26th!)

Event Payment Cheques made out to RWTO Hamilton-Wentworth

Charity: Monetary Donations (Table Envelopes & Share the Wealth) for the
CNIB Foundation
Early Years Computer LIteracy Project
(cash or cheque written directly to their organization)

Contact Moe Richardson, moerich3939@gmail.com 905-575-3939
62 Randolf Ct., Hamilton L8W 2Z8

Let Moe know of any dietary concerns you have,
as well as those you wish to sit with, after checking that they are attending also.

Invite potential members to attend!

Note: The Silent Auction funds this year will be used by the Branch to offset our venue costs for next year, and starting bids will be posted on each item.

Please donate new or gently used items to the Silent Auction!



Come to the theatre!

"Bluebirds"

A play by Vern Thiessen

20 tickets are being held for our members - first come first served.

Group rate $27

Sat, April 19th, 2025 @ 2 pm
Theatre Burlington
2311 New St., Burlington
905 637 1728

Reserve your own ticket under RWTO, Ticket Code: pekes195

At the height of the Great War, three nurses cross the ocean to care for wounded Canadian soldiers. Despite their trying circumstances, the trio manages to stay hopeful while finding friendship and independence.

This award winning drama examines the role of women in a world where men are trying to destroy it.



Spring Fling Luncheon

& Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

11:00 – 2:30

The Waterfront Banquet & Conference Centre
555 Bay St. N,. Hamilton

Tickets ~ $40.00 (book by Wed. April 30th!)

Event Payment Cheques made out to RWTO Hamilton-Wentworth

Charity: Monetary Donations for
Essential Aid & Family Services
Provides free infant & toddler essentials to 500+ Hamilton area children monthly.
(cash or cheque written directly to their organization)

Contact Moe Richardson, moerich3939@gmail.com 905-575-3939
62 Randolf Ct., Hamilton L8W 2Z8

Let Moe know of any dietary concerns you have,
as well as those you wish to sit with, after checking that they are attending also.

This luncheon includes the Annual General Business Meeting, a requirement for all Not For Profit organizations. Elect your new Executive, review Branch finances, discuss resolutions for the Provincial AGM, and pay your respects to our members who have passed away.
Of course, there is still lots of time to visit with friends!
Please bring some books and/or puzzles for our gently used BOOK & PUZZLE SALE!

Convention 2025. A Grand Getaway!

Ladies, if any of you have friends or relatives connected with a store or business, we need your help during these next 3 winter months. Please consider telling them about our upcoming convention and see if they could support us in any of the following ways:
- 300 small items, coupons or advertising that could go into the Convention Loot bags (even less than 300 could help as all loot bags do not have to use same items.)
- donation of an item, gift card or basket worth $10.00 to $50.00 for a door prize
- a donation of an item, membership, gift card or gift worth more than $50.00 for our silent auction event
- a financial donation to support speakers, decor or coffee break treats
- These will help to support our convention as well as the women and children in our area

If you require a formal letter please contact Anne Louise Gloyn, Lesley DeVries, Judy Moore or Judy Coombe. Also, please let them know what you have been able to obtain. They will be keeping track so that we can send thank you notes.



Our March Connections will be advertising the costs of attending the full Convention or for a day. With it being nearby in Brantford, we hope that many of you will consider attending and volunteering.

If you attend our Tuesday Evening Banquet, we will be celebrating: *"Elvis in Paris".* Our wonderful Brad Boland will be our Elvis! Consider wearing Fifties attire, such as a poodle skirt, sock hop outfit, pedal pushers, or a beat-nik with beret attire! Hot pink, black and white will be our theme colours.

Our Wednesday Night Gala will be: *"An Evening in Paris",* complete with the Eiffel Tower. This evening will include our Awards Ceremony and more musical entertainment. For this "sparkling" event, think of dressing in Haute Couture fashion, like an Audrey Hepburn or movie star on the red carpet. Lots of bling! Black or white with hot pink is always classic! Hats, tiaras could be fun!

On Thursday we have our special luncheon banquet which includes our over 90 guests. Our theme will be *"Springtime in Paris".* We encourage the wearing of florals, as our room will be transformed into a Parisian flower shop. This banquet will also feature the introduction to our new Provincial President…… our very own Linda Sargeant! It would be great if many of our members could be there! Put your thinking caps on and get ready for some great fun!

Lynn Anderton, Provincial Convention Convenor
rwto.lynn@gmail.com

INTEREST GROUPS

New!

Painting Group

Painting with Watercolours and Acrylics

Welcome to our new group! Whether you are a beginner or and experienced artist this is the group for youl There will be no instructor, but rather group social time and advice from each other, sharing our painting hobby. Participants would be expected to bring their own materials to work on their own projects.

We will meet on the first Tuesday of the month, beginning on January 7th, 1:30 – 3:30 at the Dundas Senior Center, 10 Market St. S. in Dundas. Following dates are February 4th, March 4th, April 1st and May 6th.

Please contact Cindy Robinson at robinson24@sympatico.ca, 905-973-3836

Knitting and Crocheting Group

Our group has continued to be busy making blankets to donate to various homes and shelters.
In December, a large bag went to Interval House - enough for each of the 14 children there to pick out one for themselves when they came home from school. Others have gone to St. Peter's at Chedoke and to St. Joseph's Villa. The baby snuggle blankets and books went to Grace Haven for the young parents and their children who are using their programmes.

We meet at 1:30 on the second Tuesday of each month at the Dundas Seniors Centre on Hatt St.
Parking is on Market St., (which provides accessible parking) and also in the lot off Hatt.
Our next dates are:
January 14
February 11
March 11.
In case inclement weather is in the forecast, please check your e-mails for updates on meetings.
For more information please contact Gwen Kirkpatrick 905-689-8975 at rwto.gwen@gmail.com or Dalia Small at ladybggg@gmail.com.

Some of our knitters at work







Bags arriving at Interval House



Euchre West Interest Group



Come have some fun playing cards with RWTO friends!

Card Playing takes place Monday afternoons on Jan. 27th, Feb. 24th, March 31st
Lunch at 11:45 (optional). Card playing begins at 1 p.m.
At Southcote 53 Restaurant, 534 Garner Rd. E., Ancaster

Contact: Jeanette Potter Jeanette.24@icloud.com Phone - (289)-443-9101

Euchre East Interest Group

If you live in the eastern part of Hamilton-Wentworth and you would like to join us once a month to play or learn to play EUCHRE, enjoy good food, conversation and laughter, here are the details:
We meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at TEDDY's on Main St in Grimsby at noon, (lots of parking behind Teddy's).

Thursday, January 9, 2025
Thursday, February 13, 2025
Thursday, March 13, 2025
Thursday, April 10, 2025

If you are interested or have any questions contact Lynn Gillie, lynngillie@yahoo.ca, 905-309-4438

Art Appreciation and Tours Group

We're taking a break! Please look for information about our art trips in the next newsletter.
We'll be starting up again in April.
Contact: Lynn Anderton, rwto.lynn@gmail.com , 905-308-1133.



A little girl, four years old, says she knows what drawing is:
"You just think something and then run a line around your think."

Lunch Bunch





The Lunch Bunch group meets once a month, usually on the 2nd Wednesday, to enjoy some good food and companionship. It is a pay as you go event as we order from the restaurant menu. Please reserve your spot by 6PM on the Friday prior to the event. Email rwto.lunchbunch@gmail.com, or call Lynn (905-308-1133), Gwen (905-689-8975) or Marisa (905-525-4002).

Our Lunch Bunch has enjoyed some good food and good company over the past 3 months in Stoney Creek, Ancaster and Hamilton. We are now ready to start the new year with new experiences in new places:

January 15 : Bohemian Beirut - a new Middle Eastern restaurant at 90 King St. W in Dundas @12:00. There is parking around the corner on both sides of Foundry St. or some street parking on King.

February 19 - Please note that this will be on the 3rd Wednesday due to an executive meeting on the 12th. Pur and Simple - 737 Golf Links Rd Ancaster @ 12:00 It is in the Meadowlands beside Kelsey's. There is lots of free parking. It is a breakfast and lunch restaurant. The knitting group really enjoyed it and we all had something different to eat.

March 12 - The Watermark Tap House and Grille, 115 Hamilton St. N, Waterdown @ 12:00 It is in the Fortino's Plaza at the corner of Parkside Dr. and Hamilton St. and there is lots of free parking.







Scrapbooking

WHAT CAN I DO WITH THESE PICTURES?

In an article entitled, Creativity is Your Secret Advantage for Mental Health and Well-Being, Dr. Brad Brenner cites "The Flow Genome Project." Studies associated with this project suggest, "Typically, when people are creating something, they tend to get lost in the activity. The act of creating requires focus and concentration, and multitasking doesn't work. Some psychologists call this state of creativity, "flow." And the state of "flow" is defined as "those moments of rapt attention and total absorption when you get so focused on the task at hand that everything else disappears and all aspects of performance, both mental and physical, go through the roof.

Have I peaked your attention? As former teachers our life was entrenched in multitasking at school, at home and in our personal lives. Now we get to grind it down a bit and focus on activities we like to do. Scrapbooking is a chance to not only review those treasured memories, reacquaint ourselves with friends and family of the past but to indulge in a creative way of presenting so that we and others can enjoy those memories time and time again. To get started you will need scrapbook paper, glue, paper cutter, scissors; all available at the dollar store, Walmart or Michaels.

Consider joining a wonderful group of women, whose creative talents are encouraged and refined by the others.

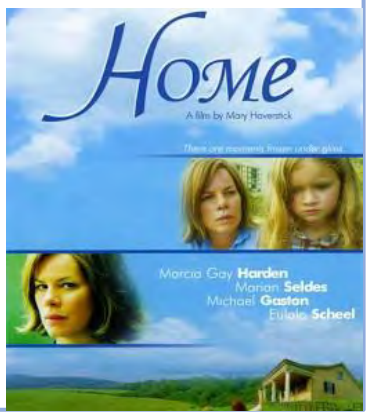
Where: Dundas Senior Centre, (Lions' Centre), Juravinski Room – 10 Market St. S. Dundas
When: 3rd Tuesday of the month
Time: 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
Contact: Debbie Pratt – 905-689-0253, deb.pratt10@gmail.com.

Just a side note, our January and February months will be dedicated to making cards for the upcoming RWTO convention.

Zoom Movie Group

Greetings movie fans! In December, we met online to discuss "*Falling for Figaro*" on Hoopla. We gave it 2 👍👍. It is a beautiful, gentle but delightful film and I urge you to watch it when you need such a movie.

You are welcome to join our group which meets online once a month, on a Monday at 1pm. Each month there is a film of choice from the library's free Hoopla or Kanopy sites. We watch the movie individually prior to the discussion, then join on Zoom for a 40 minute discussion. We are a positive, fun group, and the chat is easy. To receive more information and Zoom invitations, please contact Mardie at 905-527-6075, mardiepan@gmail.com.



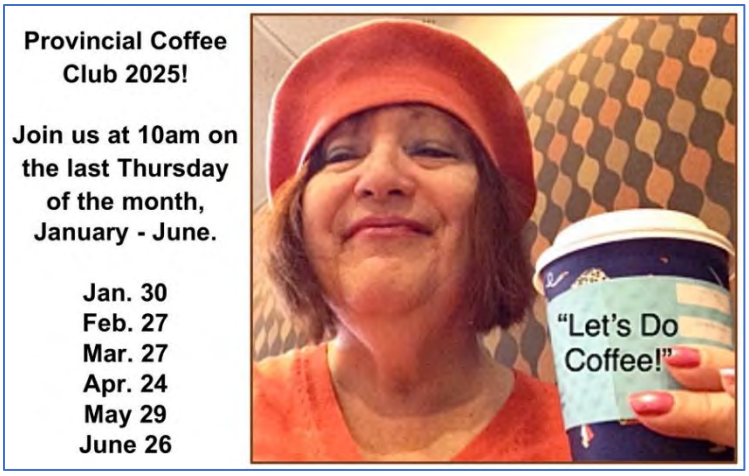
Upcoming Dates:
January 13th – 1 pm. The film is titled "Home", featuring Marcia Gay Harden and her real-life daughter Eulala Scheel.
(found on Kanopy, Hamilton Public Library site)
February 10th – 1pm – tba
March 10th – 1 pm – tba

Let's Do Coffee

Members!…. Come join us for "Let's Do Coffee!" in the new year! Meet RWTO members throughout Ontario, share ideas, contacts, create joint initiatives, and have loads of FUN!

Email me to receive the zoom link: hopesleon01@gmail.com.

"In Caring, Sharing, & Fun",
Hope 😀 (your host)



Golf Interest Group

Contact: Danielle Chouinard, daniellechouinard3@cogeco.ca.

Walking on the Mountain & Coffee

Contact: Rosemary Marcotte, roseronm@gmail.com 905-389-9194

Stampin' Up Cardmakers Group



Our Christmas cards may not have been mailed this year, but the ideas were plentiful and the results amazing. In January, we are joining the Scrapbookers on 2 dates to begin making about 350 cards for the RWTO Provincial Convention '25 (hosted by H-W, Haldimand and Brantford Branches, June 3-5th). Come and join us at the Dundas Seniors' Centre from 1-3pm on Tuesday January 21st and Tuesday January 28th as we glue-tape paper strips and die-cut pieces for the cards.
For information, please contact Mardie 905-527-6075, mardiepan@gmail.com

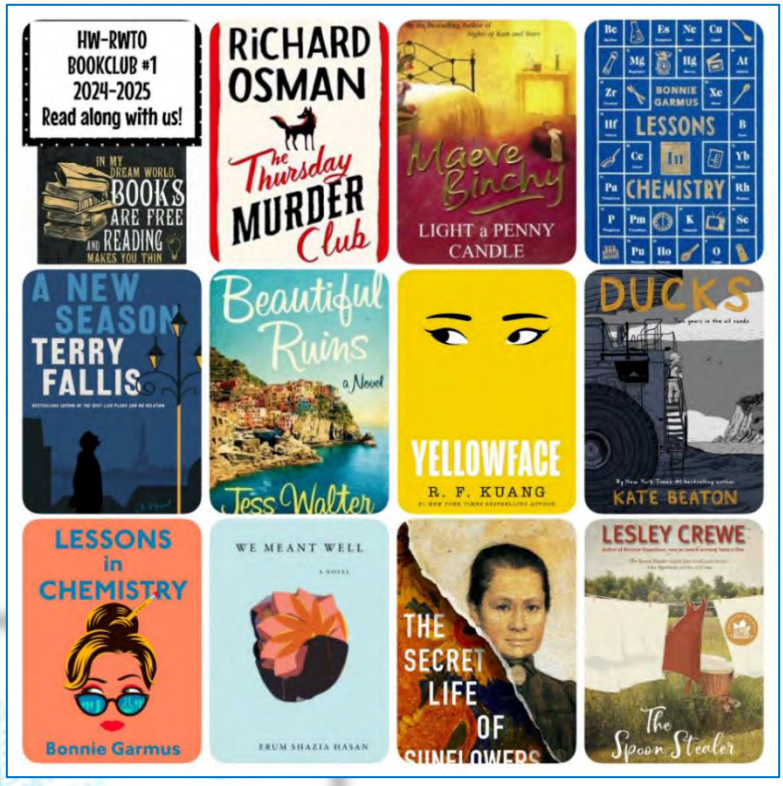
Bumper Babes Bowling

The Bumper Babes are enjoying a good season, with new members being added to our numbers each month. Anyone is welcome to join - no experience necessary.

We meet on the 3rd Friday of each month at Mountain Lanes, 335 Upper Wentworth, across from the Shoppers' Drug Mart. There is parking on both sides of the street and a pay lot just a block over. Usually some of us go out for lunch after bowling 2 games. The cost for 2 games and shoe rental is about $20. We meet at 10:45 so that we can get our shoes and be ready to start at 11:00.

The dates for the new year are:
January 17
February 21
March 21.
If bad weather is in the forecast, I will make the call the day before so please check your e-mails.
Contact Gwen Kirkpatrick at rwto.gwen@gmail.com or 905-689-8975.

Book Clubs



Book Club #1
This is what we are reading during 2024-2025 - Liz Verrall

Book Club #3
Since there are only seven members in our book club we have chosen to have a break during the winter months of January and February.

In March, we will meet again to discuss The Mystery Guest by Nita Prose. Last year we read her very first novel, The Maid. Hopefully, this new book will be an equally good read and generate an interesting discussion.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2025 - Ann Ivol

RWTO/OERO HAMILTON-WENTWORTH BRANCH

"SPECIAL OUTREACH PROJECT" APPLICATION FORM

In keeping with RWTO/OERO's 'Caring and Sharing' motto, the Hamilton-Wentworth Branch has established a 'Special Outreach Project'. Once a year, a deserving local person or cause, submitted by one of our members, will receive a one-time donation of $500 to help offset their financial needs. The donation will be presented privately, and will be announced at the Friendship Luncheon and in a newsletter.

Submissions must meet the following criteria:

- be for a local recipient
- be for an individual, family, or community project
- be for those in immediate or ongoing financial need
- not be a registered charity
- be submitted by an RWTO/OERO HW member
- be received by January 15th (annually)

Applications may be submitted at the Christmas Luncheon, or mailed by January 15th (annually) to:
RWTO/OERO HW Special Outreach Project
C/O Hope Leon
35 Delbrook Crt
Hamilton, ON L8S 2B9

Questions/Comments: **Contact: Hope Leon** **(905) 528-2348** **hleon@bserv.com**

In the last newsletter I was so proud to tell you about our past decade of $500 recipients from 2014-2024. It is now so heartwarming to tell you about ten years of applicants who did NOT receive the $500, but our committee and membership helped them all in quite a variety of different ways. Thank you! … I look forward to receiving your applications for this year, … due by January 15, 2025.
Hope Leon hleon@bserv.com

2014 -

1). A young man, "Chris", inspired me to start this "Special Outreach Project" when I first heard of his plight. In 2014 he suffered a surfing accident while on vacation in Mexico, and became a quadriplegic. He was not eligible for grants to cover the extensive costs of his Mexican hospital stay, airlift, and needed home and vehicle modifications. There were expensive experimental drugs which doctors thought would help him, but were not yet approved here in Canada. Our committee discussed this first submission at length, and decided that because his financial needs were so great, more newspaper coverage would help to further spread the word, and hopefully bring in greater funds.

2). "Little Hats That Grew"- This group knits for needy children in the schools. It expanded to include babies and adults in shelters and charities throughout the city. e.g. Interval House, Good Shepherd, Martha House, and more. They wanted the $500 for wool for those who couldn't afford it, postage for those without email, and rental of a hall for a day to collect, box, and distribute items. We decided to collect wool for them at our events, and advertised this in our newsletters.

2015 -

1). A woman was in her final years of a Psychology program at McMaster. She had supports through Canadian Mental Health. She shared accommodations and money was tight. She needed help to purchase materials for school. The committee suggested she should apply for OSAP, could go to the University Student Centre, and go to Alumni Association to request help with individual funds.

2). Syrian refugee family - The Hamilton Spectator had an article about how St. James Church in Dundas was bringing a family of 14 to Canada from Syria. St. James must provide housing for one year, clothing, and all household items and furniture, but so much more support was needed.
…… and……..

3). United Church Refugee Project - Rock Chapel United Church, along with 6 other United Churches were sponsoring 5 Palestinian families comprised of 11 adults & 8 children who were homeless in Syria. During the first year of the project, they collected furniture and household items to set up the 5

households when they arrived. The next needs were: money, cash cards, Shoppers Drug Cards, etc. It was decided by our committee and many requests in our suggestion box, that we should switch the February outreach focus to support the Syrian refugees. The Executive decided that all funds collected from the silent auction, table envelopes, and raffles at the Friendship Luncheon would go to the groups supporting the Syrian refugees in our local area. The donations collected were split between our two refugee submissions #2 & 3.

4). A 77 year old widowed woman who had had 4 back surgeries & other health issues had lost her medical benefits from Stelco, and was struggling to cover her regular expenses because she was paying $290 a month for medical prescriptions. The money would greatly help pay for prescriptions. The committee gave many suggestions for her: her doctor might be able to direct her to funding that she may not be aware of, to contact her MP and MPP for federal and provincial assistance ideas, get information books at a seniors' centre, librarians to assist with computer sites including the City of Hamilton, contact for the Senior Ontario Drug Benefit Program and the Ontario Seniors' Secretariat.

2016 -

1). A woman in long term care and suffering from ALS, and the money would be of help. Alternative suggestions were given by our committee to help her including: perhaps the government could give support, or the ALS Society could provide assistance, or if the special vitamins she needed were prescriptions, they might be covered, was she on a disability pension? (Ontario Disability Support Pension…. It was also suggested that CCAC might have a list of resources, and that she could apply for the 'Trillium Fund'.

2). "The Sisters in Spirit Action Committee" is a registered charity group and therefore does not qualify for our Special Outreach Project. The applicant thought the money could be used towards an honorarium for speakers to bring greater understanding of problems faced by Indigenous women, girls, and two spirited people, as well as build their strength and resilience. It could also be used to bring a special drum group and purchase healing medicines. The committee suggested utilizing local talent, (preferably free of charge) and suggested that resources might be available to them through the 'Native Women's Association of Canada'.



2017 -

1). "Roger Boyd - Men's Street Ministry" - Roger gives his time to feed (e.g. soup, sandwiches, baked goods), and clothe Hamiltonians in need. It was suggested by our committee that this be considered for one of our charity donations at our May AGM, where we collected coats, clothing and winter warm-ups.

2018 -

1). A family with a son diagnosed (after 27 doctors) with "Pandas", a debilitating neuroimmune disease, with no treatment in Ontario. They had to travel west for therapy with each trip costing approximately $2,000. They were about to make their 15th trip since the fall of 2017. The Mom had not been able to work since Nov. 2017. As per usual, our committee did further investigating to gain insight into this case. $19,005 in Go Fund Me donations had been raised. An offer of accommodations in Edmonton and the actual treatment being covered by OHIP was in a story in the Spectator. It was suggested by our committee to look at service clubs, e.g. Rotary, Lions, etc., and if they were to continue going to an Edmonton for treatment, they should contact the airlines and hotel chains to see if they could get a discount on compassionate grounds.

2019 -
1). "Yoga For Teens With Autism", a program used to help autistic teens relax and self regulate. The program was funded with a grant from Autism Ontario, but it was no longer available due to government cuts to autism programs. Committee members did further research and found Facebook sites where money had been raised, and the program was totally funded through the end of 2020.

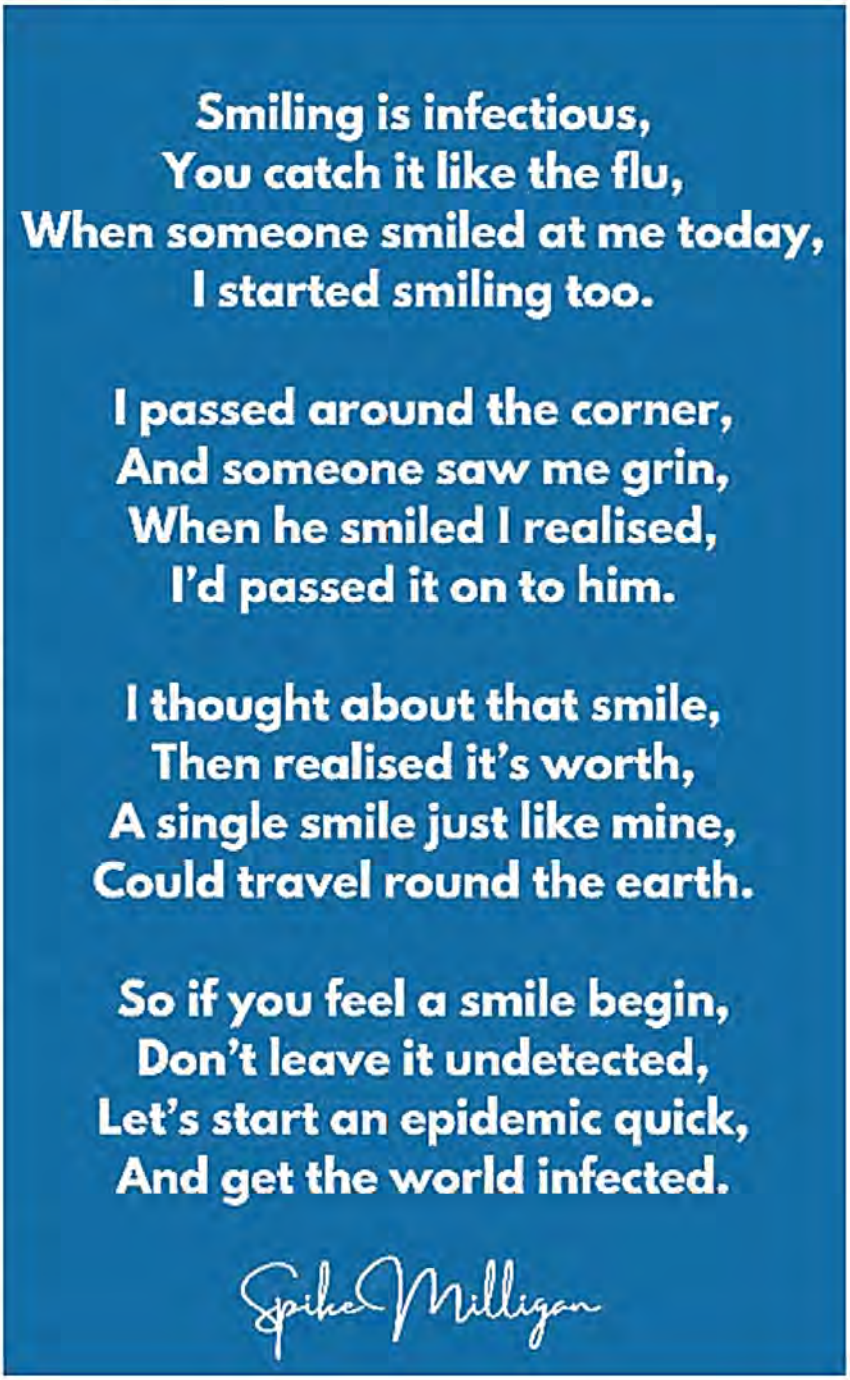
2020 - No applicants due to COVID.

2021 - Two donations (one to each applicant) were given this year due to COVID.

2022 - All three applicants were given $500 this year!

2023 -
1). A 59 year old lady dealing with stage 4 cancer which had metastasized, requiring radiation treatment. Employment wasn't an option, and she relied on food banks and financial assistance from others. Several helpful suggestions were made by committee members such as provincial and federal government funding projects and cancer assistance programs to help with transportation and supplies.
2). A Ukrainian family, a disabled mother (one partial arm), with two boys, 8 (broken arm in 2 places) & 16, (attending school). Took a costly medical exam as new immigrant. Their Passports were expired, and too costly to replace. Our committee discussed the fact we had already collected $2,626.80 (including $1,000 given by our Branch) to help the Ukrainian community.

2024 -
1). St. Matthew's House is a registered charity, which does not qualify for the Special Outreach donation, so the committee decided to raise funds at the 2024 Christmas Luncheon and look into the possibility of a guest speaker.
2). A couple who had been homeless, moved into a building where they started a thrift store for financial support. It was decided that we could help by collecting items for the thrift store at the 2024 Friendship Luncheon.



EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

$15.00 **"Music in the Air"** *$15.00*

Barton Stone-Mount Hope United Church will be holding "Music in the Air", a concert with the "KOKORO SINGERS", to raise money for the BAG LUNCH PROGRAM.

Sunday, January 26, 3:00 P.M.

21 Stone Church Rd. W., Hamilton

