

RWTO/OERO SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER



rwtostratford@gmail.com



I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer! It certainly has been hot and humid! As the new president of the RWTO/OERO Stratford Branch, I thought I'd share a bit about myself. I moved to Stratford 4 years ago from Kingston where I taught Visual Arts, Digital Photography and Yearbook. I am a widow with two adult sons, one an actor/dancer/musician, the other a production co-ordinator. I have been a Friend of the Festival for three years and am one of the marshals/tour guides at the Festival Warehouse. I know I made the right choice to retire to Stratford because of the support and friendship that I have found being a member of the RWTO/OERO. Caring and Sharing was the order of the day when our members were there for me when my mother passed last year.

One of my goals as your new president is to share the good news of our membership. It's hard to talk to everyone at our general meetings so I decided to write an occasional newsletter to let you know what's been happening and what activities are coming up. For those of you who missed it, our April meeting was held at Burns Presbyterian Church, kindly arranged by our convenors Denise S. and Helen S. The new executive was installed by Karin M.

In recognition of their service to the RWTO, Beryl M. and Marg R. were given the Cora Bailey Award. We enjoyed an excellent lunch of lasagna and salad. Margaret M. thanked the branch for the 60th Anniversary Pins that were given to our "over 90" members. We then heard from the team who are working on the Stratford/Perth Hospice Project.



Beryl and Marg



2016-2017 Executive: L-R Jennifer B., President, Judy T., Membership; Sheila D., Insurance; Helen H., Communications; Mary R., Social; Janice W., Goodwill; Cheryl S., Archivist; Joyce S., Treasurer; B. Sheldon, Secretary; Joan T., 2nd Vice-President; Dianne K., Past President; Lynnette M., 1st Vice-President



Margaret M.

2016 RWTO/OERO Convention "Rally by the River"

In June, nine of us ventured to Windsor for the 2016 RWTO/OERO Convention. In order to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the RWTO/OERO we were invited to wear our best "Diamond Glam" outfits and enjoy terrific entertainment, good food and lots of cake! We took a cruise on the Detroit River and tried our hand at the slots at the Casino. We had a few winners!



L-R: Denise S., Dianne K., Helen S., Janice W., Bev S., Joyce S., Mary D., Karin M., Jennifer B.

On Wednesday evening, the diamonds and glitz came out! After a lovely banquet, we were treated to the fabulous renderings of an impressive Elvis impersonator. He sang non-stop for over an hour and we all sang along with him. He even brought out his son to sing a few songs. I volunteered to do a hula with a few other ladies



His performance ended with a conga line that snaked around the enormous ballroom, with Janice at the head of the line! A great time was had by all. Dianne and I attended the General Meeting where the new Provincial President Peggy S. and other new executives were installed. She has graciously accepted our invitation to our own General Meeting on September 28 at the Golf and Country Club in Stratford.



Conga line with Joyce, Denise and Helen. You may recognize the woman in front of Joyce: She's Anne C., president of the Kitchener-Waterloo Branch. She taught belly dancing at our convention last year!



Janice is a big Elvis fan.

Grey Roots Museum

On June 29 there was a trip to Owen Sound to tour the Grey Roots Museum. There were a few teachers who remember the one-room schoolhouse! Thank to Karin M. who arranged the tour and lunch at the Harrison Park Inn.





Lunch Outings

Since April we've had several lunch outings. Dianne K. organized the lunch at the Westover Inn at St. Marys in May. Marg R. organized lunch at the Mitchell Golf and Country Club. Fourteen attended, enjoyed their lunch and stayed and visited. Maureen C. arranged a lunch at the Schmitdsville Restaurant in Wellesley in August.

World Festival of Children's Theatre

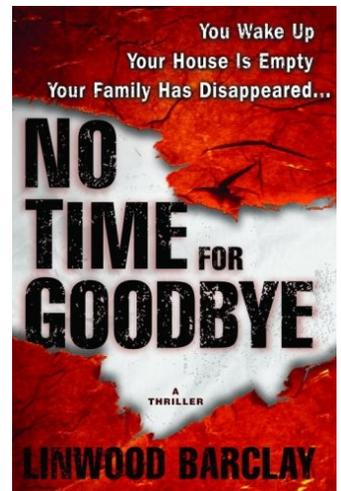


I was talking to Wendy M. at "A Little Night Music" the other day. She said that the World Festival of Children's Theatre went very well. There were 17 countries represented and the children ranged in age from 7 to 18 years of age. They put on their own shows, concerts and went to the theatre and to Niagara Falls. This is the first time that the Festival has been held in North America. It was a success due to those who donated their time, money and homes. Proudly we donated \$500 to this worthy cause and some of our members opened their homes to children from all over the world.

Teachers Pets

On June 25th, the Stratford Library held the first Book Off, a gathering of the many book clubs in Stratford. I and other members of our book club 'Teachers Pets' who attended the event found it to be well organized. Hors d'oeuvres and wine were served, setting the atmosphere. The MC Judy Maddren, formerly of CBC, was personable and efficient, thus reducing the stress the presenters may have been feeling and guiding the audience through the 17 presentations on favourite books.

It was most interesting to hear how the other clubs ran their meetings. Best of all, it was great to hear about the diversity of books these clubs chose. Our representative, Vivienne Young, did such a good job of showcasing our book, No Time for Goodbye by Linwood Barclay, that I wanted to read it again. Sylvia T.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

A new group under the auspices of Janet W.'s Goodwill Committee, "Keeping in Touch" has been formed. The first meeting was held at Laretta's where the discussion turned to people who need to be "not forgotten." It was concluded that visiting can be one component, but phone calls and letter writing were important too. As an example, Dorothy H., a past Goodwill Chair, volunteered to keep in touch with one elder member who doesn't have email. Dianne and Janice visited with and distributed 60th Anniversary pins to the over 90s who did not attend our last meeting. There will be another meeting of the group in September to work out strategies to "Keep in Touch."

WALKIE TALKIES AND CINEMA CINNERS



FUN! This is the three letter word that I associate with RWTO-Stratford branch. Even before I moved to Stratford in June 2015, a friend had talked me into joining the RWTO. Besides moving to Stratford this was the best thing that I did because I have met a group of interesting new friends. I soon learned that there were lots of activities to participate in. The two groups that I am quite involved in are the walking group and the Cinema Cinnners. The walking group meets every Tuesday morning. During the summer we are meeting at Kiwanis Centre on Lakeside Drive here in Stratford and during the winter we meet at the Rotary Complex. We walk, we talk and have lots of laughs. Sometimes folks share events that are happening in their lives and everyone is

good at giving advice. Except for the first Tuesday of the month we often go for coffee and a bite to eat. The group is very inclusive and we have ladies walking with us who are friends of friends. So all are welcome. This coming year we are going to build on our walking skills by keeping better track of the distance that we walk. Stay tuned and watch our numbers grow both with new members and distance travelled!

Cinema Cinnners is also lots of fun! From October to June, on the first Wednesday of the month, we meet at the cinema on Huron Street in Stratford. There are usually one or two movies that folks can choose between. After the movie we love to go to Tim Hortons to chat as we are all "want to be" movie critics.

If you are new to RWTO or a current member looking for; things to do, fun to have or just a chance to connect with some fantastic women be sure to put us on your calendar! *Cheryl S.*

December Theatre Outing

For those of you who have signed up for "Sister Act" on December 13 in Cambridge, \$42 is due at the General Meeting on September 28. There are still 4 seats available. This is going to be a great show. We'll work out carpooling at the November meeting. *Jennifer B.*



October Winery Tour

We have organized a fall day getaway with Great Canadian Holidays and Coaches. We will be going on the Norfolk County Wine Tour. This tour begins with a visit to charming Blueberry Hill Estates for a tour and time for browsing at their winery retail store, before enjoying lunch in the scenic town of Port Dover. Afterwards, we're treated to another winery tour and tasting at the picturesque Burning Kiln Winery. The date of the tour is Wednesday, October 5, 2016; the cost is \$95. Please book your seat as soon as possible! The phone number is: 1-800-461-8687 ext. 284. We will leave from Stratford meeting the motorcoach at 7:15 AM at the Zehrs parking lot, 865 Ontario St. Park at the west corner

by the traffic lights along Ontario St. It sounds simply "wine"-derful and I hope that you will be able to join me! I have already booked my seat! Please send an email to rwtostratford@gmail.com when you book your seat so I can make a list of members going on this trip. *Dianne K.*

New Members Welcome!

Tuesday, September 13th is the new members get-together which will be held at the Agora Gallery, 17 Market Place, Stratford. The cost is free for prospective members; \$15 for current members. There will be coffee and treats provided. If you know of anyone who has retired and has not yet joined our organization, please use the branch email (rwtostratford@gmail.com) and your suggestions will be passed on to Judy T. All retired women teachers are welcome to join our branch regardless of where or for how long they taught. Please help us to seek out new members and to boldly bring them into the RWTO/OERO fold!

Judy T. This was a very successful meeting! The venue was bright and cheerful. If you are downtown, visit the Agora Gallery (jmb)



General Meeting September 28

Mark Wednesday September 28 on your calendar for our General Meeting. This year Cheryl S. and Judy T. have booked us into the Stratford Golf and Country Club, 53 Romeo St. N. We will be meeting our new **Provincial President Peggy S.stock**, Dianne Winkler, our Area District Officer will also be on hand. Bertha Breen. will be talking about the RWTO Insurance policy. Joyce S. has organized an old-fashioned bingo game with prizes! There will be our regular 50/50 draw. Wear your pin or pay a loonie! If you haven't yet paid your membership fee, \$45 will be collected at the door. Please arrive for 10 am. The meeting will begin at 10:30 and lunch will be at 12:00 pm. Proceeds from our fundraisers will be directed to the Emily Murphy Centre. We encourage each member to bring tampons, grocery gift cards and cleaning supplies (paper towels, bleach, laundry supplies, toilet paper, cleaners) to each

meeting. Monetary donations are always welcome.

Newsletter Contributions are Welcome

If you would like to share any stories, activities or pictures about your clubs or activities in the newsletter, please send them to our branch email:

rwtostratford@gmail.com

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and, like me, are smirking at all those teachers who just started back to work! See you all very soon.

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| 2016-2017 EXECUTIVE |
| President: Jennifer B. |
| Past President: Dianne K. |
| 1 st Vice-President: Lynnette M. |
| 2 nd Vice-President: Joan T. |
| Secretary: Bev S. |
| Treasurer: Joyce S. |
| Social Convenor: Mary R. |
| Goodwill Chair: Janice W. |
| RWTO Insurance: Sheila D. |
| Issues and Concerns: Marilyn B.-I. |
| Archivist: Cheryl S. |
| Communications: Helen H. |
| Membership: Judy T. |