



Super Teacher

Summer 2015



President's Message

Welcome to RWTO Peterborough Branch 2015-2016 year. It is an important year, as it is the 60th Anniversary of RWTO. Jean Axcell is heading the committee for our branch activities. We have a capable executive to keep our meetings meaningful and enjoyable. We are looking forward to the 'muffin and mimosa' event at Marilyn Challice's home on Thursday, September 22nd, at 10:00 a.m.

We hope to have newly retired teachers come to hear about RWTO and would like them to join our group. Esther Kampstra gave a review of the Stratford Convention for 2015 and we are looking forward to Convention in Windsor in June 2016, our Jubilee year. Area 7 Director's meeting is Friday Sept. 25th in Port Hope United Church at 10:00 a.m. Members who went to 4th Line theatre had a sunny Tuesday and enjoyed the performance of the Bad Luck Bank Robbers, which turned out to be funny. Interest groups continue to bring us together throughout the year. Charities for 2015-2016 are Salvation Army, Cameron House and the paediatric unit at PRHC. We have additional fundraising ideas such as the \$100.00 chart, Friendship Auction (25 cent), bake sale, and raffle. A list of meetings and plans for the year will be available in September.

Thelma Campbell

Fourth Line Theatre

We would like to thank Thelma for organizing this for our group. Our members and friends (22 in all) had a great evening at the 'Bad Luck Bank Robbers' play. It was based on the 1961 robbery of the Havelock Bank, where \$250,000 was stolen and never recovered. A serious subject but played with much humour, which resulted in lots of laughter from the audience.

Our Merry Band of Golfers

Friday morning you too could tee off with the group at Heron Landing. Contact: Marilyn Peavoy at 705-874-2727



1956



2016



The Situation Before 1956

In pioneer days, a teacher was anyone who was willing to teach children.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, formal training was required through normal schools.

In the beginning of the twentieth century, minimal qualifications and certification were required.

In the beginning of 1900s, teachers were mostly men – some women could teach in primary grades. No married women were allowed to teach.

By 1910, women elementary teachers earned \$300.00 to \$1000.00 a year while male counterparts earned \$600.00 to \$1400.00 a year and secondary teachers earned slightly more with the same disparity.

Salaries in rural schools were considerably less.

During the First World War, women filled in for the men who had gone to war, but salaries were very low, later affecting their pensions. After the war, women had to relinquish their jobs to the service men. From WWI until after WWII, teachers' salaries were virtually unchanged.

In 1917, The Teachers' Superannuation Act became law. 40 years of teaching were required to earn a pension between \$365.00 and \$1000.00 a year. Two and ½ % was deducted from each paycheck.

In 1933, the service requirement was 39 years. Pension was based on the last 10 years of service or the average of all the years.

1937 pension was based on all the years of service but 40 years were still required to get a full pension.

1949 the base became the last 15 years of service. If a woman had 35 years of service, she could retire at 65. Minimum pension was \$600.00 a year. By 1955, the government had conceded basing the pension on the last ten years of teaching but it was not retroactive and teachers who had retired in the early years were destitute in many cases.

In 1918, FWTO was formed by a group of women in London. They were able to offer some support to the women who were lobbying the government for better salaries and pensions for women teachers. Bena McCowan and her executive pointed out the need for reform to the members and they petitioned the government to no avail.

In Toronto, a group of retired women teachers, who met regularly to chat and play bridge, formed the first group of retired women teachers, in May 1937. Their motto was to care and share. This group was known as the Rendezvous Club. After the second world war under the leadership of Anna Hunter from the Rendezvous Club and Bena McCowan, many unsuccessful attempts were made to enlist the government to improve pensions. They then decided that a stronger organization was needed to convince the government and so made plans to form a strong provincial group.

The Beginnings

In 1949, the Ontario Government passed a bill that all teachers retiring after 1949 would have pensions based on the last 15 years of teaching, but no mention was made of the pensions of teachers who had retired between 1937 and 1949. Their pensions were based on legislation from 1917. In 1954, a bill was passed to have pensions based on the last 10 years of service. Pensions varied between \$600 and \$5000. The untiring efforts of the Toronto based group were still having very little impact on the government.

It was decided that a strong group was needed to approach the Ontario Government and that information needed to be shared among the teachers of Ontario. Thus, on April 3, 1956 an inaugural meeting of Ontario Provincial Association of Retired Women Teachers (OPARWT) was formed under the leadership of Anna Hunter and Bena McDowell. Twelve areas, including Peterborough, were represented. The fee for belonging was \$1.00 if your gross pension was \$1000 or more, 50 cents if you were receiving a pension less than \$1000 and 25 cents if you received a minimum pension of \$600. Efforts of the organization in the first year were concentrated on improving the pensions of retired teachers who had given 40 or more years of service and whose pensions were less than \$1000. A brief submitted to the legislature concerning improvements in pensions for these teachers was refused.

The first annual meeting, with ten Ontario centres represented, was held on April 23 of 1957.

In 1958, the first constitution of the organization was formed. After the acceptance of this constitution, the organization was known as The Ontario Association Of Superannuated Women Teachers (OASWT).

In 1959, another brief was submitted to the Legislature and again turned down.

At that time, it was noted that some retired teachers were destitute - one member had 51 years of service and a monthly pension of \$95.00. Another member who was nearly blind had 40 years of service and a monthly pension of \$50.00. Definitely, something had to be done to help a number of retired teachers who had nowhere to turn except to the valiant ladies who continued to seek help from the government and who strived to increase the membership of OASWT in order to create an impact on the government.

In 1960, under the presidency of Laura Cook, the provincial executive and 100 members presented a brief to the Legislature asking for a minimum pension of \$3000.00. The members of the Legislature were impressed by the sheer numbers of the delegation. The Education Committee passed the brief, but it still had to be ratified by cabinet and this was not forthcoming. In the following years, Laura Cook and her ladies continued to meet with Premier William Davis to seek consideration for better pensions.

In 1960, OASWT first heard about a group insurance plan. At the annual meeting, it was decided that each member would make her own decision to accept the plan.

In 1964-65, Olive Wilson from Peterborough became the Provincial President. Her theme was to extend the membership. By this time, there were 2263 members. They continued to meet with the government with a brief asking the government to help at least 1000 women who were receiving less than \$1000.00 annually. Still there was no action from the government - only a statement that the request would receive further study. It was not until after the first decade of the organization that the government finally passed a bill that would grant teachers a minimum pension of \$1200.00. Laura Cook's untiring efforts were finally beginning to pay off.

Jean Axcell,

60th Anniversary Chair

(More to follow in the next newsletter)

'The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man.' ~
George Bernard Shaw



Bridge for Fun and Fellowship

The third Tuesday afternoon of each month sees a group of happy bridge players at Grace United Church. Want to join our group? Contact Sharon Maskell at 705-741-3313

Tuesday, September 22nd at 10:30 a.m. - General Meeting

Peterborough Navy Club - cost \$20.
Speaker - Dr Helen Clark - women's issues
Special Draw - proceeds to our Paediatrics Dep't. Project
\$100 Chart to raise funds for the branch
Donations to Cameron House - magazines, gently used linen, etc.

If you are able to attend, please send your cheque, made out to **Peterborough RWTO**, to:
Diane Kilistoff, 976 Southlawn Dr., Peterborough, ON. L9J 1G2

RWTO/OERO Convention in Stratford—Reflections June 2015

For three years, I have been a member of the Peterborough RWTO/OERO, and enjoyed different activities with this group. But every year, I also heard about the CONVENTION, which seemed quite the event. This year I was privileged to attend as a delegate on our behalf. We travelled up to Stratford with Judy-Anne Tumber, Joyce Fee, Marion Philp and myself. After a great trip, we enjoyed lunch at Annie's Seafood and went to the Arden Park Hotel to register. What an excitement! All the delegates and attendees arriving and registering for the Convention, friends greeting each other and making new connections, what a lot of busy-ness! After getting settled, we attended a workshop of choice. I attended 'Dare to Share' led by Nancy Papiez. In groups, around tables, we shared different activities and events that were hosted by the various branches. Some of these activities our branch already has done such as Quarter Frenzy, Donations to charities (Cameron House) and interest groups, but there were also new ideas and these were enthusiastically shared.



Main meals all had a different focus and entertainment. On Tuesday evening, there was a Slumber Party Dinner with casual dress, with entertainment provided by a vocal men's group, 'Cruisin', with music presented by four vocal voices. Wednesday evening was the Banquet with entertainment by the Lara MacMillan Trio. At the banquet, the Head Table and Board members

were piped in and several awards were presented: Feather in Your Hat Award, Barbara Bain Membership Award and Honorary Membership Awards. On Thursday, we had a Garden Party Lunch, (everyone was invited to wear a hat or fascinator!) entertainment was by the Flutist, Liesl Deppe. This meal included the installation of new officers of the Board and remarks by our outgoing President. A nice touch was a 'favour' at each place setting for each meal: a mint chocolate concoction, a Stratford swan charm and a specialty tea gift-wrapped. One of the pleasant surprises was the beautiful winged costumed 'young fairies' that presented the swan charms.



Of course, I cannot forget to mention, the main focus for the Convention. This was after all a business meeting. On Wednesday, the Annual General Meeting included voting for new board members (after hearing their speeches and presentations) and reports from several committees such as the Ad Hoc Committee (regarding membership criteria etc.), the Insurance Report, Treasurer's Report and the Constitution and Resolutions Committee. Dealing with the different reports from committees gave me a better understanding of the focus of our organization and the different aspects of involvement that bring out our 'Caring and Sharing' for our members and others in our communities. Of course, there is the 'nitty gritty' in the discussions and voting on the various Resolutions from the Board of Directors and the various branches. These are important decisions that help our organization to run smoothly but also set the direction and tone for how we show our Caring and Sharing.

Another highlight, on Wednesday, was the Tours to Theatre Experiences (Diary of Anne Frank or The Physicist) or the Festival Warehouse and Archives. The theatre was enjoyed by several of our members. The weather was beautiful and I enjoyed the sights of Stratford with the Avon River and especially the famous Stratford swans.

Gathering in Karen Rynard's (our Area 7 Director) and in Joyce's and Marion's rooms in the evenings for a chat and a drink were good times of sharing.

On Thursday, the Memorial Service, Part Two of the AGM, Recognition of our over "90's", and final details of installing new Board Members and the President's Acceptance Speech, and final remarks ended the Convention for another year. But wait...a beautiful exciting presentation was made by the Windsor-Essex Branch RWTO/OERO to invite us to the Convention next year in Windsor! This will be the Celebration of our 60th year as an organization. After gathering our belongings and getting settled in Judy-Anne's vehicle, we made our way home, back to Peterborough.

This was a good experience, which helped me to understand better the broad scope of RWTO/OERO. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Esther Kampstra



Book Worms

Time to start reading the books that were selected for this year. Our members host the meeting on the second Tuesday of the month.

September - Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline

October - A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian - Marina Lewycka - **Book Bag**

November - Casual Vacancy – J. K. Rowling

December - The Little Old Lady Who broke all the Rules by Catherina Ingleman-Sundberg

January - The Invention of Wings Sue Monk Kidd

February - The Rosie Project by Graehme Simsion - **Book Bag**

March - The Garden of Burning Sand –Corban Addison

April - Ru by Kim Thuy - **Book Bag**

May - Boston Girl –Anita Diamant

June - The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared – Jonas Jonasson

Note: Book Bag is a programme at the Peterborough Library. We get 10 copies of the book for 5 weeks.

A teacher had her students complete the following proverbs:

Strike while the	bug is close.
You can't teach a dog new	math.
The idle mind is	the best way to relax.
A penny saved	is not much.
If at first you don't succeed	get new batteries.

LET'S DO LUNCH

Join us on the following dates: Monday, August 10 - Elmhirst - for their buffet Mondays
Tuesday, September 1, - Landing 27 Bistro - Springville
Tuesday, October 13 - Railroad Stop - Hiawatha
Contact Joyce Fee 743-9315

INCREASE IN ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

At the Annual General Meeting in May, it was moved that we would increase the Social Fees to \$10.00 (they were \$5.00).

60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

It was also moved that we establish a fund for our 60th Anniversary celebrations. We are asking everyone for \$5.00. This special fee would be for only this one time.

If you retired before 1980 your annual membership **for this year** will now be \$15.00 + \$10 social fees = \$25.00 + \$5.00 anniversary.

Everyone else's annual membership **for this year** will now be \$40.00 + \$10.00 social fees = \$50.00 + \$5.00 anniversary.



1956 -2016

RWTO/OERO

The Nifty Fifties

Fashions of the Fifties

After the war years, fashions became less conservative, some reminiscent of the 20's. There were different dresses for different occasions and purposes. Mothers and daughters often dressed alike in matching fashions. Fashions for teenagers and maternity wear were developed. The emphasis was on pointed breasts, tucked-in waists and an accent on the natural body curves.



Swing skirts and pencil tight skirts, known as wiggle skirts, with loose tops cinched at the waist and jackets with peplums were very fashionable. Sheath dresses and sack dresses also created a fashionable wardrobe. Halter dresses became very popular for the summer. Summer wear also included the introduction of Bermuda shorts and pedal pushers. Two-piece bathing suits also made a risky appearance.

Fashions From The 50's



Instead of the block heels of the forties, stiletto heels were the fashion. Many new fabrics were used in clothing – reversible fabrics, taffeta, silk, organdy, chiffon and tulle. Gingham and floral patterns made up some of the fabrics. New fabrics like acrylics, spandex and polyester were becoming very popular. Fur trimmings, jewelled and Peter Pan collars, stoles, sashes, and floating scarves made up fashionable accessories. To top it all off matching handbags, smaller hats with veils and the pillbox hat and berets as well as black or white gloves created the finishing touch.

New fashions in maternity wear, skirts with a large opening in the middle and loose tops allowed women to make attractive appearances in public.

Pointed padded bras, corsets, girdles and controllers allowed women and girls to hide the extra bulges instead of going to the gym.



Hair styles were shorter and teen agers wore pony tails. Often women went to bed with their hair in rollers for softer hair styles, and, if money was no object, heat perms were very popular. Some women nightly put up their hair in pin curls. The buzz cut, the brush cut, and the flat top were all popular styles for the males.

Max Factor had a great influence on the make-up of the day. Foundation liquids and creams were used, while red, red lips, and some eye shadows and liners created a sexy illusion.

For the teen age crowd (I being one of them) saddle shoes and bobby socks were a must. Swing skirts including the popular poodle skirt, matching sweater sets, and bat wing sleeves were part of the wardrobe. All dresses were worn well below the knee. Jeans rolled up to the mid calf were becoming popular and for the guys, leather jackets and studded boots were introduced. Their shirts were worn loosely outside the pants and penny loafers added to their attire. Girls had to wear Gym suits (rompers) for physical education classes.



Prom dresses tucked in at the waist and outfitted with crinolines were often from tulle and were ballerina length.



Wedding dresses always had to be white to denote virginity and weddings were not nearly as elaborate as they are today. Most couples married very young and marriages lasted a lifetime with very few divorces. However, the fifties had some of the highest teen-age pregnancies on record. Notably, there were no contraceptives yet.

Cat eyeglasses were popular if vision correction was needed.

Fashion was increasingly modeled after the people seen on television that was gradually making its way into many homes in the late fifties.

Education in the 50s

By law, children attended school when they were 6 years old.

Only urban children attended kindergarten and most children walked to school. There were very few private schools and in many areas, they were illegal. Everyone remembers the famous Dick and Jane series of primary readers.



Teachers followed The Grey Course of Study and spelling, phonics, cursive writing, and grammar were taught daily. Mental mathematics was highly advocated and calculators were unavailable.

Music education was established by G. Roy Fenwick, who published The High Road of Song books and established that itinerant music teachers visit the schools in rural areas on a weekly

basis. In urban areas, there were supervisors in music and art who made sure the basics of each subject were taught well.

High School had two streams – General, which went to grade 13 and led to Teachers' College or university education, and Commercial, which led to immediate employment or a business school of choice. Very few women attended university and most women were encouraged to become teachers, nurses or secretaries. It was more likely that males from well to do families attended university.

The drop-out rate from high school was usually quite high, but employment could easily be found at that time.

Entertainment in the 50's

The fifties saw many innovations in entertainment. The three M's - Marilyn Munro, Mickey Mantle, who established the integration of blacks into sports, and Mickey Mouse were household names. The drive-in movie theatres created a place for teen agers to date and families to enjoy cheap entertainment. 3D films were innovative in the theatres. Vista vision was introduced in the film making industry.

Award winning films such as The Ten Commandments, The King and I, African Queen, and A Bridge on the River Kwai were on the 'must see' list. The features were always preceded by a short animated film where Looney Tunes and Walt Disney got their start.

Every man desired a woman like Marilyn Munro, Grace Kelly, or Doris Day and every woman idolized Rock Hudson, Cary Grant and Gregory Peck.

A popular pastime was showing slides, some of which were personal and many of which were purchased. Slide show presentations were popular among family and friends especially if one returned from an exotic vacation (Florida, and Niagara Falls qualifying as exotic).

People were making collections of vinyl long play records and popular music on 45 rpms.

Cars were becoming more affordable and plentiful – gas-guzzlers with elongated hoods and trunks filled drive-in theatres to capacity.

If one were fortunate to have a monochrome TV, professional wrestling became a favorite. (Note – I did not have a TV until I was married in the sixties and my Dad drove an old '38' Plymouth during the fifties, a car with which I obtained my driving permit.)

The radio was still a nucleus for most of the family entertainment, and the hit parade every Saturday made many songs of the fifties memorable classics. In 1957, Dick Clark started The American Bandstand, which survived for many years. Elvis Presley was the greatest influence on the late fifties with screaming guitars and hip-shaking music.



The music of Little Richard, Chubby Checker, and Buddy Holly gave way to new music and the upcoming dance crazes of the sixties when rock and roll really took off and the twist, which had begun in the fifties, became a dance craze in the next decade. Crooners such as Andy Williams, Tony Bennett, Patti Page, Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, and Rosemary Clooney were being perfected and groups such as The Platters, The Everly Brothers and big bands such as Tommy Dorsey, Percy Faith and Glen Miller still made dance music enjoyable. There were many groups and hundreds of songs were published which are still enjoyed to this day. Whirling on the dance floor in the fashionable fifties, swing skirts created a memorable and fashionable statement. Dances included The Bop, Swing, Hand Jive immortalized by “Grease”, the Cha Cha, the Lindy, the Stroll and the beginnings of Rock and Roll. The Bunny Hop was a nightly favorite at each dance and teen agers often attended a Sock Hop and a Sadie Hawkins Dance.



On the radio, family entertainment was provided by such comedy programmes as Our Miss Brookes, Ozzie and Harriet, Jack Benny, Milton Berle, I Love Lucy, Arthur Godfrey, mystery shows such as The Phantom Knows, and The Green Hornet, as well as drama, through programmes such as soap Operas and Lux Radio Theatre.

Toys of the 50's

Toys of the fifties included die cast cars, friction toys, dinky toys, matchbox toys, tinker toys , erector sets, mechano sets, army men and sets, building blocks, board games, play doh, the slinky, kitchen sets doll sets, and the introduction of the Barbie doll.



Shopping in the 50's

There were no large supermarkets for groceries. One visited several individual stores like the bakery, the meat market, and the green grocer. Independent Grocers Alliance (IGA) in Chicago granted Oshawa Wholesalers' Alliance a franchise in the fifties and Loblaws built its first

freestanding store in Toronto in 1959. Clothing and furniture and hardware could be obtained in small family run stores. Kresge's, Woolworth's, and the Five and Dime stores created the niche for stores selling items of lesser monetary value. In the late fifties, there were a few plazas and strip malls but a mere few covered malls. There were still many Fuller brush men roaming the country selling their wares. Eaton's and Simpson's found a market in the rural areas with their catalogue sales and Peterborough got its first Sears store in 1957. In 1958, Canadian Tire issued its first 'funny money'.

By 1953, the Ford plant in Oakville was doing a booming business, but cars were still very expensive.

Many people could not afford to go out and eat, but for the younger set in 1956 the first A and W was founded in Winnipeg and everyone remembers the drive-ins with their friendly bell hops who delivered the orders to the car window tray.

Innovations in the 50s

Many of the following have had a great impact on our lives:

antihistamines	telephone answering machine
the Salk vaccine for polio	first commercial computer
oral contraceptives	first videotape recorder
internal pace makers	stereophonic recordings
the laser	optic fibre
60 cycle electric current	Saran wrap
power steering in cars	first microwaves (sold for \$1300.00)
radial tires	coloured kitchen appliances
the hovercraft	Velcro
the Ski Doo	Liquid paper
Mr. Potato head	AA batteries
the hula hoop	

Some Items of Interest

Hurricane Hazel struck in 1954 and Marilyn Bell swam Lake Ontario in 20 hours and 57 minutes.

Jean Axcell

60th Anniversary Chair

In the next issue of SuperTeachers I will talk about the revolutionary sixties.

'The barrier between success is not something which exists in the real world: it is composed purely and simply of doubts about ability.' ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

RWTO/OERO

M E M B E R



ALL ABOARD FOR FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

MUFFINS and MIMOSA:

Tuesday, September 15th at 10:30 a.m.

at the home of Marilyn Challice

1932 Sherbrooke St West

I look forward to welcoming any retired women teachers, who have expressed an interest in our Retired Woman Teachers of Ontario /O.E.R.O. organization, to my home at 1932 Sherbrooke Street West in Peterborough on Tuesday, September 15th at 10:30 a.m. Whether, you are from the elementary, public, separate school systems or secondary school systems we look forward to meeting you.

You will meet some of our executive who will explain a bit about WHO we are and WHAT we do.

If any of our current members know anyone who might like to join our party, please call me at 705-750-0196. I will be delighted to invite them.

Marilyn Challice

Fun and Fellowship:

Interest Groups meet Monthly: Let's Do Lunch - Book Worms - Golf - Bridge

How you can help:

- Talk it up with your friends — all the positives.
- Invite your friends to one of our activities.
- Send them a copy of this newsletter.
- Give Marilyn names and phone numbers and she will contact them.