

Cora Bailey Award

**Sault Ste. Marie Area: 11
2016**



Bernice Whalen

Bernice Whalen retired in 2006 from the Huron Superior Board after 44 exciting years in education, serving first as kindergarten teacher, then moving on to music consultant, primary consultant, and elementary curriculum co-ordinator. Over the years she shared her expertise by teaching educational courses for Nipissing University and OISIE to primary, junior and intermediate teachers, and she served as president for OECTA and CPCO.

Bernice brought her wealth of skills and experiences to RWTO in 2007 at the invitation of long time member Gerry Yeo. Her leadership skills and experiences were promptly put to use as second vice president in 2007, first vice president in 2008, and president in 2009. She proudly took part in the Call to Convention in Niagara Fall in 2010 wearing a bear skin and carrying a huge shaft of arrows and bow. She chaired the entertainment and tour section of the provincial convention held in Sault Ste. Marie in 2011. In addition, Bernice shares her love of drama and fun through her lively welcoming presentations for provincial presidents Carol Bell and Marilyn Emmett. She has chaired our branches 45th and RWTO's 60th anniversaries with fun and flair.

Bernice continues to serve on executive and will assume the role as branch president once again in Sept of 2016. Having fun at our meetings and caring about the feelings of all have been Bernice's prime goals. Our lives are richer because of the interactions experienced within RWTO and so indeed Bernice deserves to be recognized.

It is without reservation that the Sault Ste. Marie Branch recognizes Bernice Whalen with the Cora Bailey Award.