



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario

St. Catharines Branch Newsletter – August 2016



Greetings from the President



Today is August 1st and tradition requires that I sit here at my computer and begin my President's submission for the Newsletter. I hope you have enjoyed the summer, heat and all and that you, too, are looking forward to a new year with the St Catharines Branch of RWTO.

A change that has been long coming is going into affect this year. It is an increase in the pricing of our luncheons. We have all noticed the increased prices at the grocery store and at the gas pumps. Those coupled with the changes in the minimum wage laws and we knew an increase was inevitable. Venues used to provide meal prices that included tax and gratuity, now they do not. The same meal we enjoyed in the past is not available at the previous price. Rather than reduce quality and our options, the Executive has made a unanimous decision to increase the cost of our luncheons to \$30. We hope that you too will consider it a small price to pay for the continued Caring and Sharing that accompanies every RWTO luncheon.

Our delegation of seven St Catharines members attended the Annual Convention in Windsor in June on your behalf. It was an excellent venue and a well organized, well run event. As to the business meeting, the Provincial Table Officers were amazed at the ease with which it was accomplished. We had no contentious issues, no heated debates on the floor and in fact the business of the Convention was completed mid way through our final day which left us ample time to pack suitcases, load up our cars and take a breath before the final luncheon.

As to the business of the Convention, the first original Branch Resolution affected us directly. It dealt with the splitting of our old Area 4 into two separate Branches. The Board of Directors determined this was a Policy Decision and as such was not required to come to the floor of the Convention for debate. The original Resolution was withdrawn and was re-introduced at the Board level and subsequently passed. Our Branch is now a member of the new Area 13. This is a positive change, as it will give us a stronger voice in the larger Provincial group.

There were 7 other resolutions that were brought to the floor for debate and voting.

Resolution 1 divided the position of Communications Convenor into two positions; Provincial Communications Newsletter Convenor and Provincial Communications Website Convenor. Carried

Resolution 2 cleared up the wording of ' member' within our organization. Carried

Resolution 3 dealing with the time frame when membership fees from the Branches needed to be submitted to the Provincial Treasurer was withdrawn.

Resolution 4 clarified the wording whereby the Provincial Insurance Convenor acted as liaison between the Board of Directors and the Insurance Broker for our Hospital and Home Care Plan. Carried

Resolution 5 removed the Branch Treasurer from Provincial training sessions for the Hospital and Home Care Insurance Plan. Carried

Resolution 6 required the Provincial Insurance Convenor to keep the Branches updated on an ongoing basis to any changes in our plan. Carried

Resolution 7 from the Oakville Branch wanted to prorate the annual membership fee. Defeated

If you are interested in learning more about the 2016 resolutions please go to the RWTO Provincial website www.rwto.org for a complete synopsis.

Kathleen Bradley

Honorary President's Message

I would like to express my appreciation to the Executive for asking me to serve as Honourary President for 2016-2017.

During the past decade, it has been my pleasure to watch the growth of our organization – in membership, in interest groups, in support for our members, and in outreach within our community. With the ongoing support of our members, and the strong leadership of our President Kathleen Bradley and her capable executive, I know that our St. Catharines branch will continue to prosper. Please join us as we embrace new opportunities for fellowship and stewardship.

Joanne Atkinson

Cora Bailey Awards

At both the Sept. and Oct. luncheons you will be asked to think about whom you wish to nominate for the Cora Bailey Awards. The nominee must be a member of RWTO St. Catharines for at least 7 years and have made a significant contribution to our branch.

The Cora Bailey Award is given annually to up to three Branch members. To qualify for the award, a candidate must have at least 8 years of membership in RWTO St Catharines and must have shown dedication and leadership in outstanding service to the Branch.

The President, First Vice-President and Second Vice-President, while in those roles, are not eligible for nomination.

The phrase, *dedication and leadership in outstanding service to the Branch*, can mean many things, such as:

- membership in, leadership of, or contribution to a wide variety of activities or interest groups, or
- on-going participation in functions necessary to run the luncheons,
- significant contribution through membership in the Executive, or
- combination of such things.

These are merely examples. Based on your experiences in RWTO, how would you describe *dedication and leadership in outstanding service to the Branch*? Equally important, can you identify members whom you believe meet that criterion? If so, please nominate them for the Cora Bailey Award. To do so, send your nomination to Myrna Kroeker, who can be reached at myrnakroeker@sympatico.ca or 905-937-0946.

The nomination process will continue at the September and October luncheons. After the nomination period has ended, candidates will be informed of their nomination and, if they wish their name to stand, will be invited to submit a brief description of their activities in our Branch.

Myrna Kroeker

1st Vice President

Membership

It's Time to Renew!!! 2016-17 Membership fees due by September 1, 2016

A huge thank you to all members who paid their membership fees at the May Luncheon meeting and shortly thereafter. This has significantly reduced the number of renewals that have needed to be sent out by mail and email. We shall continue this practice in the future.

Renewals notices, along with fall luncheon information was mailed or emailed to those members who had not yet renewed the end of July. Members who renewed early, you will find the Fall Luncheon information here in this newsletter. Please respond to Linda Foster as soon as possible.

I am always looking for information on potential new members and will send out information anytime during the year. Please just drop me an email or quick call for a referral.

***Reminder: Forward any
Change of Information to
judithbennoch@icloud.com or
905 468-3040 ANYTIME***

Judith Bennoch

Membership

Past President's Report

As the Past President I have two specific jobs:

Looking after the Branch Website and Chairing the Nominating Committee for 2017-18.

THE RWTO ST CATHARINES WEBSITE

I am in charge of maintaining the Branch Website on the Provincial Website. Would your interest group like to contribute an article? If you have a particular event you would like shared with our members, there are two ways of doing that. Send me the flyer as an attachment and we can post it on our website or bring it with you to a luncheon and have it available at the Interest Group Table under Community Events.

How to Find Our Web Page????

- a) click RWTO.org on your browser
- b) when you have the provincial page scroll down the left side to Branch News and click
- c) You should be on the map of the province
- d) Click area 13
- e) Click St. Catharines on the map to get our website
- f) You should now be on the page about St Catharines

Please consider an executive position for next year, new ideas are so important to keep our organization healthy. Call me for a chat at 905 646 1367 or email me at clariceros.westhobbs@gmail.com

Clarice West-Hobbs

Past President

Convenor Reports

Insurance

The RWTO Insurance plan has been of benefit to our members over the years. You can join the plan during the first year after you retire with no penalty. It provides extra coverage for during- and post- hospital care.

Here is an example of the type of coverage that is provided.

Example:

After a 4-day period in the hospital for surgery you could claim:

- . Convalescent Benefit (could be used to help cover respite cost)
- . Home Nursing Benefit (if recommended by doctor)
- . Comfort Care Benefit
- . Transportation to and from the Hospital
- . Physician Validation Expense Benefit
- . Mobility Assistance Benefit
- . Physiotherapy Benefit
- . Assistive Devices Benefit
- . Oxygen Benefit

The amount of reimbursement varies by benefit. Read the policy on the RWTO/ERO website to see what the limits are. You need to save all of your receipts in order to make your claim.

If you have questions give me a call.

Susan McLaughlin

Insurance Convenor

905-935-9966 or susseandchris@gmail.com

Goodwill

Please let us know of ANY member who would appreciate visits from RWTO members. Many of our over 90's are receiving visits at this time. BIRTHDAY cards and CHRISTMAS cards are sent to members 80+. (If you haven't been receiving yours, please let us know so we can update the records.)

GET WELL, SYMPATHY and THINKING ABOUT YOU cards are also sent. So, please contact us when you know of someone who would appreciate receiving a card.

If you would be interested in driving someone to the luncheons, or visiting someone at home, please give us a call too. Thanks.

Alice Bradnam

905-934-7108 or alicebradnam@aol.com

Goodwill Co-Convenors

Nadine Martin

905-938-2593 or nmartin21@cogeco.ca

Issues and Concerns

Hospice Niagara – The Stabler Centre

In addition to providing residential Palliative Care the Stabler Centre Hospice provides the following programs and services for those diagnosed with life-limiting illnesses:

1. Palliative Care Teams who work with Community and Regional Palliative Care workers such as primary care provides family doctors and visiting nurses to ensure consistent and comprehensive palliative care.
2. The Visiting Volunteer Program trains volunteers to provide non-medical support to clients living at home with a life-limiting illness.
3. Day Hospice programs at the Stabler Centre provides a day of companionship which allows respite for care-givers
4. Bereavement support is provided for ANY child, adolescent and adult with or without prior involvement with Hospice.

Access to Programs and Services

As soon as a life-limiting diagnosis has been made referrals can be made to the Centre by one's self or anyone with the permission of the prospective client such as family members, Health Care Professionals, clergy, friends, neighbours or Community Care Assess.

For more information contact Hospice Niagara at info@niagara.ca or 905-984-8766 or for Welland 905-735-1701

Marg Newby

Issues and Concerns Convenor

INTEREST GROUPS

Sign-up sheets for interest groups that run in the fall and winter months will be available at the fall luncheons. The newest group, Singing for Fun, is looking for members!

If you volunteer for an outside group, and you have an announcement, poster or printed material for our Community Involvement Board, please contact me.

Interest Groups

Patti Malkiewich

Interest Group Convenor

905-356-4132 or pmalkiewich@gmail.com

In Memoriam

We fondly remember *Barbara Chadwick*
our colleague who passed away in July.

RWTO EXECUTIVE 2016-2017

Honorary President	Joanne Atkinson
President	Kathleen Bradley
Past President	Clarice West-Hobbs
1 st Vice President	Myrna Kroeker
2 nd Vice President	
Secretary	Violette Hagerty
Treasurer	Linda Foster
Membership	Judith Bennoch
Archivist	Jessica Thompson
Communications	Ann Snider
Goodwill	Alice Bradnam, Nadine Martin
Insurance	Susan McLaughlin
Interest Groups	Patti Malkiewich
Issues and Concerns	Margaret Newby
Social	Louise Farquhar
Telephone	Sheila Bengier, Sue Lockyer
ETFO	Donna Painter
OECTA	Chris Graham
OSSTF	Margo Smith

Revolving Book Club 2016 – 2017

I will be purchasing books for The Book Club on **Aug. 29th**. If you have not signed up yet and wish to be in The Club, now is the time. If you are dropping out this year, I need to know that as well so you are not included. Please email your wishes to me.

Payment (\$20.00) is due on Sept 28th when you pick your book up at our Sept. luncheon
Make **cheques payable to Patricia Chivers**

Pat Chivers

Revolving Book Club
905-934-6636
pchivers@cogeco.ca

Community Outreach

Arthritis Gift Wrap:

Judy Crompton will be available at Sept. Meeting assisting Linda Holmes. She will have sign up sheets available at the September meeting. 2016 was a successful year, \$13,000 was raised over all in this campaign at The Fairview mall.

Community Care:

Just a reminder: at the Christmas Luncheon we will graciously be accepting cheques or cash as our continued support. We donated \$5000.00 with \$715.00 of that came from our Branch money.
Date, time and place will be announced in the October Newsletter

The Rankin Run:

WOW!! 2016 run was a record break.

One million dollars raised, One million dollars back into the Niagara Community. We donated \$6790 with \$150 of that amount from our Branch money.

Mark your calendar for the Next Rankin Run Saturday May 27th, 2017

Penny Lailey

2nd Vice President



Arthritis gift-wrapping is being looked after by Linda Holmes. Donations to community care at Christmas time is being handled by Rita Aceti and friends this year again. Jayne Shortill will look after the Rankin Cancer Run again for 2017 but would like to bow out. So be thinking if you'd like to take over that job in 2018.

Upcoming Events

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA REUNION

Education Foundation of Niagara will be having an old-fashioned reunion on Thursday, September 29, 2016 5-8 pm at Henley Island, Port Dalhousie. Relax, connect and have a great time catching up with friends and colleagues. Tickets are \$10/person includes meal and your first wine/beer. Reserve your ticket! Contact the Foundation at 905-641-2929x 37710 or efn@dshn.org.

We support District School Board of Niagara students by engaging the community to provide needed funds and resources where government funding is not available. Along with supporting students in financial need to access basic necessities and extra-curricular activities, we support progressive programs and services in our schools that enrich students' educational experiences.

FALL LUNCHEONS

- All meetings begin at 11:00 AM except April's meeting will begin with meet and greet at 11:30. Luncheon costs are determined by our cost to provide the meal (**including the room, taxes, gratuities**) plus expenses such as door prizes, flowers, and presenters.

- Details and tickets for the September and October luncheons are shown below.

- Please note the price of each luncheon on the ticket stub and in the information box. Detach and complete the tickets.

Send ticket(s) and cheque(s) payable to **RWTO St. Catharines** on or before the **Wednesday prior to each luncheon to the address below:**

**Linda Foster
14 Woodgarden Court
St. Catharines, ON L2M 7C9**

- Your luncheon ticket, **which doubles as your door prize ticket**, will be waiting for you in your name tag at the door.

- Luncheon payments will be returned for any cancellations received by **Linda Foster 905-935-6182, on or before the Wednesday prior to each luncheon.**

Escorts needed. Sometimes some of our older members need a ride to the luncheon. If you can help out, please call Alice Bradnam 905-934-7108 or Nadine Martin 905-938-2593

You will receive a reminder approximately 2 weeks before each luncheon either by phone or e-mail.

**We are a fragrance free environment.
We would really appreciate if you would honour our scent-sensitive members.
Thank you very much**

Fall Luncheon Guest Speakers

What a hot summer we've had. Looking forward to the fall being cooler. At the September 28th luncheon at St. John's Activity Centre we are going to be entertained by the Evergreen Singers. A few of our members are in this group.

At the October 26th luncheon we will have Shannon Passero speak to us about business and revitalizing Thorold. I'm sure you all enjoyed seeing her fashions at our April Jubilee luncheon.

At each of these luncheons there will be papers at your tables that will give you an opportunity to tell on your best friends or even yourself about where they volunteer in the city.

Myrna Kroeker,
1st Vice President

FALL LUNCHEONS: SUMMARY

September 28th, 2016 – 12:00 a.m.

Doors open at 11:00

St. John's Ukrainian Activity Centre
91 Lakeshore Rd., St Catharines

MENU: rolls, salad, roasted chicken, perogies, vegetables, apple pie/ice cream for dessert, tea and coffee

Entertainment by the Evergreen Singers

October 26th, 2016 - 11:00 a.m.

Doors open at 10:30

Club Roma
152 Vansickle Rd., St. Catharines

MENU: antipasto platter, cured meats/cheeses olives gardinarde, mushrooms, bruschetta mix roasted potatoes/vegetables, mixed green salad slab cake sauce for dessert with tea and coffee

Shannon Passero Topic: "Retail Entrepreneurship"

LUNCHEON & PRIZE TICKET

[Please return with your cheque \$30.00]

September 28th, 2016 – 12:00 a.m.

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

91 St. John's Ukrainian Activity Centre
Lakeshore Rd., St Catharines

Entertainment by the Evergreen Singers

Name: _____ will attend

** Cheques or lunch cancellations to be received before
September 21st

LUNCHEON & PRIZE TICKET

[Please return with your cheque \$30.00]

October 26th, 2016 - 11:00 a.m.

Doors open at 10:30 a.m.

Club Roma
152 Vansickle Rd., St Catharines

Speaker: Shannon Passero

Name: _____ will attend

** Cheques or lunch cancellations to be received by
October 19th

Save the Date

Christmas Luncheon

Our Christmas luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 7th, 2016 at the Holiday Inn, 327 Ontario St., St. Catharines. More information will be in the October Newsletter.

