PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The days are getting longer and there is a hint of spring in the air. I am looking forward to time outside without boots and warm wraps.

It has been a long winter but our organization has continued to meet and socialize. I think that the heart of our local branch is our interest groups. If you are a new member of our branch, I would encourage you to join one or more of our activities. Socializing and having fun is a big part of *Caring and Sharing*.

A Special **THANK YOU** to all of our **Interest Group Leaders**.

Convenor: Nadine Martin
- Afternoon Walkers: Chris Honsinger
- Bowling: Bonnie Leistner
- Bridge Marathon: Alvine Robinson, Helen Self and Sharon Thorne
- Creative Cooks: Linda Theiesen
- Dining Divas: Kathleen Bradley
- Euchre (1): Susan Burnison
- Euchre (2): Kathy Morrison
- Golf: Sandy Philbrick
- Lunch Bunch: Peggy Allen
- Let’s Chat About It Book Club: Marg Pulford
- Morning Walkers: Susan Burnison
- Revolving Book Club: Patt Chivers
- Singing for Fun: Laurie Benson
- Travelogue Club: Marilyn Weber

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I also want to thank all of the volunteers who worked at the Arthritis Christmas Wrap and The Toy Bureau during this past holiday season.

Your executive continues to meet and work on your behalf and Marilyn Emmett and the convention committee are busy with their plans.

One of our aims this year is to try to “green up” our meetings and we are working towards going paperless. We have purchased a projector and at the moment we are learning how to use it. Looking ahead we see it as a way to share pictures and enhance our programs.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (continued)
In June, a delegation from our branch is heading to the Nottawasaga Inn to the annual convention. This year our delegates are Patti Malkiewich, Janis Harlos, Susan Lewis, Susan McLaughlin, Jessica Thomson, Clara Warden and Donna Painter. Because we have to cancel 30 days in advance at the Inn, Beth Kent is standing by to go if someone cannot make it. Judith Bennoch, as Area 13 Director and Marilyn Emmet as Provincial Honorary President will also be attending as members of the Provincial Board of Directors.

I am enjoying this year as your President and look forward to seeing you at the April and May luncheons.

Susan McLaughlin
Branch President

1ST VICE PRESIDENT’S NEWS

Cora Bailey was RWTO/OERO’s First Secretary-Treasurer. She held the position for 11 years until 1982 and wrote the RWTO/OERO History Book OASWT 1956-76. The award is given to Members who have been deemed exceptional volunteers with RWTO St. Catharines and who have been nominated by local Members.

The Executive is pleased to announce the recipients of the Cora Bailey Award - 2018 for RWTO St. Catharines: Judith Bennoch, Kathleen Bradley and Violette Hagerty

These highly deserving women will receive their Cora Bailey pins at the April Luncheon and their pictures and biographies will be printed in the Annual Report in May. Congratulations!

Patti Malkiewich
1st Vice President

FREE THE GIRLS

Our global outreach project of “Free the Girls” will come to an end at the April 25th Luncheon. To date we have collected 221 bras and $127.00 for postage. If you have a good condition bra and/or a much needed loonie/twonie for donation, bring it to the April Luncheon. The success of our initiative will be announced at the May Luncheon and in the Annual Report.

Do you have a close relationship to another member in our Branch: Mother/Daughter, Aunt/Niece or Sister/Sister?

Each year we like to recognize these special relationships.

Please notify: Linda Foster lin@lindaf@cogeco.ca 905 935-6182
**PAST PRESIDENT**

It is my pleasure to announce that we have a full slate of candidates who are willing to let their names stand for election to our Branch Executive this spring.

To the ladies who have stepped up, please be assured, *many hands make light work* and our Branch Executive is a fine example of this saying.

On behalf of the General Membership, thank you for your ongoing commitment to our organization.

Kathleen Bradley -Past President

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**MEMBERSHIP**

Welcome to spring and welcome to the following new members who have joined the St. Catharines Branch RWTO/OERO since our October luncheon: **Catherine Clarkson, Margaret Duckett, Cathy Terrio-Lakeit, Lisa Tiffney and Theresa Unger.**

This brings our present membership to a whopping 404! Thank you to the membership for continuing to refer new members to us.

We were saddened at the passing of long time member Marjorie Ovenden in January and we pass on our heartfelt sympathies to a number of our members who have lost their spouses this winter. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all and their families.

Please remember to notify me of any changes to your personal information as soon as possible in order to keep our records current.

New members are welcome at any time. Referrals welcome anytime!

I look forward to seeing everyone again in April!

Judith Bennoch-Membership

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**In Memory Of**

Joyce Montgomery

Marjorie Ovenden

*A Life So Beautifully Lived And A Heart So Deeply Loved*"
CONVENOR REPORTS

Insurance

Our premiums have remained the same even though we have the following three additions to our Hospital and Home Care Plan.

1. Transportation benefit now includes cost of transportation by volunteer drivers for the Canadian Cancer Society to a maximum of $100.00.
2. Mobility assistance benefit now includes ergonomic walking poles when prescribed by a physician.
3. Hearing aid benefit now includes coverage for charges or purchase of cochlear implants.

**A gentle reminder: When claiming under the transportation benefit, the claim must include receipts for parking.

Chris Graham - Insurance Convenor

Goodwill

1. Please let us know of ANY member who would appreciate visits from RWTO members.
2. Birthday cards and Christmas cards are sent to members 80+. *(If you haven’t been receiving yours, please let us know so we can update the records.)*
3. Get Well, Sympathy and Thinking About You cards are also sent. *Please contact us when you know of someone who would appreciate receiving a card.*
4. If you would be interested in driving someone to the luncheons, or visiting someone at home, please contact us.

Alice Bradnam - Goodwill Convenor

Revolving Book Club

I sure hope that a Book or two from the Revolving Book has helped you to deal with the weather this winter. There is nothing like a good book to snuggle into as you watch the snowflakes fall from the sky through your window. Or if you are like me, it provided a rest period in between shoveling tasks.

The Revolving Book Club will be back again for 2018 – 19. If you are considering this Club, please know that you will have an opportunity, once a month throughout the year, to receive a new book to read. You pass it on at the end of the month and wait in anticipation for your next book. This year we will be raising the price to $25.00 to cover the increased costs of books over the years.

Plan to join the Club at each of the Spring Luncheons. A table will be set up at the entrance of each venue for you to pay. This year we will be issuing a receipt for cash as a reminder to you and me that you have paid.

Any suggestions for potential books to read are welcome. Drop me a note at: pchivers@cogeco.ca, or call 905 934 6636.

Have fun reading!

Patt Chivers – Revolving Book Club Convenor
FROM CONCEPT TO QUILT

In 2008, I was asked by Irma Bull, a good friend, to be part of a quilt project for The Stabler Centre on Ontario St in St Catharines. As it happened, I was leaving for an extended time in South America, so said I would love to do it, but couldn’t until I returned. On the day I returned, I took the time that evening to check my mail received during my sojourn south, and found that the first meeting of this quilt group would be the next morning. Good timing!

The group met and one of the topics was to decide on a plan for the design of the quilt. I love doing this creative work and said I would try to come up with a concept, and others were encouraged to do what they could do, too, and off we went. My thought was to show the passage of time, since the Stabler Centre was a hospice. So my design was of the “passage of time” from early Spring (or birth) to Winter (and death), and also dawn to night.

I did a pen and ink drawing with water colour of my idea which then was used to show the Board and so on at Hospice and they decided they liked the idea. In the spring, we have daffodils swaying in the breeze and maple sugar being collected, moving through summer and the City of Niagara Falls, as well as the Falls, in the fall a farm growing grapes and the Welland Canal and its bridge. After the concept was accepted, Irma Bull then took that idea and drew out the whole quilt in real size – 12 feet by 3 feet and we also included well known markers from Niagara including the Comfort Maple in all its fall glory, Port Dalhousie with its Lighthouse, and a couple of grape farm scenes that I had painted which we copied directly to the quilt.

The group started in on making it. First we had to choose the fabric for all the parts, not an easy task but helped a great deal by Al Cote, the owner of a quilt shop in Niagara Falls who had volunteered to help with this project. Many of us on the committee gathered at the quilt shop and had a great time planning this out. Then everyone started in on it. Irma was able to get a space for us to work in at St. Giles Presbyterian Church in St Catharines and she drew the dawn to night with clouds and moon, shading in the sky, then other parts of the quilt and we got together to begin the process. Unfortunately, I had to leave on another extended trip so most of the quilting was done when I returned, but I did manage to do a few hand stitches on it.

The quilt is absolutely stunning and can be viewed at Hospice in St Catharines on Ontario Street. It is in the Family Room where it has hung since after 2009.

Barbara Legg – Member RWTO/OERO St. Catharines
UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

- Lunches begin at **11:00**. Doors open at **10:30 AM**.
- The luncheon costs **$30.00**. Luncheon prices are determined by our cost to provide the meal (including the room, taxes, and gratuities).
- Additional expenses including door prizes, AV equipment rentals and flowers are now being covered by the Branch.
- **Payment for the April luncheon must be received by the Wednesday, April 18**
- **Payment for the May luncheon must be received by Wednesday, May 16.**
- **PAYMENT:**
  - Please indicate the appropriate luncheon month(s) on the cheque.
  - Cheques are payable to: **RWTO St. Catharines**
  - Cheques mailed to: 
    
    Linda Foster  
    14 Woodgarden Court  
    St. Catharines L2M7C9
  - Your name tag, including a door prize ticket will be waiting for you at the door.
  - Please tear the door prize ticket in half, save half and put the other half in the basket.
  - Luncheon payments will be returned for any cancellations received by **Linda Foster at 905-935-6182, on or before the Wednesday prior to each luncheon.**
  - A friendly reminder will be sent out if you have not indicated that you are attending.
  - You will be notified by e-mail when your cheque has been received by the Treasurer and you will receive a reminder a few days before the luncheon.
  - **Escorts needed.** Sometimes our members need a ride to the luncheon. If you can help out, please call **Alice Bradnam 905 934 7108.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Menu</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>Coppola's Ristorante</td>
<td>Antipasto, Salad, chicken parmesan, pasta, dessert.</td>
<td>Speakers from the Shaw Festival</td>
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<td>203 Carlton St, St. Catharines</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>Royal Niagara Golf Club</td>
<td>Buffet</td>
<td>Presentation by Habitat for Humanity’s Women’s Build</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 Niagara-on-the-Green Blvd,</td>
<td>Assorted salads, roasted maple chicken, roasted potatoes, honey</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Niagara-on-the-Lake</td>
<td>roasted root vegetables, seasonal green vegetable, rice pilaf, fruit,</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>cookies, squares</td>
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</tbody>
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ATTENTION: DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

- Members MUST advise Linda Foster of their DIETARY RESTRICTIONS when reserving their luncheon ticket/s.
- Meal substitutions or accommodations will NOT be made at the venues, unless they have been pre-ordered.
- We want your luncheon to be pleasant, needs appropriate and ready. We also want to be fair to our venues and their staffs.
CONVENTION 2019

Plans are well underway for the 63rd Provincial Annual Meeting and Convention to be held at the Holiday Inn in St. Catharines on June 4, 5 and 6, 2019. St. Catharines is the host Branch with contributions from Lincoln West, Niagara Fall and Niagara South Branches. Way to go, Area 13!

Our theme is “A BARREL OF FUN!” with a secondary theme of “Reduce, Reuse and Rejuvenate”. Our goal is to have a great time while trying to use less paper and reuse what items we can for convention bags, decorations etc.

With that in mind, Beth Kent has designed very practical Convention bags made from bed sheets. Making these bags will require a lot of cutting and sewing.

- We need white, beige or light coloured, no pattern bed sheets
- Volunteers to help sew.

Contact:
Beth Kent 905 684-3666 rbkent12@icloud.com
Anne Adam 905 937-0692 vanneadam@gmail.com

The Table Center Committee also has some unique decorating ideas.

- They are looking for interesting or fancy wine bottles.
- Barrels of any size.

Contact:
Sue Burnison 905 935-1568 susanburnison@gmail.com
Meryl Zuliani 905 899 7878 zulimeryl@gamil.com

Thanks for the tremendous support and positive suggestions,

Marilyn Emmett
Convention Convenor

BRANCH OUTREACH

Gift Wrapping

Another successful year was accomplished for the Arthritis Society during the Christmas Gift Wrapping at the Fairview Mall. This was due in part to the dedication of our Retired Women Teachers.

I am pleased to report that the local campaign made $11,904. Along with that good news I will share with you that the annual Gift Wrap program at Fairview Mall has raised $185,000 to date. The program has been running for 19 years. Our team was congratulated for helping out immensely to arrive at this figure and the Arthritis Society is ever so grateful.

Once again, thank you to the 73 ladies who are members of RWTO St Catharines for offering their time to this Community Outreach program. I must commend the entire group for their dedication and commitment. I am always so pleased that you show up on time and if you need to cancel your shift you called me with enough time for a replacement to be found. Also, thank you to those members who step in willingly at last minute. You make this job an easy one!

Linda Holmes
Christmas Gift Wrap Coordinator
13th Annual Rankin Cancer Run will be held May 26, 2018, 10 a.m.
Grantham Lions Club
732 Niagara Street, St. Catharines

We hope to have a large number of participants from RWTO/OERO to honour, remember and celebrate. Please plan to join us in our endeavour to raise money for this very worthwhile event. Sign up, get pledges, or pledge yourself, and join us for a fun-filled Saturday. If you are unable to join us, please consider sponsoring another member. The money raised will always remain in Niagara. Together we can make a difference!

- Check out: rankincancerrun.com
- Let Jessica know if you are planning on participating and the size of T-Shirt you would like. Also let her know if you are a cancer survivor. You will get a different coloured shirt.
- Registration forms are available on the website.
- Registration forms will also be available at the April Luncheon

Jessica Thomson – Rankin Run Coordinator
thomsonjess@hotmail.com 905 646-5405

- SAVE THE DATE -
Enjoy a Good Old-Fashioned DSBN REUNION BBQ
5-8 p.m. Wed. September 12th, 2018
Henley Island, Port Dalhousie
For more information visit efnniagara.ca

A NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS
All newsletters and messages sent from RWTO St. Catharines will be from rwstcatharines@gmail.com
***************
Please send all submissions for newsletters to Marilyn Emmett at marilyn.emmett5@gmail.com

St. Catharines Branch Newsletter – March 2018