



THE SCRIBBLER

Sault Ste. Marie R.W.T.O. Newsletter Spring 2017

SHARING

CARING

HAVING FUN

President's A.G.M. Report 2017 by Bernice Whalen

The colours of the fall initiated an exhilarating ride into what will be for me a memorial year.

The fall started in full gear with a pot luck supper hosted by the executive. In honour of Ovarian Cancer Month an informative session was held and a donation to Ovarian Cancer Research was made. A Special Event happening with a corn maze at Farmer Bob's also proved to be a lot of fun and certainly reminded us of the beauty that surrounds us with the vibrant colours of fall. Throughout the year, we continued to provide a strong caring profile through our ongoing support of SCAW (Sleeping Children Around the World). It is unbelievable that this unit has provided almost 150 bed kits for children throughout the world. Certainly, the profile for the RWTO Sault Ste. Marie unit has left an indelible mark throughout the world. The unit continues to be one of caring concern for others. Christmas Cheer and homemade cookie boxes for our shut-in sisters were the thrust of our second general meeting. Our Scrabble club met once a month in a retirement home making it possible for our sisters who are less mobile to stay connected. The Book Club also met once a month as well as the Breakfast Club. There have been a lot of opportunities for sharing and having fun. The craft day in February was a huge success and definitely Babies, Babies, Babies seemed to be well received by all. It was heart-warming to hand over baskets of beautiful and practical needed baby items to Algoma Family Services to distribute to young expectant mothers. The feedback from this agency was heartwarming indeed!

Joining with our Central Algoma sisters to host President Peggy Stock at the Lighthouse setting in Thessalon proved to be a joyous occasion. Who could ever forget Gerry Yeo drumming on the stock pot?

Our website got initiated this year with strong support from our provincial team. It was dynamic and kept fresh with input of pictures from our various gatherings as well as seasonal president messages.

Each of you plays a critical part in this mosaic. Your attendance at meetings and your smiling support trigger a synergy that keeps us linked! We stay connected through our phone tree, our good will, our socials, our newsletters and our dynamic website.

Our health care and insurance RWTO insurance local chair continues to serve the needs of our members in an exemplary manner. Our Goodwill chair brings the needed hugs to those sisters who are experiencing health challenges. All this speaks of a very vibrant, caring community with the best interests of our RWTO sisters at heart. It is evident that hours of dedication are devoted through the generous hearts of the members and your executive team. Alone we can do little, but collectively we can do so much!! At the beginning of the year I invited you to join me for a ride on the colour train. You got on board! Each one of you made this year a special one in your own way. Your presence and support were appreciated and made the journey a pleasant one for me personally!

To the executive team----many, many thanks! It has been an honour and a privilege to have served alongside such a devoted group of individuals! Now like the lead goose in the V formation, I must move my position to the back. It is now time for a new leader in the formation, but be assured that I will continue to serve in any way that I can.

Cora Bailey Awards: This year's recipients of the award are Brenda Gallander, 1st Vice President, and Carol McFarlane, Secretary, both being recognized for their service over the years to our branch of R.W.T.O. Their certificates and pins will be presented by President Bernice. Past recipients of this award will be presented with Cora Bailey pins also as the pin is new this year. The lovely pin is adorned with a silhouette of Cora Bailey and her name.

Feb. 15th, 2017 Card Making Workshop—Following the general meeting and lunch, the members participated in a card making workshop presented by Kathy Greening and two of our members Wendy Bingham and Steph Hattie. Participants paid \$5.00 to make two prepackaged cards and another card of their own design and choice of materials. Each presenter brought in a variety of tools, papers and embellishments from which to choose. The hall was buzzing with excitement as we created some beautiful cards for various occasions.



Kathy G. brought her Cricuit machine to cut out letters and figures for us.



Wendy B. taught Carol C. how to assemble a card.



Steph. H. assisted Bev. B. with selecting ribbon to embellish her card.



Jenny K. (left), Carmen C. (center) and Rachel R. (right) are totally engrossed in the hands-on activity of making lovely homemade gift cards.

Babies! Babies! Babies! On April 12, 2017 we held a baby shower at our general meeting. We played games such as Guess the Member from Her Baby Photo and Baby Bingo. Most members brought in baby items to be presented to Algoma Family Services. To our delight, the following article which we emailed to SooToday.com made the first page of Local News on April 14, 2017.

Retired teachers hold baby shower to donate to local moms

The gifts were presented to Algoma Family Services



Left to right: Sherri Beaton, 0 to Age 6 Coordinator, Ali Juma, C.E.O. of A.F.S., Bernice Whalen, President of Sault Branch of R.W.TO. and Brenda Clarke, Lead Project Manager of A.F.S.

SooToday received the following message and photo from the Sault Ste. Marie Branch of the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario.

On Wednesday, Apr. 12, 2017, the Sault Ste. Marie Branch of the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario focussed on babies at their general meeting.

The retired teachers, who cared for thousands of children throughout their careers, donned their “gramma hats” and held a baby shower complete with games and gift giving.

Each member brought in baby items for young mothers in Algoma needing support. A large basket and several gift bags were filled with hand knitted baby outfits, baby blankets, cuddly toys, story books and practical items for the newborn.

The gifts were presented to Algoma Family Services Chief Executive Officer, Ali Juma; Lead Agency Project Manager, Brenda Clarke; and 0 to Age 6 Coordinator, Sherri Beaton who attended the event to receive the gifts and talk about the work that they do on behalf of children and mothers.

R.W.T.O. Sault Branch President, Bernice Whalen, indicated that the teachers’ donation was perhaps a small ripple, but if others in our community joined in the sharing, many small ripples could create a tidal wave effect in support of a very worthy agency.



Joyce M. was welcomed by Carol McF. and Paula H.



Bernice W. had a captivated audience as she read the baby book “I Love You So Much”.

Lighthouse Luncheon Wed., May 24 A group of members drove to Bruce Mines to join our Central Algoma sisters for the annual joint meeting and luncheon. The setting of the meeting hall next to an old lighthouse perched on the rocks was somewhat reminiscent of Newfoundland. Director Sandy gave the opening remarks and conducted an icebreaker in the form of a Canada 150 Bingo game. After that, the Sault Branch welcomed Provincial President, Peggy Stock, with a creative chant written by Bernice (after researching Peggy's life) and performed by Bernice, Brenda, Gerri and Sandy. Gerri did a great job drumming on the "Stock pot". From the smiles on Peggy's face, we could tell that she enjoyed our musical presentation. The buffet, catered by Fred Falls, was delicious. Some of us searched for treasures in the antique stores in Bruce Mines before returning home.



The lighthouse in Bruce Mines through the drizzle.



(Left to right) Bernice W., Sandy F., Gerry Y. and Brenda G. chanting with Gerry also beating on the stock pot to welcome Provincial President Peggy Stock.

Sandy submitted the following narrative to the newsletter to share the information she learned about Peggy on the drive from the airport to the hall and the information she recalls from Peggy's speech at the luncheon. You will surely enjoy the details that Sandy has included.

Peggy Stock, RWTO/OERO President, Our Guest of Honour at the Joint Meeting by Sandy F.

Plans were made in Windsor at the RWTO/OERO Diamond Jubilee last spring to invite Peggy Stock, the in-coming president, to visit Area 11: Central Algoma and Sault Ste. Marie on May 24, 2017. Originally, she was going to drive. However, as her presidential year progressed, she had to fly as she had to be in London on May 25, 2017, the day following. So, you might say that she has spent her year on the road and in her car. She has visited 48 out of the 52 branches. She has been able to combine some and it has been a total of 40 trips going back and forth across the province for her.

I picked Peggy up at the airport in Sault Ste. Marie on May 24th. On the drive from the Sault to Bruce Mines, Marlene Falls, the insurance convenor from Central Algoma travelling with us, and I found out some other things about Peggy. She will have served 8 years on the executive of RWTO/OERO having completed 4 years as the recording secretary and then 4 years through the chairs by the time she serves as the past president.

She and her husband taught in Chatham. When they retired, they moved to Spring Lake, their cottage which is around South River, just south of North Bay. As life was very isolated and different from Southern Ontario they joined the curling club to get involved in the community. She joined RWTO/OERO because a couple of retired women teachers with whom she had curled talked her into it.

At the hall, Peggy spoke to the members about her grandmother. Her grandmother had been a teacher and Peggy's inspiration.

Peggy's grandmother had thought that she would always be a teacher, that she would live with her parents, and that that would be a very good life for her. This was a common role for many female teachers 75 to 100 years ago. Peggy read to us the contract that her grandmother had signed. Some of the terms of employment were familiar to us and some were different such as 1.) not to loiter in ice cream parlours 2.) not to leave town without the permission of the chairman of the Board of Trustees 3). not to dress in bright colours 4.) not to dye your hair and 5.) to keep the classroom clean by scrubbing the floor once weekly and cleaning the blackboards at least daily.

However, destiny for Peggy's grandmother took a different turn. She met her future husband, Peggy's grandfather, fell in love and married him. Upon telling her principal that she had become engaged to be married, he congratulated her and in the next sentence said, "You will have your letter of resignation on my desk tomorrow morning". Peggy's grandmother had 3 children and she instilled in them the love of learning. From those 3 children, there are now 7 (children) persons who became teachers. What a wonderful legacy Peggy's grandmother gave to her children and her grandchildren.



Sault Branch members in front of the beautiful



Three outgoing presidents: (L to R) Bernice W.,

Puddingstone fireplace in the Lighthouse Hall.

Sault Branch, Peggy S., Provincial Office and

Gayle M., Central Algoma.

GOODWILL REMINDER FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS

We send cards to members who require support due to illness or family situations and send celebratory cards in recognition of special milestone birthdays or other special events.

We don't want to miss anyone who should be visited or should be sent a card or token of remembrance. Your help is needed so no one is missed. Please contact Josie V. at jrvallee@shaw.ca or 705-945-8762

Convention Report 2017—by Brenda G.

From June 6 to 8, 2017, Sandy F., Marg W., Emily N. and I attended the 61st Annual Convention in Ajax hosted by Areas 5 and 7 which include Belleville, Durham North, Northumberland South Durham, Peterborough, Rendezvous, Scarborough, Trenton and North York.

The theme of the convention was “Follow the Dream”. About eighty members of R.W.T.O. displayed descriptions of how they are pursuing their retirement dreams. There were inspirational stories about painting, playing a musical instrument, writing and publishing, volunteering, travelling the world, etcetera. Sandy F. contributed a description of her volunteer work over the years in many capacities with the Finnish Rest Home, most recently in the library of the new apartment.

During the first business meeting, all the resolutions (which are detailed in your March Connections newsletter) were carried except for one. The 4th resolution AGM Resolutions Amend the Constitution was defeated. It stated: Be it resolved that Article V111 1e “receive and review all resolutions from the Branches and the Board of Directors” be changed by adding the words “amending the constitution” so it would say, “receive and review all resolutions amending the constitution from the Branches and the Board of Directors. The rationale was that “there is a lot of confusion each year about what can be brought forward in a resolution and

that resolutions must relate to the constitution; this minor change makes that clear”.

Some members interpreted this resolution to mean that the power to amend the constitution would be in the hands of the provincial executive, that the members' voices would not get heard. Defeating the resolution means that the original wording in Article V111 1e is not changed.

We learned that each branch will receive a cheque for \$300 to use for promoting membership using the 3 R's of Recruitment, Recognition and Retention.

The Store Front display on the 3 R's of Membership provided us with a wealth of ideas for recruiting new members. One idea I will highlight is: Contact lapsed members and personally invite them back.

Recognition involves getting our organization's name and reputation for caring and sharing well known through community support endeavours. One endeavour on the list is one which I had in mind before the convention to bring to our branch executive for discussion and that is to buy and lay an R.W.T.O. wreath at the Remembrance Day Service at the Essar Centre.

Retention means using stimulating programs and activities to support membership retention. This is my main goal as potential president. Look forward to an autumn tour of an alpaca farm east of the city and a class in gentle yoga among other fun learning activities during 2017-2018 if I am elected.

The memorial service for members who passed away during 2016-2017 was moving. Sandy completed her four years as Area 11 Director by placing a carnation in the vase and candle on the table in memory of one of the deceased members. Two hauntingly beautiful songs you may want to check out are “Footprints in the Sand” and “Borrowed Angels”. Several thought-provoking quotes were used in the service. I particularly like this one by Maya Angelou: “I've learned that people will forget what you said, People will forget what you did, But people will never forget how you made them feel.”

On Thursday, the luncheon to honour members who are 90 plus years old was inspiring. Each of the eight ladies who attended had her biography read aloud which included some background on her teaching years as well as her volunteer work and other past times. I hope that I look as good when I am ninety!

Apart from the business part of the convention, we had time for socializing with members from other branches, enjoying entertainment after dinner on Tues. and Wed. nights and shopping in Port Perry's quaint downtown shopping district.

Sandy, Marg and I shared a room at the Hilton Garden Inn, so we had the opportunity to get to know each other better. Guess who slept on the cot? Moi! To my amazement, the cot was truly comfortable, and I enjoyed two nights of restorative sleep.



Taking a business break! Here are Marg W., Sandy F. and Brenda G. (around the back of the table) with Marg M. and Marlene F. from Central Algoma (right forefront). We were joined by three Sudbury members at the Area 10/ 11 table.



We were entertained by two very talented musicians and storytellers.



Here we are on the school bus ride back from shopping.

Left to right: Sandy F., Marg W. & Brenda G.



Sandy F. honoured a deceased member by placing a flower in the vase and a



I appreciated this display showing a photograph of Cora Bailey.

candle on the table.

CALL TO CONVENTION 2018

Members from Area 1 Branches and Area 6 motivated us with a slide show of the gorgeous Nottawasaga Inn Resort in Alliston where the convention will be held. The resort includes two golf courses, walking trails, three restaurants, an outdoor pool, spa services and more. I have reserved two rooms already. Save the dates of June 5 to 7, 2018. Their theme is New Adventure Awaits: Inspire, Share, Create. I hope that you will join us and create new memories with your RWTO sisters.

Reminder Regarding Membership Fees:

R.W.T.O Membership Fees:

\$25.00 if you retired prior to 1980

\$50.00 if you retired after 1980

Due Dates for Membership Fees:

Membership fees are due now.

- **To pay over the summer, please mail a cheque to Sandy Fulcher, 4528 Second Line West, Prince Township, Ontario, P6A 6K4. She will mail a receipt to you.**
- **You may pay in cash or by cheque at the Sept. 27, 2017 general meeting if you attend. Make your cheque payable to R.W.T.O**
- **October 9, 2017, is the absolute final deadline for Sandy, Branch Treasurer, to have received your payment.**

- **To have the RWTO insurance, you must maintain your membership by the timelines above.**

For information about insurance, contact Bev B. at 705- 949-0266 or at ourplace86@shaw.ca.



Other Reminders:

- Local RWTO members will continue to meet throughout the summer for breakfast or coffee the 2nd Friday of each month. Join us at 9 a.m. at Gino's Restaurant , 1076 Great Northern Road.
- Our Book Club meets each month except July and August. If interested in joining, contact Brenda Gallander at 705-949-9145 or at gallanb@shaw.ca
- The Scrabble Club meets the 2nd Friday of each month except July and August. To join, contact Brenda Gallander at the number or email above.
- If you require transportation to a meeting, please contact Brenda Gallander at 705- 949-9145 or at gallanb@shaw.ca. She will pick you up or arrange a ride for you to the venue and back home.
- Be sure to check out our website over the summer at www.RWTO.org
The 2017-2018 meeting dates and activity list will be posted by the end of Aug.

