

RWTO/OERO Ottawa-Carleton Branch
WINTER NEWSLETTER
January, 2018



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, Kathy McLean



The Christmas holiday season has always been one of my favourite times of the year. This year was no exception. In early December we had a very successful “Tis the Season” luncheon where 60 members enjoyed each other’s camaraderie. Time was spent reminiscing and getting signatures for

the icebreaker activity, enjoying a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and participating in a Christmas sing-along with Paul Kelly.

Our fundraiser, the Silent Auction, raised over \$400 and Priscilla Pig received \$128.42, both for our community outreach program. All the creative donations, the multiple bids and the overall support of our members surely demonstrated that we are definitely a “caring and sharing” organization!

Earlier in the fall, we welcomed Lois Lockhart, our Provincial President and Anne Wilde, Assistant Insurance Convenor to our luncheon. We enjoyed hearing from them, and also participating in our fundraising “Quarter Frenzy”. Then in October, we were pleased have presentations from members, Joy Phillips-Johansen and Margaret Singleton, about their experience of becoming published authors. A great time was had by all!

We are looking forward to our spring luncheons. On March 20 we will have our “green” luncheon. At our April 12 luncheon we will have as our guests those members who have reached 80 years or more and a special guest. Then, on May 15, our year-end luncheon and Annual General Meeting will again be at Falcon Ridge Golf Club. More details about these activities are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please note the change of venue and program for the April luncheon from what had been planned as of the last newsletter.

We are pleased to welcome Patricia Taylor, a new member who was previously active in the Oakville Branch, to the executive as a Member-at-Large. We appreciate her willingness to take one of our vacant positions.

The membership feedback and support encourages the executive to continue developing our program. Believe me, it is greatly appreciated!

I hope you have had a wonderful, stimulating and enjoyable Christmas holiday! All the best in 2018!

In Caring and Sharing,

Kathy

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions about RWTO/OERO, this Branch or your insurance, contact the appropriate person from the list below:

President, Kathy McLean: 613-829-6234 badgerkat2016@gmail.com

Insurance Convenor, Margaret Dempsey: 613-820-7864

medempsey@sympatico.ca

Goodwill Convenor, Marilyn Adair: 613-274-3331

marilyn.adair@gmail.com

Treasurer/Membership Convenor, Barbara Edwards: 613-731-3331

angelbunny@live.ca

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2017 - 2018 EXECUTIVE

President: Kathy McLean
Past President: Suzanne Lanouette-Carswell
1st & 2nd Vice-Presidents: Vacant
Treasurer: Barbara Edwards
Recording Secretary: Sharon Chop
Directory Convenor: Suzanne Wilson-Marjerrison
Membership Convenor: Barbara Edwards
Insurance Convenor: Margaret Dempsey
Social Convenor: Vacant

Goodwill Convenor: Marilyn Adair
Telephone Convenor: Ann Davelaar
Archivist: Anne Bodnar
Communications Convenor: Martha Summers
Members-at-Large: Ruth Knapp, Pat Taylor
(1 vacant position)
Provincial Area Director: Suzanne Lanouette-Carswell

FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE...

2017-2018 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

At the November Executive meeting, the decision was made that this year the branch will support “Sharing in Student Success”, a program that is part of the Caring and Sharing Exchange, Ottawa, and provides grade-appropriate stuffed backpacks to needy children so that every child in Ottawa can return to school on an equal footing, ready to learn. Proceeds from all fund raisers and Priscilla Pig’s collections for this fiscal year will go to this worthy cause. More information is available on the web site at www.caringandsharing.ca.

LOST AND FOUND DEPARTMENT

At the Christmas luncheon, a medium-sized brownish-red button was found. If it is yours, give Kathy McLean a call and she will arrange to get it back to you so that you can button up in this cold weather!

A REQUEST FROM THE PROVINCIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RWTO/OERO is considering a third printing of the book *Chalk, Challenge, and Change: Stories from Ontario Women Teachers 1920-1979* which was published in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of RWTO/OERO. They would like to know how much interest there is from the branches in order to determine how many to print. If you think you would like to purchase a copy of the book in its next reprint (cost would be approximately \$10.00), please contact President Kathy. Here is a brief blurb about the book:

Stories gathered from senior members of the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario / Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de l’Ontario capture the heritage and history of classrooms across the province. The storytellers are all over 90 years of age – some over 100, and their stories take us into the classrooms of the past. They tell about hiring and firing, struggles and celebrations, and the rewards of teaching under conditions that were often challenging. Vintage photos add another dimension to the book. Over 4000 copies of this excellent book have been sold and it is now SOLD OUT!

INSURANCE UPDATE from Branch Convenor, Marg Dempsey

- The total profit shared with Manulife was \$99,588.80. A cheque for \$72,239.94 was presented at the Convention last June. The remainder of \$24,348.86 will be paid out over the year as administration fees.
- Premiums have remained the same even though we have 3 additions to our Hospital and Home Care Plan. Transportation benefit now includes cost of transportation by volunteer drivers for the Canadian Cancer Society to a maximum of \$100.00.
- Mobility assistance benefit now includes ergonomic walking poles when prescribed by a physician.
- Hearing aid benefit now includes coverage for charges or purchase of cochlear implants.
- Just a reminder: When claiming under the transportation benefit, the claim must include receipts for parking.

RWTO/OERO Special Interest Groups

BOOK CLUB

Our book club started up on Monday, September 11. We had a lively and poignant discussion of two Canadian books -- *Sir John's Table, the Culinary Life and Times of our First Prime Minister* by Lindy Mechefske and *The Promise of Canada* by Charlotte Gray. Adele Muldoon led the conversations which acknowledged the importance of a knowledge of history to navigate today's world. Participants shared their opinions about the two novels, but all agreed they provided great insights into a young Canada.

In October, our book was *The Gift of Rain* by Tan Tang Wen. Sharon Chop gave us additional insight into aspects of the book she had experienced during her time in the setting, Malaya. After the discussion of the December title, *The Secret Keeper*, by Kate Morton, members who attended rated the book a 10 out of 10!

These get-togethers have provided an enjoyable time for all. Come and join us!

Upcoming Meetings at Kristy's Restaurant - 12:00 p.m.

Jan. 8 - *Lion - (A Long Way Home)* by Saroo Brierly

Feb. 5 - *The Light-Keeper's Daughters* by Jean E. Pendziwol

Mar. 5 - *They Left Us Everything* by Plum Johnson

Apr. 9 - *That's My Baby* by Frances Itani

May 7 - *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn

June 4 - *The Woman who Smashed Codes* by Jason Fagone

Sept. 10 - *The Day the World Came to Town* by Jim DeFede

If you haven't yet signed up for the Book Club and are interested in joining us, contact Joy Phillips-Johansen at 613-728-3897 or joyphillips@rogers.com.



MOVIE GROUP

Since attendance at movies in 2017 has been low, I am wondering whether there is enough interest to continue. It is true that retirees are very busy with many interests and commitments and a few members have dropped out for this reason.



When the movie group was set up, it was understood that the person who chose the movie for the month would pass on the list of members to another person, who would choose the movie for the following month and that everyone who has a computer or a tablet would take turns. Unfortunately, the 2 or 3 faithful attendees do not have computers so I have chosen the movies for the past year.

I have heard that some members would prefer to go to cinemas other than the ByTowne. The reason we have favoured the ByTowne is that the movies they show are listed for a month in advance and we are able to give members more notice of the title, date and time of the movie which has been chosen.

Perhaps we should try to arrange movies at cinemas other than the ByTowne, one month in the west of

Ottawa and one month in the east?

Another option could be to choose a specific day of the month to attend regularly, e.g. 3rd Wed. Members could take turns going over the whole list available at the various theatres about a week or two in advance when we usually know what will be on, choose one, and send out the information to all. At least they would have marked their calendars ahead of time, and been able to avoid commitments for the designated day.

If you are interested in continuing to be part of the movie group, or joining, would you please contact me before the end of January at annechristians35@bell.net or phone me at 613-731-9355. Please indicate whether you would prefer to continue at the Bytowne or whether one of the other ideas would be preferable. At the end of January I will have a better idea of the wishes of those on the list and a decision as to whether to continue or not can be made. I will not arrange a movie until I know your preferences.

I wish you all good health and happiness in this New Year and look forward to seeing you at other RWTO/OERO events.

Anne Christians

MEMORIES OF FALL, 2017



LANARK BRANCH ACTIVITIES - 2018

Our friends in the neighbouring Lanark Branch invite us to join them in the activities they have planned for their Branch between now and summer. If you have any questions about any of the events or you plan to attend, please contact Anne Graham at 613-259-2207 or annegraham2207@gmail.com well in advance of the date.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN LANARK:

Thursday, Feb. 22 at 11:30 a.m. Pinehill, 150 Clarence St., Lanark. Catered Lunch (\$18.00), Make & Take, Board Games and Food Bank Collection

Thursday, March 22 at 11:30 a.m., Barley Mow, Almonte. Order from Menu. Visit the Textile Museum or enjoy the unique shops in Almonte.

Thursday, April 19 at 11:00 a.m., St. Paul's United Church, 25 Gore St., Perth. Lunch \$18.00. Visit from Provincial President, Lois Lockhart, presentation of community outreach projects.

Thursday, May 17 at 11:00 a.m. South Elmsley Hall, Hwy 15 South., Catered lunch (\$18.00), Annual Meeting and Elections, Demonstration - Growing and Cooking with Herbs by Jeannie Dagley.

2018 SPRING EVENTS... MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Registration forms for the following activities, along with your cheque made payable to RWTO/OERO should be sent to the person identified for each one. Note: a \$5 additional charge applies for non-members who register to attend any of the events.

Since we must give numbers to the venue ahead of the date, and are responsible for those numbers, it is important that you contact the co-ordinator if you must cancel after registering.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018 WEARIN' O' THE GREEN Luncheon



11:45 a.m. Cost: \$17.00

Waterford Retirement Community
2431 Bank Street (at Hunt Club)

If you're looking for an excuse to get out those green duds in your closet, this is it! Join RWTO/OERO friends for lunch and "experience the remarkable Waterford decor and ambiance". This month's fundraiser for our community outreach program will be a "Good Reads" used book sale which will, at the same time, follow the popular motto, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle". Bring along a book or two (or?) that you have read and enjoyed and wish to donate, and go home with new ones. Other "green theme" activities are also in the works.

To register, complete the appropriate form and send it with your cheque, to Suzanne Lanouette-Carswell at 2695 Hickson Cr. Ottawa ON K2H 6Y5 **before March 2.**

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018 LUNCH WITH MARY!! Luncheon and Presentation

11:30 a.m. Cost: \$27.00
Members 80 and over - \$5.00

Algonquin International Restaurant
1385 Woodroffe Ave. (S. of Baseline Rd.)

With our "80 Years and Over" members as special guests, we will have the opportunity to enjoy not only a great lunch and socialize with all our friends, but hear from noted Ottawa-area storyteller, Mary Cook.



Mary is well-known for her weekly column in Metroland Media newspapers... 199 of these are in her newest book. In addition to this she has written 12 other books, earned awards for excellence in broadcast journalism, and

received numerous citations from the likes of Ontario Premiers and a Prime Minister, and many area organizations, and was also presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal! We look forward to hearing from this distinguished lady!

To register, complete the appropriate form and send with your cheque to Margaret Dempsey at 703-2385 Carling Ave., Ottawa ON K2B 7G9 **before April 3.**

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018 SUMMER IS COMING! AGM and END OF YEAR Luncheon

11:15 a.m. Cost \$35.00
Falcon Ridge Golf Club

4740 High Road (across from O-C Raceway)



It's time to celebrate all our accomplishments over the past year as we wait for summer to get in full swing. Join fellow members for our Annual General Meeting and award presentations, a great luncheon, some summertime ideas from your executive, and social activities.

To register, send attached form with your cheque to Sharon Chop at 637 Fraser Ave., Ottawa ON K2A 2R6 **before May 4.**



P.S. Don't forget that Princess Priscilla Pig will be waiting to see you!

REGISTRATION FORM - Wearin' o' the Green Luncheon - Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Name _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Enclosed is my cheque for _____ payable to RWTO/OERO.

Please note dietary restrictions or if you require transportation to this event.

Send cheque and form to Suzanne Lanouette-Carswell at 2695 Hickson Cr. Ottawa ON K2H 6Y5 **before March 2.**

REGISTRATION FORM - Lunch with Mary!! Thursday, April 12, 2018

Name _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Enclosed is my cheque for _____ payable to RWTO/OERO.

Please note dietary restrictions or if you require transportation to this event.

Send cheque and form to Margaret Dempsey at 703-2385 Carling Ave., Ottawa ON K2B 7G9 **before April 3.**

REGISTRATION FORM - Summer Is Coming! AGM and Luncheon Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Name _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Enclosed is my cheque for _____ payable to RWTO/OERO.

Please note dietary restrictions or if you require transportation to this event.

Send cheque and form to Sharon Chop at 637 Fraser Ave., Ottawa ON K2A 2R6 **before May 4.**