



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

## President's Message

As I write this column, our trees are ablaze with colour and leaves are falling, softly and gently, as determined as always to float to the ground. The cycle of the seasons marches on. And, as you read this note, our landscape will undoubtedly have changed even more dramatically. Perhaps soft white snowflakes have begun their annual visit to your environment.

I have had a unique opportunity this fall, to observe Ontario's scenic beauty, as I made my way to 23 branch visits. How can I describe the richness of these experiences?

Like our landscape, our branches are vibrant, active and ever-changing. The warmth of each branch's welcome, the sense of purpose with which each branch supports its charities, the 'hum' of conversation before each meeting, the joyful laughter as old friends reconnect, the happy reminiscences of teaching moments, the true appreciation of the value of each member, these are my memories as I reflect on September, October and November branch activities.

What makes RWTO/OERO such a great organization? What makes our members eager to support, care and share? Is it the many years of working together towards a common goal as teachers? Is it the appreciation for the many gifts our choice of career has given us? I ask these questions as I see how, in our branches and in the provincial organization, we work together to raise our profile and increase membership. Each branch is "getting the word out", using the \$250 provincial gift in unique and effective ways. Fall events in so many branches included bringing a retired teacher friend to a luncheon, an interest activity, a coffee get-together or a special event designed just to learn more about RWTO/OERO. It's been inspiring to see the number of new members welcomed with warm smiles and generous applause.

Why not try a membership blitz activity in the spring months too? Or contact the ETFO member in your area, to see if you could invite teachers, who are considering retirement, to come to a RWTO information event ... wine and cheese, muffins and mimosas, coffee and conversation ... all inviting ways to inform about our organization.

Peggy Stock,  
Provincial President



Switching gears from branch growth to thinking of our annual Convention, I hope that you'll consider attending AGM AJAX 2017 as we "Follow the Dream". Judy Anderson and Carol Nelson, and all their volunteers in Areas 5 and 7, are working hard to prepare for this exciting event. Look for their Registration Form in the March 2017 Connections.

We all know members within our branches who have followed a whole new path in retirement, whether engaged in politics, working in other countries, starting a new business, or pursuing more education. Who are these women in your branch? AGM Ajax would like to honour them in a special way with the Follow the Dream Project. Each Branch President has information on how your branch can get involved in this project. As well, the project is outlined on Pg. 3 and posted on our [www.rwto.org](http://www.rwto.org) website.

In closing, I want to wish all of you a wonderful Christmas season, full of joy and peace, gratitude and friendship. Merry Christmas, everyone and best wishes for a wonderful 2017.

*What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.*

- Agnes M. Pharo



## Call for Nominations

Nominations for the following elected Executive officers for the Provincial Board of RWTO/OERO will now be accepted until January 31, 2017.

- **Provincial 2nd Vice-President**
- **Provincial Recording Secretary**

Nominees should have experience at the board level as well as at the executive level in an RWTO/OERO branch and/or other organizations. The job descriptions are printed in the RWTO/OERO Policy and Procedures Manual, Appendix C and are also available from your Area Director, members of the Nominations Committee and on our website at [www.rwto.org](http://www.rwto.org)

Names submitted are to be approved by the Branch Executive making the nomination and then sent to the Area Director for confirmation before forwarding to the Nominations Committee Chair.

Nominations should be emailed or mailed with a

postmark no later than January 31, 2017 to

Dianne Rice  
9908 Eric Street,  
R.R. 1 Thedford,  
Ontario N0M 2N0  
[dianr@execulink.com](mailto:dianr@execulink.com)

Any new **Area Directors** will be selected in accordance with the protocol established within each area and outlined in the Policy and Procedures Manual, Appendix A. The names of each Area Director elected/selected by the members in her own area must be forwarded to the Provincial Nominations Chair as soon as possible but before the end of the fiscal year March 31, 2017. **Areas 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, and 12 will need to choose a new Area Director.**

For further information, please contact any of the Nominations Committee: Dianne Rice, Committee Chair; Kay-Anne Broger, Area 6; Sandi Bender, Area 4; Peggy Stock, Provincial President.

## Provincial Communications Newsletter and Membership Committees

This is a call for interested persons to fill positions that become available. Please submit a brief description of relevant past experience to the Provincial Past President Dianne Rice by January 31, 2017. These are one-year terms, renewable for one more year.

### Criteria for Communications Newsletter Committee Members

The Communications Newsletter Committee edits Connections three times a year in August, November and February. Members do not change the style and flavour of the material but maintain consistency of language and punctuation throughout the edition.

#### An editor requires the following:

1. Excellent language skills, especially grammar and spelling. A style sheet will be provided for consistency.
2. Previous editing experience. Please identify these activities.
3. Solid computer skills in Word and knowledge of managing photos, pdfs and attachments. Continued access to a computer with Adobe Acrobat.
4. The ability and desire to commit to online editing in the first two weeks of August, November and February.

### Criteria for Membership Committee Members

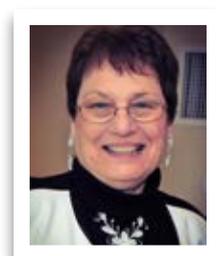
Membership Committee Members will be expected to

have an interest in and a willingness to:

1. Support existing branches and assist any branch in need, if requested to do so by the Convenor.
2. Generate ideas for maintaining existing membership and suggest creative ways of encouraging newly retired teachers to join RWTO/OERO.
3. Help to identify areas of the province, not currently served by RWTO/OERO, where our organization might be of interest and, if required, assist in forming new branches.
4. Offer workshops or presentations if requested to do so by the Membership Convenor.
5. Commit to responding to any online discussions promptly and thoughtfully.

Applications for both Committees should be accompanied by a resumé and a letter of branch support.

Dianne Rice,  
Provincial Past President



## *Nominations for the Honorary Membership Award*

Provincial Honorary Membership in RWTO/OERO is the highest honour that can be bestowed on a member for outstanding services at the provincial level. This award is presented at the Annual General Meeting. The criteria for this award is listed in Article XIII in our Policy and Procedures Handbook which can be found on the RWTO/OERO website. This provincial award is dependent on nominations from the branches and/or members-at-large. Your nomination letter should include an outline listing the provincial committees on which the nominee has served and the noted service to RWTO/OERO at the provincial level. All nominations must be received by the Committee Chair by January 31, 2017. Please provide full name, address, telephone number and email address of the nominee.

Please send nominations to:

Anne Graham  
Honorary Membership Committee Chair  
Box 43, 56 Owen Street, Lanark, ON K0G 1K0

*(Please notify me by email that you have mailed a nomination)*

annegraham2207@gmail.com

Anne Graham,  
Honorary Provincial President



## *Follow The Dream in the World of Retirement*



*Who is this dreamer? What is her dream?  
What challenges did she face?  
How did she overcome the obstacles in her path?*

**June 6, 7, 8, 2017**

As retired women teachers, many of our RWTO/OERO members have pursued activities in retirement that have taken them on an entirely different journey from their previous careers as educators.

AT AGM 2017, we would like to honour the women within our organization who have set forth on a whole new adventure upon retirement. We would like to collect their stories and a picture for each member who may have followed or is actively pursuing a dream. At Convention 2017, a display of these dreamers will honour their achievements.

Please include this information with each submission:

- Member's name, picture and branch (e-mail address or address, if applicable)
- a short (approx. 125 words) description including the dream and how this member set about achieving that dream.
- Each story will be unique and inspiring

Please e-mail your stories and member's picture to Peggy Stock at: [followthedreamajax2017@gmail.com](mailto:followthedreamajax2017@gmail.com)

Or, mail the story and photo to either/or:

Carol Nelson  
717-10 Dean Park Road  
Scarborough, ON, M1B 3G8

Peggy Stock  
RR #1,  
South River, ON, P0A 1X0

All submissions will be made ready for display by Lois Lockhart, Peggy Stock and Carol Nelson. We are looking forward to hearing from your branch and anticipate having your submissions by March 31, 2017. Please let us know if you need more time to submit.

Looking forward to hearing from you,  
Carol, Lois and Peggy

## *Changes In Provincial Communications:*

### *New Provincial Communications-Website Convenor*

In response to the growth of the Communications portfolio, delegates at the AGM 2016 voted to split the Provincial Communications Convenor position into two separate positions: Communications-Newsletter and Communications-Website.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Kathy Gallagher, as Provincial Communications - Website Convenor. A respected leader and team-player in her Windsor-Essex Branch, Kathy excels in computer science and website management. Kathy will be a tremendous asset to the Board of Directors and on your behalf, we welcome and thank her for accepting this position.



Kathy will be in touch with Branch Presidents, Branch Communications Convenors and Board Members to coordinate their website activities. Kathy may be reached at [RWTOcyberlady@gmail.com](mailto:RWTOcyberlady@gmail.com). Mardie Panabaker continues as Communications-Newsletter Convenor and may be reached at [rwtoconnections@gmail.com](mailto:rwtoconnections@gmail.com)

Peggy Stock,  
Provincial President

### *Looking back!*

It has been my privilege and pleasure to work with the Branch Presidents and Communication Convenors over the last 3 ½ years, as your liaison with the RWTO Webmaster Terri. Thank you for your efforts in capturing the fun and flavour of your branch events, in text and photo, for your site and your timely attention to deadlines. I am thrilled to be succeeded by such a talent as Kathy Gallagher. You are in good hands. I will miss chats about fun branch events, beautiful newsletters, photos, site organization, weather, health issues and of course ... grandchildren. Hopefully these will continue via the newsletter submissions.

*In Caring and with thanks for your Sharing.*

Mardie Panabaker,  
Provincial Communications - Newsletter



## *Survey to Study RWTO/OERO Future Conventions*

In May 2016, the Provincial Board of Directors appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to study RWTO/OERO Future Conventions including format and size. Some questions being addressed in the Survey include:

1. Are branch members satisfied with the present format and size of the Convention?
2. Would your branch be willing to host a future convention? If no, what are the reasons for not hosting a future convention?
3. If your branch did host a convention, what additional help would you want from other branches?

A survey has been sent to each Branch President asking for suggestions from their branch executives and members about the planning and the hosting of future conventions. A response by March 10, 2017 would be appreciated in order to collate the information and submit a report to the Provincial Board in May 2017. The report will be shared with the membership.

For further information contact Sharron Colter, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee at [dshcolter@eastlink.ca](mailto:dshcolter@eastlink.ca), by phone at 519-793-3473 or by mail at P.O. Box 364, Lion's Head, Ontario N0H 1W0

## Insurance News

We've known for some time that the provincial government is committed to reforms in the delivery of home care to residents of Ontario. These reforms are being driven by many factors; cost and the ageing population being the most significant factors. The Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Dr. Eric Hoskins and his ministry have produced a document, "Patients First: A Roadmap to Strengthen Home and Community Care", that details some of the changes to the health care system that are coming over the next three years that will, according to Dr. Hoskins, "transform the home and community care sector". We thought we'd share some of those changes with you in this edition of Connections.

Their goals are impressive and lofty:

- 1) to put clients and caregivers first, making the planning and delivery of home and community care client and caregiver-centered;
- 2) to improve the client and caregiver experience through a publicly available, easily accessible, timely and responsive system;
- 3) to drive greater quality, consistency and transparency through the use of standardized tools and supports;
- 4) to plan for and expand capacity by improving performance in the home and community care system; and finally,
- 5) to modernize delivery through updated funding models, consistent assessment approaches, flexible contracting, workforce stabilization and improved technology.

This year, the government has piloted what they are referring to as "levels of care" in select communities across the province. Next year, the government will implement the "levels of care" framework province wide, including support tools for providers and increased public awareness and will be moving forward with "bundled care" and eventually, "self-directed care".

In this issue of Connections we're going to address the "Levels of Care" framework and the impact we're seeing on members and their loved ones. On the government of Ontario website, under Home and Community Care, we are offered advice about how to get help for patients and seniors who need support living at home. If you qualify, the government pays for a wide range of services such as nursing care, physiotherapy, personal care (washing and bathing, mouth care, skin care, toileting, etc.), homemaking (housecleaning, laundry, meal preparation, etc.), and end-of-life care at home (nursing, medical supplies, pain management, etc.). If you don't qualify, you can appeal the Community Care Access Centre's

decision through the Ontario Health Services Appeal and Review Board. You can also contact the Board if a service you previously received has stopped or been reduced. The website also advises that if you don't qualify, you can arrange and pay for services through a private company. Your qualification for home care is determined by a case manager or care coordinator, applying the levels of care criteria.

Members who have experienced this review are telling us that they are being evaluated based upon their abilities to perform "activities of daily living" (ADLs) without regard to their personal living conditions (e.g. living alone, living in a multi-level home, no support at home vs. having a capable spouse to assist and one-level living). ADLs include eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, transferring (walking), and continence. We have been told of situations where if a patient is able to perform 3 or more ADLs she/he is ineligible for Home Care, despite not having a family member available or present to provide assistance. It is also concerning that patients have the right to appeal CCAC decisions but it is difficult to imagine a patient who is trying to recuperate having the stamina to undergo the rigors of an appeal process.

It would appear that while the government is committed to "putting clients and caregivers first", there are cracks in the framework that patients are falling through, but given the government's mandate to control costs yet improve home care in the province it would seem that there has never been a greater need for the RWTO/OERO Hospital and Home Care Plan. It will continue to "fill the gaps", providing a Convalescent Benefit that will enable a plan participant to receive up to \$2,100 while recovering from an illness or injury; a Home Nursing Benefit that will pay 80% of the cost for a Personal Support Worker, Registered Nurse or Practical Nurse, up to \$1,500; and other supports such as special equipment and assistive devices. It will also continue to offer other useful benefits such as the Cataract Surgery Benefit, Hearing Aid Benefit and Oxygen Benefit, among others. We encourage you to take a closer look at the many benefits offered under this plan and if you haven't yet applied for the plan, we ask that you consider doing so. Premiums continue to cost less than a cup of coffee a day (\$14.49 a month for a member; \$15.57 a month for a spouse for a total of \$30.06 a couple).

Your insurance team will continue to monitor the changes the Ontario Government is making to our health care system and will report on these changes in subsequent issues of Connections. We'll evaluate the impact they may have to our insurance program. We may find we need to add new benefits, improve upon benefits, or in

*Continued* ►



### Insurance News continued

fact remove ones that may become unnecessary. We will also continue to monitor the effectiveness of our current premium pricing strategy to ensure there are sufficient premiums to pay anticipated claims.

And just a reminder to purchase your travel insurance before embarking on your winter travel plans! You can purchase out-of-country/province travel insurance, top-up or extension travel insurance through Can-Am by calling 1-888-326-3535.

Journey safely!

#### Insurance Convenor:

Bertha Breen  
33 Hawkins Crescent,  
Tillsonburg, On N4G 5K6  
(519) 403-8060  
bertbree@gmail.com



#### Assistant Insurance Convenor:

Donna Hemeon  
3 Centennial Heights Court,  
Meaford, On N4L 1E5  
(519) 538-3707  
donna.hemeon@gmail.com



Manulife Financial 1-800-268-3763

**Broker:** Terry Kennedy  
The Dolphin Consulting Group  
(519) 583-0098 Fax: (519) 583-2876  
tkennedy34@bell.net



## Membership

We had many submissions for the Feather in Your Hat Award this past year. For those considering a submission, you may find the following information useful.

Niagara Falls earned its "Feather" not because the branch supports a local long-term care residence as its charitable focus, but because the branch members are physically involved with the residents on a regular basis- catering their tuck shop, helping with gardening, reading to residents, taking residents to chapel, etc.- a true example of caring for others.



Hamilton-Wentworth earned its "Feather" not because the branch has a very successful "Our Members Have Spoken" initiative, but because members' ideas are used. As a result, the Cora Bailey pin, designed by member Linda Sergeant was produced and now, with Hamilton-Wentworth's permission, is soon to be available to all branches - a fine example of sharing with others.

Burlington earned its "Feather" not because the branch formed a knitting interest group and began to knit Izzy dolls (or African Comfort Dolls), but because the interest in this project grew following a talk by a medical missionary, more members asked to participate and the

project has continued to expand- a wonderful example of caring for those beyond our borders.

It is heartening to learn that many branches are seeing results from the ways in which they are using their advertising/charity gift from Provincial. Several branches are reporting increases in membership- always welcome news. Continue your wonderful "connections" at your branch level. Consider whether your branch may have a project suitable for a Feather in Your Hat Award. Remember those special people in your branch who have given so much of themselves and could be honoured with the Cora Bailey Award.

Kay-Ann Broger,  
Membership Chair



## “Meet” Cora Bailey



CORA BAILEY, a primary supervisor in Peterborough in the 1960's, was known for her helpful, positive support of primary teachers. After retiring and joining the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers (OASWT), Cora was again an important resource, now, for her Peterborough branch. Cora worked diligently on the Branch Executive, was passionate about our Insurance Program and worked in

several executive positions, becoming Past President of Peterborough Branch.

In 1972, Cora became the 2nd Vice President of OASWT, later named RWTO/OERO. Cora was a “doer” who saw

need and acted. She set up an office in her home and over the next 11 years, Cora, as the first Executive Secretary of OASWT, handled membership records, published a quarterly newsletter and completed “Guidelines for Conventions”, to assist in planning future conventions. When the Provincial Honorary Membership award was initiated, Cora was one of its first recipients. In 1986 Cora wrote The Provincial History of OASWT, 1956-1976. During the mid-90s, the RWTO Peterborough branch renamed its recognition award as the Cora Bailey Award (Peterborough). Beginning in 2003, this award was presented, in her honour, by branches across the RWTO.

- i. Bailey, Cora. The Provincial History of OASWT, 1956-1976. 1980
- ii. Beech, Lenora M. Uncommon Women. Willow, 2011

## Issues and Concerns ... “A Number you need to Know”

Everyone knows that in an emergency you call 911. What can you do if it's not an emergency but you still need help? What if you need information that is vital to your well-being but you don't know where to turn for assistance? That is the time to call 211. What you will discover is a wealth of information and access to the help you need. Talking to a trained specialist makes it easier to find information, discover options and deal with the challenges life hands you.

211 services include a three digit phone helpline (2-1-1), for the hearing impaired TTY: 1-866-540-0565 and a website ([www.211ontario.ca](http://www.211ontario.ca)). Both the telephone number and the website will connect you to a myriad of community, social, government and health services organizations. Bilingual certified information and referral specialists answer 211 calls seven days a week 24 hours a day. 211 is free, confidential and multilingual (150) languages.

Below is just a sample of some of the services offered to older adults such as ourselves:

### **Meals for seniors and people with disabilities:**

Congregate dining for isolated or frail seniors and older adults with disabilities, with a focus on nutrition and socialization. Meals on Wheels.

**Geriatric psychiatry:** Mental health counselling and treatment for older adults.

**Elder abuse:** Counselling, support and shelter programs for older adults experiencing or at risk of abuse or violence.

**Recreation for older adults:** Recreation and leisure activities for older adults, including social clubs and instructional programs.

**Home support programs:** Non-medical services that allow individuals to continue living independently in the community.

**Senior apartments:** Apartments for individuals 55 and over who are able to live independently, care for themselves and maintain their own unit.

**Retirement Homes:** Private housing options for older adults able to pay for their own care and not requiring 24 hour nursing care. Usually offer meals, recreational programs, as well as various levels of homemaking help, personal care and health services.

**Long term care homes:** Accommodation for those who require more nursing or personal care than can be provided through home support or other options. Formerly known as homes for the aged or nursing homes.

You may use these services not just for yourself but also if you are a concerned friend or relative looking for available home support services or if you are a caregiver for an elderly parent or relative feeling overwhelmed and needing support.

In any of these situations or others not mentioned here, call 211. You'll be glad you did.

Theresa Dorey,  
Issues and Concerns Convenor



## *Goodwill*

During August, September and October, seventy-three birthday cards were mailed to send happy messages and wishes to the RWTO/OERO members who are 90 years old or older on behalf of the Provincial Board. Also, during this time, beautiful bouquets of flowers were delivered to Freda Mellan, Dorothy Patterson and Doris Jean McLean on the occasion of their 100th birthday. Thank you to the members of their branch for ensuring that these members received special recognition from the RWTO/OERO Provincial Board.

Another thank you goes to Gloria Drake for updating the list of the members who are 90 and over. The branches are encouraged to inform Gloria of any

changes of address so that a member will not miss receiving a card from RWTO/OERO. It is always heartwarming to receive a note of thanks from our members for remembering them on their birthday.

Sharron Colter,  
Goodwill Convenor



## *Archives*

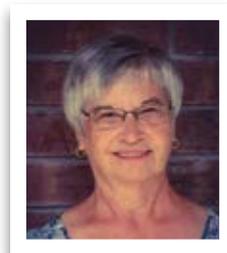
At the September Board meeting, I collected the envelopes of the Cora Bailey recipients for 2010-2011, 2011-2012. Thanks to the Area Directors for their help.

I would like to encourage the branches to go back in their files or photo albums and make a list of their Cora Bailey recipients since it started in 2003. Please forward that list to me so we can keep a Provincial Registry and add the names in the archives.

Sharron Colter started the binder with pictures of the different RWTO/OERO 60th anniversary celebrations. More additions of pictures or articles, either through

e-mail or by mail, would be greatly appreciated. The binder will be on display at Convention 2017 in Ajax and at future conventions, before being placed in the archives in 2020.

Hénédine Weiman,  
Provincial Archivist  
mhw@personainternet.com



## *Provincial Program*

Greetings Area Directors and Branch Presidents! By now, many of you have attended the Area Presidents/ Insurance Meeting. I am sure you enjoyed the camaraderie and sharing of wonderful ideas! What's hot off the press? The Branch Presidents have received a, "Survey to Study Future Conventions." Provincial truly looks forward to input from the Branches as your responses will help shape the planning of future

conventions. Enjoy your Branch activities over the Holiday Season!

Nancy Papiez,  
Provincial Program Coordinator





## Making History

### The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of our new Area 13



## Mid-Year Musings Branches in Areas 5, 6, 8, 10, 11

### Blue Mountain



Blue Mountain Branch started their year with a tribute to our RWTO Silver Jubilee year by providing a luncheon meeting for all attending members, present and new, as a membership stimulus. Over the years, meetings have involved a very informative, enjoyable

tea-tasting party, interactive group and individual mixer activities, a demonstration about the benefits of reflexology and the use of naturally sourced beauty products. Neighbouring branch members joined us for our Spring luncheon meeting, as did our then Provincial President Dianne Rice and our Area Director Kay Anne Broger. Together we watched an excellent demo about the arranging of spring flowers. Several lucky winners took home a variety of bouquets. Throughout the year over 90s are honoured with visits etc. Our oldest member Mary Moles celebrated her 109th birthday this July and Donelda Mackey her 100th. Our "Books for Babes" project and Walking and Book Clubs are ongoing.

### Brockville

Thanksgiving is a time for our members to reflect how lucky we are: a reliable income, friends, family and good medical care. Many senior women do not enjoy the fruits of their labours. In the true spirit of "Caring and Sharing", we have adopted a local publicly-funded retirement home, Sherwood Park Manor to contribute to, in the form of volunteers and donations. Further away, in Chernobyl, Russia, many seniors are living alone without the basics of life. "Shoeboxes for Seniors" provides them with toiletries, treats and hope. Each retired teacher that fills a box lights up the dark. We will return with

our filled boxes to our Christmas meeting where they will be collected and distributed overseas. A meaningful celebration of truly "Caring and Sharing".

### Central Algoma



Our group is off to a great year having fun and caring for others. We raised over \$700 to support the project "Tumaini Afrika" in Kenya and are also helping out our local elementary schools with a literacy award. On the fun front, we celebrated an early

Hallowe'en wearing orange and black attire while visiting a national award-winning display of exotic bugs called Entomica in Sault Ste. Marie. Our Bug-a-boo day was most successful and now we are looking forward to The Red Green Show - complete with duct tape - in December.

### Daisy Wilson Coldwater

In our 60th Anniversary year, President Helen Carstairs, arranged a celebratory outing with bling and tiaras for 22 of our members. WOW! At the historic British and



Continued ▶

## Mid-Year Musings Branches in Areas 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 continued

Naval Military Establishment in Penetanguishene, we lunched at Captain Robert's Table. It was a perfect day for a group photo in front of the old sailing ship, "The Bee". The King's Wharf Theatre was next, for the hilarious and heart-warming show, *Mama Mia*, where we sang and danced to ABBA music. We left for home in the happiest of moods. May each of you enjoy such an outing with your friends. We look forward to celebrating "Caring and Sharing" in upcoming meetings: in September, with a potluck with Orillia Branch to meet our new Provincial President; in October, for Thanksgiving lunch by Lock 45 on the Trent Waterway; in November, at a special Remembrance Service in an old restored school; and in December, for our Christmas Dinner and an auction by Mrs. Doubtfire, to raise funds for causes we care about.

### East Parry Sound



Mid-year events for the East Parry Sound branch began in June with balloons, songs and tiaras at our own 60th birthday celebration. A presentation of the "Who We Are" program was given in which a senior member is interviewed and her interesting story told. We also celebrated

and honoured our own Provincial President, Peggy Stock, with a song written by members and sung to the tune of "Hello Dolly". With keyboard in play and voices tuned, the chorus: "So- stop and cheer, members! Peggy is really here, members... East Parry Sound is on the map again", rang out! In September, members celebrated with hats, gloves and smiles at our luncheon tea. We enjoyed delightful scones, sandwiches and sweets and observed some proper tea etiquette indeed. October included our yearly penny sale where talented members donated handmade jams, baked goods and crafts. Money raised is used towards our annual high school bursary which is awarded to one deserving female graduating student.

### Gananoque

In spite of the 60 km. distance between our seven communities in the Gananoque Branch, regular meetings are satisfying when we renew friendships and reminisce. Our lunches are often the only time some of us get to see each other and socialize. The venues change on a



limited basis, but familiar faces make each meeting fun and entertaining. Add to that the informative guest speakers, and we believe we have a formula that is hard to beat. Recently, Stephanie Etherington, the founder of the Lyndhurst Feral Cat Project (LFCP), spoke to

us about the ever-increasing number of stray cats in our community and her efforts to socialize, trap, and neuter them. In June we enjoyed lunch in Gananoque, followed by the musical *Patsy Cline* at the Thousand Islands Playhouse. Songs of the 50s and 60s were still ringing in our ears as we left the theatre. And we are growing! This year we received our very first Barbara Bain Membership Award. Inspired by this recognition, we are looking for new ways to increase our membership.

### Kingston

In 1997 Judy Moulton and Alice McIlroy started a service to others program called "Bags Plus". Over the last 19 years hundreds of "Caring and Sharing" bags have been delivered to women, children and men in distress in the Kingston area. These bags were age and gender appropriate and included many items for personal use as well as several books. In May of this year we did our last bag-packing. The program has become too physically demanding for our branch. It involves storing, carrying, packing and delivering many heavy boxes. At our Fall lunch we enthusiastically brainstormed about our next endeavour. Several members spoke about local programs that encourage and support women and children. We decided to support Girls Inc. at this time. When contacted, they were thrilled to hear from us. At the Spring lunch, we will look at another of the many agencies in need of our support.

### Muskoka

The happy group you see in the picture has just finished singing 'The RWTO Song' at our October meeting in Ulswater. Peggy Stock, our new Provincial President, was there and sang with us. One of our very inspiring members, Elaine Heron and her husband Ken wrote this song. (You can see Elaine sitting beside Peggy Stock.) The chorus begins: "Together we are caring, together we are sharing. Together we're declaring the heritage and friendship we hold dear". Then it goes on to trace

Continued ►

## Mid-Year Musings Branches in Areas 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 continued



the history of RWTO and tells us in song why RWTO was started 60 years ago. Since Elaine and Ken performed it for us at one of our meetings last year, I heard it at Convention 2016 in Windsor in June and I have just seen it on the RWTO website at <http://www.rwto.org/pdf/RWTOsong.pdf>. It is included on Pg. 14 of this newsletter. Let's all keep inspiring each other!

### Napanee

We move forward into a new year, carrying with us pleasant memories of the 60th anniversary celebrations we shared with our neighbouring RWTO organizations. Our back-to-school gathering was a tasty luncheon at Gibson's Restaurant in Napanee. It was great to see the cheerful faces of so many members. Our get-together enabled Teresa Dorey, chair of our community project "Tales and Tunes for Tots", to organize the assembling of many kits, for newborns in our county. We are proud to have Teresa Dorey as the Area 8 Director. She will also do a fine job as convener of "Issues and Concerns". In October, our Fall meeting was well attended and after a delicious lunch, we were delighted to hear our guest speaker, fellow member, Beryl Jacka, who described her homeland, Wales. It was an informative talk. The year will continue with a Christmas luncheon and many breakfast get-togethers allowing us to meet new and old friends.

### Orillia

The city of Orillia is fortunate this year to be celebrating 150 years along with Canada. Our RWTO branch



has been searching for ways to include education of the period in some of the planned events. We will be welcoming an author that has written a book about many stories that have happened throughout the years in the Orillia area. During the year, we will be focusing on donating money from our auction to Big Brothers, Big Sisters and also donating food and cash to a local food bank, that handles special programs for school-aged children who are experiencing difficulties. Our branch also enjoys going out for dinner at Christmas and also at the end of the year in June. During the year, small groups eat out once a month in local restaurants and another group entertains seniors in retirement and nursing homes. Orillia Branch has welcomed some new members this year and we look forward to involving them in our activities.

### Rendezvous

Happy 80th Rendezvous! Rendezvous Branch, in west Toronto, is celebrating this amazing achievement by challenging members to be more involved in RWTO/OERO. At the Provincial level, we are part of the team organizing Convention 2017 and working on committees to prepare the Ajax Convention Centre for your arrival. We have 80 years of women who Followed their Dream. It will be a challenge to choose the ones whose stories will be submitted to this project. We continue to work with Area 5 Branches knitting squares into blankets and are thrilled at the response we observe when we deliver our unique creations for distribution. This year, Rendezvous' goal is 1,000 squares to make 80 blankets. We will celebrate the 80th anniversary in April, with a birthday party and a hand of bridge. Our Over 90s will be our special guests at this luncheon at the Old Mill. Come and celebrate with us.



### Sault Ste. Marie



The year started with a tasty potluck luncheon prepared by the executive. Diets were put aside and summer memories shared during the gathering. Since it was Ovarian Cancer Month, much needed information was presented to our members about the symptoms and fallacies

Continued ►

### *Mid-Year Musings Branches in Areas 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 continued*

of this disease. A donation in our name was made to Ovarian Cancer Canada. The vivid October colours were perfect for our visit to Mockingbird Farm. Members shared a boxed luncheon and visited a church filled with pumpkins, corn stocks and gourds. What a unique setting for a quick scavenger hunt! The highlight, of course, was the corn maze. Believe it or not, all members did return and the old farm dog did not have to be sent out in search. It promises to be an awesome year --- having fun together, with "Caring and Sharing" at the heart of all we do!

#### *Scarborough*

Scarborough continued its 60th Anniversary celebrations in September and October. All past presidents were invited to attend the first luncheon. There have been 35 past presidents in the branch and 17 of them attended. In October, the branch's Cora Bailey recipients were acknowledged for their contributions. We have had 25 recipients of this prestigious award since 2007. Scarborough continues to find ways to acknowledge the amazing women who work together to bring programs to the branch. Well done, Scarborough!



#### *Sudbury*

As RWTO/OERO Sudbury members, we live fully in our present by "Caring and Sharing" ... and having fun. We make rugs and cushions for Haiti; visit or send cards and flowers to our housebound members and offer



condolences at memorial services; provide Christmas cards to 'Meals on Wheels' and 'Food Bank' clients; drive members without transportation to luncheons and donate to the "Blue Door Soup Kitchen". We welcome guests to our luncheons with delicious meals and good conversation, present photo gifts, offer cards and flowers to Over 90s, 1st Vice- Presidents and have a tulip project for Canada's 150th Anniversary. Our Valentine card exchange is fun, as is the annual golf tournament and the guest speakers and entertainment at luncheons. In the words of Edgar A. Guest: "I shall pass through this world just once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not deter or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

#### *Upper Canada East*

UCE has an "Uncommon Woman". Freda Mellan, the oldest member of our branch, turned 100 on Oct. 12th, and we helped celebrate with balloons, cake, flowers and gifts. During our visit, Freda reminisced about her 34 years, 4 months and 7 days teaching career. What an incredible memory!!! She told stories about teaching relatives of our members who were present that day. Freda remembered their names and told of times when she went above what was expected in order to help her students succeed. For over 40 years, Freda's second career was organizing trips near and far. Her last long trip, at the age of 90, took her to Dollywood. However, shorter trips continued. We all left feeling inspired by Freda's sharp wit, knowledge and her dedication to her students and fellow travellers. Our branch has also benefitted from the many summer trips skillfully planned by this amazing lady. What an inspirational woman!!



#### *York North*

For a small branch, York North is very proud of our charity fundraising. We began in earnest at our Fall luncheon last October with our bottle raffle. Members donated maple syrup, cooking oil, salad dressing, jam,

*Continued* ▶

*Mid-Year Musings Branches in Areas 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 continued*



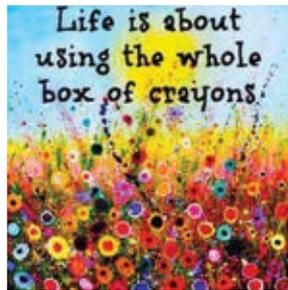
bath products, etc. and then bought raffle tickets for the bottles they wanted to win. Our efforts will continue at our December luncheon where we will raffle off twelve festive baskets filled with

preserves, cakes, other edible treats and many handy purse and household items that our members donate. At each of our four luncheons we also have an "Everything for a Dollar" table where new or slightly used books, puzzles, jewellery and a myriad of small items are sold. Members also contribute generously to our "Loonie/Toonie" dishes that are placed at each table. The money collected is used to support four food banks, two in York Region and two in North York.



*How "INTEREST"ing!*

Many RWTO members report that the Branch Interest Groups cement their friendships. These small groups gather in a variety of locations, meeting in: homes, halls, restaurants, museums, art galleries, libraries, supermarket community rooms and of course out-of-doors, to enjoy: Acrylic Art, Art Galleries, Books, Bowling, Bridge, Citizenship, Coffee, Cooking, Crocheting, Cycling, Day Trips, Dining, Euchre, Gardening, Golf, Hiking, iPad, Knitting, Lunch, Mattress Making, Movies, Outreach, Scrapbooking, Singing, Theatre, Travel, Walking, Watercolour and Writing.





## ***THE RWTO 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SONG***

Chorus:

Together, we are caring,  
Together, we are sharing,  
Together, we're declaring,  
The heritage and friendship we hold dear.

Sixty years ago they travelled from throughout Ontario,  
To assemble at the call of "Rendezvous",  
They were all retired teachers and they thought that they could show,  
Our government some things that it should do.

There was Turner and McCowan who were leaders in the fight  
And they thought that they could organize the cause,  
"Let us work together, women, for we know our claims are right".  
And their call to arms was met with great applause.

Better pensions then were needed for the ones who were retired  
If offense was caused they really didn't care.  
They brought pressure on the men in power. They really were inspired  
To achieve the many things they thought were fair.

Sixty years have quickly come and gone – but we remember well,  
The goals and the achievements that we've won.  
We think of those who've led us and with pride our hearts do swell  
Remembering the things that they have done.

So we are a happy band. R and W – T and O.  
A fellowship of friends with whom we share.  
We are proud that we have won the fight now forward we will go  
To serve, support and love – because we care.



(Words – Ken Heron (Muskoka spouse),  
Tune – "When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder")

(photo of Elaine and Ken Heron.)

## Security on the RWTO/OERO Website

At the RWTO Board of Directors' meetings in September, we discussed heightening the privacy of information on the RWTO website. Members of the Board of Directors have asked for their personal contact information to be deleted, while maintaining the contact information for Gloria at the Provincial Office.



Many branches have already limited personal information by including first names only in their material and reducing contact information. Taking this a step further, your branch could consider using a more generic email address for the branch, e.g:

- [rwto.peelnorthpresident@gmail.com](mailto:rwto.peelnorthpresident@gmail.com)
- [rwto.centralalgomacommunications@yahoo.com](mailto:rwto.centralalgomacommunications@yahoo.com)
- [rwto.branttreasurer@cogeco.ca](mailto:rwto.branttreasurer@cogeco.ca)
- [rwto.UCEMembership@hotmail.com](mailto:rwto.UCEMembership@hotmail.com)

Most email servers allow for additional e-addresses to be added (family members often have separate addresses on



the same server). Not only does this improve privacy on the website, it has the bonus of separating your RWTO emails from your personal emails. I have found this to be a helpful organizational tool.

If you choose to make this email change, please contact the Provincial Office at [info@rwto.org](mailto:info@rwto.org) and myself at [rwtoconnections@gmail.com](mailto:rwtoconnections@gmail.com).

*In caring and sharing.*

Mardie Panabaker,  
RWTO Provincial Communications-  
Newsletter Convenor



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# RWTO/OERO 61st Annual Convention

June 6-8, 2017

Ajax Convention Centre  
550 Beck Crescent  
Ajax, Ontario L1Z 1C9  
1-905-428-9993 or 1-855-428-9993



## Hotels:

HILTON GARDENS, 500 Beck Crescent, Ajax  
Group Code: RWTG1- 1-905-686-9400

HOMEWOOD SUITES - 600 Beck Crescent, Ajax  
Group Code: RWT - 1-905-786-5969

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS - 180 Consumers Drive, Whitby  
GROUP CODE: RWT

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### Co-Convenor

Carol Nelson  
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### Registrar

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[jatumber@nexicom.net](mailto:jatumber@nexicom.net)

Watch for details in the  
March 2017  
CONNECTIONS issue  
Visit the website:  
[www.rwto.org/upcoming-convention.asp](http://www.rwto.org/upcoming-convention.asp)

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## RWTO/OERO

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**PM Agreement  
40739021**