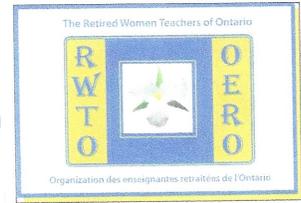


The Scoop

RWTO Newsletter
Chatham Kent Branch Spring 2013
Donna Easter Editor deaster5@cogeco.ca



Caring and Sharing



R&M Restoration Tour May 15

Twenty two ladies enjoyed the spring outing tour of the R & M Restoration Museum in May. Our tour guide, Michael Matteis, shared interesting information about the many vehicles at the museum. From the car with the hidden headlights, which are revealed with a hand crank, to the gas headlights that needed to be opened to be lit, to the private coach - a precursor to today's RVs - to the collection of motorcycles; each vehicle had a story. The longest Cadillac, Edsel Ford's personal car, vehicles from Europe as well as North America and an army motorcycle with sidecar were just some of the vehicles admired by all. Specialty cars like the "General Lee" reminded us of bygone days of television. Several ladies had their photo taken in the "Flintmobile" while others were intrigued by an early house trailer. Our members were all of one accord - that they would want to parallel park these cars due to their size.

Following the tour, a delicious lunch was enjoyed at the Churrascaria.



Our President for 2013-2014: Jane Cartier



We are pleased to announce that Jane has agreed to continue on as President of our group for another year. She has been instrumental in initiating our book sales and is tireless in her work with our members. Jane hosts executive meetings at her home and always has the coffee and tea as well as a scrumptious snack ready for the executive members at 9:30 am on meeting days. Perfect timing for sure. Jane is a very busy lady and we are lucky to have her lead our group again.

Happy 100th Birthday, Mary!

Here is a photo of Mary Childs with Jean Elliott. The flowers were presented to Mary from RWTO on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Thank you to JoAnne Chrysler, our membership convenor, for making this presentation.



Insurance Matters!

In January 2013, those members with the Hospital & Home Care Plan would have received a promotional brochure that contained a card along with their income tax receipt. By visiting a practitioner in the network as a Manulife customer, policyholders can realize the following savings:

- Up to 20% off the cost of prescription eye wear which includes frames, lenses and contact lenses;
- Up to 50% off the cost of contact lenses purchased through PVS' Home Delivery Service Provider;
- Up to 10% off the cost of hearing aids.

This is a discounting service - not a Vision Care benefit. Members benefit by realizing a cost-savings if they visit a Vision or Hearing practitioner within the PVS network

Members need to visit the PVS website www.pvs.ca. When going to this site you will find a button "Search for a Vision Practitioner" and "Search for a Hearing Practitioner". You then click on either button. Then you are asked to insert your postal code. The PVS system will then tell you what providers are available in your area. When going to the practitioner in the network remember to bring your card. It is the card that grants you the discount.

The Editor's Line of Sight

In a world of challenges and adventures, one of the most all-encompassing dilemmas I have ever encountered was becoming a widow at the age of 61.



There are many ways to lose your life partner. Death can occur quickly and unexpectedly or it can creep up on you slowly over months and years. Trust me when I tell you that the knowledge that death is coming, and sooner than you expected it, does not prepare you for the absence of that loved one.

Many people may think it is easier having what some see as advance notice of a coming death due to illness. They reason that this allows you to recover from your grief faster somehow. That does not happen. The searing realization that your kindred spirit no longer exists still hits you like a ton of bricks and you honestly cannot believe they are gone forever. Even months after your loss, the events of your loved one's illness and death surprise you. It has been six months since Jim's death and there are days when I still can't believe he is gone.

Many of us in this group have, unfortunately, experienced the death of a loved one. Supporting our friends during this life-changing time is important. People who have experienced this level of loss will understand deeply the hurt and the healing process which needs to happen in the months and years that follow such a cataclysmic, life-altering event.

These are some things that I learned this year from my friends who helped me tremendously. If you have someone who is working through grief and you want to ease their pain, you may want to start by trying the following things:

1. Give them your information so they can reach you when they are ready. Add a note to your sympathy card which includes your phone, text number and e mail. Sometimes it is easier to type your feelings than to talk on the phone. Your friend will need to reach out in her own good time.
2. Consider sharing a book title that may be of help. There are many books on grief that can be Googled and purchased on Amazon. Two titles that come to mind are: Travelling Through Grief, and Saturday Night Widows.
3. Allow your friend to have space to grieve alone, but don't hesitate to call her and invite her for a quick lunch or shopping venture. Don't give up on her if she turns you down a few times or cancels plans at the last minute. It is often difficult to make plans and keep commitments when you are suffering from a loss.
4. Be available, be a listener, be positive, be hopeful, and above all, be a loving friend.

Thanks to those who have been there for me this year.

DONNA



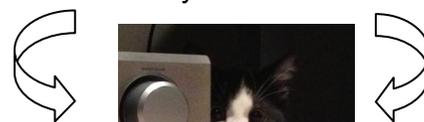
Have You Ever Thought About?

- ⇒ Calling the Kent Chapter of the OSPCA to inquire about volunteering some time?
Phone: (519) 354-1713
Fax: (519) 354-1716
Email: kent@ospca.on.ca
- ⇒ Taking some food to the shelter on Park Street for the animals?
- ⇒ Adopting a new pet?
- ⇒ Working to get a new shelter built?
- ⇒ Fundraising for the shelter?
- ⇒ Assisting an animal in distress?

Try it, you'll like it!



This is my shelter kitten!



Louie



Hamilton 2013 Annual Convention

Our representatives this year were Jane Cartier, Edna Madill, and Sharon Nicholson. Many other members attended as well to enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow retired colleagues in a beautiful and relaxed setting. A detailed report will be included in the Fall Newsletter.



Marg

Meet Our Decorating Committee

Marg Mazurek and Sue McIntyre have been tireless in their pursuit of colourful, crafty décor for our four luncheons during the year. They not only plan these fun items, make them and then distribute them on "meeting" days—they have a lot of fun doing it. Their enthusiasm, their combined laughter, and their genuine sense of caring have been contagious. It is the attitude, shared by these two friends, that personifies the feeling our group projects to everyone during our general meetings as well as our executive meetings. Many thanks to Marg and Sue.



Sue

Our Ticket Ladies

Thanks to Lila Carroll and Gayle McLandress who greet guests and members at all of our events.



Meet our Members

Ruth Anne Reid and Jean Gibb enjoy hospitality time before our Christmas meeting



RWTO Chatham Kent Branch Spring Meeting

We held our most recent meeting on Wednesday, April 24th at Charing Cross United Church. As usual, the food was fantastic and our members enjoyed a good time of fellowship before our luncheon began. We had over 100 in attendance with two of our 80 year old retirees honoured. Congratulations to Ada Wright and Denise DeWitte.

Our entertainment was Anne Gooch who shared a presentation about Communities In Bloom. It was amazing to hear how much the citizens of our communities throughout Kent County are assisting in making this a truly beautiful and healthy place to live.



Meet Beverlee

Beverlee Bodnar and her partner Nancy Greven arrange for our entertainment at each general meeting. Well done, ladies!

