



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

## President's Message

As I write this, my final newsletter communication as Provincial President, the weather outside is frightful. How fortunate I am to have a warm, safe place to call home. As I travelled the province this year, branches went out of their way to make my visits extra special and help me feel at home regardless of where I was or how far I had journeyed. Your branches excelled at providing interesting programs, worthwhile activities, fantastic meals and meaningful outreach programs, while maintaining their connection with Provincial. What a pleasure and privilege it has been to visit with you!

The Provincial Executive and Board have been outstanding in their commitment and support to the many facets of our organization. They are volunteers who give many hours to RWTO/OERO on your behalf.

The Open Enrolment Insurance project has been very successful. Special recognition goes to each Branch Insurance Convenor. Sincere appreciation is extended to Nancy Iannizzi, Provincial Insurance Convenor; Bertha Breen, Assistant Insurance Convenor and Terry Kennedy, our Insurance Broker.

The Ad Hoc Committee, with chair Peggy Stock, is continuing to review your submissions in preparation for their report to the May Board meeting.

Mardie Panabaker and her committee work diligently, with support from the branches and the Board, to keep our

Marilyn Emmett,  
Provincial President



website updated and to deliver three interesting and informative newsletters.

The Area Directors, under the energetic leadership of Program Coordinator, Nancy Papiez-Carbone, have organized successful area meetings and are keeping their Presidents up-to-date.

Dianne Rice, Chair of the Constitution and Resolutions Committee and her committee have submitted the resolutions as received from the Board and the branches.

Joy Patyk, Parliamentarian, and Anne Graham, Chair of the Policy and Procedures Committee, and her committee, both assisted by Gloria Drake, have updated our Constitution and Policy and Procedures Manual. These latest versions are available on our website.

Judy Drummond writes our interesting and relevant Issues and Concerns articles.

Annette Rhodes, Chair of the Honorary Membership Committee and her committee, have received the nominations for the Honorary Membership Award."

Pat Depencier takes minutes at our Provincial meetings and is preparing the Annual Report for the AGM.

Kay-Anne Broger, Chair of the Membership Committee, is busy accepting Feather in Your Hat Award nomi-

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

**Provincial President: Marilyn Emmett**

1 Tara Court  
St Catharines, ON L2N 2M2  
(905) 646-5543  
emmett@cogeco.ca

**First Vice-President: Dianne Rice**

9908 Eric St. RR1  
Thedford, ON N0M 2N0  
(519) 243-2628  
dianr@execulink.com

**Insurance Convenor: Nancy Iannizzi**

17 Queen Mary Drive,  
St. Catharines, ON L2R 2J3  
(905) 687-9783

**Manulife Financial 1-800-268-3763**

**Broker: Terry Kennedy**

**The Dolphin Consulting Group**

(519) 583-0098  
Fax: (519) 583-2876  
tkennedy34@bell.net

***The Provincial Office has moved.***

**Provincial Office Executive**

**Secretary-Treasurer: Gloria Drake**

19730 Four Rod Rd.,  
Blenheim, ON N0P 1A0  
(519) 676-0043  
Toll free: (877) 607-6696  
Email: info@rwto.org  
**Website: www.RWTO.org**

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40739021  
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:  
RWTO/OERO Provincial Office

*This newsletter is published three times each year  
in September, December and March. Send submissions by email to  
rwtoconnections@gmail.com • Website: www.RWTO.org*



### *President's Message continued*

nations and, with her committee, is looking for ideas on maintaining and/or increasing membership.  
Lois Lockhart, Archivist, has updated and simplified much of the Provincial Archive material this year.  
What an amazing group of women! Thank you to each one of you for your devoted service to the more than 5,000 members.

Special appreciation is extended to the Area 2 Branches under the leadership of Karin Mussen and Lesley Uttley for organizing Convention 2015 in Stratford. Fun times ahead!  
Looking forward to seeing everyone in June at Festival... Fantastique!

## ***Nominations Report***

*The following slate will be presented at the 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM):*

Past President: **Marilyn Emmett**  
President: **Dianne Rice**  
1st Vice-President: **Peggy Stock**  
2nd Vice President: **(One to be elected)**  
**Terry Hamilton, Lois Lockhart**

Program Coordinator: **Nancy Papiez**  
Provincial Insurance  
Convenor: **Bertha Breen**  
Recording Secretary: **(One to be elected)**  
**Sandie Bender, Judy Drummond**

If more than one candidate is nominated for any of these positions, then a secret ballot shall be held. Election shall be by majority vote of the delegates present at the Annual General Meeting. Constitution, page 10, #4, Elections.

Also see Policy XVI RWTO/OERO ELECTION PROCEDURE

Brief Biographies are presented below. A more detailed biography will be contained in the Convention bags.

*Nominations Committee:*  
*Anne Graham, Chair;*  
*Kay-Anne Broger; Phyllis Robson*



### ***Candidates for RWTO/OERO 2nd Vice-President***

#### ***Terry Hamilton***

I have had extensive board experience since retiring from a 30-year teaching career. I was a member of the Board of Directors for Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank for five years; President of Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Cambridge and their Regional Director for four years. I was, as well, the CFUW Ontario Council Board member, where I helped to develop an accessibility policy and training manual. Recently I was made Chair of National CFUW Advocacy Committee for Better Childcare. I have been on the YMCA of Kitchener Waterloo/Cambridge Board of Directors for the past seven years, during which time I joined the ad hoc committee to re-write their constitution and bylaws and was Chair of YMCA



Philanthropy Committee. I became President of RWTO Cambridge in 2013 and have enjoyed that position and the Branch Vice President position for almost two years. I believe I have the skills and experience to make a positive impact on the RWTO Provincial Board.

#### ***Lois Lockhart***

I have lived on a farm in West Lincoln most of my life. I value time with my three children and have been blessed with two young grandchildren. Teaching is part of who I am. My career spanned from 1969 to 2004 in Hal-dimand, now part of Grand Erie District. Since retiring, I enjoy the



## *Candidates for RWTO/OERO 2nd Vice-President continued*

freedom of choice and split my time between family, RWTO/OERO, friends and volunteering. I have been Area 4 Director (four years), a position I have learned from, as it allowed me to connect with members and to experience programs and meetings with seven different branches (some large, some small). I have had the opportunity to gain some insight into Provincial operations as a part of the Provincial Board. I served as Provincial Archivist for two years and have come to appreciate our rich history. I am very excited about the future of this warm and caring organization.

### *Candidates for RWTO/OERO Recording Secretary*

#### *Sandie Bender*

My name is Sandie Bender and I am running for the position of RWTO/OERO Recording Secretary. I have lived and taught in Northern, Eastern and Southern Ontario. Most of my career was in the Ottawa area where I taught Secondary School English and was a consultant and curriculum coordinator for the Ottawa Catholic School Board. A few years ago we moved to Hamilton to help out family and I immediately became involved in RWTO/OERO Hamilton-Wentworth Branch as 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents, President and two years as Past President. As a Co-Convenor for Convention 2013, I took the minutes and developed Action Status Reports. Provincially, I have been a delegate at four conven-



tions, assisted in revising the Convention Handbook and co-presented a “Be Our Guest” workshop at Convention 2014. My organizational, communication, interpersonal and computer skills are quite competent. Having taken a leadership role at the branch level, I now look forward to a new challenge – serving on the Provincial Executive.

#### *Judy Drummond*

I have been a faithful member of the Lanark Branch of RWTO/OERO for 12 years. During those years I have worked on the Executive as Insurance Convenor, Program Coordinator, Social Convenor, 1st Vice-President, President and Past President. Presently, I coordinate the telephone committee working with 10 members on my team to prepare for our monthly luncheons. In 2013, I was honoured with The Cora Bailey Award for my dedication to the Lanark Branch. My four-year tenure on the Provincial Board has been very rewarding as I represent Lanark and Ottawa-Carleton as Area 9 Director. I have actively served on the Membership Committee, Honorary Membership Committee, Resolutions Committee and have been the Issues and Concerns Convenor for the past two years. With my outgoing personality, I am committed to RWTO/OERO and would be pleased to be your Recording Secretary for the Provincial Board. I live our RWTO/OERO motto every day, “Caring and Sharing”.



## *Convention 2015 Resolutions*

### *Resolutions From The Board Of Directors*

#### *Resolution # 1*

Be it resolved that Article VIII Duties and Structures of Provincial Committees #5, Audit Committee, section (c) be amended to read: If the Executive Secretary-Treasurer has the auditor’s report by the Spring Board meeting the report will be presented. The Board will review the financial status of the organization and make recommendations as deemed necessary. If the auditor’s report is not ready until after the Spring Board meeting, the Audit Committee will meet to review the financial status of the organization and make recommendation to the Board of Directors following receipt of the financial statements.

#### *Rationale:*

- When the auditor’s report is prepared in time for the Spring meeting, the report is presented to the Board for review and there is no need for the Audit Committee to meet.
- Originally, when the Board met in April, the auditor’s report could not be ready. Since the Board now meets in May, this report is often ready and can be presented to the Board. A back-up plan needs to be in place in the Constitution, in the event that the Audit Report is not available until after the Spring Board of Directors Meeting.



## ***Resolutions From The Board Of Directors continued***

### ***Resolution # 2***

Be it resolved that Constitution Article V, Duties of the Board of Directors #1, Executive, section (a) and #2, Board of Directors, section (a) be amended to read: Meet in September and May or at the call of the President.

#### ***Rationale:***

- Prior to September 2014 the executive met in September with the Board meeting in October. The Fall schedule required two separate meetings. In the Spring, the previous schedule placed the Executive meeting in April and the Board meeting just before the AGM in June. The Spring meeting schedule left little opportunity for the Board to have input before the AGM. As a result, in September 2014 the Board made a decision to have combined meetings in order to control costs and make sure the Board had ample opportunity for input prior to the AGM.

### ***Resolution # 3***

Be it resolved that the Constitution Article VI, Duties of the Executive Officers and Article VII, Duties of the Members of the Board of Directors job descriptions be updated to more closely reflect current practice and the changing role of these Executive and Board positions as a result of prior constitutional resolutions.

#### ***Rationale:***

- This is a housekeeping resolution caused by the many technological changes in the way information is recorded, stored and shared since the Constitution was written in the late 90s. This has caused the performance of the duties for these positions to change. These updates will more carefully reflect the expectations of these positions.

## ***Resolutions From The Branches***

### ***Resolution # 4 (from Peterborough Branch)***

Be it resolved that Constitution Article III, Membership and Fees, section 3, Life Member be amended by the addition of a new line (d): A member who qualifies for Life Membership under section 3(a) may be made a Life Member by the Branch Executive based on service to the local branch of RWTO/OERO. All other criteria, including no fees and notification to the Provincial Office, would remain the same.

#### ***Rationale:***

- The section in the Constitution Article III, section 3, Life Member as it is now written is one of disability. (a) A Life Member is one who is unable to manage details of her personal affairs; OR who is no longer attending meetings due to chronic ill health, physical impairment, mobility or age.
- This addition would mean Life Membership is based on a positive recognition of contributions a member has made.

### ***Resolution #5 (from Burlington Branch)***

Be it resolved that Constitution Article VIII, Duties and Structures of Provincial Committees, section B, Appointed Committees/Convenors, item 4, Communication Committee, line (b) be amended to read: Be comprised of the Communication Convenor and non-Board members representing different areas of the Province, duly approved by the Executive, the numbers to be determined by the needs of the Communication Convenor.

#### ***Rationale:***

- This amendment provides the opportunity for more members' participation at the grassroots level. In order to have a new Communication Convenor preparing for the role, it would be advantageous for her to be on this committee before taking the leadership role, making our organization stronger.

### ***Resolution # 6 (from Burlington Branch)***

Be it resolved that Constitution Article VIII, Duties and Structures of Provincial Committees, section B, Appointed Committees/Convenors, item 5, Membership Committee be amended by the addition of a new line (g): Be comprised of the membership Convenor and non-Board members representing different areas of the province, duly approved by the Executive, the numbers to be determined by the needs of the Membership Convenor.

#### ***Rationale:***

- This committee seems to be the only one without a definition of its membership. Membership is an area of major concern in our organization to assure growth and stability. In Halton alone, proven statistics indicate that 45% of the teachers now working are in their first five years. Retirements, now and in the near future, will be

## *Resolutions From The Branches continued*

dwindling. This amendment provides the opportunity for more members' participation at the grassroots level, thus ensuring continuity and succession for our organization.

### ***Resolution # 7 (from Burlington Branch)***

Be it resolved that Constitution Article VIII, Duties and Structure of Provincial Committees, section A, Standing Committees, item 2, Nomination Committee line (b) be amended to read:

Advertise vacancies for Provincial Executive and Appointed Committee members in the November Provincial Newsletter.

#### ***Rationale:***

- This is a facilitating motion to accommodate the changes to Committee Structures proposed in Resolution #5 and #6.
- Members from across the province would be encouraged to apply to work on these committees. The Nomination Committee would then review the applications and present a proposed slate to the Executive for approval. This process would allow members to feel more inclined to offer their services.

### ***Resolution # 8 (from Burlington Branch)***

Be it resolved that Policies and Procedures Manual, Article III, Finance Policies, item 5 Reimbursement of Expenses, item A, line (c) General: Expense claims must be submitted to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer within forty-five (45) days of the event and not later than March 31, the end of the fiscal year. Expense claims submitted after forty-five (45) days must be submitted to the President before any payment will be made. If the President decides there were special circumstances causing late submission of the claim, then authorizing payment would follow (revised October 2012) be amended to read: Expense claims should be submitted to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer within forty-five (45) days of the event and not later than March 31, the end of the fiscal year.

#### ***Rationale:***

- This is unnecessarily punitive, does not demonstrate caring, and should not be an accounting issue.
- Receipts should be submitted as people have been out of pocket for these expenses, especially for the convention fee, for several months.
- No business or person can refuse to pay a bill because it

was not received in any certain amount of time. RWTO/OERO obviously owes the member reimbursement and it cannot be denied.

- Maybe we need an incentive to submit in a timely fashion, i.e., Expense Forms not submitted may be subject to delay or penalty of \$?
- One cannot deny payment when it is owed.

### ***Resolution #9 (From Sarnia Lambton Branch)***

Be it resolved that Constitution Article X, Annual Meeting, section 4, Amendments to the Constitution be amended by the addition of a new line (d): When a resolution presented at the Annual General Meeting has been defeated then that same resolution cannot be submitted again for a period of three years.

#### ***Rationale:***

- The result of a resolution presented, debated and voted on carries with it an obligation on the part of the majority and the minority opinions to accept and respect the decisions of the majority. (Bourinot's Rules of Order)
- Delegates feel hounded to support the motion just to make it go away and it wastes the time of the AGM.
- Bourinot's Rules of Order, which RWTO/OERO follows, allows for reconsideration of a defeated resolution only after the original defeated resolution has been rescinded by two-thirds majority vote at a future meeting. The resolution can then be reintroduced at a following meeting.

(Bourinot's Rules of Order....1995)

### ***Resolution #10 (From York North)***

Be it resolved that in years when there is an excess of revenue above expenditures of more than \$1,000.00 in the RWTO/OERO budget that RWTO/OERO donate \$1,000.00 to a provincial charity which supports women and/or children in need. Such a charity to be determined by the Executive (for example, the OACAS Bursary/Scholarship fund for Ontario's youth in care).

#### ***Rationale:***

- RWTO/OERO is an organization which espouses "Caring and sharing". RWTO/OERO needs to demonstrate the ideals of "Caring and Sharing" at the provincial level as well, not just at the local level.



## Ad Hoc Committee Report

Greetings fellow RWTO/OERO members! As I write this report, (today, January 30), the Ad Hoc Committee has received submissions from eight branches and from 11 individual members. By the time you are all reading this update in Connections, I anticipate that we'll have received more submissions. I've heard that many branches are planning to have discussions regarding membership expansion at their Spring meetings. Our deadline to receive your submissions is April 20, 2015.

The submissions will be carefully reviewed by all committee members. Our report will be ready for you at the June AGM.

The idea of extending membership within our organization to include retired women who are non-teachers but who have worked within our schools as educational assistants is one that generates lots of discussion and a variety of opinions. Your Ad Hoc Committee is hoping to serve you well, as we read through your submissions. Thank you for your trust in giving us this task.

*Peggy Stock,  
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee 2014-2015  
2nd Vice-President*



## Insurance Matters

We owe a great big thank you to the many branches that gave us the time to make a presentation to their group during the recent Open Enrolment Period for the RWTO/OERO Hospital and Home Care Plan. It has been a great success, in large part to the efforts made at the branch level. Your support for this initiative is greatly appreciated! That support came in many forms. Many branches promoted the Open Enrolment opportunity in their newsletters and on their branch websites, some created skits, others made time for presentations and workshops. All these efforts, combined with the promotion by the Association via an initial mail campaign to uninsured members, this newsletter and the RWTO/OERO website helped to make this initiative a success. At the time of printing of this newsletter there are 870 new plan participants! There are still a few more to come in, as Manulife is still processing the applications they received.

Terry Kennedy, our Broker, recently had a conversation with our Manulife Account Manager Justin Franklyn about improving claims processing for Cataract Surgery Benefit and Oxygen Benefit claims. Under the Cataract Surgery Benefit, Manulife had recently announced that Cataract testing "not covered by OHIP" would now be included in this benefit and would be paid up to the current maximum of \$100 per eye. In order to ensure faster processing of your claim please ensure that your optometrist indicates that the testing done was for cataracts. If the receipt does not indicate that testing was for cataracts, the claim will be held up for further information and possibly declined.

Under the Oxygen Benefit a recent change was the inclusion of "CPAP machines and accessories" up to the current maximum of \$300 per benefit year. Masks for CPAP ma-

chines are considered an "accessory", so would be eligible for reimbursement. Manulife has requested that when you submit your initial claim for a new mask for your CPAP machine you include a note from your family physician indicating that the mask and machine are medically necessary. Once this note is in your file, it will likewise speed up the processing of your claim.

Manulife has just completed their annual review of the Hospital and Home Care Plan's performance to determine the appropriate renewal action for the upcoming plan year. I'm pleased to tell you that again this year, there will be no increase to the rates Manulife is charging plan participants for the Hospital and Home Care Plan and Personal Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan. This plan continues to provide members and their spouses with very good enhancement coverage for Extended Health Care at very reasonable rates: \$14.49 a month for a member, \$15.57 a month for a spouse. This is very good news, indeed!

And finally, just a reminder, if you need top-up Out-of-Country Travel Insurance, don't forget that you can call toll free: (888) 326-3535 and get a quote for RWTO/OERO Travel Insurance. Travel protected!



*Nancy Iannizzi,  
Provincial Insurance Convenor  
(905) 687-9783  
iannizzi@sympatico.ca*

*Bertha Breen,  
Assistant Insurance  
Convenor  
(519) 273-7908  
bertbreen@gmail.com*

*Terry Kennedy,  
RWTO Broker  
(519) 583-0098  
tkennedy34@bell.net*

## News from the Branches – “Caring and Sharing” ... and Having Fun!

### *What’s in a name? Daisy Wilson!*

Coldwater Branch members have unanimously voted to change the branch’s name to Daisy Wilson Coldwater Branch. Daisy Wilson grew up in Severn Bridge, attended Orillia High School, then Normal School in Toronto. The next five years Daisy taught in rural schools, including a one-room school with eight grades and 39 pupils. After having her family and restarting the farm after the war, Daisy returned to teaching in 1954 until retirement in 1982. Two years later, Daisy headed to Gambia, West Africa, to teach science and geography to Gambian teachers. One day her students told her she was stretching their brain, great praise in Africa where “the man is king”. After retirement Daisy joined the Coldwater Branch of RWTO, eventually became the Provincial Archivist, then 2nd Vice-President leading to Provincial President. Daisy was presented with the Queen’s Jubilee Medal for community service at Eady Women’s Institute, the Literacy Council of Orillia and hours of volunteering elsewhere. On August 5, 2014, Daisy celebrated her 93rd birthday at home, where she cares for herself and her wonderful flower beds. We are proud to name our branch Daisy Wilson Coldwater.



*Daisy Wilson pictured in centre*

### *Favourite Events from the Branches (Areas 5, 6, 8, 10, 11)*

#### *Rendevous*

Our favourite event this year was the ‘Lunch and Learn’ hosted by our Branch in September. A local retirement home, Tapestry, opened their doors to us. We had a private meeting room with refreshments and moved to reserved tables in the dining room at noon. Terry Kennedy was our speaker as the topic was RWTO/OERO Insurance and the Open Enrolment. The 20 attendees included members and other retired women teachers and their spouses. Specific questions about claims were dealt with individually by Terry before the presentation. Claim Forms were completed on the spot with Terry’s help and encouragement! The PowerPoint presentation was informative and personalized by Terry. We enjoyed soup, salad, sandwiches and dessert around two long tables which gave us a chance to chat. By the time the dust had settled we had four new members and several more insured people!

#### *Scarborough*

The ladies of Scarborough Branch meet monthly for our luncheon, social time and entertainment. We kicked off our 2014-2015 year with a High Tea in August, sponsored by our partners, The Marleigh Retirement Residence in Unionville. With loudly decorated hats and a harpist to serenade us, we raised our pinkies for truly English finger sandwiches, delicious scones, various flavours of tea and



of course, petit fours. Bone china cups and saucers, in the centre of each of the tables, filled with beautiful roses, were a hit with the ladies who were invited to take them home at the end of our party. Our Hat Parade

brought laughter for everyone as we celebrated our decorating skill and prizes were awarded to the winners. Aside from a lovely summer afternoon tea, our event was able to raise \$500 to donate to children’s charities and further our support of a women’s shelter.

#### *York North*

The York North branch of RWTO/OERO hosts four lunches and four Coffee Chats each year. One of our favourite times was when we had Elaine Charal, a Handwriting Analyst do profiles based on our handwriting. A very entertaining and informative session. We were thrilled to have our very own and talented singer Christina Doyle perform and lead us in an old-fashion sing along. Gift baskets are assembled by the elves on our Executive and raffled at the December luncheon. All proceeds from the raffle, bake

### *Favourite Events from the Branches continued*

sale and book sale, including donations from our Looney and Tooney dishes are donated to four food banks in the area. Thanks to our Archivist Ruth Haisell, our members can enjoy and share our past events on our photo board. In the “Caring and Sharing” spirit, we also support a student teacher at York University. We are a small, cooperative group who genuinely care for each other.

#### *Blue Mountain*

Our Spring meeting will include members from two neighbouring branches and also our Provincial President Marilyn Emmett and our Area Director Kay Anne Broger. An interactive demonstration of appropriate dress for Victorian afternoon tea or “at home” garb promises to be informative and fun.



#### *Daisy Wilson Coldwater*

On Tuesday, Dec.2, 2014, we had a sit-down Christmas dinner at Marilyn’s home with 23 members present. Her home was beautifully decorated for the holiday season. Everyone brought their favourite seasonal dishes to complement the turkey. We each had taken a wrapped gift described in a poem on the outside. Esther emerged as “Mrs. Doubtfire”, our auctioneer and the fun began.

Each wrapped gift was auctioned off for a grand total of \$210. Sharon, one of our program’s organizers, purchased precious gifts for the third-world children.



She bought supplies for one classroom, antibiotics for 10 children and education for two girls’ in an area where this does not come automatically. Sharon made sure a little did a lot. A great thank you to all who did this programme: a special meal, entertainment and especially the fund raising for children in need. We all went home happy.

#### *East Parry Sound*

East Parry Sound Branch’s theme-based meeting is one of our favourite things. Always planned for May, it’s an OPEN meeting. We invite friends, among whom there just might be potential new members. We select an interesting theme, around which we can build four presenters/workshop leaders. Format is a rotational one. We break into small groups and then rotate through activities, before coming together for a delicious luncheon. Themes such as “Women’s Wellness”, “Food Glorious Food” and “Fun with the Arts” have allowed us to have short 20-minute sessions to actively explore topics such as line dancing, reiki or simple salsa recipes, to name but a few. As an added bonus, because we randomly divide into groups, we are able to get to know each other in a casual and fun setting. While we strive to make all of our meetings special events, this one is clearly “over the top”.

#### *Muskoka*

In April, Muskoka Branch members met at the Bracebridge United Church to enjoy their Spring luncheon meeting and to celebrate a visit from Area Director Kay-Anne Broger. After taking care of business, guest speaker, Patrick Boyer, a lawyer and historian, shared interesting historical facts about the Bracebridge area. During the last week of June, the Muskoka members’ Annual Pot Luck Tea Party took place at the Bracebridge Seniors’ Centre. Members enjoyed feasting on a wide variety of sandwiches and treats and playing games for prizes. September brought members together at Tally-Ho-Inn in Huntsville for a fall meeting, which included a luncheon and guest speaker Kristie Virgoe, who gave a talk about various work projects of the Muskoka Conservancy.

#### *Orillia*

Favourite times are the ones we tend to repeat each year. Our September pot luck is a relaxing way to return to business, welcome new retirees and invite our neighbouring Daisy Wilson Coldwater Branch to join us. In October, we arrived wearing witch hats and orange and black outfits. Hallowe’en songs and a quiz introduced our special guest Witch Hazel. An auction, led by our in-house auctioneer Maisie



## *Favourite Events from the Branches continued*

Tremain, was the fun part of the November meeting. Proceeds went to Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Prior to this frivolity, we analyzed the possibility of opening our membership to include all retired women in education. We conscientiously came to a consensus and our opinion was reported to Provincial. A traditional Christmas dinner concluded our 2014 calendar. Interest groups remain popular: "School Belles" continue entertaining, "Lunch Group" is growing in numbers and an I-Pad group is forming.

### *Gananoque*

"Raindrops and roses and whiskers on kittens" are some of our favourite things but Gananoque RWTO/EORO members also have some favourite places to meet. Twice a year we gather at the Lyndhurst United Church Hall for our Spring and Fall meetings, The Junction Restaurant, Seeley's Bay for our Membership meeting, The Thousand Islands Playhouse and the Rockport Boat Lines for entertainment. The venue staffs treat us like family and we have included them in our plans again for 2015. At our Christmas meeting, Gloria Stowell, artisan from Merrickville, Ontario, shared her special interest in helping adults learn effective ways to teach young children to read. Complementing Gloria's message, our members, rather than exchange gifts, contributed more than 60 new children's books to be donated to Leeds-Grenville Interval House. The annual Alzheimer's Coffee Break for Alzheimer's raised \$930 for local programs. Our group is small in number but big in heart, reflecting our motto, "Caring and Sharing".



### *Kingston*

Kingston Branch is growing! We are pleased to welcome seven new members to our Branch this year. Kingston Branch and Napanee Branch continue to enjoy joint meetings and celebrations once a year. At our Fall luncheon, held at St. Luke's Church in Kingston, both branches enjoyed a presentation by Provincial Insurance Convenor Bertha Breen. Marilyn Emmett brought



greetings from Provincial. Kingston Branch will travel to Napanee in May for a social evening. A new incentive that Kingston Branch is eagerly looking forward to starting this month is "Knitting and Crocheting Social Time". We will meet to learn how to knit or crochet or to work on a current project. Of course there will be coffee and treats and lots of laughs. It is the best of times in Kingston Branch.

### *Brockville*

The Brockville Branch is a vibrant group of ladies that meet once a month (except in summer) to enjoy our favourite activity---EAT LUNCH! We try a wide variety of local establishments. This lunch is accompanied by lots of socializing, sharing of books, crafts, ideas and lots of "catching up" with each other. We are also pleased to support a local rural church by holding two or three of our luncheons there each year. This unique venue, good food and available craft items are



a unique flashback to a gentler time. At these times we provide entertainment and /or a guest speaker. As former teachers we still respond to the needs of children in our

area. We make and deliver pillowcases to our local Interval House. As well, a local literacy program called Fun with Books is strongly supported by the members. Food, fellowship and community are our favourite times.

### *Napanee*

With two general meetings, four breakfast get-togethers and three luncheons, 2014 was a busy year for Napanee Branch. A highlight for us was putting together 75 "Tales and Tunes for Tots"



kits to be distributed to newborns in Lennox and Addington County. In June, we were delighted to be invited by Belleville Branch to a lovely Tea Party. With everyone

sporting a hat of their own creation, a delightful lunch and a good time of fellowship was enjoyed by all. In October, we reconnected with former teaching friends from Kingston Branch as a joint Fall General Meeting, hosted by Kingston Branch, during which we heard news about the "open insurance window". On Dec. 27 we were honored to meet

### *Favourite Events from the Branches continued*

and present flowers to Bessie Smith, a new centenarian who turned 100 the following day. Pictured with Bessie are Margaret Herrington, Maureen Dowling, Teresa Dorey and Margaret Hughes.

### *Upper Canada East*

Upper Canada East hosts four luncheons each year and we are involved in numerous ‘Caring and Sharing’ activities. In April, we were riveted by guest speaker Kathy Lucking of the Madagascar School project. Kathy told us of how their organization built and maintained a school in a remote village. Heart-warming story, amazing work! September brought our second annual “Quarter Frenzy”, which not only raised money for the child-based charities we support but created all kinds of mirth and mayhem! Other meetings featured a storyteller, a Christmas trivia quiz and great times sharing wonderful meals. In all meetings we feature “Feather in Your Hat” presentations which spotlight the contributions of individual members. School bag-making bees have been held throughout the year with the end product going to children in need. Having fun while helping others is what we are all about!



### *Sudbury*

It is felt by many of our members that our favourite event comes in the Spring with the flowers, the birds, the bees and the GOLF TOURNAMENT. In the recent past, we have had seven annual golf tournaments at a local golf course. This activity attracts an average of 25 members and friends. It is a high percentage considering our small membership. This is one of our favourite times because of the feeling of being part of a Sorority of Sisters having fun. This field day for teachers has no agenda, just complete freedom. We have those who golf, those who walk the golf course and members who come to share a meal at the club house. The joy is visible and the conversation is lively, exuberant and sometimes loud. Among friends, connections are renewed and further social outings are planned. It is physically, mentally and socially beneficial to all. Women helping women, being true to our motto.



### *Central Algoma*

After Remembrance Day, an interest group of our branch met for a “Wartime Foods” theme dinner. Members were encouraged to wear clothing of that era and to bring stories, songs, pictures and artifacts to share. Wartime rationing limited the choices of food on the buffet table. Some dishes were: fried spam on crackers, Woolton pie, hard time buns, potato cheese, Beachburg pudding and a war cake. Stories were told of parents and grandparents during the wars but one member gave a first-hand account of being a teacher in England during the war. Muriel taught us to play “Beetle Drive”, a game she used to distract her students during times of stress. April’s meeting will highlight “Ovarian Cancer”. Three of our members also belong to Zonta which has entered a partnership with Ovarian Cancer Canada to help raise awareness. Fifteen trained Zonta members will work to educate the public under the banner “Knowledge is Power”.



### *Sault Ste. Marie*

Thirty RWTO/OERO ladies in Sault Ste. Marie enjoyed ending our 45th Anniversary year the same way we began, gathering at the Root River Barsanti’s Restaurant. It is always a grand time when we get together to enjoy lunch, chat and share stories of family and friends. At this meeting, Paula Harrison was presented with the Cora Bailey Award, Joyce Mertes was recognized as RTO’s Super Senior for Spring 2014, and Sandy Fulcher and Rita Wagner were recognized by the local Zonta Club for being active community members. Our photo shows Paula Harrison, Joyce Mertes, a former Provincial President, and Sandy Fulcher, the Area 11 Provincial Director. In September, our group welcomed several new members: Denise Colizza, Doreen Simard and Rachel Robitaille. We hope all members continue to enjoy the camaraderie at our general meetings and learn more about our project, Bed Kits for Sleeping Children Around the World.



## *'In Memoriam'*

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Branch</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Branch</i>
Aiken, Jean	Owen Sound	Owen Sound	Hillen, Helen	Kingston	Kingston
Allendorf, Berniece	Guelph	Palmerston	Hockings, Louisa	Hamilton	Hamilton-Wentworth
Anderson, Joan	Stratford	Stratford	Hoey, Geraldine	Ottawa	Ottawa-Carleton
Anderson, Lillian	Huntsville	Muskoka	Holden, Helen	St. Catharines	Pay Direct
Bailey, Mary	St. Thomas	St. Thomas-Elgin	Honeyman, Madeleine	Ottawa	Ottawa-Carleton
Baird, Erma	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton	Hrabowsky, Stephanie	St. Catharines	St. Catharines
Bantin, Irene	Oakville	Mississauga	Hurry, Janice	Guelph	Guelph-Wellington
Beneteau, Cecile	Chatham	Windsor-Essex	Inch, Leanne	Brantford	Brant
Bentham, Joyce	Port Hope	Northumberland	Jacklin, Gladys	Walkerton	South Bruce
		South Durham	Johnson, Isabel	Thornbury	Beaver Valley
Bradt, Aletha	St. Thomas	St. Thomas-Elgin	Johnston, Willa	Wardsville	Chatham-Kent
Brown, Frances	Cambridge	Cambridge	Kennedy, Flora	Kitchener	Kitchener-Waterloo
Brown, Kathy	Mildmay	Palmerston	Knight, Sue	Caledonia	Haldimand
Bryce, Julie	Mississauga	Mississauga	Kurvink, Kathleen	Guelph	Sarnia-Lambton
Bryne Patten, Carolyn	Fonthill	St. Catharines	Lachapelle, Marion	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton
Burrell, Gail	Cardinal	Upper Canada East	Lake, Margaret	Sault Ste. Marie	Sault Ste. Marie
Campbell, Doris	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Lasko, Patricia	Toronto	York North
Campbell, Lillian	St. Catharines	St. Catharines	Leeder, Angela	Oakville	Oakville
Carmichael, Mary	Lakefield	Peterborough	Lipsett, Muriel	Annan	Owen Sound
Carter, Isabell	London	Sarnia-Lambton	Lyle, Irene	Elizabethtown	Brockville
Clark, Rheta	Ridgetown	Chatham-Kent	MacKenzie, Sheila	Ajax	Scarborough
Cleave, June	Caledonia	Hamilton-Wentworth	Makkreel, Beverley	Niagara Falls	Niagara Falls
Connell, Pat	Ayr	Cambridge	Marshall, Jean	London	London-Middlesex
Crozier, Evelyn	Kingston	Kingston	McClure, Phyllis	Brantford	Brant
Dalton, Johanne	Mississauga	Mississauga	McGregor, Brenda	Owen Sound	Owen Sound
Davies, Betty	Stratford	Stratford	McLean, Lillian	Burlington	Burlington
DeWolfe, Doreen	Gananoque	Gananoque	McLeod, Muriel	Shelbourne	Peel North
Donald, Lorna	Port Carling	Muskoka	McMahon, Rita	Windsor	Windsor-Essex
Dowd, Barbara	Ottawa	Ottawa-Carleton	Metcalf, Shirley	Forest	Sarnia-Lambton
Dubé, Ann	Sudbury	Sudbury	Misener, Theodora	Warton	Warton
Dunlop, Jean	Georgetown	Lydia Snow North	Mitchell, Phyllis	Ottawa	Ottawa-Carleton
		Halton	Munro, Elinor	Midland	Daisy Wilson
Eagleson, Frances	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton			Coldwater
Emms, Elizabeth	Lombardy	Lanark	Neilson, Jean	Almonte	Lanark
Evans, Maida	Midland	Daisy Wilson	Niro, Gail	Sudbury	Sudbury
		Coldwater	Omand, Jean	Kitchener	Kitchener-Waterloo
Fallow, Irene	Orillia	Orillia	O'Neil, Maxine	London	London-Middlesex
Ferguson, Olive	Mississauga	Peel North	Parker, Mern	Huntsville	Muskoka
Fretz, Lotta	Port Colborne	Niagara South	Parsons, Gwen	Nepean	Ottawa-Carleton
Gamble, Lilian	Lyndhurst	Gananoque	Peters, Lois	London	London-Middlesex
Gibb, Lynda	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton	Pollock, Bonnie	St. Catharines	St. Catharines
Gillespie, Mildred	Caledon East	Peel North	Pond, Ruth	Jarvis	Haldimand
Gillies, Jeanne E.	Parksville	Rendezvous	Rathbun, Juanita	Fonthill	St. Catharines
Glew, Miriam	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton	Reuber, Melva	Walkerton	South Bruce
Graham, Lorraine	Sarnia	Sarnia-Lambton	Richardson, Beverly	Tilbury	Chatham-Kent
Greven, Nancy	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Ritchie, Janet	Hamilton	Hamilton-Wentworth
Grubb, Dorothy	Kitchener	Kitchener-Waterloo	Robinson, Donelda	Owen Sound	Owen Sound
Hainer, Margaret	Belleville	Belleville	Rush, Iona	Waterloo	Kitchener-Waterloo
Hanna, Helen	Stayner	Blue Mountain	Sanford, Shirley	Chatham	Chatham-Kent
Harlton, Ina	St. Marys	Stratford	Scott, Elizabeth	Brantford	Brant
Harries, Kaye	London	London-Middlesex	Scutt, Hazel	Dundalk	Dundalk-High Pt
Hill, Mary Ann	Waterloo	Kitchener-Waterloo	Sicotte, Anne	Niagara Falls	Niagara Falls



***'In Memoriam' continued***

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Branch</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Branch</b>
Smith, Joy	Burlington	Burlington	Vuylsteke, Judy	Guelph	Guelph-Wellington
Snowe, Wilma	Fergus	Guelph-Wellington	Wagner, Jean	Owen Sound	Warton
Stone, Marion	Brockville	Upper Canada East	Wareham, Cicely	Palmerston	Palmerston
Stucky, Naomi	Melancthon	Northumberland	Wells, Elizabeth (Betty)	Sault Ste. Marie	Sault Ste. Marie
		South Durham	Wilson, Joyce	Guelph	Guelph-Wellington
Terry, Elizabeth	Hamilton	Hamilton-Wentworth	Withnell, Margaret	Oakville	Oakville
Thompson, Anne	London	London-Middlesex	Wood, Helen	Campbellford	Trenton
Tubman, Marion	Guelph	Guelph-Wellington			

***Goodwill***

You couldn't ask for a better RWTO/OERO job than to send Birthday, Christmas and Spring greetings to over 280 of our members! It may seem a bit daunting, (well, a whole lot daunting) at first, but when you recognize the privilege of corresponding with each one of these Over 90s women, you quickly see what a unique opportunity it truly is. Many write back with information about past teaching lives and present interests and hobbies and I realize how wonderful an organization this is - one to which I am so proud to



*Dorothy Brush*

belong. Nine RWTO/OERO members have celebrated a 90th birthday this past November and December. Fourteen more will celebrate a 90th birthday from January through April. Isabel Grant, pictured here, turned 100 on Nov.11. Our newest centenarian is Dorothy Brush, seen accepting flowers from Windsor-Essex Branch members for her Jan. 6 birthday. She will share the honours with Frances McCallum, Feb.18, St. Thomas-Elgin, and Olive Morden, March 15, Hamilton-Wentworth. Congratulations to you all. These are wonderful milestones in life's great journey!



*Isabel Grant*

*Peggy Stock,  
Goodwill Convenor/  
2nd Vice-President.*



***Fraud Alert***

Scams targeting seniors are on the rise, according to police. In the so-called "emergency" or "grandparent" scam, a caller tells the victim that it's their grandson or nephew calling and they were in an accident and need money for bail or a fine. The caller asks the senior not to tell the rest of the family about the trouble. The caller then gives instructions on where to send the money and how — typically through a money transfer agency, police said.

To protect yourself, from this and other frauds, more information is available at [www.hamiltonpolice.ca](http://www.hamiltonpolice.ca) or [www.antifraudcentre.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre.ca). Source: Hamilton Police Service

## Membership

It is truly amazing rereading the wonderful ideas presented by the 19 branches in Areas 2, 3, 9 and 12 (September 2014 Connections) and the “Caring and Sharing” demonstrated by the 18 branches in Areas 1, 4 and 7 (December 2014 Connections). In this current issue, we will learn about favourite events from Areas 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11. What a vibrant organization we are!

Sandra Train, Membership Convenor several years ago, likened our RWTO/OERO members to quilters minus the fabric. She commented that, through our meetings and our Connections newsletter, we share ideas and techniques hoping to create a legacy of “Caring and Sharing” among our members and in our community, just as quilters create a legacy with their quilts. Your good works in and for your communities are your best publicity. Be sure to submit articles about your charitable works, guest speakers and special events to your local newspapers. Also keep your website

current by contacting Mardie at [rwtoconnections@gmail.com](mailto:rwtoconnections@gmail.com).

The deadline for submissions to be considered for the Feather in Your Hat Award is March 1, 2015. Hopefully several branches will have submitted their excellent projects to me at [kabro@sympatico.ca](mailto:kabro@sympatico.ca) by the deadline for the consideration of the Membership Committee. Awards will be presented at the AGM banquet in June. We hope to see many of you there.

*Kay-Anne Broger,  
Provincial Membership  
Convenor*



## Issues And Concerns - Do You Houseclean?

Some of us may be thinking about Spring cleaning or are in the planning stages of downsizing to a smaller residence. Here are a few ideas to kick-start your de-cluttering and re-organizing:

- 1) De-clutter for 15 minutes every day – small increments make good progress.
- 2) Donate stuff you really don't need.
- 3) Start at the corner by the door and move around the room – do surfaces first and then open cupboards.
- 4) Use the “one in two out” rule. When you bring in an item throw away two other items.
- 5) Clothing – If you haven't worn an item for over six months, sell or donate it.
- 6) De-clutter one room at a time before starting on the next one.



- 7) If you keep moving an article from one spot to another, after the second time remove it.
- 8) Internalize that your value is not in your stuff. It is just stuff – your value grows when you share your stuff.

*Judy Drummond,  
Issues and Concerns Convenor*







## RWTO/OERO CONVENTION 2015

### Stratford June 2-4

AREA 2 Branches:

Cambridge~Guelph-Wellington~Kitchener-Waterloo~Listowel~Palmerston~Stratford  
rwtoconvention2015@gmail.com

#### ARDEN PARK HOTEL

552 Ontario St, Stratford, Ontario

The Arden Park Hotel is located on the northwest corner of Ontario Street and Romeo Street ([ardenpark.on.ca](http://ardenpark.on.ca))

##### Directions

##### By Car:

**East:** Hwy. 401 W Exit Hwy. 8 W Kitchener. Exit 7/8 W Stratford  
**South:** QEW W Hwy. 403 W to Hwy. 6 N, Hwy 401 W, Hwy. 8 W Kitchener. Exit 7/8 W Stratford

**By Train:** Via Rail #85 from Toronto. Take taxi to hotel.  
1-888-842-7245. [viarail.ca](http://viarail.ca)

##### Stratford Direct Bus from Toronto:

Round trip \$20 (plus taxes) to Stratford, taxi to the Arden Park Hotel.  
Call 1-800-567-1600 or book online ([stratfordfestival.ca](http://stratfordfestival.ca)).

**NB: Theatre ticket required**

<http://www.visitstratford.ca/getting-here>

#### SUITCASE LIST

**TUESDAY DINNER: Sleep Attire**  
**THURSDAY LUNCH: Hats or Fascinators**  
**PRIZES! PREPARE FOR UNLIMITED FUN!**

#### CONVENTION WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3:30-4:30 PM

##### Workshop #1 - "Quarter Frenzy"

Leader: Carol Watson, St.Thomas-Elgin Branch  
Bring your quarters and have fun learning how to raise funds for your local charities.

##### Workshop #2 - "Do you Excel?"

Leader: Gloria Drake, Provincial Executive Secretary/ Treasurer  
Money! Money! Money!  
A priceless workshop for all your Branch money matters.

##### Workshop #3 - "Dare to Share"

Leader: Nancy Papiez, Provincial Program Convenor  
Branch Presidents....share in groups one great idea that worked well for your Branch....sharing and caring,  
Special projects for outreach, recruitment, fundraising, entertainment....the list goes on! Bring visuals too!

#### TREATS & TOURS – CONVENTION '15

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

**Prices:** Theatre Experience: \$78. All other tours/activities: \$50  
**(Not included in the Full Package price)**

Theatre Experience and Tours include lunch and transportation

##### #1 Stratford Festival Theatre Experience

**(NB: Only 100 tickets are available for EACH production. Seats assigned on a first come basis.**

**Must be purchased by Early Bird Deadline)**

**The Diary of Anne Frank:** The inspirational true story of a Jewish girl and her family hiding from the Nazis in a secret annex in Amsterdam. Starring Sara Farb, Lucy Peacock, Joseph Ziegler. **Avon Theatre**

**OR**

**The Physicists:** Three inmates of an asylum are under investigation for murder – but who are they really? Funny & full of unexpected twists. Starring Seanna McKenna, Geraint Wyn-Davies, and Graham Abbey. **Tom Patterson Theatre.** *Please note: there are steep stairs to some seats at this theatre.*

##### #2 Festival Warehouse & Archives Tour (limit 46)

**Festival Warehouse:** Guided tour of costumes and props used in previous Festival productions. Bring your camera-- you really do get to play dress-up at the end!

**Festival Archives:** Guided tour allows visitors to explore highlights from the Festival's unique history. Includes rare film, photographs, scenery and props.

**#3 Antiques Afternoon:** Browse the antique shops of nearby Shakespeare, including *Jonny's Antiques, Land and Ross Antiques and Design and The Stratford Antique Warehouse.* Find that treasure you have been looking for, or learn something new about Canadian history through the beautiful furniture, china, artwork and other delights you will see during this relaxing afternoon outing.

**#4 Stratford Perth Museum: (limit 30)** Nearly 20,000 artifacts tell the stories of people and communities in Stratford and Perth County, from the early 1800s to today. Visitors will also enjoy *Order to Disorder*—a special display by the Stratford Festival. The tour will end with a lovely afternoon tea served at the Museum.

##### #5 Self-guided walking tours of Beautiful Downtown Stratford

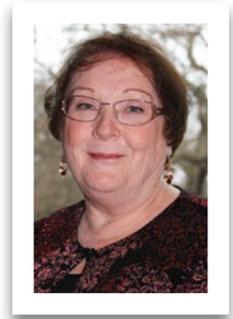
Maps, brochures and suggested activity lists provided:  
Stroll downtown Stratford. Historic buildings, innovative shops, galleries, cafes and restaurants are located within a compact city core, bordered to the north by beautiful Lake Victoria. Take a boat tour or rent a canoe or paddle boat (extra charge). Walk along the waterfront, or explore the Stratford Chocolate Trail! If gardens are your passion, visit the Shakespeare Gardens, which contain herb, roses and other plants mentioned in Shakespeare's plays.

## *Could this be you?*

Members of the editing team of Connections are eagle-eyed with solid grammar and spelling skills. If these are your strengths, consider submitting your name for the Communications team as an editor. It requires one editing and one proofing session, on your computer at home, for each of the three editions in August, November and February. If interested, please contact Mardie at [rwtoconnections@gmail.com](mailto:rwtoconnections@gmail.com) with your name, branch, email address and any experience. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks to the superb 2014-2015 Editors, namely: Juanita Johnsson, Joanne Weeks, Sharron Colter and Val Luscott.

*Mardie Panabaker,  
RWTO/OERO Provincial Communications Convenor*



## ***STRATFORD TEACHERS' COLLEGE CLASSES OF 1954-1955***

*are celebrating their 60-year reunion on Tuesday, May 12, 2015,  
at the Mitchell Golf and Country Club, 81 Francis Street West, Mitchell, Ontario  
from 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*

*Please contact Nancy Kraemer (519) 348-8286 or [kraemer@bell.net](mailto:kraemer@bell.net) before April 20, 2015.*



### **RWTO/OERO**

RWTO/OERO Provincial Office  
19730 Four Rod Rd.,  
Blenheim, ON N0P 1A0

**PM Agreement  
40739021**