



WELCOME BACK! At the Sept.10th meeting, President Carol Coutu welcomed everyone back to another year of **caring, sharing and having fun.**

We began with a fun “meet and greet” activity designed by Bernice. Each member had to find another person in the room who enjoyed each of the listed activities such as cooking, gardening, belly dancing, etc. Then Gerry asked members to try to identify people in old photos, and many were named. These activities got the hall abuzz with interaction!

Sandy Fulcher, Area Director, installed the executive officers for our branch and committee chairs were introduced.



Right to Left: Carol Coutu, President, Sandy Fulcher, Area Director and Treasurer, Rita Wagner, 1st V.P., Sherrill Dewar, Past President, Carol McFarlane, Secretary, Lorraine DeFazio, Member at Large, Josie Vallee, Goodwill, Bev Brazeau, Insurance and Paula Harrison, Issues and Concerns. Behind Sherrill is Gerry Yeo, Social Committee Chair and Archivist. Not pictured: Bernice Whalen, 2nd V.P. and Brenda Gallander, Recruitment and Newsletter

Members enjoyed themselves. Right to Left: Roseanne L., Sheila M., Betty C., Sandy P., and Marg C.

Re. Interest Groups: Signup sheets were made available for members interested in joining or forming interest groups.

In Memoriam: Marg Lake passed away on July 24, 2014. We remember her as a wife, mother, teacher and fun loving friend. Kay Arbour passed away in Newfoundland on June 5, 2014.



OCTOBER 22ND WAS OUR JOINT MEETING WITH OUR CENTRAL ALGOMA SISTERS AT SOWERBY HALL. We hosted Provincial President Marilyn Emmett and Insurance Convener Bertha Breen. Each branch treated Marilyn to a creative introduction featuring singing and costumes. The executive of our Sault Branch a.k.a. the Sault's Gold Diggers were clad in mining hard hats and gold beads. We sang and gestured a song for Marilyn with lyrics written by Bernice to tell about Marilyn's background in South Porcupine, her years as a teacher in St. Catherine's and her position now as president. Marilyn loved it! Then two black suited, white gloved teachers from Central Algoma danced to an adaptation of Michael Jackson's song "Beat It" called "M-ett". It was lots of fun and Marilyn was very touched by the greetings. Marilyn read a poem to us entitled "Special and Wonderful Is Who You Are" because she found our branches are truly about sharing, caring and having fun.



Carol showed souvenirs of Marilyn's home town such as: golden nuggets, a miniature head frame and a high school year book etc.



Our executive, a.k.a. The Sault's Gold Diggers, sang "There is President in Town" to the tune of "There is a Tavern in the Town".



Two Central Algoma retirees, Ruth J. (left) and Mary Jane T. (right), "moon walked" to the words of "M-ett".



Our V.I.P.s, Bertha B., Carol C. Kathy G., Sandy F. and Marilyn E. posed for a photo together.



Some of us visited the 12-sided barn adjacent to the Sowerby Hall. It was very interesting!



Carmen C. and Brenda G. checked out goods at Timberland Clothing and Gifts in Thessalon.

Regarding the **ad hoc committee** which addresses the issue of expanding our membership, Marilyn encouraged everyone to contact Peggy Stock at (peggystock@gmail.com) or 705-386-2274 with their opinions by April 20, 2015. She informed us that there is no northern representation on the Ad Hoc committee because no one from the north sent a name to her.

Marilyn reminded us that **resolutions for Convention 2015** have to be sent in to provincial by Nov. 15th to be ready for the March edition of the Connections newsletter. When the report is presented at Convention, an 80% majority in favour is required for resolutions to be changed.

Regarding **anti spam legislation**, Marilyn told us that members can unsubscribe to the emails sent from provincial.

Bertha Breem, Insurance Convener, gave examples of how she personally has made use of the **RWTO insurance** and why she is a firm believer in having the coverage. **New enhancements to the plan** include:

1. Oxygen--C-Pap machines and accessories up to \$300 per year.
2. Cataract surgery testing \$100 per year
3. Transportation benefit includes parking fees up to \$300 per injury.
4. Assistive devices such as bedrails, commodes, etc. \$100 per purchase or rental
5. For more information about this insurance, you may contact Bev Brazeau locally at 705-949-0266 or at ourplace86@shaw.ca.

After the meeting adjourned, many of our branch members visited the 12-sided barn adjacent to Sowerby Hall and then on the way back home we browsed and/or shopped at craft and antique stores along the way in Thessalon and Bruce Mines. It was a full, informative, fun-filled fall day!!



On December 3rd, we met at the United Baptist Church on Malabar to celebrate the Christmas season together.

New member: Rachel Robitaille received her R.W.T.O. pin. Welcome to the unit, Rachel!

We played Christmas trivia pair-share led by Bernice and then enjoyed a delicious pizza luncheon organized by Gerry. From the Christmas cookies we all brought to share, Josie assembled tins of cookies for shut-in members and a table of goodies for the rest of us to enjoy as dessert. There were so many cookies, we all left with a plate of them to take home.



Josie packed tins of cookies for shut-in members.



In the business part of the meeting, we reviewed our charitable project entitled “Sleeping Children Around the World”. Initiated by Iva Beaton in 1971, S.C.A.T.W. is an ongoing project of the Sault Ste. Marie branch of R.W.T.O. From 1971 to 2014, our unit has donated 129 bed kits. At \$35 a kit, a bed kit consists of: a mosquito net, a plastic mat, a blanket, a pillow, a pillow case, a bath towel, a reusable bag, slippers, a raincoat, a t-shirt, shorts, flip flops, a toothbrush, a school bag, notebooks, an art set, pencils, a sharpener, ball point pens, a plastic envelope, note pads, a lunch box and a tumbler.

100% of a donation reaches a child through a bed kit, and our unit receives a photo of the child receiving the kit. Kits are purchased in memory of our members, to honour guest visitors, and as tokens of appreciation for guest presentations. We have a donation jar available at every meeting for members to use if they wish; donations are totally voluntary, not required or expected.



We received a thank you letter from Gayle Manley, President of the Sault Ste. Marie Zonta Club. At the joint meeting in October, both units gave a donation to one of Zonta’s projects called “Days for Girls”. This project involves sewing hygiene kits for girls in Nicaragua and Kenya. Kits were delivered last spring to Nicaragua by some of the Sault College Nursing students, and will be delivered to that country again this spring along with lessons in how to use the kits. Also a delegation from Sault College will be travelling to Kenya this spring on a Me to We volunteer trip and will deliver kits to that country as well. Thank you to Sandy Fulcher for donating fabric and to Lorraine de Fazio and Bernice Whalen for helping at the sewing bee at Sault College on November 15th.



Bernice and Lorraine shared their time and talents at the Sault College/

Zonta Sewing Bee at Sault College on November 15th.



Reminders:

1. Local R.W.T.O. members meet for breakfast or just coffee every 2nd Friday at 9 a.m. at Gino's Restaurant, 1076 Great Northern Road. Drop by and join the group!
2. Our book club meets the 3rd or 4th week of each month except July and August. If interested in joining us, contact Brenda Gallander at 705-949-9145 or gallanb@shaw.ca
3. Our next luncheon meeting will be on Wed., Feb.11th, 2015, at 11 a.m. at the United Baptist Church at 41 Malabar. Myril Lynn will return to teach more beadwork (\$5.00), and we will have board games going on as well as a chit chat visit corner.
4. Contact President Carol Coutu with concerns or ideas at 705-759-8633 or at cacoutu18@hotmail.com.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! BEST WISHES FOR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS IN 2015!