



RWTO/OERO

*The Retired Women Teachers of Ontario /
Organisation Des Enseignantes Retraitées De L'Ontario*



St. Catharines Branch Newsletter – March 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Today is a grey day in February. As I sit at my desk and reflect, I am more than a little amazed that my term as your President is at the half way mark. Time has gone by so quickly! With many hands, it has been light work.

After a brief getaway to some warmer climes where I plan to chase a little white ball around a large expanse of green, I am looking forward to seeing you all again at our April meeting at Coppola's Restaurant. At that meeting we will be celebrating Canada's 150th birthday with a special presentation by Pauline Grondin, a professional storyteller, musician, historical interpreter, heritage performer and reenactor. She will be sharing a brand new story, which she has written with us in mind, called, **"If Teapots Could Talk!"** Imagine all the stories a teapot could tell as it sits, listening on the table while history happens all around! It's going to be special. I hope you can join us.



LUNCHEON DATES

April 26, 2017

May 24, 2017

At May's meeting, we're pleased to be able to present to you Juliet Dunn, a professional performer in theatre, musical theatre, film and television. She is the Executive Director of the Niagara Jazz Festival and is going to share her knowledge and her talents with us. It, too, will be amazing!

That brings us to June and the RWTO Annual Meeting and Convention. More information about this event can be found on page 7. With that, my year as President will be over. To date it has been an easy task – some organizing, a few meetings to chair, and a few reports, like this one to write. As teachers, these are skills and tasks at which we all excel. Any one of us could do this job! I suggest you ease into it, start by taking a position on the Executive, see how everything works, and lend your expertise to our Branch. It's a great group of ladies, always willing to help in any way. You always have support; and fresh ideas are welcome. Contact Clarice West-Hobbs or myself if you are interested.

See you in April,

Kathleen Bradley, Branch President

905 646 9581 or kathleen.bradley@cogeco.ca

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**BRANCH EXECUTIVE
RWTO/OERO ST. CATHARINES
2016-2017**

Honorary President Joanne Atkinson

TABLE OFFICERS

Past President Clarice West-Hobbs

President Kathleen Bradley

1st Vice President Susan McLaughlin

2nd Vice President Patti Malkiewich

Secretary Violette Hagerty

Treasurer Linda Foster

Membership Judith Bennoch

(Also Provincial Director- Area 13)

CONVENORS

Archivist Jessica Thomson

Communications Ann Snider

Goodwill Alice Bradnam

Nadine Martin

Insurance Susan McLaughlin

Interest Groups Patti Malkiewich

Issues & Concerns Marg Newby

Program Susan McLaughlin

Patti Malkiewich

Social Lou Farquhar

Telephone Sheila Bengner

LIAISONS

ETFO Donna Painter

OECTA Chris Graham

OSSTF Margo Smith

MESSAGE FROM THE HONORARY PRESIDENT

Spring is a time for renewal and growth within our branch. Each of us can evolve in new ways through our participation in interest groups and outreach opportunities. It is always enjoyable to cultivate new friendships at our April and May luncheon meetings. It has been a pleasure to serve as your Honorary President this year, and to see the optimism and enthusiasm of our Executive and the dedication of our members. Our branch is strong because of the deep roots that were established and nurtured by our loyal members for decades. We are truly blessed. Happy Spring!



In friendship,
Joanne Atkinson, Honorary President
905 646 8857 or j.atkinson@bell.net



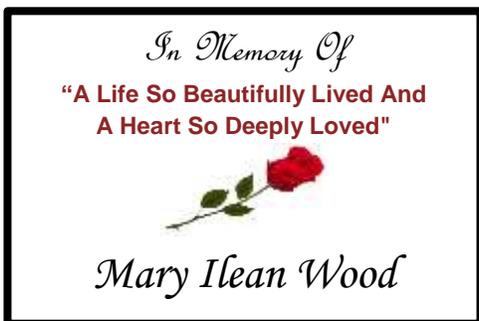
CHANGE IN CONTACT INFORMATION?

- Have you checked the **Directory**? Please do.....just in case there is an error, we can correct it for the future.



- Please remember to send any other changes in your contact information, address, telephone, or email addresses to:

Judith Bennoch, Membership
905 468 3040 or judithbennoch@icloud.com



NOMINATIONS

Well, it is that time of year and we are looking for new people to join us on the RWTO Executive for the year 2017-18.

We have people on our executive who have done a wonderful job but now they are looking at doing other things. Being a member of the RWTO executive is one of the nicest jobs you can have. It is not cumbersome and you work with a group of fabulous women who support each other. Please consider a position and feel free to call me or any member of the executive to discuss a position.



Positions open this year are:

- 2nd Vice President
- Insurance Convenor

I look forward to your call.

Clarice West-Hobbs, Past President
Chair of the Nomination Committee
905 646 1367 clariceros.westhobbs@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

At our October luncheon we were pleased to welcome the following new members: *Linda Kenny, Jane Mastrandrea* and *Suzanne Moskal*. This brings our total new members to date to 19. When we include our Life Members and Social Members, our membership is 397, *one of the largest in the Province*. Overall it has been a quiet late fall and winter for Membership with only a few enquires and one previous member, *Natalie Babicky*, returning. Please remember, the best way of finding new members is by word of mouth. If you know of anyone who has either recently retired, or has been retired for a while and is looking to join a dynamic group of women with wonderful Interest Groups . . . please encourage her to try us out. Although we recognize new members in September and October, retired women teachers are welcome to join anytime.



Judith Bennoch,
Membership
judithbennoch@icloud.com
905 468 3040

CORA BAILEY AWARD

Cora Bailey from the Peterborough Branch was RWTO/OERO's first Executive Secretary-Treasurer. She held this position for eleven years until 1982 and wrote the History Book - OASWT 1956-1976. Beginning in 2003, this award was presented in her honour.

The Cora Bailey Award may be presented to a Branch member who has contributed outstanding service to her Branch.

This year two very deserving recipients have been chosen from our membership for the Cora Bailey Award. They are Patt Chivers and Clarice West-Hobbs. These two women will be honoured at our April luncheon.

Susan McLaughlin,
1st Vice President
905 935 9966 or susseandchris@gmail.com

SPRING LUNCHEONS



- All meetings begin at **11:00 AM**. Doors open at **10:30**.
- Luncheon prices are determined by our cost to provide the meal (**including the room, taxes, and gratuities**) plus additional expenses including door prizes, flowers, and program/presenters.
- Each luncheon costs **\$30.00**
- Payment for luncheons must be received by the *Wednesday prior to each luncheon*.
- Cheques are payable to:
RWTO St. Catharines
- Mail to: **Linda Foster**
14 Woodgarden Court
St. Catharines, ON L2M 7C9
- Please indicate the appropriate luncheon month(s) on the cheque.
- No tickets are required to be sent with your cheque.
- Your name tag, including a door prize ticket, will be waiting for you at the door.
- 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 phone or 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* or *Nadine Martin 905 938 2593*.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2017

COPPOLA'S Ristorante & Banquet Facility

203 Carlton St., St. Catharines

Guest: RWTO/OERO Provincial President,
Peggy Stock

Menu: Bruschetta, Salad, Chicken Parmesan, Penne, Potatoes, Ice Cream Cake, Tea, Coffee

Program: We are celebrating Canada's 150th Birthday with a special presentation of "*If Teapots Could Talk*". **Pauline Grondin**, actress/storyteller will present 4 women, a teapot and their stories from over the 150 years.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017

ROYAL NIAGARA Golf Club

1 Niagara on the Green, Niagara-on-the-Lake

(**Niagara on the Green** runs off of Glendale Ave. near the QEW, between Queenston St./Taylor Rd. and Homer Rd. The Golf Course is on the opposite/south end of **Niagara on the Green** from the new Outlet Collection at Niagara mall.)

Menu: Salad, Roast Beef, Potatoes, Vegetables. Squares, Tea, Coffee

Program:

- **Juliet Dunn** - A multi-talented singer and actress who is currently Executive Director for the Niagara Jazz Festival.
- AGM
- In Memoriam
- Installation of Executive

INTEREST GROUPS



Spring is a great time to get involved! Many of our interest groups run year round, but some are only available in the spring/summer months. Check the sign up lists at the April and May Luncheons. Also, if you have a special interest or talent and would be interested in starting a new group, please contact: Patti Malkiewich, Interest Group Convenor, at pmalkiewich@gmail.com or 905 356 4132



GOLF

Starting in May of 2017, *the Golf group is changing its location to Garden City Golf Course on Lincoln Ave., St. Catharines.* Garden City is offering a very good rate for green fees and is happy to have our group of "social" golfers. They have guaranteed 3 tee times on Tuesday mornings and are allowing us to alternate front and back nines every week. RWTO Golfers have a fun morning of golf followed by coffee and conversation. The last golf date was Oct 18th. The end of season luncheon was held at George's Greek Village



Restaurant. *Sandy Philbrick*, will contact members in April 2017 to arrange a season opening luncheon. For further information contact Sandy at sphilbrick@coqeco.ca or 905 562 5579

TRAVELOGUE GROUP

The Travelogue Group has been meeting on the second Monday of the month (except Feb, July and Aug) in the Fellowship room at First Grantham United Church at 1:30 PM. Members have presented exciting travel locations using pictures from recent trips. This year we have sailed down the San Juan River in Nicaragua, marvelled at the scenery of the Amalfi Coast in Italy, hiked through the hills of Wales, and had a delicious gourmet lunch at Karma Kameleon in Thorold. In the upcoming months, we will explore the Northwest Territories of Canada, the US National Parks that have just celebrated their 100th Anniversary, the



Canyon Country of Utah, and magical Turkey. We have also enjoyed yummy refreshments provided by monthly hosts. It's not too late to join us on our virtual travels.

Contact: Marilyn Weber lin167@myfastcom.ca or 905 934 3858

BOWLING: Something to Cheer About!

We usually try to promote the social aspect of the league but this was certainly a special day.

Laure Morrish had 3 games over 200. She won the special crown for one game over 200, then again the wand for two games over 200 on one day and then the day was completed with a trophy for 3 games in a row over 200. Great day to cheer about!

Bonnie Leistner, Bowling Coordinator



REVOLVING BOOK CLUB

New Members: Would you be interested in receiving an unknown “read” once a month for 10 months for \$20.00? **Got you!**

Well, being a member of the Revolving Book Club gives you a chance to read a new book each month from a variety of genres. You would become a member of a group of ten other retired teachers who live in and around your area. You each would read a different book each month beginning in October, ending in July. At the end of each month, you would pass the book on to the next person on the list. The book you receive in July is the book you get to keep - worth around \$20.00.

Interested? Contact Revolving Book Coordinator *Patt Chivers: 905-934-6636 or pchivers@coqeco.ca.*



Already a member: I will be at the April and May Meetings ready to receive your \$20.00 should you wish to continue in the Revolving Book Club. I would appreciate receiving your money on or before **August 15, 2017.**



ARCHIVIST REQUEST



Please share pictures of yourselves and your friends participating in RWTO activities. Jessica keeps a scrapbook of these events and she will be happy to include them in the scrapbook for everyone to enjoy.

Send them to: thomsonjess@hotmail.com

Thank-you! *Jessica Thomson, Archivist*



INSURANCE FQA'S

QUESTION: What benefits can I receive after surgery?

ANSWER: You could be eligible for:
Convalescent Benefit (\$350 per month up to 6 months after hospital confinement of 3 days or more due to injury or illness; \$72.50 per week up to 4 weeks following outpatient surgery)

- Home Nursing Benefit (if recommended by physician)
- Comfort Care Benefit
- Ambulance/Taxi Benefit (to and from hospital)
- Physician Validation Expense Benefit
- Mobility Assistance Benefit
- Physiotherapy Benefit (if recommended by a physician)
- Assistive Devices Benefit
- Oxygen Benefit

The best advice is to save every receipt and make copies of them. Send them to your primary Insurance Company first and then send them to Manulife.



If you cannot locate your policy number you can place a call to Terry Kennedy, our Insurance Broker, and she will find it for you. Her number is 519 583 0098 or her e-mail tkennedy34@bell.net

If you require local assistance you can call me. *Susan McLaughlin, Insurance Convenor* 905 935 9966 or susseandchris@gmail.com



GOODWILL

◆ Please let us know of ANY member who would appreciate visits from RWTO members.

◆ 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.)*

◆ 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.*



◆ If you would be interested in driving someone to the luncheons, or visiting someone at home, please contact us.
*Alice: 905 934 7108 alicebradnam@aol.com
Nadine: 905 938 2593
nadinejoanmartin@gmail.com*



**2017 RWTO/OERO
61st ANNUAL CONVENTION
Ajax, ON**

Our Branch has 7 delegates attending on your behalf; myself, *Susan McLaughlin, Patti Malkiewich, Linda Foster, Shelia Benger, Nadine Martin and Glennie Wilkinson.*

Judith Bennoch will be attending as Area 13 Director and *Marilyn Emmett* as the incoming Honorary Provincial President.

Resolutions are presented to the assembled delegates from across the province. They are discussed and voted upon to effect changes in the way in which our organization, as a whole, operates. It is a very important part of our mandate to attend this meeting and represent the St Catharines point of view. The fact that we get to travel together and socialize while we work, is a bonus!

Kathleen Bradley, Branch President

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

GIFT WRAPPING - *Linda Holmes, Coordinator*



Each year the St. Catharines branch of RWTO/OERO assists the Arthritis Society by volunteering to wrap gifts at the Fairview Mall. Many members signed up for more than one assignment. They completed their shifts with enthusiasm and a smile. Thanks to all participants for being committed to your shift time.



Teachers are dedicated individuals!! This year, the amount collected at the Fairview Mall during the gift wrap campaign was more than \$12, 000. Because of you and your dedication to the RWTO Community Outreach and the Arthritis Society, I will take on this role again next year. 73 ladies from RWTO/OERO St. Catharines chose to dedicate their busy time at Christmas for a wonderful cause. You are awesome!



COMMUNITY MESSAGE BOARD

**LIFELONG LEARNING NIAGARA
SPRING LECTURE SERIES 2017**
Wednesdays from 10am until 12pm
at The Armenian Hall
156 Martindale Rd, St Catharines

REGISTER online at lifelonglearningniagara.com
TICKETS \$10 per lecture or \$50 for the Series of 6

REPORT FROM OUR AREA 13 DIRECTOR

Although many branches do not meet during the winter months, the work of your Provincial Board continues throughout the year. This year I am part of an Ad Hoc Committee studying the future of our Annual Meeting and Convention. A survey from this committee has been distributed to all branches in the province for their input. St. Catharines is among 22 branches who have responded to date. All responses are due by March 10. Another Committee that I am involved in is looking at the Cora Bailey information in the Policy and Procedures Manual to revise and provide clarity to branches. Both Committees will present reports for discussion at the Provincial Board meeting in May. Finally, I am part of the Provincial Membership Committee. This year we will be participating in the 'Storefront' Information booths available to all members attending the 2017 Convention on Tuesday afternoon. Members of the Membership Committee will be on hand to discuss membership issues.



Judith Bennoch, Area 13 Director



CHECK OUT THE *UPDATED* WEBSITE!

- Go to the link <http://rwto.org/> or search **rwto.org**
 - Click on **BRANCH NEWS**
 - Scroll to below the map.
 - Click **Area 13**
 - Click **St. Catharines**
- You will find information about our interest groups and luncheons, newsletters and a few articles and pictures about our Branch. You can also see what is happening in other branches around the Province.



KEEP THE SPIRIT

**12th Annual Rankin Cancer Run will be held
May 27, 2017,
10 a.m.**

Grantham Lions Club

732 Niagara Street, St. Catharines

We hope to have a large number of participants from RWTO/OERO. 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 Jayne know if you are planning on participating.
- Registration forms are available on the website.
- Registration forms will also be available at the April Luncheon



Thank you,
Jayne Shortill, Coordinator:
905 682 2137 or jshortill@coqeco.ca

