

# Central Algoma 2012/13 Fall Newsletter



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT ....Carol Neave

Time flies when you are having fun and the past year has flown by at rocket speed! Half of my term of office is already over and I look back at some wonderful times thanks to the camaraderie, collegiality and creativity of all our members. The June convention was an amazing success because of your support and most importantly, now it is history! This year we can focus on caring and sharing in a more outwardly directed way.

Your Executive has done a lot of brainstorming using the ideas members submitted at our May meeting and the six eclectic programs that they have planned for the coming year all involve the combination of learning and fun – two things our membership has consistently asked to have included in our meetings. These are outlined on page 3 of this Newsletter.

Much of the strength of our organization lies with our enthusiastic participation in the current six interest groups described in depth on page 4. Some members attend every one and others may attend only one or two sessions but we have learned that fine friendships, good conversations and lots of sharing and caring happen within these interest groups. There will be a chance to sign up for these groups at our first meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Suggestions for additional groups have also been made. Perhaps you might be happy to join or lead a singing group, or a current events discussion group, or even a LEO group (Let's Eat Out). Make a suggestion and chances are good that someone else would be interested and want to join in the fun.

Although it felt like we spent most of our time last year caring about the convention, the fact is we did provide support for other causes. The charities we have contributed to in 2011- 2012 are ARCH, Sleeping Children around the World, Allard St. Community Gardens, Women in Crisis, Ontario Finnish Rest Home, a scholarship for a CASS student, and \$300 was divided and given to three elementary schools to support literacy. For each luncheon we attended, a donation was made to the host group including Harmony United Church, United Baptist, Thessalon United, Sowerby Hall, Thessalon Food Bank, Algoma Manor, Leeburn Hall of Memories, and The Algoma Friendship Senior Citizen Club #1142. We are a caring group.

And we share! We offer a free membership worth \$50 to an early bird member who pays her dues before September 30. This year your executive has decided to take a break from what seemed like constant fundraising last year. However, we could not give up our Christmas silent auction which always provides us with a kick start to our Christmas shopping and will allow us to keep up our donations to the charities we choose.

Consider this also as an early reminder that next spring we will be electing a new executive and it would be wonderful if you would contemplate taking on a role for the next two years. The amazing thing about this branch is that everyone helps one another, and has a good time doing it. Honest! We also take a break from meetings during the winter so being a snowbird would not prevent you from volunteering for a position!

We do welcome new members; so please encourage your retired teacher friends to join us at our September 13 meeting with Megan Parr who will talk about the War of 1812 as it looks in 2012. This should be fascinating and there is an optional tour of Fort St. Joe after the meeting for those who wish to stay and participate. I look forward to a delicious lunch, having fun, and to seeing your warm smiles again.





## Farewell from Martha

It is with mixed feelings that I confirm that we are getting settled in our new home in Ottawa. As I think back on the 15 years I have been a member of the Central Algoma RWTO Branch, the memories of all the good times make me wonder how I could leave such a great bunch of ladies! I appreciated the way everyone made me feel welcome when we moved to Bruce Mines from Windsor, the support I received when I was somehow talked into being on the branch executive, the opportunity to become involved at the provincial level when Pat Fremlin, as President, asked me to be her recording secretary, the way everyone picked up on new ideas that we were able to bring back from Annual Conventions, and, finally, the enthusiasm of the entire group for hosting this year's Annual Convention. You have all made me proud to tell the entire Province that I have been a member of Central Algoma Branch!!

I know that many of you have ties to Ottawa... if you plan to be here for a visit, or are travelling through, please let me know you are coming, and perhaps we can get together to catch up on news and share a coffee or dinner or whatever (we even have an extra bed!). I will look forward to hearing Branch news - I did pay my membership fee for the coming year!

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Phone 613-744-8601

E-mail [robert.summers@rogers.com](mailto:robert.summers@rogers.com)

## Going Green

**We are trying to do as much correspondence by email to save costs and get information to you faster. Please ensure that your email address is up-to-date with Glenis and RWTO head office.**

**To receive your provincial newsletter, Connections, by email, contact Beverley Pickard at [rwtoconnections@yahoo.ca](mailto:rwtoconnections@yahoo.ca)**

## Caring for our members

If you know of anyone who is in need of a little cheering up or some sympathy, please contact our Goodwill Convenor, Shelagh Priest, at 705-248-2443. She will send cards or flowers or arrange a personal visit as appropriate.

## Important Phone Numbers

If you have any questions about RWTO, our branch or your insurance, please contact one of the following:

### **Central Algoma Branch**

Carol Neave, President 705-248-2385  
Verna Lapish, Insurance 705-248-2289  
Shelagh Priest, Goodwill 705-248-2443

### **Provincial**

Marlene Falls, Area Director 705-256-1681  
RWTO Provincial Office 1-877-607-6696

Email: [info@rwto.org](mailto:info@rwto.org)

Website: [www.rwto.org](http://www.rwto.org)

Manulife Insurance: 1-800-268-3763

Terry Kennedy, Insurance Broker:

1-905-339-2424

Judy Anderson, Insurance Convenor:

1-905-985-4257

## 2012/13 Executive

<b>Past President</b>	Nancy Konzuk
<b>President</b>	Carol Neave
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	Kathy Greening
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	Carolyn Fremlin
<b>Treasurer</b>	Glenis Johnstone
<b>Secretary</b>	Mary Jane Thompson
Insurance Convenor	Verna Lapish
Publicity Convenor	Marny Pollard
Social Convenors	Ruth Juhola
	Kaija Breton
	Cathy Bennett
Telephone Convenor	Shirley Kent
Telephone Committee	June MacDonald
	Lily Ritchie
	Catherine Bell
<b>Newsletter Conv.</b>	Nancy Konzuk
Issues and Concerns	Verna Lapish
History Committee	Nancy Konzuk
	Joyce Ratz
Goodwill Committee	Shelagh Priest
Birthday Card Conv.	Shirley Kent

## Schedule of Meetings

### Thursday, September 13

#### Welcome Back to History or We Won the War!

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Harmony - St. Mark's United Church,  
Richards Landing  
(next door to Matthews Memorial Hospital)  
Lunch catered by Harmony - St. Mark's  
U C W Cost \$13

#### **Speaker - Megan Parr (events coordinator for 1812 activities)**

#### **How the War of 1812 looks in 2012**

Welcome back current members and a  
special welcome to new members who will  
receive a free lunch if they join that day.  
Membership fees are \$50.

### Tuesday, October 30

#### Annual Joint Meeting with Sault Branch

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Echo Bay United Church  
200 Church St., Echo Bay  
Lunch catered by the UCW Cost TBA

#### **Speaker: Leslie Uttley, President of Provincial RWTO**

Prizes for the best Halloween costumes or if  
you are shy, dress in black and orange  
colours!

### Thursday, December 6

#### Christmas Carol Sing-a-long

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Oddfellows Hall, Main St. across from the  
Post Office, Thessalon  
Catered by The Rebeccas Cost TBA  
Please wear colours of red, green and/or  
white

Bring along a bell, chime, spoon or other  
musical tool

**Silent Auction:** Bring a contribution so that  
we all may do some Christmas shopping!

Proceeds to go towards our charities of  
Literacy and CASS scholarship

Bring clean books and Magazines to donate  
to Algoma Manor

### Thursday, April 18

#### Polar Express Tag Team

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Bruce Station Hall

Turn left on Highway 638 at Bruce Mines  
Lunch catered by Cloudslee UCW Cost TBA

#### **Speakers: Sheila Currie and Linda MacDonald**

#### **Arctic and Antarctic Tales**

Please bring Food Bank items for Bruce  
Mines

### Wednesday, May 15

#### Algoma Rocks!

11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Sowerby Hall - Down the Line past  
Thessalon

A brown bag lunch picnic- bring your own  
or arrange a trade

#### **Geology Bus Tour** - starts 3 billion years ago - not the tour

Tour guide: Betty Buchanan  
Cost TBA

### Thursday, June 13

#### Local Industry--Mmmilk

10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

#### **Meet at Fremlin Dairy Farm**

Turn west on Calabogie Rd. from Highway  
17E, east of Echo Bay

Wear suitable farm clothes and shoes

Yes, there will be prizes

Tour followed by lunch at Bar River Hall

Lunch catered by UCW and WI Cost TBA

#### **Installation of new Executive**

## Interest Groups

There will be an opportunity to sign up for the interest groups at the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. These groups run from September to June. If you are unable to attend, please contact the convenor(s) of the group(s) you are interested in so that you can be included on the group lists.

At the September meeting, there will be other options for Interest Groups too. Check them out!

### Coffee, Crafts and Conversation

Want to learn a new skill or just work on some project you have on the go? Book the last Thursday of every month, from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. for some fun chat, delicious goodies and of course, some knitting, needlepoint, sewing, etc.

The first gathering will be on September 27 at the Marny's home.

**Convenor: Marny Pollard 705-782-6931**

### Hiking

There are so many back roads and trails in Central Algoma and the Sault just begging to be hiked. Mark the second Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. – 12 noon on your calendar and join us (with dog/spouse if you wish) as we ramble at a reasonable pace along a trail planned out by the leader of the month. The first hike will be on Thursday, September 20 (\*special date) and will be led by Cathy Bennett. Explore the historic mine trail and back streets of Bruce Mines.

**Convenor: Nancy Konzuk 705-785-3385**

### Book Club

This popular interest group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month from 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. The books on the reading list for this year were chosen last June. September 17<sup>th</sup>'s choice is about Catherine the Great: *Catherine the Great* by Robert Massie and/or *The Winter Palace* by Eva Stachniak. You need to contact the convenor to find out where you should go for these afternoons.

**Convenor: Linda Prodan 705-575-1519**

### Theme Dinner

Participants in this interest group love to cook and of course, enjoy the fruits of their labour. Four times a year, members and their spouses meet in various community halls or private homes to sample foods prepared along a theme. Some themes have been country oriented, others based on holidays or style of cooking e.g. BBQ. Each household brings one dish and a favourite beverage. Rental costs of the hall are shared among participants. First dinner is on Tuesday, September 18. It will be hosted by Marg MacKay and Joyce Ratz at Marg's Basswood Lake camp. The theme for the dinner is "Soul Food".

**Convenor: Bettyanne Plaskett 705-248-1219**

### Outings

This group meets as events and interest determine. As special concerts or tours occur, members car pool and share the experience.

**Convenor: Ruth Juhola 705-842-3623**

### Games Group

If you want lots of laughter combined with the challenge of a variety of board games, card games, or outside games, then reserve the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month.

The group will meet on September 11(\*special date) from 1 – 3 p.m. at the home of Connie Bennett. She lives at 19 Tarbutt St. in Bruce Mines. The game? - Well, that will be a surprise.

**Convenor: Connie Bennett 705-785-3508**