



## THE SCRIBBLER

SAULT STE. MARIE R.W.T.O. NEWSLETTER FALL 2016 and WINTER 2016-2017

SHARING      CARING      HAVING FUN

### **President's Message January 2017**

Well "Old Man Winter" certainly let us know his presence this year! They say that snow is a blanket of warmth for the earth, protecting all those bulbs and seedlings for the onset of spring. Hopefully, all our sisters are using this time to stay well and have a hot cup of tea, coffee or hot chocolate with a friend. It certainly is a great time to reacquaint ourselves with some of our favourite authors.

Our February meeting is quickly approaching. We are excited to have Kathy Greening and three of our talented elves ready to do card making with us. Just think, at the end of the session we will walk out with three beautiful handcrafted cards as well as having had the opportunity to visit and mix with our RWTO sisters. Do remember to bring a baby picture in an envelope with your name on the back. Do not share this picture with others. I will need these pictures until the April general meeting where we will don a community hat as adopted grandmothers with a special day devoted to " Babies, Babies, Babies!"

My deepest apology for cancelling our special event of "String Along with Me" in January. It was with a heavy heart that I needed to do this, as I have a step daughter who is terminally ill making the road very unpredictable. Hopefully we can resurrect this fun gathering sometime in the future when life is on a more even keel. I do appreciate the understanding and compassion of the executive team in supporting the cancellation and the understanding of the members. To cancel anything to which I am committed is indeed a difficult task, but we have all had those types of challenges throughout our lives.

The convention this year is in Ajax on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>. You have the preliminary information in your November Connections magazine. There is more information to come in the March edition.

Do be on the lookout as it promises to be a wonderful gathering with our sisters across the province. During that convention, highlighted will be women who have followed their dream in retirement.

Have you set upon a new adventure upon retirement? Currently with the time restraints of work removed so many of us have the freedom to pursue our dreams to volunteer, to explore, or to share a talent.

Please email or mail your story to our president, Peggy Stock. The details are in the November Connections magazine. Take time to celebrate you! Many of you make such a difference in our community.

Sending warm thoughts your way and looking forward to celebrating our friendship at the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Hope to see you there!

*Bernice Whalen*

Area 11 Sault Ste. Marie Unit President

## **WELCOME BACK GENERAL MEETING**

**On September 28, 2016, we met and shared warm summer reflections and enjoyed a tasty potluck luncheon provided by our Executive. An overview of the year ahead was given by the President Bernice W. and Sandy F. collected membership dues.**

**An informative presentation was made by two members of Zonta, Dorothy Motluck and Hilda Odom, on the symptoms of Ovarian Cancer and the need for research into this disease. Our branch made a \$50 donation to Ovarian Cancer Canada.**



**Brenda O. (right) thanked our guest speakers Dorothy M. (left) and Hilda O. (centre)**

## **AN AMAZINGLY SUNNY DAY at the CORN MAZE on WED., OCT.19<sup>th</sup>**

**Upon arrival at Mockingbird Farm, we dined in the rugged log cabin on our bag lunches and a delicious pumpkin cake baked by Bernice. We then visited the old, white church filled with pumpkins, gourds and cornstalks. Bernice gave us clues with which we searched the church to find bags of candy corn. We brave souls then set off through the corn maze in two teams, each starting from a different entrance point. It was challenging yet lots of fun walking amongst the tall corn stalks following a page of clues set out by Farmer Bob. Despite the previous rainy weather, the sun shone this day and the paths through the maze were dry except for a couple of muddy patches. We all emerged from the maze in good time! Some of us stayed a while longer at the farm visiting the animals in the barn and out on the grounds. We really enjoyed participating in these activities together!**



**This was the team which got through the maze the fastest! It consisted of the following ladies from left to right: Carol McF., Diane M., Bev B., Brenda O., Bernice W. and Rita W. Congratulations, ladies!**



**Not too far behind was this team which consisted of the following members from left to right: Gerri Y., Carmen C., Brenda G., Carol Ch., Lorraine D. and Paula H.**

*CHRISTMAS SPIRIT GET-  
TOGETHER NOVEMBER 22,  
2016*

**After the Presidents' Welcome, Bernice conducted a fun ice-breaker in which we each could ask three questions of others to discover the name of the holiday word on each of our backs. Examples of words include: Mrs. Claus, Rudolph, Scrooge, Christmas tree and Grinch. We then exchanged pretty Christmas tree ornaments which we had purchased or made by hand.**

**Following the business part of the meeting and a delicious buffet lunch, we joyously sang carols led by Carol C. and accompanied by Frank Musso on his keyboard.**



**Margie C. tied a festive homemade ribbon and bird corsage on Bernice's wrist.**



**Carol C. led us in song while Frank M. accompanied us on his keyboard.**



**Bernice (left) and Brenda (right) were two of several members who got up and danced to the music.**



**Marilyn C. and Pat P. dressed festively enjoyed time to chat.**

**Each member donated a dozen and a half of cookies as we do each year. Josie V. and her helpers boxed cookies for shut-in members; then those in attendance enjoyed the rest of the cookies for dessert.**



## **OUR CHARITY: SLEEPING CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD**

The R.W.T.O. Sault Ste. Marie Branch's Charity Project since 1971 has been Sleeping Children Around the World ( S.C.A.W.). It was initiated by Ivy Beaton, one of our founding members.

S.C.A.W. is a 100% Charity Organization operated totally by volunteers performing all functions from processing the donations to distributing the bed kits. All the administrative costs are covered by a legacy account which was set up by the founder Murray Dryden in 1970. No money or funds are received or requested from any level of government.

The bed kits have changed over the years to address needs of an area or country—mosquito nets being one such item. Nets are now included in all the kits being distributed to areas where there is a high prevalence of malaria. Also, many more school items and personal items such as nail clippers and water bottles have been included.

To date worldwide, 1 461 873 bed kits have been distributed. The Sault Ste. Marie Branch has provided 143 of these between 1971 and 2016.

Our bed kits have been donated to remember our deceased members, to honour members and to appreciate their contributions to our programs and events and to support the charity.

In 2016, there were six bed kits purchased for the following reasons: one to appreciate Mary Madonna's gift of music, one for each of our deceased members Mary Kidd and Margaret Siltala, two to support the charity and one purchased by a member as a Christmas gift to her family.

If you wish more information you may contact: { [HYPERLINK "http://www.scaaw.org"](http://www.scaaw.org) } or write to 28 Pinehurst Crescent, Toronto, Ontario M9A 3A5.

Many thanks to the members who continuously donate money to the S.C.A.W. jar available at every R.W.T.O. meeting. They make this, our charity Project, possible!

Submitted by Sandy F.

#### GOODWILL

Locally our members support and focus on the key goals of "Caring, Sharing and Having Fun". Through Goodwill, we try to fulfil the "Caring" aspect of these goals.

We send cards to members who require support due to illness or family situations and send celebratory cards in recognition of special milestone birthdays or other special events.

At Christmas, we are grateful to members who contribute cookies to fill boxes that are delivered to shut-ins or those living in Retirement Residences and are unable to bake. Members receiving the boxes enjoy the cookies and the visit when they are delivered.

As a "caring" group, we don't want to miss anyone who should be visited or should be sent a card or token of remembrance. Your help is needed so no one is missed. Please send an email or phone if you know a member needing some support.

Submitted by: Josie V., Goodwill Convener jrvallee@shaw.ca 705-945-8762

### *Area 11 R.W.T.O. Director's Report*

I will be completing my term of office as your Director at the 2017 R.W.T.O./O.E.R.O. Convention in June held at the Ajax convention Centre.

It has been my delight and my privilege to have served as your representative for Area 11 comprising Sault Ste. Marie and Central Algoma Branches.

I will be attending the Board of Directors' Meeting in May in Guelph as well as the convention in Ajax.

My replacement beginning after the June 2017 convention will be Joyce Ratz from Central Algoma R.W.T.O. She will be the Director for Area 11 for either two or four years, serving one term or two terms as she pleases.

After Joyce Ratz's term, the position will come back to Sault Ste. Marie. I hope that at that time someone from our branch will take over this position. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn all about our organization, how it works and operates to serve and to look after the needs of retired women teachers.

Thank you for your support and commitment to me.

Submitted by Sandy F.

## **INSURANCE UPDATE**

If you are planning to travel outside the province this fall and winter remember to take with you any travel insurance documents such as the travel insurance document card issued by your primary insurer. If you become ill while travelling out of province/country, you must contact the travel assistance company right away. Usually emergency contact numbers will be listed on the back of the wallet card provided by your primary insurer. Failure to contact them could result in a declination of your claim.

*The RWTO/OERO Hospital and Home Care Insurance Plan is separate from your travel insurance and is not intended to replace health or travel insurance provided by your primary insurer.*

However if you require hospitalization while away, you can have your family physician complete a Hospital and Home Care Insurance claims form upon your return home and you will be eligible to claim those benefits covered by the RWTO/OERO Hospital and Home Care Insurance Plan. Keep any receipts that might apply.

And remember too, you can purchase extension or top-up travel insurance coverage through RWTO and Can Am. Simply call 1-888-326-3535 and speak with a travel insurance advisor. Again, this is a service offered by the insurance company but is not related to the Hospital and Home Care Insurance Plan.

Submitted by Bev. B.

### **Calling for Cora Bailey Award Nomination(s)**

The Cora Bailey Award is a Provincial Award, presented to a Branch member who has contributed outstanding service to her Branch. If you have the name of a member whom you would like to nominate for this award, please give the name to our president at the February 15<sup>th</sup> general meeting.

## CLUBS AND GROUPS REMINDERS

- 1.) The Breakfast club meets every second Friday morning at **Breakfast Group**: If you are an early riser and would like to join us for breakfast or coffee before you start your day, meet us at Gino's Restaurant, 1076 Great Northern Road, the second Friday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
  
- 2.) **Book Club**: This group meets once a month to discuss books of interest which we select. We take turns hosting the meetings in our homes and try to provide foods that are relevant to the setting of the novels. Contact Brenda G. at { HYPERLINK "mailto:gallanb@shaw.ca" \t "\_blank" } or 705-949-9145 if you are interested in joining.
  
- 3.) **Scrabble Club**: Our Scrabble Club meets the second Friday of every month at 1 p.m. Currently, we have five members who meet at a member's apartment, but should the group enlarge, we will move our location or split into two groups. Contact Brenda G. at { HYPERLINK "mailto:gallanb@shaw.ca" \t "\_blank" } or 705-949-9145 if you would like to join.

## SAULT STE. MARIE BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE MEDIA

Look for announcements of our branch's upcoming general meetings and special events in the Sault Star Three- Day Planner, Sault This Week and SOO TODAY under Classified Ads –Special Events. Announcements usually are

printed one week prior to the actual meeting dates. We work to keep the community aware that we are an active, exciting group of retired teachers.

## **OUR WEBPAGE**

**For more photographs of our activities plus other exciting news, we encourage you to check out our webpage which was revamped over the summer.**

- 1.) Google RWTO.org, 2.) Click on Branch News, 3.) Click on Area 11, and 4.) Click on Sault Ste. Marie.**

**WISHES FOR GOOD FORTUNE, HARMONY,  
HAPPINESS AND LONGEVITY IN THE YEAR OF  
THE ROOSTER!**

