RWTO
ANNUAL
REPORT
2015 - 2016

RWTO/OERO,
Retired Women Teachers
of Ontario,
St. Catharines Branch
WWW.RWTO.ORG

The Sixtieth Anniversary Edition

M A Y  2 0 1 6
In Memoriam
~ 2015-2016 ~

Marion Ballinger
Lois Eplett
Andrea Gravelle
Ricky (Orysia) Lampman
Geraldine Malcolm
Irene Morgan
Marian Murray
Elizabeth Rothmel
Edith Turner
Isa Ziraldo

Memories are a way
of keeping our loved ones near.
RWTO / OERO,
St. Catharines Branch

Annual Report
2015 - 2016

The Sixtieth Anniversary Edition

Presented at the
Annual General Meeting
May 25th, 2016

The Club Capri, Thorold, Ontario
60th Anniversary
Jubilee Celebration

The Vintage Models

The Post Office Models
What an exciting year for RWTO members in St Catharines and what an honour for me to be president this year. We began with two successful lunches, with a musical program featuring Lisa Lubin singing and playing her steel drum in September. In October, our own Mayor Walter Sendzik spoke to us about our new Strategic Plan for the city of St Catharines. It was interesting, exciting and forward thinking. At our Christmas lunch, Tom and Fran Inglis, two of our former teachers, entertained us with some lovely Christmas music. At that time, we also managed to raise $5000 for St Catharines Community Care. Yes, we have exceeded last year’s record. What a generous group we have.

At Christmas, our women were busy volunteering for the Arthritis Society by wrapping presents at a local mall. Our group also had the opportunity to work at the local Community Care Toy Bureau and many participated.

The grand function for the year was our 60th Jubilee Event. On April 3, 1956, our organization was formed. The retired women teachers of that day worked to raise the level of their pensions to match that of their male colleagues.

To celebrate the work of the women of RWTO, I thought it was important to highlight the women who took leadership roles in our organization. I suggested a fashion show using vintage clothing of the last 60 years. Our program consisted of two parts. We began by highlighting our Past Presidents in period costume from the fifties to two thousand. The second part of our program was the modern fashion show with other members participating. Our clothing came from the young entrepreneur, Shannon Passero, in Thorold. The venue was at the very elegant Club Roma which was
decorated beautifully. This program would have been impossible if it were not for the 60th Jubilee committee and all the other volunteers who pitched in and offered advice to make the day special. Look for the volunteer list in the newsletter in August. You will be amazed by the numbers.

In May, there will be two events. At the Rankin Run for Cancer, we will have cancer survivors and other members participating in this huge event. All proceeds will go to our local community hospitals. In May, we will also have our Annual Meeting and the change of executive. It will also be the time when we remember our members who have passed.

In closing, I would like to say how proud I am to belong to this organization of women, for the helping hands, the kind words and the support that we give each other. I consider myself very fortunate to have been your president this year and I wish our incoming president Kathleen Bradley an equally good year ahead.

TREASURER’S REPORT
2015-2016
LINDA FOSTER
For the year 2015-2016, we received some additional funds from Provincial as we won the Barbara Bain Award for large branches by having the largest increase in membership for the year 2014-2015.

We also received $200 to assist us in the expenses for our 60th Anniversary celebration. Currently, we are able to function on the dues we collect ($5.00) per member and the rebate from our membership payment ($10.00). As a result, our membership fees remain at $45.00. However, there may need to be some increases in our luncheon* costs since, as we all realize, there has been an increase in the cost of the meals. We continue to support both, Community Care at Christmas and the Rankin Run in the spring. The following pages outline the financial statements for our branch.
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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2015-2016 Proposed</th>
<th>Mar. 31, 2016 Actual</th>
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## ST. CATHARINES RWTO INCOME AND EXPENSES
### PROPOSED
#### 2016-2017

#### Income
- Membership: $2,100.00
- Prov. Rebate: $3,700.00
- 50/50: $800.00
- Luncheons*: $400.00
- Donation: $0.00
- Other: $0.00

Transfer from reserves: $2,100.00

**TOTAL INCOME** $9,100.00

#### Expenditures
- Goodwill/Visitation: $450.00
- Printing: $1,200.00
- Postage/Stationery: $1,000.00
- Convention: $2,500.00
- Branch Meeting Expenses: $1,500.00
- Donations: $1,200.00
- Bank Charges: $100.00
- Membership (New members): $150.00
- 60th Anniversary: $1,000.00

**Total Expenses** $9,100.00
Over the 2015-16 year we have welcomed 13 new Full members and 2 new Social Members to our branch. 11 members did not renew their membership and we were saddened by the loss of 10 members. This past fall longtime member Barbara Mekbeb was made a Life Member. Our total membership as of May 1, 2016 is 398 which includes 375 Full, 13 Social, and 10 Life members. We are managing to maintain a fairly consistent number of members where other branches are struggling to do the same.

The Revised Membership Renewal Process
This past year involved a review of all members’ current information and obtaining all members’ signatures. This was done to streamline the renewal process for the future. As members are already required to inform Membership of any change in information, no forms will be required as part of the renewal process. In order to save costs related to copying and mailing, all members who receive their information by email will receive their membership renewal notice and fall luncheon information by email in early August. If you presently receive your newsletter and notices by regular mail, your renewal notice will continue to be mailed.

Renewing your membership in a timely manner is the most essential support for the role of Membership. With the size of our organization this is a very cumbersome job for Membership and the Treasurer. Members may forward their $45 membership fees anytime to Treasurer Linda Foster. Please note: No cheques will be cashed before August 15th.
Thank You

I would like to personally thank the Membership Committee members, affiliate contacts Margo Smith, OSSTF, Chris Graham, OECTA, and Karen Burr, ETFO. Karen will be leaving this position this year but she has volunteered to continue to prepare the member nametags for the luncheons. These women have provided their ongoing support in creating opportunities to contact potential members and, at every luncheon, they arrive willing to do whatever they can to ensure that all of our members, new and old, are well looked after.

Building Our Membership

Finally, I cannot stress enough the importance of the tremendous support that I receive from the membership in general. Members continue to provide me with contacts to pursue, or pick up membership information to share with retiring colleagues. These personal connections represent the majority of our new members as, due to privacy legislation, we can only supply information to our affiliates and have no direct means to follow up with individuals. I thank you and look forward to your continued support of the membership role.

“OVER 90’s”

MEMBERS

We were pleased to honour each of these special “Over 90’s “ during this past year. Sadly, some are no longer with us.
It’s Something for Everyone!

RWTO St. Catharines is one busy branch! The fourteen Interest groups are about sharing, creating, maintaining ties and finding new friendships. Members can golf and hike seasonally, walk mornings and afternoons, read with the Revolving Book Club or Chat About a selected library book. Members enjoy 5-pin bowling and card enthusiasts meet for Marathon Bridge games and Euchre.

You can experience the world with the Travelogue members or “meet and sketch " en Pleine air" with the Watercolour enthusiasts.

Creative Cooks plan and host dinners and the Lunch Bunch and Dining Divas explore the local restaurant scenes.

Retirement is about doing what you like and exploring something new.

A big thank you goes out to Donna Genge for her many years of dedication to the Revolving Book Club.

Perhaps, now, she is free to try something new.
Alice and I are delighted to have served as co-convenors. Our members have enjoyed our “caring and sharing” through visitations, phone calls and contact through sending greetings. We have sent and delivered cards this year to members, over 80's and over 90's. Included also, is the bouquet provided by RWTO Provincial which was personally delivered to Kathleen Fritz who celebrated her 100th birthday. Our cards included Sympathy, Birthday, Thinking of You, Christmas, Valentine’s, Easter, Hallowe’en, Congratulations, and Get Well. We have purchased Spring plants, Christmas plants, and provided September Luncheon invitations to the “Forever Young Over 90's” members.  

As your “Ambassadors of Goodwill”, informing us BOTH of special occasions to be remembered or those to be celebrated helps!

Happy 100th Birthday, Kathleen!

Kathleen remembers well her teaching roots. After graduating from Listowel High School, she attended Stratford Normal School. Her first classroom was near Milverton, teaching Amish students for a salary of $600. She taught in Leaside before “donning her finest frock” and presenting herself to the St. Catharines Board. Much to her chagrin, she was declined a position due to her “married status”. However, at the end of the summer, when the Board needed a Grade 5 teacher, they sought her out. W. J. Robertson Public School was her new beginning in Niagara and she fully embraced it. Kathleen is filled with wonderful stories of her 35 years of teaching. We send best wishes to Kathleen on her 100th Birthday.
Our Branch supported three Outreach programs again this year. A BIG thank you goes to Barb Chadwick for coordinating the Arthritis Wrap before Christmas, at the Fairview Mall, which raised over $13,000. After many years of devoting her time to this worthwhile program, she is stepping aside. Linda Holmes has volunteered to assume this role.

At our Christmas luncheon, Rita Aceti, Jayne Shortill and Louise Farquhar worked diligently to collect the donations for Community Care. Following a CHSC radio interview, Clarice West-Hobbs presented a cheque for $5000.00 to Community Care.

On the fourth Saturday of May, 2015, 28 RWTO participants walked either the 1 km. or 5km in the Rankin Cancer Run. Jayne Shortill, our RWTO organizer, collected our donations and arranged for our T-shirts. Jayne proudly reported that we raised $7,400 which benefits our local hospitals, the Walker Family Cancer Centre, Hospice Niagara, Wellspring Niagara and Community Care. Way to go RWTO St. Catharines!!!

To communicate upcoming local events of interest to our members, a Community Outreach table is set up at each luncheon and information will continue to be posted on our website at www.rwto.org.

Thank you to ALL of our Sponsors
The RWTO/OERO’s Hospital and Home Care Plan is one more helpful tool to help manage expenses during and after a hospital visit. It is affordable at $14.95 a month and once again, the premium will not increase for the coming year. Many of our members have benefited from using this Plan.

If you need information about the Plan you can find it and the claim forms on the RWTO/OERO provincial website or you can contact Susan McLaughlin, our local insurance rep.

Questions? Contact:
Susan McLaughlin, Insurance Convenor
Call: 905 935 9966
Or Email: susseandchris@gmail.com

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

CORA BAILEY AWARDS: This award is given annually and up to three Branch members may receive the award. Once again this year, we have three worthy candidates who will be honoured at the AGM in May. Our RWTO recipients are Judy Crompton, Ann Snider and Anne Marie Stockwell.

THE ST. CATHARINES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD: This award was presented by the Mayor of St. Catharines, Walter Sendzik, on April 12, 2016, at the Holiday Inn. The RWTO, St. Catharines Branch nominee, Sheila Benger, was named for her contribution to RWTO and to the community.
Let's Talk About It
Book Club
Judy was born and raised in St. Catharines. She taught for 31 years with Lincoln and DSBN as a secondary school math teacher, department head and, at the Board Office, as the Math Coordinator. Her teaching experience included Governor Simcoe, West Park, Sir Winston Churchill and the Lifetime Learning Centre. She applied her knowledge during a leave with Nelson Canada as the National Math Consultant and was seconded to the Ministry of Education, in 1998-2000, leading the writing of the secondary school mathematics curriculum.

During her teaching career, Judy won several awards, including a Lincoln County Excellence in Education Award and a Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. As well, she was named a Life Member of the Ontario Association for Mathematics Education and received a Descartes medal from the University of Waterloo.

Judy became a member of RWTO in 2006 and joined Bridge, Bowling, the Tuesday Golf group and the Friday Afternoon Walkers. She led our Community Outreach program, the Summer Hikers’ group and the popular Digital Photo Editing Class. Within our local branch, she held the Executive positions leading to the Presidency in 2013-2014 and readily lent her hand as the need arose. During her tenure, she enjoyed leading the general meetings, getting to know the members, and responding to their needs.

When the issue of extending the RWTO membership to support staff required branch consultation, Judy invited all branch members to share their opinions and then vote. Due to her expertise and statistical skills, she was asked to serve on the Provincial Ad Hoc committee exploring this same issue.

Judy has high praise for our RWTO organization and encourages all members to step forward to serve and share their energy and fresh ideas. We thank Judy for her endless and ongoing commitment to our Branch.
Ann attended the St. Catharine’s Teacher’s College and became qualified to teach in 1968. After instructing JK to Gr. 8 for thirty-one years, she “put down the chalk” at Meadowvale School in 1999. She remembers fondly the excitement at Victoria School when the movie, “The Christmas Story”, was filmed. The school was “buzzing”, Ann’s lesson was featured on the board and “stars” were born in the Gr. 5 class!

Ann joined the RWTO, St. Catharines Branch, in 2005, and participated in the Bowling group and in the Revolving Book Club. She has held an executive position in Communications from 2007 to the present. As our Newsletter Editor, she has enjoyed watching it grow in size. Ann, our roving reporter, loves taking pictures of our gatherings and adds these to our Newsletter. Ann is an active volunteer who has offered her hand at the Niagara Falls RWTO Convention, who helps at her church and with the local school system. She has canvassed for many charities including the Epileptic Society, Alzheimer’s and the Kidney Foundation. She “scribes” for students during EQAO testing at Parnell and Pine Grove Schools.

Ann creatively designs handmade cards and she gains inspiration from the two card-making groups that she attends, once a month. Through scrapbooking, she assembles her precious memories. To chase away the winter chills, Ann delights in her pile of good books. Ann has joyfully completed the research into the genealogy of her mother’s and father’s family and is currently working on her husband’s family genealogy. What an undertaking!!

After years of urging by her husband, Ron, she finally tried golf. She loves it and only wishes that she had started sooner. When she’s not golfing, she is biking. She minds her two youngest grandchildren and engages the five older grandchildren in “deep and meaningful” conversations.

Welcome, Ann, to the Cora Bailey recipients!
Anne Marie taught in 7 different schools for forty-two years with the St. Catharines Separate School Board and the Lincoln County Catholic Board. Her extensive experience included teaching ESL and initiating computer studies to Gr. JK-Gr. 8 and teaching in the adult program. After retiring, Anne Marie took the opportunity to teach in Xiamen, Fujian, China, and thoroughly loved it.

Anne Marie retired in 1996 and joined RWTO in 2000. She enjoyed taking part in the Reading, Travelogue and Euchre Interest Groups. She has held several posts within our local branch. She was on our executive working on the newsletter, served as Secretary, and moved through the Vice-Presidency’s until becoming the President in 2014-2015. Anne Marie enjoyed organizing luncheon programs which entertained and educated our membership. Within our community, Anne Marie has recovered significant tax returns for qualified clients working as a Volunteer Tax Preparer for the Canada Revenue Agency for the past 20 years. She is presently volunteering at Start Me Up Niagara, the Help line at 211, the new St. Catharines hospital, and Extendicare Nursing Home. Nominated by Start Me Up Niagara, she received the 2015 St. Catharines City Volunteer Award.

Anne Marie is a Fellow of the Canadian College of Teachers, was on the National Executive of Canadian College of Teachers for ten years, with two years as National President. She was also very active in RTO having produced and edited the Newsletter Grapevine for 5 years and served on their Political Action Committee. She is also an active member of the University Women’s Club, and St. Julia’s Church. She loves travelling and has, to date, visited 41 countries. She enjoys computer photo restoration, card making, scrapbooking, sewing, knitting and crocheting, cooking, baking and playing euchre. Between visiting her family and her friends locally and in Seattle, she leads a very busy life! We are pleased to present the Cora Bailey award to Anne Marie.
Sheila Benger’s exuberant presence is felt everywhere! After joining RWTO The St. Catharines Branch in 2001, she assumed many executive roles including ETFO representative, the Status of Women Assistant, the Telephone Co-Convenor and a Goodwill Committee member. At every luncheon, Sheila faithfully sells our 50/50 raffle tickets. She has worked on numerous RWTO special projects, in small groups, to develop and implement plans. She has helped in reworking the Branch Handbook and organizing fund-raisers for RWTO.

Sheila is active in many of the RWTO Interest groups which include the Travelogue group, hiking, walkers and card-making. Sheila has added her voice to both, local and international choirs, served as Membership Convenor for the Ladies Association for Multiple Sclerosis and has worked at monthly bingos which support MS for the past 25 years. For over 13 years, Sheila has generously served as a volunteer gift-wrapper for the Arthritis Society at Christmas, Mother’s Day and Father’s Day and has volunteered for the Community Care Toy Bureau which provides age-appropriate toys for families in need. She has participated in fund-raising for the Cancer Society, the Port Dalhousie Yacht Club and the Crohn’s Colitis “Gutsy Walk” held each year in June. She shares her passion for music with our community by bringing it into the schools, senior’s homes and community centres in the area. RWTO is honoured to nominate this deserving candidate.
HONORARY PRESIDENT GERALDINE WAUD

TABLE OFFICERS

PAST PRESIDENT ANNE MARIE STOCKWELL
PRESIDENT CLARICE WEST-HOBBS
1ST VICE PRESIDENT MYRNA KROEKER
2ND VICE PRESIDENT KATHLEEN BRADLEY
SECRETARY VIOLETTE HAGERTY
TREASURER LINDA FOSTER
MEMBERSHIP JUDITH BENNOCH

CONVENORS

INTEREST GROUPS PATTI MALKIEWICH
ISSUES & CONCERNS MARG NEWBY
COMMUNICATION ANN SNIDER
ARCHIVIST DONNA PAINTER
INSURANCE SUSAN MCLAUGHLIN
GOODWILL ALICE BRADNAM & NADINE MARTIN
PROGRAM CLARICE WEST-HOBBS & MYRNA KROEKER
SOCIAL LYNDA SACKRIDER GIBSON
TELEPHONE LOUISE FARQUHAR

TELEPHONE SHEILA BENGER & SUSAN LOCKYER

REPRESENTATIVES:

EFTO KAREN BURR OECTA CHRIS GRAHAM
OSSTF MARGO SMITH CFUW GERALDINE WAUD
LOCAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN ANDREA GRAVELLE
AREA 4 DIRECTOR JUDITH BENNOCH
RWTO ST. CATHARINES BRANCH

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

2015 – 2016  GERALDINE WAUD
2014 – 2015  SHARON THORNE
2013 – 2014  GLENNICE WILKINSON
2012 – 2013  CAROL BELL
2011 – 2012  JOAN SISLER-WELLS
2010 – 2011  ANJA JOKELA
2009 – 2010  AGNES WIOLER
2008 – 2009  JEAN JOHNSTON
2007 – 2008  ROSE STACEY
2006 – 2007  ANNE MANJOS
2005 – 2006  GERALDINE YOUNG
2004 – 2005  ELSIE SEDDON
2003 – 2004  JUANITA RATHBUN
2002 – 2003  MARION MOORADIAN
2001 – 2002  MARION MURRAY
2000 – 2001  LORRAINE FORSEY
1999 – 2000  CATHERINE DOYLE
1998 – 1999  ERMA SHERK
1997 – 1998  DORIS FLEMINGTON
1996 – 1997  VI TAGGART
1995 – 1996  ALICE OGDEN
1994 – 1995  GERALDINE YOUNG

GERALDINE WAUD
2015-2016
Honorary President

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016 EDITORIAL TEAM

Violette Hagerty, Secretary, Editor and Designer
Judy Crompton, Technical Editor
Judith Bennoch, Proofing Editor
Myrna Kroeker, Content Editor
RWTO ST. CATHARINES BRANCH
PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS - 2016-2017

HONORARY PRESIDENT JOANNE ATKINSON

TABLE OFFICERS

PAST PRESIDENT CLARICE WEST-HOBBS
PRESIDENT KATHLEEN BRADLEY
1ST VICE PRESIDENT MYRNA KROEKER
2ND VICE PRESIDENT PENNY LAILEY
SECRETARY VIOLETTE HAGERTY
TREASURER LINDA FOSTER
MEMBERSHIP JUDITH BENNOCH

CONVENORS

ARCHIVIST JESSICA THOMPSON
INSURANCE SUSAN MCLAUGHLIN
INTEREST GROUPS PATTI MALKIEWICH
ISSUES & CONCERNS MARG NEWBY
COMMUNICATION ANN SNIDER
GOODWILL ALICE BRADNAM
NADINE MARTIN
PROGRAM MYRNA KROEKER
PENNY LAILEY
SOCIAL LOUISE FARQUHAR
LYNDA SACKRIDER GIBSON
TELEPHONE SHEILA BENGTER

REPRESENTATIVES

ETFO DONNA PAINTER
OECTA CHRIS GRAHAM
OSSTF MARGO SMITH
AREA 13 DIRECTOR JUDITH BENNOCH

Thank You to Past President and Nominations Chair
2015-2016
Anne Marie Stockwell
Congratulations, RWTO!

60 Wonderful Years of Caring, Sharing and Having Fun!

RWTO / OERO, ST. CATHARINES BRANCH
ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO

WWW.RWTO.ORG

MAY, 2016