

Grey-Bruce RWTO Branches Plan Annual Convention

Caring and sharing is the motto of RWTO/OERO and nowhere was that more evident than at the 2018 annual convention held June 5-7 at the Nottawasaga Inn near Alliston. Hosted by the six branches of Area 1: Beaver Valley, Dundalk-Highpoint, Flesherton, Owen Sound, South Bruce, Wiarton and one Area 6 branch, East Parry Sound; the convention welcomed over 250 delegates to three days of workshops, meetings, tours, displays, networking, entertainment and recognition.

This mammoth undertaking took dozens of volunteers from the seven branches nearly three years to organize and execute. Co-convenors Nancy Strutt of Flesherton and Sharron Colter of the Wiarton branch worked closely with area branch presidents, Nottawasaga staff and provincial advisors to ensure an enjoyable experience for provincial representatives.

The South Bruce branch was responsible for the critical role of registration involving payment and the recording and organizing of individuals' data. The Over 90 and Mother/Daughter appreciation was also organized by members of this branch.

Although the Nottawasaga Inn is situated outside of Area 1, convention organizers took care to utilize services and showcase talent from Grey-Bruce. The Jim Kinnear Trio of Collingwood and Frankie D and the Dreamers of Wiarton entertained the ladies Tuesday and Wednesday evenings respectively.

These events are not all fun and food however. Meetings held Wednesday and Thursday mornings dealt with the serious business of receiving and discussing numerous committee reports, passing the budget and voting on resolutions.

As with any organization, an annual gathering is also a time of acknowledgement and celebration. Awards for exceptional accomplishments of branches and individuals were presented Wednesday evening. Area 1 branches South Bruce and Beaver Valley both received recognition for increased membership.

Thursday began with a moving memorial service for members lost in the previous year. This solemn tribute was counterbalanced at the concluding luncheon by special recognition of members over 90 years of age and mother/daughter pairs. In total, 26 special guests, of whom 21 were over 90, joined the assembly to be honoured for their service and dedication to the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario/ Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l'Ontario.

The convention ended with the installation of the new provincial executive and remarks from the new Provincial President, Sharron Colter.

Retired women teachers throughout Grey-Bruce whether newly retired, new to their community or new to RWTO, are always welcome as a guest or new member. Contact information for local branches can be found at { [HYPERLINK "http://www.rwto.org"](http://www.rwto.org) } under Branch News.



Photos:

Registration: South Bruce Past President and co-registrar Leslie Uttley (seated), South Bruce Treasurer Carole Machan (left) and President and co-registrar Pat Emmerton check registration packages.



Over 90 display: Display of photos and biographies of the 20 Over 90 RWTO members who attended the convention luncheon Thursday.



Hospitality: (from right) South Bruce members Betty Johnston and Audrey MacDonald enjoy visiting at the 2018 RWTO convention.



South Bruce delegates: Members of the South Bruce RWTO/OERO branch at the 2018 provincial convention: (seated from left) Carole Machan, Lynda Cerson, (behind) Pat Emmerton, Audrey MacDonald, Betty Johnston and Christine Roberts.



Barbara Bain Award: South Bruce President Pat Emmerton (right) accepts the Barbara Bain Award for new membership.