



Cora Bailey Awards: Carol Coutu and Sherrill Dewar received the award for their service to R.W.T.O.

In Memoriam: Inara Penikis passed away in March of this year. Inara is fondly remembered for her artistic talents and fun-loving personality.

February Fancy Finger Sandwiches and Fun-- On Feb. 11th, we met to engage in a variety of activities including making beaded zipper pulls, swapping books, chit-chatting and, of course, enjoying a delicious luncheon featuring Mary Kidd’s famous, fancy, finger sandwiches.



Crafting beaded zipper pulls with Myrna’s (centre) instruction are : (front to back at the table) Doreen S., Carmen C. and Sandy F. Swapping a book is Josie V. (left)



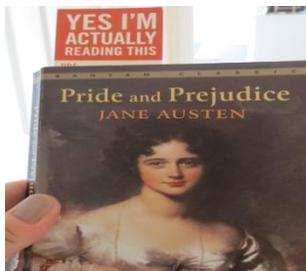
Examples of beautifully beaded zipper pulls.



Carol C. and Lorraine D. are admiring Mary Kidd’s dainty and delicious sandwiches.

Book Club News: The book club continues to meet the 3rd or 4th Wednesday of each month to engage in lively discussions about the books they have read. The members serve foods which are relevant to the setting of each book whenever possible, and as the photos below demonstrate even dressed up one time in period outfits to make their meeting more fun.

After reading the classic Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen, the ladies met at Brenda G.’s house where Regency Period dress was “required”. The members all complied with the dress code and added much to the ambience. Along with British tea, a white Portuguese Port was served to further add to the ambience. Needless to say, very little tea was consumed that afternoon, but the ladies kept the discussion relevant and intellectual. **What this group will sacrifice to make the meeting authentic!** On the reading list for next year is Anna Karenina. Caviar and furs?



We read every long clause-filled sentence.



Raspberry trifle anyone?



L to R: Rita W., Bernice W., Carmen C., Jenny K., and Brenda G. in Regency garb.

Visit to Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre April 23, 2015--Fourteen members visited the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre at Algoma University to learn about the sordid 200 year history of Canada's residential schools for First Nations children. Jonathon Dewar, director of the centre and Dr. Adam Stewart, archivist, explained the Canadian government's national policy to assimilate aboriginal peoples in order to acquire their lands. By teaching the children the basics of reading and writing and speaking English or French, the government planned to enfranchise indigenous peoples, so that they would lose their Indian status and lose their right to live on reserves. The schools were not about educational achievement; children were to learn just enough skills to enter White society, but not enough to compete with the Whites for jobs. Upon entering the schools, the children's traditional clothing was removed and burned, their hair was shaved or shortly cropped, they were given Christian names, forbidden and punished for speaking their tribal languages, given poor food and poor emotional and medical care. The parents were kept away. Many children were humiliated, abused and experimented on (nutritional experiments). All aboriginal communities still suffer from the impact. It is a dark time in Canada's history, but it is our responsibility to make the effort to learn about and understand the people with whom we share this land. We had many questions and they were answered in detail for us. Mrs. Fran Fletcher Luther, a survivor of residential school, shared her personal experiences with us; this is her way to not only inform others but a way to help her continue to heal.



L to R: Jonathon Dewar, centre director, Fran Fletcher Luther, survivor, and Dr. Adam Stewart, archivist told us the hard, cold facts about residential schools.



Fran with her sacred Eagle feather.



Algoma University on the site of the former Shingwauk Residential School.



The steeple of the school run by the government and the Anglican Church



The original bell from the school.



The graveyard where many staff and children were buried. The boys built the coffins for the other children who died.

We enjoyed lunch at *The Iron Club* after our visit tour. Mary Kidd was presented with a gift certificate to Sandro's in recognition of her dedication to annually making her February fancy sandwiches.



L to R: Joyce M., Sandy F., and Mary K.

Socializing over lunch.

And socializing some more.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS FROM RITA WAGNER-- The 59th annual convention took place in Stratford, and it was a **FESTIVAL FANTASTIQUE!** With Stratford as the setting, Rita quips that “the themes were Shakespearean, but not what Will envisioned!”

Rita attended the Insurance workshop with other Northern Ontario branches and returned with new forms and brochures.

She reports that the meetings ran smoothly and quickly as some resolutions were withdrawn and others were of a housekeeping nature. Some resolutions were defeated because speakers did not adhere to the provincial time constraints. The Ad Hoc committee Report was given, and there is a hard copy of the recommendations for our branch.

The memorial service under the guidance of Lois Lockhart was touching as Margaret Lake and Betty Wells were remembered among the 113 retirees who passed away this year.

There was an election held for two new provincial positions: Lois Lockhart is the new second vice - president and Judy Drummond is the new recording secretary.

Rita shares that they wore pajamas at the opening banquet and had little fairies flitting through the room delivering treats to an indoor garden tea party. The attendees decked themselves out “with hats and fascinators or whatever resembled a hat.” All in all Rita had an enjoyable time reconnecting with other retired women teachers.



“To sleep, perchance to dream...” Left : Gerry Y. & Rita W. Carol C. & Sandy F. Centre: Marlene F. all in pajamas

“All’s well that ends well...” The Farewell Garden Party Back: Sandy F. & Gerry Y. and Front right: Carol C.

Lovely hats, ladies! Back : Sandy F. & Rita W. Right: Front right: Carol C.

Insurance Update

Manulife has developed a new claim form for those RWTO members who have the Hospital and Home Care Insurance Plan. This form must be completed when making a claim for an illness or injury covered by the benefits of the plan. **All** sections must be completed (some by the member, some by the doctor) and all questions answered. Incomplete claim forms will be returned to the member for completion before being considered by Manulife. All original receipts and itemized statements pertaining to the claim must be attached. Be sure you photocopy and keep a copy of all receipts, statements and the completed form before you submit them to Manulife.

Our Group Plan Number (17777C) is on the claim form, but you require your Personal Identification Number. This important number can be found on the annual receipt you receive from Manulife in February and attach to you income tax return. It can also be found on the letter of acceptance you received (and filed!) when you first applied for the insurance. Failing this, you can contact Bev if you are completing a claim form and cannot find your identification number. Although she does not have the numbers, she can assist you.

Please note that although there is a new claim form, Manulife will continue to accept the “old” one as long as it is completed properly.

To ensure that you are receiving full benefit from the plan, it might be wise to review the benefits every now and then. The list of benefits can be found in your brochure or on the RWTO website in the Insurance section.

Feel free to contact Bev Brazeau at 705-949-0266 or ourplace86@shaw.ca if you require additional information or a claim form.



Reminders:

- 1.) Local RWTO members meet for breakfast (or just coffee) and to socialize the 2nd Friday of each month at Gino’s Restaurant, 1076 Great Northern Road. Drop in to join us!
- 2.) The Book Club meets the 3rd or 4th week of each month except July and August. If you are interested in joining us, contact Brenda Gallander at 705-949-9145 or gallanb@shaw.ca

Looking ahead:



- 1.) The 60th Annual Convention will take place in Windsor-Essex, June 7-9, 2016. It will be held at Caesars Windsor Hotel, and the theme will be RALLY BY THE RIVER.



- 2.) 60th anniversary pins are available to order from Rita Wagner at 705-779-3905 or ritaw@hotmail.com They are \$5.00 each.
- 3.) If you wish to receive further newsletters as an email, please send an email to Brenda Gallander at gallanb@shaw.ca to indicate this. Otherwise, you will continue to have the newsletter handed out at meetings or mailed to your home if you are not at the meeting when it is distributed.
- 4.) Stay tuned for more information in September regarding photo waivers.

President's Message by Carol Coutu, Branch President, 2015

Time passes quickly when you are sharing, caring and having fun. It has been four years since Bernice Whalen invited me to stand for the executive position of 2nd vice president of the Sault Ste. Marie Branch. I had zero experience with executives but quickly learned the process. I have to admit that I was nervous about serving as president of the group, but it has turned out to be two years of rewarding personal growth. It has taught me to not be so reluctant to try something of this nature again. I strongly encourage other members to try it out.

Our branch continues to offer seven general meetings a year. In addition, all members are invited to attend the executive meetings. Some ladies have done so over the years, and their contributions have been beneficial. The executive continues to keep some great traditional meetings such as the Welcome Back in September, the Christmas Cookie fun, as well as luncheons at the Central United Baptist Church on Malabar Drive. Other meetings are branching out into the community to places such as the Old Stone House, the Shingwauk Residential School Centre, the Steelton Senior Centre, the Root River Restaurant and the Country Club. Ladies can also join a Book Club and a Breakfast Club that meet once a month. We are always looking for ladies to become coordinators for other interest groups. Hopefully this area can be expanded in future years.

Next year, I look forward to serving as your Past President. Rita Wagner is the incoming President. She is no stranger to the job. In her previous presidential term, she had a great deal to do with the joint Sault/Central Algoma hosting of the annual convention here in the Sault. We are in good hands next year under her leadership. As past president, part of my duties will be to find others willing to serve on the executive. I look forward to talking to you about my experience, hoping it will lead you to consider the possibility.

