

Spring Parting Message from the President



This year for me as President of the Sault Branch of R.W.T.O. has been a very rewarding experience. It was enjoyable planning enriching activities for us with input from the ladies on the board. Chairing executive and general meetings was a wonderful learning opportunity. The ladies on the executive are a supportive and dedicated group of women with whom I continue to enjoy working. I am grateful to you, the members, who take the time out of your busy lives to be a participant in our branch meetings and activities.

I am proud of all that our branch has accomplished this year Caring, Sharing and Having Fun. Firstly, the activities we planned and participated in were educational and fun.

In September, we celebrated Canada's Sesquicentennial by either dressing like teachers did in the 1800's or by wearing red and white, the colours of our national flag. The executive members provided foods from coast to coast to coast which we enjoyed for lunch. Mary Madonna led us in singing songs from many parts of Canada and by many Canadian songwriters.

October took us to Meadowview Alpaca Farm and Fiber Studio where we got to meet some llamas up close and to learn from two educators turned ranchers how llama wool is graded, spun and woven into beautiful items of clothing and rugs.

In January, some of us dressed and acted like characters in a murder mystery, while others tried to solve the crime over lunch. We had lots of laughs listening to the clues and using our deduction skills.

February was fabulous with a floral arrangement presentation. We learned from Eva Bruni, a florist from Routledge's, how to prepare, care for and embellish cut flowers for a vase.

Shirling Koa, a Gentle Yoga instructor, taught us in March how to stretch our bodies using a chair for support and balance.

In April we visited New North Greenhouse for a hands-on lesson in Kokedama and the opportunity to preview garden décor and early plants.

May brought Lois Lockhart, Provincial President, and Donna Hemeon, Provincial Insurance Convenor, to our joint meeting with the Central Algoma branch. We learned from Lois that we

are doing good things in our branches and Donna went through the Insurance booklet with us explaining benefits. Secondly, we helped others in our community and in the world with our philanthropy. We contributed to Arch Hospice in September. The two dozen woolen stockings that we stuffed with toiletries for men and women were given to needy adults in our community as we joined in Leslie Cassidy-Amadio's Joy full Socks campaign in November. We contributed six bed kits to Sleeping children Around the World this year in the names of presenters and in the name of deceased members. We showed caring by visiting ill members in hospital and at home, by sending cards and gifts to members who had surgeries or illnesses and by attending funerals of deceased members and funerals of members' family members.

Before Christmas, we packed boxes of cookies for members who are shut-in or live in senior residences where they cannot bake for themselves. Milestone birthdays were recognized throughout the year.

Thirdly, we got together aside from general meetings. The Breakfast Club met every second Friday of each month and will continue to do so all summer. The Book Club met every third week of the month and will start again in September. The Scrabble Club got together every first Friday of the month and will resume in September. We did a lot, gave a lot, laughed a lot and consoled each other a lot. The scrapbooks and website chronicle another year of Caring, Sharing and Having Fun.

I am excited to serve you as Vice President, Past President and Communications Convenor this coming year.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Gallander