



THE SCRIBBLER

Sault Ste. Marie R.W.T.O. Newsletter Spring 2016

SHARING

CARING

HAVING FUN

New Member Bonnie Richardson Welcome, Bonnie!

Award Gerry Yeo was recognized by the Zonta Club of Sault Ste. Marie during International Women's Week in March for being an avid community volunteer.

Gerry is a retired teacher who quietly and modestly volunteers in many areas behind the scenes. She is an active member of the R.W.T.O. as social convenor (decorates table & hall for luncheons, prepares some lunches for meetings), archivist (maintains detailed minutes of our functions with photos, names & notes) and head of the telephone committee calling to remind members of functions. She is an active member of R.T.O. as head of the telephone committee and a kindergarten vision screening volunteer. She is also a Sault Area Hospital Tuck Shop volunteer. Gerry prepares breakfast at Holy Cross School twice a week and supper at St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen every 6 weeks.

In Memoriam We regret to announce the passing of two of our colleagues, both of whom are greatly missed.

Margaret Siltala passed away on December 24, 2015. Marg was a long time member of R.W.T.O. She was renowned for her creative teaching methods using costumes and role playing to bring history alive for her intermediate students. After retirement, Marg started up a successful gardening business with her sister and a friend.

Mary Kidd passed away on March 30, 2016. A founding member of the Sault Ste. Marie branch of R.W.T.O., Mary was politically active working to ensure that retired women teachers got equal standing with their male colleagues. Mary was also renowned for her delicious finger sandwiches which she made for her R.W.T.O. sisters every year.

Gadabout #2: On Wed., Jan. 13, a group met for lunch at North 82 followed by a visit to the Bellevue Park Greenhouses. The colourful blooms were uplifting!



February 3rd **“Beat the Winter Blahs” Get Together**

Many of us participated in a silent auction (donating items and/or bidding on items) with the \$100 raised going to Pauline’s Place.

Draped in purple, green and gold beads, we enjoyed a lunch with a Mardi Gras theme. Dishes included Jambalaya, a Mardi Gras salad, pecan pies and a King’s Cake which had three colours of icing (purple for justice, green for faith and gold for power) and a hidden miniature baby inside. It is a belief that if you find the baby, you will have good luck and prosperity.

After lunch, many of us made either a decorative plate instructed by Sarah Fabbro or an Ink Dyed Tile taught by Anna Lefave.



Carol M. tried Lorraine’s Jambalaya.

Sandy helped herself to the Mardi Gras salad she brought. Doreen S. tried Paula’s salad as well.

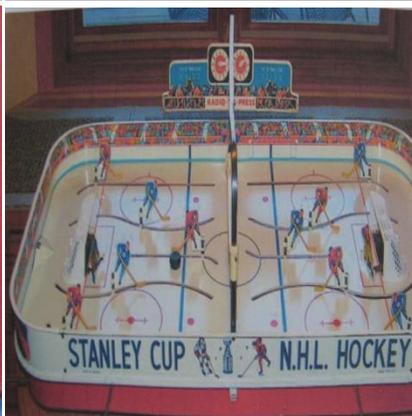
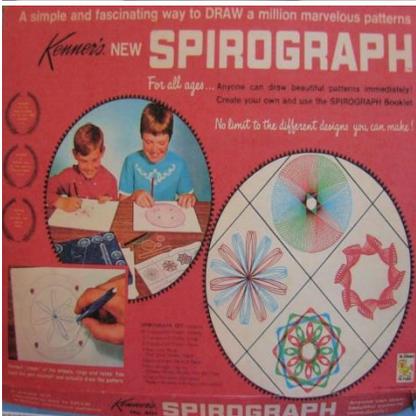


Bernice wondered who found the baby in her King's Cake.



Bonnie, R., our newest member, is pleased with her Ink Dyed Tile.

Gadabout # 3--On Wed., Mar.9, we ate at Santini's Bistro before visiting the Toys and Games exhibit at the museum. The toys and games in the display sure brought back memories and lots of sharing. With how many of the following toys and games did you play?



Our Celebration of R.W.T.O.'s 60 Years

On April 13th, we celebrated in grand style with a “high tea” dressed in hats, gloves and dresses of the fifties. The tables were also dressed with real tablecloths, china teapots and glittery decorations.

Following a brief business meeting, we played a fun game based on a tea towel that Lorraine had brought back from England. Given a sheet of teapot figures, we had to guess the play on words using the word “tea”. Some examples include: calamit-tea, treat-tea, equalit-tea, simplicit-tea, oddit-tea-tea, frui-tea, and flirt-tea.

The catered lunch was lovely with finger sandwiches, cheeses, crackers, pickles and olives. For dessert we had cupcakes iced in blue with plastic diamonds on top. There was a special cake to be cut as tradition calls for in anniversary celebrations.



Lorraine displayed her tea towel.

Lots of interaction took place around the tea pots.

At the back table: Diane M., Susan Z. and Bonnie R.

At the front table: Rachel R., Carol M., Carol C.,

Sherrill D., Vi P. and Paula H.



Paula H. brought her aunt's 80 year old tea cart to display a lovely tea set.



As one of our longest retirees, Joyce M. cut the 60th anniversary cake. Looking on are Rita W. and Bernice W.



Sandi and Gerry serve themselves from the buffet.



In 50's finery from head to toe are Rita W., Sandi F. and Paula H.



Bev B. wore her wedding hat from an earlier decade.



Brenda G., dressed in vintage clothing, admired Paula's silver tea set.



Brenda O. and Carol Ch. got into the spirit wearing 50's style head attire.

Diane M. and Marg W. also looked great!



A group photo was taken of the members who attended the 60th celebration.

After lunch, we shared memories from our teaching days, and we sure had lots of laughs!

We thank the committee that organized the tea and the members who made the effort to attend dressed in 50's clothing. The event was a great success!

The Sault Star and the Sault This Week sent photographers to the event, and published a photo in each paper. Lorraine D. and Marg W. appeared on the front page of the Sault Star on April 14th, and Diane M. and Marg W. were in the Sault This Week on April 21st.

Gadabout #4: On Wed. May 11th, a sunny, cold day, Bernice W., Carol McF., Gerry Y. and Lorraine D., braved the elements to visit the Allard Street Community Garden Plots. Annually, both Carol and Lorraine take advantage of the opportunity to garden there because of the space in the sunny location.



These are the community gardens.



Lorraine, who has two gardens there, shared gardening facts with Rita and Carol McF.

We thank President Rita for initiating the idea of Gadabouts. We had four this year, one after every executive meeting.

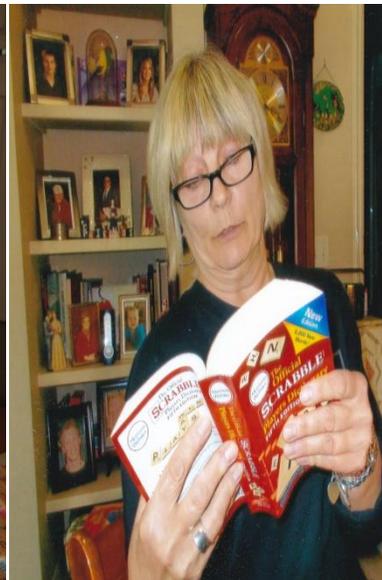
Scrabble Club: Our scrabble club got off to a great start this year with 4 members and one spare. We met every second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. at Joyce Mertes' apartment. Joyce, an experienced player who plays with her family at every opportunity, was the top scorer! We had lots of fun together playing and then chatting and snacking afterward. We look forward to playing again in the fall.



Oh no, Joyce is getting ready to spell many words on her turn!



Okay, Rita, let's have it!



That's long enough with the dictionary, Brenda G.!



Gerry often keeps score and/or plays spare.



We use every resource we can get our hands on.

Joyce has a great list of 2-letter words we all use.

Book Club Our book club is still going strong and about to begin its fourth year. We enjoy scholarly and serious discussions as well as a lot of laughs about a variety of books, and we host the meetings at each other's homes.



In April we read Jackfish: The Vanishing Village by Sarah Felix Burns. Rita (on the left) invited the author's mother (on the right) who lives in Gros Cap near Rita, to attend our meeting. Sarah's mother provided a wealth of information about her daughter's inspiration for the book.

Report on My First R.W.T.O. Convention by Brenda G.

On June 7, 8 and 9, Bernice, Gerry, Rita, Sandy and I "rallied by the river" in Windsor attending the 60th Annual Convention hosted by the Windsor-Essex Branch.

On Tues. Afternoon, I attended a workshop on improving public relations. I found that many of the ideas presented confirmed that I am on the right track already to create public awareness about our branch, but I learned about other locations to publicize activities in which we participate.

By being a voting delegate, I had the opportunity to participate in the parliamentary process for accepting or rejecting motions. The discussions around the resolutions were informative. Board Resolutions #1,2,4,5,and 6 were carried relatively quickly and unanimously:

- 1.That the position of the communications convenor be handled by two people now, namely, the Provincial Newsletter Convenor and the Provincial Communications Website Convenor.

2. That the definition of a Regular Member now be any “retired” woman as opposed to any “qualified” woman.

4. That the Provincial Insurance Convenor act directly as a liaison between the Board of Directors and the Insurance Broker for our RWTO Insurance Plan.

5. That the Provincial Insurance Convenor’s duties include organizing annual workshops to train Branch Insurance Convenors and Branch Presidents. Branch Treasurers will not be included in this training to save costs.

6. That the duties of the Provincial Insurance Convenor include keeping the Branch Insurance Convenors and general membership informed and updated on an ongoing basis.

Board Resolution #3 was withdrawn because it contains two main ideas and a resolution can only have one main idea.

Branch Resolutions # 1 was withdrawn as it is not a constitutional matter.

Regarding Branch Resolution #2, the motion failed for now due to the arguments against it, one of which was the complication of managing it.

I will not get carried away with the rationale for each resolution and the arguments for and against each due to lack of space. Please check your R.W.T.O. Connections magazine for March 2016 for the rationale for each amendment, and speak to Bernice or me for the arguments against these board amendments.

The convention was not all work. We did have time for sharing and fun as well.

The desserts were decadent at our convention hotel Caesars Windsor, the yellow and blue floral arrangements in the convention area were lovely and the varied entertainment included my favourite, a talented young couple who sang Broadway musical tunes from six decades.

Some of us took the River Cruise on Wednesday afternoon during the activity time. We cruised both sides of the Detroit River and enjoyed a delicious buffet on board.



We had lots of opportunity to talk to other members to share best practices.



We got to chat with Past Pres. Dianne Rice, (left) and to meet new Pres. Peggy Stock (right)



On Gala night, we wore tiaras and finery to celebrate our 60th milestone.



The executive was piped in.



Sandy looked nice in blue.

Attending the event with fellow branch members allowed me to get to know them better and vice versa with all of our idiosyncracies.

I thank the Sault Branch for affording me the opportunity to attend the convention. I had a SUPER experience sharing, caring and having fun with retired teachers from all over the province!



We are just as statuesque as these Grecian goddesses, right? Well, we can dream...

Marlene Falls (in turquoise) and Marg MacKay (in cream) from the Cental Algoma Branch caught up with us for some laughs.

Report on the Insurance Workshop at the Convention by Bernice W.

The insurance workshop basically was a reinforcement of what coverage is offered through Manulife for their Hospital and Home Care plan. To make people familiar with the booklet, different case scenarios were presented. The two new things gleaned were to call the insurance convenor if you forget your number assigned as a member. You will need that number to file any claim. She will gladly look up the information for you. The second thing reinforced was to make certain that when one files a claim, make certain that section 2 (Attending Physician's Statement) and the Claimant's Statement are submitted together as the two sections are needed in order to process a claim. Once again the speaker reinforced that this insurance was intended at a minimal cost to enhance RWTO-OERO's plan.

A Message from 2015-2016 President Rita R.

As I step down from president, I wish to thank the executive and members who have made this an enjoyable year. We all lead busy lives, and it is gratifying to see you take time and be a part of RWTO Sault Ste. Marie Branch. It is a time of fellowship, sharing our joys, our woes and our sorrows with people who understand and care. Looking at the scrap books, it is evident that there was a lot of fun had at all of our functions. Thanks again. *Rita*



Reminders :

1. Local RWTO members meet for breakfast or coffee the 2nd Friday of each month at 9 a.m. at Gino's Restaurant , 1076 Great Northern Road. Join us!
2. Our Book Club meets each month except July and August. If interested in joining, contact Brenda Gallander at 705-949-9145.
3. The Scrabble Club meets the 2nd Friday of each month. To join, contact Brenda Gallander at the number or email above.
4. For questions and suggestions, contact new President Bernice Whalen at 705- 945-1074 or berniceglew@yahoo.ca
5. Be sure to check out our website over the summer a www.RWTO.org

Have a safe and happy summer !



