



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario / Organisation des Enseignantes Retraitées de l'Ontario

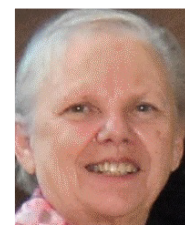
President's Message - "Making a Difference"

I saw a Charlie Brown cartoon recently that seems very appropriate. Peppermint Patty says, "What do you think teachers make?" Charlie Brown replies, "A difference! They make a difference." Sometimes Charlie Brown gets it right. Not only do we make a difference during our career years, but we continue to make a difference after we retire.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize many retired teachers who made a difference to me this year by making life more interesting, rewarding, and easier. I'm very fortunate to work with an Executive and a Board of Directors that believe in giving their best to this organization. I also want to thank our Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Gloria Drake, and our Insurance Agent, Terry Kennedy, for guidance in their fields of expertise. It has been a pleasure to get to know this entire team of exceptional ladies.

"One smile begins a friendship," according to Jerry Fuller. As I visit branches this year, I feel that I have begun several friendships. I have received many "warm fuzzies" to treasure and I hope that I have given some too. I cannot say enough about the positive experiences this job brings. It would be my wish that every RWTO/OERO member could experience it. What a wonderful organization! Unfortunately, we lose members every year as we age and it leaves us always on

the search for new members. It is an ongoing struggle to market ourselves effectively. I look forward to reading the ideas that are compiled by the Public Relations committee this year. Please send in all your suggestions.



My mother often reminded me that we should walk through life doing all the good we can for all the people we can for as long as we can. John Wesley said it first, a little differently, but the thought is the same. This year, I observed members doing just that by getting involved in projects and volunteer opportunities. I read many "Dream Project" stories that were motivated by this desire to make a difference. As part of RWTO/OERO, we can make a difference, whether by supporting existing charities, or by tackling new and innovative programs. I feel privileged to meet the dreamers who shared their stories, but, I feel equally impressed by the charitable efforts I have found happening within our branches. Creative, fun – awesome!

We sometimes think our efforts to reach out, whether in support or in invitation, don't matter. That's just not true. We don't always get to see the effect but James

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Insurance Matters

Making a difference....

As I write this article for the newsletter, I'm longing for spring. We've had a lot of snow this winter and a few days of January thaws, enough to melt the snow away such that I can see grass again, but I know that Ol' Man Winter still has an icy grip on all of us. It is in the depth of winter that we generally see a surge in claims. Falls on ice, hospitalizations due to influenza, heart attacks brought on from shovelling snow are just a few examples we hear about this time of year.

The theme of this month's newsletter, Making a Difference, got me thinking of how the RWTO/OERO Hospital & Home Care Plan and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Plan make a difference in members' lives. Most members have Extended Health & Dental benefits through RTO-ERO, OTIP or even a spousal insurance plan and, that plan provides good overall protection for members and their spouses. However, as good as those plans are, it's the little extras that they don't cover.

Those little extras are such things as paying for your mileage and parking expenses going to and coming home from hospital; covering the expenses for a television, telephone or reading materials while hospitalized and paying a benefit to you while you recover from a hospitalization...a benefit that can pay for snow shovelling or house cleaning...things you may not be able to do while you're recovering. Still other benefits enhance your other insurance. For example, while the provincial government may provide us with some nursing services through the Community Care Access Centres following a period of hospitalization, the time period for those services may not be long enough – especially if you live alone. The Home Nursing Benefit fills that gap, ensuring you can access the services of a Registered Nurse, a Practical Nurse or a Personal Support Worker when you've suffered an injury or illness. Best of all, you can claim under both insurance plans where there is duplication of benefits, thereby increasing your coverage. This is called "co-ordination of benefits" and it helps to minimize out-of-pocket expenditures. Simply submit your claim to your primary insurer (RTO-ERO, OTIP, or spousal plan)

and when you receive your claim payment from that insurer, attach your Benefit Statement to your RWTO/OERO Hospital & Home Care Plan claim form for reimbursement of the unpaid amount, to the maximum allowable under the plan.

Our insurance plan was designed with your independence in mind! It was created by retired women teachers, for retired women teachers and it changes and improves with suggestions from the members themselves. Recent improvements made to the plan came from such suggestions. We now cover Ergonomic Walking Poles (when recommended by your physician) under the Mobility Assistance Benefit; Cochlear Implants under the Hearing Aid Benefit (to the \$200 benefit maximum); and the fee for a Volunteer Canadian Cancer Society driver under the Transportation Benefit.

Many members tell me that the Hospital & Home Care Plan does make a difference to them. I truly believe it does...and for \$14.49 a month for a member (\$15.57 a month for a spouse), it's a small price to pay for the difference it makes!

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Issues and Concerns

Now that winter has passed and we look forward to spring, we can all breathe a sigh of relief that we don't have to worry about falling and breaking a leg or a hip . . . or can we? Did you know that the home is the number one hazard related to falls in seniors? Fortunately, there are several things you can do to make your home safer for you and your loved ones, not only for fall prevention but in other areas as well. Consider the following hints.

In the kitchen:

- Remove scatter rugs as they are a common cause of falls.
- If you wax your floor use a non-slip wax. This should be identified on the label.
- Turn pot handles in to prevent accidental tipping of the pot.
- Don't wear loose clothing while cooking. Hanging fabric can easily catch fire.
- Use oven mitts for handling all hot items. Remember items from the microwave are also hot.
- Keep heavy items in lower cupboards and lighter items no higher than shoulder height.
- Use a stool with a handle and rubber leg grips.

In the bedroom/bathroom:

- Keep a flashlight with extra batteries by your bedside to help you see at night when all other lights are off. Never use a candle.
- Post emergency numbers by all phones for easy access.
- To increase your safety, grab bars may be installed around the tub and toilet. A towel bar is not designed to be a grab bar.
- Home health services and supply stores can advise you on safety products such as bath stools and raised toilet seats if you need them.

In the basement:

- Adding a strip along the edge of each step in a contrasting colour makes the stairs easier to see.
- Handrails on both sides of the stairwells should project beyond the top and bottom step.
- Know how to change the fuse or reset the circuit breaker. If you are unsure about what fuse to buy take the old one to the store with you and let the clerk advise you.

In the living room:

- Electrical outlets should not be overloaded
- Do not put extension cords under carpets. This causes friction which can lead to exposed wires and fire.

Additional tips:

- It is required by law that there be one working fire alarm for each level of your home.
- By law you must also have a working carbon monoxide alarm installed in your home outside all sleeping areas if your home has either a fireplace, a fuel burning appliance or an attached garage.
- Prepare an emergency exit and escape plan in case of fire.
- A door viewer, in addition to good lighting, is a good security system because you can see the person before opening the door.
- Keep all windows and doors locked even when you are home.
- Don't open the door to anyone you are not expecting. Be confident—just say "NO!" If you have any concerns call a neighbour or the police immediately.

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President's Message - "Making a Difference", continued

Foley reminds us that if we drop a pebble in the water, it disappears but its ripples circle on and on. There is no way of telling where it will end. The same is true of kind words and actions. It takes an instant but it can grow into a welcoming wave that brings comfort. I encourage you to continue, for as long as you can,

to drop your pebble in the water. It will make a difference.

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Celebrating our Branches - Making a Difference

Area 5

York North

Although we are a small branch, the members of York North have continued to make a difference in their community through their generosity to our charity drives. At our October luncheons, when we have our bottle raffle, our members donate uniquely shaped or beautifully coloured bottles that contain such edibles as cooking oils, herbs and potables or such non-edibles as bath salts, powders or potpourri. Many members donate multiple bottles. In addition, those same members buy raffle tickets, so they can win someone else's bottle. In effect, they contribute twice. A similar "double contribution" occurs at our December luncheon when we raffle Festive Gift Baskets. Throughout the fall members donate jams, jellies and baked goods they've prepared, paperbacks they've finished reading and a myriad of notepads, tissue packets, hand lotions, napkins, etc. Our Executive then assembles and decorates the baskets. At the luncheon members, many of whom contributed to the baskets, buy raffle tickets and try to win one. On each table at our luncheons there is a Loonie/Toonie dish into which these same members contribute one, two or even more dollars. Each year the money we've collected through our members' generosity is used to support four food banks, two in North York and two in York Region. A great big THANK YOU goes to all our members.

Scarborough



The Scarborough Branch continues to support women and children in a community shelter through donations of baby supplies and toiletries. Scarborough has supported Kiwanis

for the past nine years with members purchasing Christmas cakes, almond candies and an assortment

of other goodies. Coming up, in the spring, there will be a plant sale. Members share their garden laurels with each other. As part of the Christmas season, we supported the annual Christmas party for Autism Toronto. This has been a tradition for several years and is enjoyed by the kids who come for Santa Claus, lunch and of course, a present. We also collect a mountain of toys for our local Police who distribute these to families in need. In September, we celebrated our 90+ ladies and in April, we celebrate our 80+ ladies. These are the women who have been the backbone of our branch. Scarborough remains active and vibrant!

Rendezvous

Members of RWTO/OERO in Toronto's West End may not live in their old neighbourhood in retirement. Rendezvous Branch has found ways to reach out to these women to share branch activities and projects. Our goal this year is to mail a card with a unique personal greeting, around their birthday and is in addition to other holiday cards we usually mail. A copy of the most recent newsletter is included. We often hear back from members who are unable to attend but love to read about what is happening and who is involved. We have also filled gift bags with small items and delivered them to our most elderly members. Clara Lahmer, 106, (pictured) loved the packet of chips. By reaching out to women who previously were names on a list we hope to make a difference in their lives. Meeting them and reading their reply cards is making a difference in ours.



Area 6

Blue Mountain

Blue Mountain Branch members continued to support our major "Books for Babes" project again this year. To help encourage parents to read to their children, we gave a bag of books and literacy information to

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Celebrating our Branches - Making a Difference. Continued

each of about 500 babies born at CGMH in 2017. We continue to raise funds for this project. Celebrating Canada's 150th birthday in September, we had a



speaker from Simcoe County Museum who showed unusual artifacts from earlier times in our area and had us guess what they were used for. At our November meeting, after enjoying a full turkey dinner, we heard about Christmas traditions of our members and then of traditions for different holidays throughout the world. Many members dressed in red and white to continue the 150th celebration. We continue to have a small but active walking group and book club. Although our plans for a summer picnic were rained out, we are going to try again this year.

Daisy Wilson Coldwater

The Daisy Wilson Coldwater Branch is always busy making a difference within the branch and the community.



In September we enjoyed a meeting with the Orillia Branch to welcome Ontario President Lois and our branch member Marilyn Bansi was introduced as Area Six Director. October brought us to the Café at Ste. Marie among the Hurons for Thanksgiving

lunch. History and current activities were explained. In November each of us gave a heart-warming account of our families in wartime.

Our guests from Holland related, as youngsters, how their families were affected by the war. We collected gifts for an extra-large Santa Sock to be used throughout the year at the Coldwater Nursing home. In December our traditional Christmas party highlighted Mrs. Doubtfire and her Troll who auctioned our secret gifts amid peals of laughter. We raised over six hundred dollars to buy kits for The Third World Street Kids. We also support the Food Banks in Victoria Harbour and Coldwater throughout the year. In the fall we welcomed three new members. At all of our meetings we take time to "Care and Share" because of the programs that President Helen and her executive plan.

East Parry Sound

Making a difference reminds me of the old African proverb, "If you think you're too small to make a difference, you haven't spent a night with a mosquito." One way our East Parry Sound Branch continues to be involved in our communities is by inviting interesting speakers: These included local authors, an update on our Syrian family resettlement and winner of the "Together We're Better" contest involving young children. We celebrated landmark birthdays of two amazing members, Madeleine Main who is 100 and Shirley Palmer (pictured with her RW daughter Cathy Hare) who is 90 years old. Their life lessons and experiences are truly inspirational. This year, our small branch is excited about helping in the 2018 Convention by running the Silent Auction. Being involved gives us a real perspective of the hard work all convention convenors do to make our yearly event a success. See you in June at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston!



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Celebrating our Branches - Making a Difference. Continued

Muskoka

Each year we at the Muskoka Branch of the RWTO/OERO support children abroad through Sleeping Children Around the World. This organization provides bed kits for children in need in third-world countries. We also support The Muskoka Children's Foundation. This organization helps children in our own community. We are a small group and though we don't meet often, it is a known fact that



if someone in our group needs us, we try to be there. One of our co-presidents found out how true this was with the caring response from members when she lost her mother and her husband was battling cancer. A delightful event that made a difference in one of our member's day was the attendance of several of our members at the birthday celebration of Sarah Lazara, as she remembered fond memories of her teaching days.

Orillia

"Making a Difference" has been a general theme that has guided the Orillia Branch this year. We honoured Canada's 150th birthday by donating 150 items to our local Women's Shelter. Our Tasty Treats & Crafty Creations Auction raised money for the Big Brothers, Big Sisters and we also raised money at each meeting for our local food bank with a 'Share the Wealth' draw. We also like to 'Make a Difference' with our members by providing them with new experiences and speakers that are sure to inform. At Christmas we had our



Christmas Banquet with a Photo Booth and Musical Entertainment. This Spring we are having speakers from our local Hospice Group and a Photographer Artist. Our Goodwill Committee is always busy sending cards to members who are ill and giving flowers to our shuts-ins at Christmas and Easter. Our Lunch Bunch meets once a month at local eating establishments and 'The School Belles' sing at the local Retirement and Nursing homes each Monday. The Orillia Branch continues to welcome new members and we look forward to our monthly meetings.

Area 8

Brockville

The Brockville Branch of the Retired Women Teachers is once again working to make a difference. After many years of sponsoring the literacy program "Fun with Books", our group has now turned its attention to Youth Opportunities in the Arts. This is a not-for-profit group dedicated to providing programs in music, theatre, fine arts, and literature.

The target group is aged 13 to 30 but they also include elementary ages as well. YOA provides these aspiring artists with free rehearsal space,



free expert coaching by local volunteers, performance opportunities and networking. The volunteer board is comprised of active and retired teachers from the Brockville Community. Individual donations at our Christmas luncheon as well as a matching WTA donation has given this group a tremendous boost! We all look forward to "cheering on" their spring productions!

Gananoque

For many years at our meetings we have sold 50/50 tickets to support local charities and families in need. Funds go to the local food bank, a family of a seriously

Continued ►

Celebrating our Branches - Making a Difference. Continued

ill child, Ronald McDonald House, Cancer, Alzheimer and Autism societies among many others. Also, for the past four years, we have supplied 300 new children's story books to Leeds-Grenville Interval House for their



newly established library room. This voluntary collection comes directly from members, according to their desire and ability to contribute.

Canada 150 inspired our collective gift in 2017, so we set a goal of 150 items most needed by Interval House staff. When our collection was complete, the final tally was 500! We had greatly exceeded our goal! We were thrilled! So was IH staff. Although we are a small branch, we have a big heart. Are we making a difference? Most definitely. We know we are making a big difference for many people in our communities.

Upper Canada East

On May 17th, our members joined together at St. John's United Church in Cardinal to celebrate a special year. For Canada's 150th, the tables were beautifully set with



large maple leaves and Canadian flags surrounded by colourful napkins, maple candy and antique dishes. A catered lunch, quiche and salads, and red and white ``flag waving``

cupcakes contributed to a very satisfying meal. A Canadian Trivia Quiz kept us on theme. We enjoyed remarkably talented U.C.E. members entertaining us with the history of Canadian music. A sing-a-long, piano tunes and trivia were enjoyed by all. Two exquisitely quilted 150th theme hand bags made by two members were displayed. The afternoon concluded with a special reveal of a beautifully creative Canada 150th quilted wall hanging which was displayed. The quilt viewing was the perfect conclusion to a wonderful Canada 150th event. There is nothing better than

talk, laughter and song with a group of women teacher friends.

Kingston

The Kingston Branch has had a very busy, productive fall. We had a luncheon on October 4 at Parham United Church in the hopes that more of our northern members would not always have to travel south to Kingston. It was well attended by faithful workers and we enjoyed a marvellous meal as only church ladies can provide. One of our "Caring and Sharing" initiative is to provide funds for Kingston's amazing School Museum and its wonderful programs for children run by our own retired teachers. We were privileged to have a presentation by Carol Rogers and Jim Reynolds who shared stories and artifacts from "The Good Old Days". Also, we supported our very ill president, Bonny Greavet, with an organized meal program from a local restaurant and a mani-pedi at a local spa in the way of foot care. We have plans in April to host the Gananoque and Napanee branches for a luncheon where we can meet and share provincial news with our president Lois Lockhart.

Napanee

Members of the Napanee Branch of RWTO/OERO work diligently to make a positive difference in their community. Branch members were asked by the local Business Improvement Association to participate in the Scarecrow Festival. What fun it was to work with the children doing their art activities! "Tales and Tunes for Tots" is our project which has provided two thousand eight literacy kits for newborns in Lennox & Addington county needing two hundred nine volunteer hours to assemble. At Christmas we gave a donation to the local Poverty Reduction Committee to help purchase winter boots for children in our county. Our community is being graced by beautiful pieces of pallette art. We are supporting one of our members Barbara Marlin an artist who has volunteered to create a pallette with an educational theme. Monthly breakfasts and luncheons keep members in contact. RWTO/OERO members make a definite difference volunteering in our hospital, seniors' centres, churches and for hospice.

Continued ►

Celebrating our Branches - Making a Difference. Continued

Area 10

Sudbury

We are a small, active branch - just 66 members. We celebrated the 90th birthday of long-time member Jeannine Maurice at her residence. It was a joyful



celebration attended by executive members and some of her former colleagues. Canada 150 was marked in May with a High Tea attended by many. Canadian songs, decorations, and a wine and cheese

pairing presentation by President Suzanne Rondeau was enjoyed by all. In October we had an excellent, informative presentation from the Sudbury Alzheimer's Society. We have been supporting local food banks and the Soup Kitchen for many years. Our Christmas meeting had the largest attendance ever showing that "Together we make a difference". Games, entertainment from the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra, left us all with a festive feeling. Lorraine Blais, Social Convenor, sends 540 cards to Meals on Wheels and the Blue Door Café annually so that clients will receive a Christmas greeting. Membership efforts are on-going.

Area 11

Central Algoma

In a sea of red and green outfits, our Central Algoma Branch held our usual joyous Christmas lunch complete with silent auction. The money, raised by a generous membership, funds our scholarship donations to our local secondary school, a cash allotment to our five elementary schools to support literacy, a donation to a local community library and, of course, items are always generously given to our local food banks.

We also welcomed a local speaker to talk about elder abuse. We all hope to make a difference in this area

which seems to be becoming more relevant for all of us! Above all, we try to make a difference to each member in our branch by supporting one another in times of problems or illness. We care a lot for one another - many of whom we have known throughout our careers. The very best is having fun with them, and that makes all the difference!

Sault Ste. Marie

The Sault Branch of RWTO/OERO makes a difference in the lives of our members as well as the local and global communities. We are enriched by our educational, social and fun program each year. For 2017-18, our program includes: Celebrating Canada's 150th with a buffet of Canadian foods and a singalong of Canadian songs, Meadowview Alpaca Farm and Fiber Studio visit, a

Murder Mystery luncheon, a floral arrangement demonstration, Gentle Yoga, and a hands-on lesson in Kokodama. Our Breakfast,



Book and Scrabble Clubs meet each month. We support each other through phone calls, visits, hugs, smiles, tears, cards, certificates and cookie boxes. Locally, this year, we participated in Joyful Socks (filling woolen stockings with toiletries for needy adults associated with ten social service agencies), and we contributed to A.R.C.H. (Algoma Residential Care Hospice). We supported war veterans by purchasing a Remembrance Day wreath. We contribute to Sleeping Children Around the World through collection at each meeting, personal purchase of kits, and in the name of visitors and deceased members. We are proud that the theme "Making a Difference" is reflected in all that we do.

In Memoriam

Name	City	Branch	Name	City	Branch
Adams, Lois	Restoule	East Parry Sound	Landry, Antonine	Georgetown	Lydia Snow
Algire, Ruth	Brockville	Upper Canada East			North Halton
Allison, Ethel	Essex	Windsor-Essex	Laton, Marion	Prescott	Upper Canada East
Aprile, Elaine	Scarborough	Scarborough	Livingstone, Carole	Belleville	Trenton
Badgley, Margaret	Foxboro	Belleville	Lubinsky, Anne	Ottawa	Oakville
Baillie, Audrey	Barrie	Pay Direct	Lucas, Marjorie	Belleville	Belleville
Bain, Gertrude	Kingston	Kingston	MacKinnon, Janet	Brantford	Brant
Bandey, Helen	Toronto	Rendezvous	MacLellan, Karen	St Thomas	St. Thomas-Elgin
Baskin, Rosemarie	Georgetown	Lydia Snow	Majnarich, Anne	Scarborough	Scarborough
		North Halton	Martin, Marguerite	Fergus	Guelph-Wellington
Bassett, Marion	Kimberley	Flesherton	McCauley, Mary G.	Napanee	Napanee
Beech, Lee	Cobourg	Trenton	McFarlan, Betty	Kincardine	South Bruce
Berry, Charlotte	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton	McLean, Doris Jean	Scarborough	Rendezvous
Bertrand, Barbara	Bracebridge	Muskoka	McNaughton, Frances	Essex	Windsor-Essex
Bielby, Edith	Burlington	Burlington	Mekbeb, Barbara	St Catharines	St. Catharines
Bradley, Jean	Wiaraton	Wiaraton	Mellan, Freda	Cardinal	Upper Canada East
Brightling, Helen	Listowel	Listowel	Miller, Audrey	Innisfil	York North
Brown, Alice	Brantford	Brant	Mulvenna, Patricia	Durham	Flesherton
Brownjohn, Anne	Brampton	Peel North	Noylander, Mary G.	Toronto	Rendezvous
Brush, Dorothy	Kingsville	Windsor-Essex	Nye, Maureen	Amherstburg	Windsor-Essex
Burton, Edna	Ruthven	Windsor-Essex	O'Brien, Patricia Marie	Dundas	Burlington
Cameron, Claire	St Catharines	St. Catharines	Ovenden, Marjorie	Fonthill	St. Catharines
Carnochan, Sarah	Smiths Falls	Brockville	Pellow, Margaret	Newcastle	Pay Direct
Collins, Katherine	St Catharines	St. Catharines	Phillips, Elizabeth	Scarborough	Scarborough
Craven, Sharon	Welland	Niagara South	Potts, Doris	Campbellford	Northumberland
Dearstone, Joan	Atlanta	Windsor-Essex			South Durham
Doberthien, June	Milton	Lydia Snow	Prosser-Morris, Dolores	Morrisburg	Upper Canada East
		North Halton	Redding, Joan	Stoney Creek	Hamilton-Wentworth
Elliott, June	Lucknow	South Bruce	Reid, June	Belleville	Belleville
Filce, Lois M.	Beamsville	Lincoln West	Robotham, Doris	Strathroy	London-Middlesex
Fritz, Kathleen	Whitby	St. Catharines	Roden, Heather	Virgil	Mississauga
Gibb, Jeanne	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Russell, M. Joan	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton
Gilmour, Marion	Georgetown	Lydia Snow	Rutledge, Margaret	Etobicoke	Rendezvous
		North Halton	Sanderson, Christine	Listowel	Palmerston
Goldhawk, Marilyn	Windsor	Windsor-Essex	Scott, Valerie	Sault Ste. Marie	Sault Ste. Marie
Granger, Diane	Orillia	Orillia	Semple, Jean	Owen Sound	Owen Sound
Grant, Isabel	Ottawa	Sudbury	Shannon, Mabel	Brockville	Brockville
Greeniaus, Eleanor	Dorchester	London-Middlesex	Showers, Lenore	LaSalle	Windsor-Essex
Grills, Sharon	Frankford	Trenton	Shreve, Joan	Oakville	Oakville
Hargrave, Jean	Hanover	South Bruce	Smith, Orris	Wiaraton	Wiaraton
Harrison, Dorothy	London	London-Middlesex	Snobelen, Jean	Southampton	Chatham-Kent
Heasman, Alice	Stirling	Belleville	Thorne, Olive	Burlington	Scarborough
Hesser, Mary	Fort Erie	Niagara Falls	Triolet, Olive	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
Hicks, Thelma	Kingston	Belleville	Tucker-Brumwell, Joyce	Napanee	Napanee
Houston, Bea	Palmerston	Palmerston	Tupper, Clara	London	London-Middlesex
Irvine, Margaret	Cobourg	Northumberland	Valliant, Dorothy	Ottawa	Ottawa-Carleton
		South Durham	Virtue, Margaret	London	London-Middlesex
Johns, Jean	Windsor	Windsor-Essex	Vivian, Betty	Forest	Sarnia-Lambton
Johnston, Jean	Fonthill	St. Catharines	Watson, Helen	Peterborough	Peterborough
Judd, Betty	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Webb, Elizabeth	Mississauga	Mississauga
Kearns, Eleanor	Durham	Flesherton	Wilson, Mary	Brockville	Brockville
Kenney, Eleanor	Stratford	Stratford	Wilson-Lindars, Marion	Burlington	Oakville
King, Velve	Smiths Falls	Lanark	Yoshida, Frances	Burlington	Hamilton-Wentworth
Kirkby, Marlene	Listowel	Listowel			

Archives

I continue to add material to the Provincial Archives. I was able to provide a Branch with information about some Cora Bailey recipients since I still have those on hand. If you want to visit the RWTO/OERO Archives at York University, you only need to make an appointment with the University. Thank you to all who forwarded pictures of their deceased members since February 2017. I will gladly use them during the Memorial service. Using the name of the deceased member and the name of the Funeral Home I can retrieve pictures from the website.

Hénédine Weiman
Provincial Archivist
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Program

Greetings to Area Directors and Branch Presidents! A cold and snowy winter descended upon us this year! How wonderful it was to have the warmth of our RWTO/OERO friendships and the joy of being engaged in various RWTO/OERO activities and ventures. You have all received my January Convention Bulletin. Please read it over carefully as there is very important information regarding expense claims, delegates, and more. Please see the Convention Registration Form in this issue of Connections and register as soon as you can! And please remember to book your rooms as soon as possible. I look forward to seeing you in June!

Nancy Papiez
Provincial Program Coordinator
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Goodwill

Birthday cards continue to be sent to our members 90+ years old. They also received Christmas greetings in December. Staying in touch with these women is a small way of showing gratitude and joy. The women in this group have “made a difference” and are such an inspiration to the rest of us who continue to “make a difference” for our organization, our communities and each other. I’ve already had the privilege of congratulating our 5 newest centenarians.

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Provincial Goodwill Convenor
kclark@jet2.net

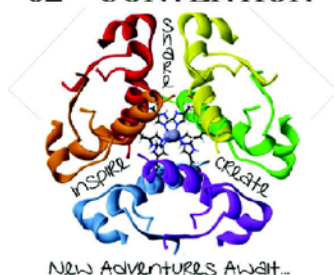


Connections



Could you receive your Provincial Newsletter “Connections” on your computer via email instead of mail? This would not only be a cost savings for RWTO/OERO but members find the online version more enjoyable.

To receive your newsletter by email, please email Gloria at: info@rwto.org or phone Gloria at (1-877) 607-6696.



New Adventures Await

Inspire • Share • Create

RWTO/OERO Convention 2018

Nottawasaga Inn Resort & Convention Centre

June 5 – 7



The Retired Women Teachers
of Ontario

Organisation des enseignantes
retraitées de l'Ontario

www.rwto.org

Name: _____
(Given Name) (Surname)

Address: _____

City: _____ (Province) (Postal Code)

Contact – Phone: _____ Branch: _____

Email Address: _____

Indicate Your Role at Convention:

_____ Provincial Board of Directors

_____ Provincial Past President

_____ Provincial Delegate (Voting)

_____ Branch Delegate (Voting)

_____ Alternate Branch Delegate

_____ Member

_____ Guest

CONVENTION REGISTRATION	COST	MY COST
Full Convention Package Early Bird Rate – by April 15 includes 3 Day Registration with all Workshops, Coffee Breaks, Hospitality Room, Tuesday Dinner, AGM Meetings, Wednesday Breakfast, Wednesday Banquet, Thursday Breakfast and Luncheon. ** Does NOT include Wednesday Tours **	\$275.00	
Full Package After April 15	\$300.00	
Workshop & Tour Descriptions	See Next Page	
Tuesday Workshops – Indicate your preference by number		
Wednesday – AGM, Breakfast, Hospitality & Banquet	\$145.00	
Thursday – AGM, Breakfast & Luncheon	\$105.00	
Tuesday – Dinner Only	\$60.00	
Wednesday – Banquet Only	\$70.00	
Thursday – Luncheon	\$40.00	
Wednesday and/or Thursday AGM Meetings Only <i>Attendance – 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.</i>	\$50.00	
Wednesday Afternoon Tour	\$50.00	
Total Enclosed (** NO Postdated Cheques)		\$

Special Requests:
Mobility (Please specify) _____

Dietary Needs: Please list your dietary needs on a separate 8½x11" page and submit with your registration form & fees.

☐ I need help finding a roommate.

Please complete the registration form, include your cheque payable to **RWTO / OERO Convention 2018** and mail to:

Mail: Pat Emmerton, Registrar
48 Boiler Beach Road
Kincardine ON N2Z 0B3

Phone: 519-396-1120
E-mail: randp@tnt21.com

Wednesday Afternoon Tours

11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Number your tour choice by priority.

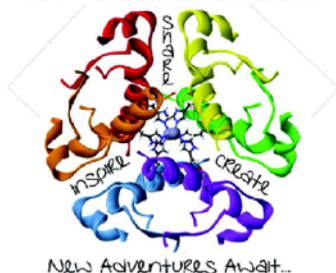
- ☐ Tour 1 – Honda Manufacturing – \$50
DEPARTS AT 12:40 P.M.
- ☐ Tour 2 – Holland Marsh Winery Tour & Tasting – \$50
- ☐ Tour 3 – Simcoe County Museum Guided Tour – \$50
- ☐ Tour 4 – Tanger Outlets – \$50

Tour Buffet Lunch at the Inn – Served at 11:30 a.m. / Board the bus for Tours 2, 3 & 4 by 1:00 p.m.

Create your own adventure, lunch is available at the Inn at own expense, preference first to those taking the bus tours.

CANCELLATION: Registration Fee Refundable less \$25 Service Fee on receipt of written notification before May 1st 2018.

I understand that I may appear in some Convention photos posted on the RWTO/OERO website or in future RWTO/OERO print newsletters.



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Nottawasaga Inn Resort & Convention Centre

June 5 – 7



The Retired Women Teachers
of Ontario

Organisation des enseignantes
retraitées de l'Ontario

Nottawasaga Inn Resort

6015 Highway 89, Alliston, Ontario

The Nottawasaga Inn is located off the 400 highway, north of Toronto & the 401 on highway 89 west of the 400 and south of Barrie.

Hotel Reservations Phone: 705-435-5501 or 1-800-669-5501. Ask for the **GROUP REGISTRATION DESK** and refer to the RWTO/OERO Convention 2018, June 5–7. Check-in is 4:00 p.m.

Make your own reservations. Room rate is \$169.00 plus 13% HST single or double per day. Rooms are **not included** in the Full Convention Package.

If arriving before check-in, registration will be in the foyer beginning at 11:00 a.m. Silent Auction items will be accepted in Room 10B. Restaurants are available on the Main Floor of the Inn.

Check Out is 12:00 p.m. Thursday, June 7.

Remember cancellations of rooms **not needed** must be made 30 days before the Convention (May 5, 2018).

Anyone who does not show up or who has not cancelled by May 5th, will be charged in full on June 5th.

Call Sharron Colter if there are extenuating circumstances requiring you to cancel your room after May 5th.

Hosted by volunteers from Area 1, Beaver Valley, Dundalk-Highpoint, Flesherton, Owen Sound, Wiarton, South Bruce & East Parry Sound from Area 6.

Convenors

Sharron Colter – 519-793-3473

dshcolter@eastlink.ca

Nancy Strutt – 519-986-3359

gnstrutt@bmts.com

New Adventures Await

Inspire • Share • Create

Tour #1 – Honda Manufacturing, Alliston. 12:40-2:00 p.m. 1 hour walking tour. Must be able to walk 1.5km & climb stairs. Closed toe shoes and long pants required. Must possess Government issued identification. Cost \$50.00 includes Lunch Buffet and busing. **(Limit of 20)**

Tour #2 – Holland Marsh Winery Tour & Tasting – Guests explore grounds & vineyard, production area while learning about wine-making. Then enjoy a guided tour and a tasting of six of their hand-crafted wines. Cost \$50.00 includes Lunch Buffet, busing and Tour & Tasting. **(Limit of 46)**

Tour #3 – Simcoe County Museum – Enjoy a guided tour of the museum to learn about the local history and to view artifacts of Simcoe County. Cost \$50.00 includes Lunch Buffet, busing and Admission Fee. **(Limit of 46)**

Tour #4 – Tanger Outlets, Cookstown. A fully enclosed shopping mall that features many well known retailers at outlet prices. Cost \$50.00 includes Lunch Buffet and busing. **(Limit of 46)**

Convention Workshops

Tuesday, June 5th – 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Workshop #1 – Treasurer's Workshop

Leader – Gloria Drake, Provincial Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

Workshop #2 – Branch Website

Leader – Kathy Gallagher, Provincial Communications Website Convenor.

Workshop #3 – Health, Wellness and Song

Leader – Jackie Ralph, Youth Co-ordinator with the Canadian Mental Health Association, Owen Sound area. "How is your health today?"

Workshop #4 – Belly Dance for Exercise

Leader – Anne Cameron, Treasurer for the Kitchener-Waterloo Branch.

Share your ideas and create a list for fundraising activities on the easel located in the foyer outside the AGM meeting room.

Create a list of program speakers on the easel located in the foyer outside the AGM meeting room.

Create your own adventure. Lunch at your own expense on Wednesday.

- Golf • Shop the Silent Auction • Walk the trails
- Swim • Visit the Fitness Centre • Visit the Spa
- Shop downtown Alliston or Tanger Mall or Country Concessions

Convention 2018 Resolutions

As 1st Vice-President of RWTO/OERO, I have submitted three resolutions for the Annual General Meeting 2018 that were received by November 15, 2017. There were no resolutions received from the branches. Please read these resolutions and discuss them within your branch.

As the Co-convenor with Nancy Strutt of the RWTO/OERO 62nd Convention to be held in Alliston, Ontario on June 5 to June 7, 2018, I want to thank the volunteer Convention Planning Committee members from Area 1 Branches including Beaver Valley, Dundalk-Highpoint, Flesherton, Owen Sound, South Bruce and Wiarton

and East Parry Sound from Area 6 for planning and organizing a fun Convention. Please join the committee in Alliston in June and celebrate the strengths of your provincial organization for the betterment of the quality of life for retired women teachers and their communities. Send in your Registration form included in this March issue of Connections.

Sharron Colter
RWTO/OERO 1st Vice-President
Co-convenor of Convention 2018



Convention 2018 Resolutions

Constitution and Resolution Committee Draft Report Sept. 2017 Suggested Resolutions for 2017 – 2018 to be presented at Convention 2018. Draft revised September 2017 Board of Directors Meeting

Board Resolution #1

See Constitution 2017, Article III – Membership and Fees, 3. Life Membership, b and c.

Be it resolved that Article III – Membership and Fees, 3. Life Membership lettering order be changed from “c to b” and “b to c.”

Rationale:

The Branch Executive approves the designation to Life Member in Article III Membership and Fees, 3. Life Member, part a.

Changing the lettering order clarifies a difference related to Life Membership before turning 100 and upon turning 100.

Resolution #2

Be it resolved that Article III –Membership and Fees, 3. Life Member c be amended to read, “A member who reaches the age of 100 shall be invited by the Provincial Goodwill Convenor to become a Life Member and shall no longer be required to pay membership fees as of September following her one hundredth birthday.”

Rationale:

Once a member turns 100, she is invited by the Provincial Goodwill Convenor to become a Life Member after her 100th birthday and shall no longer pay membership fees as of the September following her 100th birthday.

The designation of Life Member, after a member turns 100, does not depend on the approval of the branch but would be acknowledged by the branch.

The member decides if she will accept the Life Member designation upon her 100th birthday or continue to pay fees.

Board Resolution #3

See Constitution 2017, Article IS - Branch Organization.

Be it resolved that Article IS, – Branch Organization be amended with the addition of item #9. “The organization of a new RWTO/OERO Branch shall be assisted by the Area Director, the Provincial President and/or the Provincial Membership Convenor as the need arises when the new RWTO/ERO Branch is being formed.

Rationale:

In 2017, the branches received \$300.00 for the three R’s of membership, recruitment, retention and recognition to build membership. There are many geographical areas in Ontario that do not have RWTO/OERO Branches. As our membership ages, it is important for Area Directors and branches to be aware of the areas in Ontario that could recruit retired women teaches and establish a new RWTO/OERO Branch in that area.

Continued ►

Convention 2018 Resolutions - continued

There is a need to assist with the growth of membership through additional RWTO/OERO branches in areas in Ontario that do not have a Retired Women Teachers of Ontario/ Organisation des Enseignantes Retraitees de l'Ontario. Smaller more local branches in Ontario may assist with recruitment of new members. Goderich and Blyth Areas, Alliston, Tobermory, Walkerton, Hanover and Manitoulin Island are some of the more rural areas that do not have RWTO/OERO Branches.

Since driving distances to programs and luncheons continue to become a challenge for the membership, having smaller RWTO/OERO Branches located in less populated rural geographical areas and a distance from current branches, may help increase membership.

Sharron Colter photo
1st Vice President
dshcolter@eastlink.ca



RWTO Website Communication Convenor



Check for :



About Tab- Executive List- is it up to date ?

Events Tab- Upcoming Events- 2018 Events-Are they online?

Gallery Tab- Photos from 2017-2018 activities

Newsletter Tab- Most recent online

Membership Tab- Instructions on how to sign up?

An easy way to have updates done, use the website created just for Communications Convenors at this URL: { HYPERLINK "https://rwtocc.weebly.com/" }

How Volunteerism Can Help Seniors



So many benefits can be derived from being a volunteer. For seniors, the benefits increase, since seniors, more than any other age group, tend to have more time. This is especially true for seniors who are retired and their families are not with them 24/7. Their unique skills and experiences are invaluable to the community.

Volunteering is the time you give to strengthen your community and improve others' quality of life as well as your own. There are so many ways to be involved in the community that:

- Speak to your passion
- Suit your personality
- Meet your interests
- Build on your experiences
- Fit into your lifestyle
- Contribute to your health and well being
- less decline in health due to aging
- increases in physical activity
- more engagement in the community
- an increase in their number of friends
- feeling their life is improving
- improvements in memory

Volunteerism among seniors provides the following benefits, among others:

- a lower risk of depression
- fewer physical limitations

National Volunteer Week is April 15-21. This is when we can all take time to recognize volunteers and celebrate the power of volunteerism in our community.

A peek into our future... *From a recent interview with the MD of Mercedes Benz.*



Health Watson, a question answering computer system, already helps nurses diagnosing cancer, four times more accurate than human nurses. Facebook now has a pattern recognition software that can recognize faces better than humans. In 2030, computers could become more

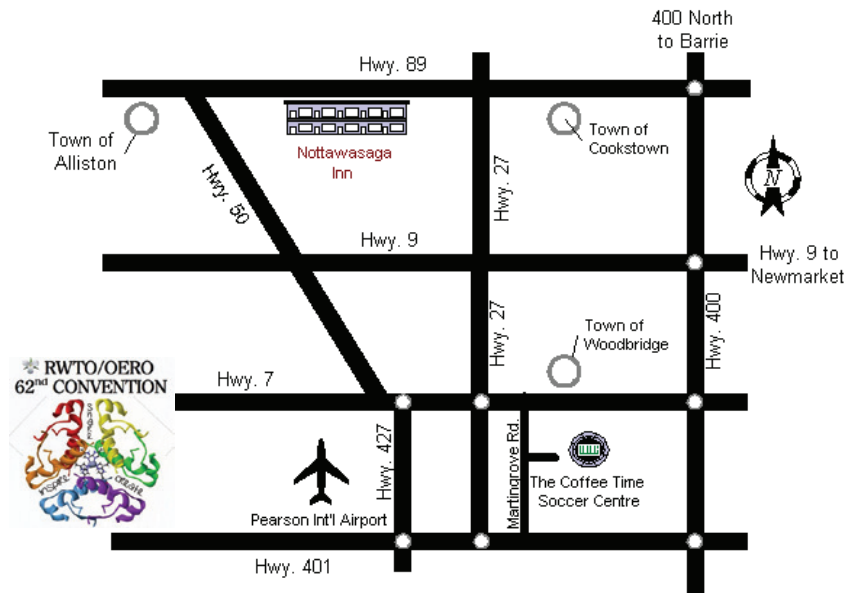
intelligent than humans. The Tricorder X price will be announced later this year and there are companies who will build the medical device (called the "Tricorder" from Star Trek) that works with your phone, which takes your retina scan, your blood sample and you also breathe into it. It then analyzes 54 biomarkers that will identify nearly any disease. It will be cheap, so in a few years everyone on this planet will have access to world class medical analysis, almost for free.

3D printing: The price of the cheapest 3D printer came down from \$18,000 to \$400 within 10 years. In the same time, it became 100 times faster. All major shoe companies have already started 3D printing shoes.

Some spare airplane parts are already 3D printed in remote airports. The space station now has a printer that eliminates the need for the large amount of spare parts they used to have in the past. At the end of this year, new smart phones will have 3D scanning possibilities. You can then 3D scan your feet and print your perfect shoe at home. In China, they have already 3D printed and built a complete 6-storey office building. By 2027, 10% of everything that's being produced will be 3D printed.

Education: The cheapest smart phones are already at \$10 in Africa and Asia. By 2020, 70% of all humans will own a smart phone. That means, everyone has the same access to world class education. Every child can use Khan academy for everything a child needs to learn at school in First World countries. There have already been releases of software in Indonesia and soon there will be releases in Arabic, Suaheli and Chinese this summer. I can see enormous potential if we give the English app for free, so that children in Africa and everywhere else can become fluent in English and that could happen within half a year.

“New Adventures Await.”



RWTO/OERO

RWTO/OERO Provincial Office
19730 Four Rod Road.,
Blenheim, ON N0P 1A0

**PM Agreement
40739021**