



RWTO/OERO

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



St. Catharines Branch Newsletter – Summer 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A “LOOKING FORWARD” FOREWORD.

The best thing about having the opening position in the Summer RWRO/OERO Newsletter is thinking and then writing about our upcoming year. Dates, times and places of get-togethers with interest group friends, four luncheon meetings plus our Christmas celebration, all need to be put on calendars: paper and digital. Retired life is busy and it's great to keep your RWTO/OERO calendar organized!



I'm looking forward to the luncheon programmes arranged by Jan Harlos, Susan Lewis, and Louise Farquhar, (1st, 2nd vice-presidents and social convenor) AND our new Outreach Project convened by Sue McLaughlin and Kathleen Bradley.

At the September luncheon at St. John's Activity Centre we hope to have our Forever Young members join us as our guests. Our new Provincial President, Sharon Coulter, will be joining us to bring greetings from Provincial and then she will tour the Holiday Inn Convention site.

In June 2019, Marilyn Emmett, chairperson, committee members and volunteers from St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Niagara South and West Lincoln Branches will welcome upwards of 300 delegates to the Annual General Convention, “**Barrel of Fun – 2019 - St. Catharines**”.

On a “Fashion Forward” note, I will be modelling the Feather in Your Cap award which we were awarded for the **Free the Girls** project. Everyone can look forward to that!!

Enjoy the newsletter.

Patti Malkiewich – St. Catharines Branch President

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**ST. CATHARINES BRANCH
EXECUTIVE
2018-2019**

Honorary President Beth Kent

TABLE OFFICERS

Past President Susan McLaughlin
President Patti Malkiewich

1st Vice President Jan Harlos
2nd Vice President Susan Lewis
Secretary Violette Hagerty
**Treasurer/
Membership** Linda Foster

CONVENORS

Archivist Jessica Thomson
Communications Marilyn Emmett
Goodwill Alice Bradnam
Insurance Chris Graham
Interest Groups Nadine Martin
**Issues & Concerns
Program** Marg Newby
Jan Harlos
Susan Lewis
Social Lou Farquhar
Betty Tieche
Telephone Sheila Bengner

LIAISONS

ETFO Donna Painter
OECTA Clara Warden
OSSTF Margo Smith

PROVINCIAL BOARD MEMBERS

Area 13 Director Kathy Smith
Program Coordinator Judith Bennoch
Convention Convenor Marilyn Emmett

HONORARY PRESIDENT

I am pleased to be back on our Executive for another year. It is great to belong to an organization where we can continue to learn and share ideas. It is important to support our communities and each other as we age together. Some of us may live alone but do not need to be lonely with our many Interest Groups and support for our senior seniors.

It is often said, "Life is not a destination but a journey!"

Stay healthy and be happy!



Beth Kent
Honorary President



St. Catharines Executive 2018-2019



THE CORA BAILEY AWARD

Welcome to the RWTO St. Catharines Branch 2018-2019. Whether you are a “seasoned “ or a first time member, it’s a new year of sharing luncheons, speakers, entertainment, interest groups and caring through goodwill and community involvement. Each year, we recognize and honour 2-3 members of our organization with the “CORA BAILEY AWARD” for outstanding service for the St. Catharines Branch. Cora Bailey taught for 42 years for the Peterborough Board of Education. When she retired Cora joined OASWT (the Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers) now known as RWTO/OERO. She was the Provincial President in 1962. She became the first Provincial Secretary-Treasurer and held this position for 10 years, “retiring” in 1982.



Beginning in 2003, The Cora Bailey Award was established to recognize **branch members who have contributed outstanding service to their Branch**. Nomination sheets for Cora Bailey Award recipients will be at our first and second luncheons or you could send your nomination/s to me via e-mail.

We do a terrific job of recognizing our own members. We should also be recognized as an organization that helps others, locally or globally. Please send your ideas/thoughts to me or see me at the luncheons.



Janis Harlos
First Vice President

MEMBERSHIP

1. **RENEWAL:** \$45.00 due by September 1, 2018 for 2018-2019. **PLEASE** submit your fees on time.
2. There is no form to complete. Please let me know of any changes in your information so that I can keep the membership records up-to-date.
3. Your cheque is to be made out to **RWTO St. Catharines** and mailed or delivered to:
Linda Foster
14 Woodgarden Crt
St Catharines, ON L2M 7C9
4. New members are always welcome. Information and membership forms for new members are available upon request from our liaisons or me. Our Affiliate Liaisons, Donna Painter (ETFO), Clara Warden (OECTA) and Margo Smith (OSSTF) assist in recruiting new members
5. To maintain your RWTO/OERO Hospital and Health Care insurance, you must be a paid-up member.



Linda Foster
Treasurer/Membership



CORA BAILEY AWARD RECIPIENTS 2018



**Kathleen Bradley, Judith Bennoch,
Violette Hagerty.**

BARBARA BAIN MEMBERSHIP AWARD

At the Convention in Nottawasaga in June, the St. Catharines Branch received this award for 3rd place in the Tier 1 (Largest Branches) for increase in membership.



Susan McLaughlin (Branch Past President) is receiving the award from Barbara Bain (Provincial Past President).



THE FEATHER IN YOUR HAT AWARD

We also received the Feather in Your Hat Award for our “Free the Girls” project. Patti wore her bra hat with distinction.



In Memory Of

Myrna Kroeker

**“A Life So Beautifully Lived And
A Heart So Deeply Loved”**

INSURANCE

There continues to be confusion re: the termination for our insurance. We would like to make sure that our members know that there is NO termination date for the Hospital and Home Care Plan.

As long as a member continues to live independently and to be a member in good standing, she will continue to be eligible for the Hospital and Home Care Plan.

The termination provision applies only to the Personal Death and Dismemberment plan.



Chris Graham
Insurance Convenor



Check out our website!

Go to: rwto.org. Read about many aspects of our organization. Find out about what other Branches are doing, the Convention/AGM information and of course, check out the latest happenings and pictures from the St. Catharines Branch.

GOODWILL

I am looking forward to greeting old and new friends at our first luncheon of the RWTO/OERO year. Sometimes people are unable to attend luncheons because they are travelling, ill or busy with other commitments. However, please don't stay away because you don't know anyone anymore or because you are new. Many years ago, my wise leader said, "When you're doing well, come because we need you. When you're not doing well, come because you need us." Communities are always stronger when they are welcoming and inclusive. Thank you for caring and sharing.

New to the "Forever Young" group is **Marilyn Shea**. She joins an impressive group of our "Over 90's" including **Victoria Brett, Bev Davies, Helene Fast, Anne Macdonald, Marian McKnight, Rosemary McNamee, Mary Jane Tanner, Anna Thwaites, and Geraldine Young**.

Please remember to contact me if you know of anyone that might appreciate a get well, sympathy, thank you or "thinking of you" card.

Goodwill Convenor

Alice Bradnam 905 934-7108

alicebradnam@aol.com



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

We are so fortunate to have such a varied assortment of interest groups to enjoy. Remember, these groups are open to members who have paid their RWTO membership. If you would like to start up a different group, contact Nadine Martin so that a signup sheet can be put out at our first luncheon. Refer to the attachment with this newsletter.

Please Note:

1. **Let's Chat About It Book Club** - Due to the popularity of this group, Margaret Pulford will assist in establishing a second group.
2. **The Revolving Book Club** – Books will be available for pick up at the September 26th meeting. If you are not attending, please arrange for someone to pick up your book.
3. **Water Colour - En Plein Air**

Although this activity was not offered last year, interest was shown to establish this activity. If someone would like to provide guidance in this, it would be greatly appreciated. Previously, no instruction was provided, just an opportunity to meet at scenic spots in Niagara to sketch and paint, from June to July twice a month.



Special Interest Group Convenor

Nadine Martin nadinejoanmartin@gmail.com

905 938-2593

Community Outreach for the Homeless

This year we are going to focus on helping people in our own community. We are going to collect toiletries that are easily carried, for the homeless. Gather up the items and place them in zip lock baggies and bring them to our luncheons in **September or October**. We will deliver them to **Start Me Up Niagara** and they will be given to those who need them.

Here is a list of items most appreciated: **toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, lip balm, hand cream, shampoo, body wash, deodorant, warm socks, warm gloves or mitts**. Please do not include mouth wash because of the alcohol content. Make sure that the items are small, to fit in backpacks.

Let's rally round to help those in need in Niagara!

RANKIN CANCER RUN/WALK

The Rankin Run day was a success! Although it was a hot, humid day we all completed the 5 kilometre walk. Many of our RWTO members carried colourful balloons to recognize Myrna Kroeker. She was a passionate supporter of the Rankin Run and we were very saddened with her recent passing. We are proud to have raised over \$4,000.00 to go towards Niagara hospitals and hospices in the region. There were a record number of participants in this year's run. Most people walked but there were people running 5 km and firefighters running with their heavy equipment. It was an emotional day and I would encourage more members of RWTO to participate. We hope to have more people on our team next year. After the race you are rewarded with a choice of hamburger or sausage and a drink. Quite something when you are cooking for 15,000 people! Thank you to all who made donations to support our members, families and friends who walked for cancer research. A job well done!



Jessica Thomson
Rankin Run Team Captain



CONVENTION 2018 – Nottawasaga

St. Catharines Branch Newsletter – Summer 2018

This year 10 members of the St. Catharines Branch attended the 62nd RWTO/OERO Convention in Nottawasaga as delegates, provincial board members and guests: Carol Bell, Judith Bennoch, Marilyn Emmett, Janis Harlos, Susan Lewis, Patti Malkiewich, Susan McLaughlin, Donna Painter, Jessica Thomson and Clara Warden.

We attended workshops, ate lots of delicious food, experienced great entertainment, hosted the “Call to Convention”, participated in the AGM, bid on items at the Silent Auction, met other retired women teachers from across the province, attended a very moving In Memoriam service and got to appreciate the teamwork involved in planning a Convention.

At the banquet on Wednesday night, the St. Catharines Branch won two awards. The first was the Barbara Bain Membership Award. We also won the Feather in Your Hat Award for our “Free the Girls” project. Patti wore her bra hat with distinction.

Our Branch, along with members from Niagara Falls, Niagara South and Lincoln West really energized the crowd with our Call to Convention.

RWTO/OERO 63rd CONVENTION

June 4 - 6, 2019

Presented by: The Area 13
Branches

*Lincoln West, Niagara Falls,
Niagara South, St. Catharines*



Holiday Inn and Suites
St. Catharines, ON

<http://rwto.org/convention/convention-2019/>

The Area 13 “Call to Convention” Gang



LUNCHEONS

1. The cost of each luncheon is again \$30.00.
2. Luncheon payments are due the Wednesday prior to the luncheon.
3. HOW TO PAY: (3 methods)
 - a. You can pay for each luncheon (September, October, and December) separately.
 - b. Include all fall luncheons you plan on attending in one payment.
 - c. Include your luncheon payments with your membership payment on one cheque.
4. Your cheque serves as your ticket.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO INDICATE ON YOUR CHEQUE THE LUNCHEONS YOU WILL BE ATTENDING.

ALL CHEQUES:

Made out to: **RWTO St. Catharines**

Sent to: Linda Foster
 14 Woodgarden Crt
 St Catharines, ON L2M 7C9

EMAIL: rwto@catharines@gmail.com

Upcoming Luncheons

| Date | Location | Program |
|----------|--|--|
| Sept. 26 | St. John's Activity Centre (91 Lakeshore Rd., St. Catharines) | Jordan Heritage Gift Shop |
| Oct. 24 | The Greek Community Centre (585 Niagara St, St. Catharines) | The New Marijuana Program at Niagara College |
| Dec. 5 | St. Catharines Golf Club | Carols and Christmas Fun |

All meetings begin at 11:00 AM. Doors open at 10:30 unless otherwise indicated.

- Each luncheon costs **\$30.00**. Luncheon prices are determined by our cost to provide the meal (**including the room, taxes, and gratuities**) plus additional expenses including door prizes, AV equipment rentals and flowers.
- 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, before the Friday prior to each luncheon.**
- Two to three weeks prior to each luncheon, you will receive a reminder (e-mail or phone) if you have **not indicated** that you are going to be attending the luncheon.
- You will be notified by e-mail when your cheque has been received by the Treasurer and you will receive a luncheon reminder a few days before the event.
- **Escorts needed.** Sometimes our members need a ride to the luncheon. If you can help out, please call **Alice Bradnam 905 934 - 7108.**
- **We are a Fragrance Free Environment.**

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.
- ✓ Do not contact the venue directly.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Help and Safety

As a member of the “Cane Carrying Club” I am deeply grateful for the willing help I receive from my fellow caring and sharing RWTO/OERO members. However, caring and sharing is a two-way street.

I want to express my concern for the safety of those eager to help me get to luncheons, interest groups, meetings and workshops. This means graciously declining the offer of a helping arm as an ambulatory assistive device. You see, if I should suddenly lose my balance and stumble, the chances are that I would involuntarily grab my kind, off-guard, helper’s arm and take her head-long down to the ground with me, seriously injuring both of us.

What can I do then to prevent such a situation? First, I must recognize when it is time for me to “graduate” from one to two canes, walking poles or walker, pocket my pride and move on. Secondly, I must learn to accept or request safe kinds of help such as the following:

- Asking for pick-up and drop-off at entrances and exits
- Allowing others to hold the doors of buildings and vehicles for me
- Asking help for putting my walker on board
- Accepting assistance carrying my belongings

When I need more help than this, it will be time to contact our local Community Care Access Centre at 905 684-9441 for information on transportation options.

Marg Newby
Issues and Concerns
Convenor



HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU!



New Members – April Lunch



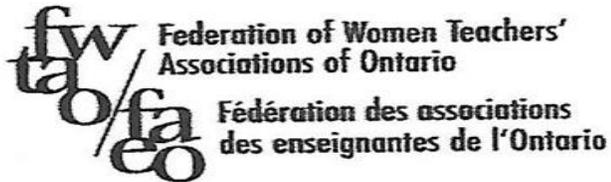
Bowling anyone?



Judith accompanying “Call to Convention!”



Singing for Fun



JOIN IN THE FWTAO 100 YEARS CELEBRATION

Join us in celebrating an important centennial. 2018 is the year that the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations would have been 100. It is a great time to recognize women's accomplishments, renew old acquaintances and look forward.

We have organized an FWTAO 100 lunch for Saturday, September 29, 2018 at the Osgoode Hall Restaurant in downtown Toronto (Queen and University). **Reception 12 p.m. Lunch 1:00 p.m.** Join the fun. There will be pictures, displays, flags, lots of memorabilia, and maybe even some giveaways. Michele Landsberg, a huge supporter of FWTAO, will give brief remarks.

Please use the attached link in your browser to register and buy a ticket

<https://event-wizard.com/FWTAO/0/welcome/>

If you have any questions please contact one of us

Helen Penfold penfoldhm@rogers.com 647-343-0414

OR

Marilyn Roycroft marilynroycroft@rogers.com 416-710-9044

Looking forward to seeing everyone! Register soon to avoid disappointment.

Submitted by: Alice Bradnam

Soon the school bell will be ringing to welcome eager learners into classrooms organized by many hard working, dedicated and perhaps, slightly anxious teachers. Let's remember to support our schools by encouraging children, educators and administrators. Let's get out there to vote in the fall municipal elections to choose trustworthy leaders with integrity, ability and proven track records.

**SPECIAL INTEREST
GROUPS**

The St. Catharines Branch of RWTO/OERO is fortunate to have a variety of stimulating groups to which members in good standing (**those who have paid their RWTO Membership**) may join. If you are interested in joining one of these groups, please contact the group leader or sign up at the September meeting. Also, if you have a special interest or talent and would be interested in starting a new group, we would welcome your ideas.

Let's Chat About It Book Club

Ladies meet monthly and discuss books that are available at the St. Catharines Public Library. Books chosen are not new, but provide an opportunity to read previously published ones that you may have missed. Laughter and fellowship with friends is shared with ladies in this group.

Contact:

Margaret Pulford: 905 688 - 1797

marpulford@gmail.com

Sue Lockyer: 905 984 - 3457 douglockyer@hotmail.com

The Revolving Book Club

For the low cost of \$25.00 a year you can read 10 interesting and varied books. You will receive your first book in September and then will “pass it on” to the next person at the beginning of the next month. The last book that you receive, you can keep. If you are unable to attend the first luncheon please make arrangements to have a friend pick up your book.

Contact:

Patt Chivers: 905 934 - 6636

pchivers@cogeco.ca

Creative Cooks

This potluck format involves sharing delicious food, fun and friendship monthly in each other's homes.

Contact:

Linda Thiessen: 905 935 - 2900 lthiessen@cogeco.ca

Bowling

The bowling group meets every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in Port Dalhousie, from September to May. We play 5-pin bowling, don't keep score, and usually go out for lunch after. We are a very friendly group and have lots of fun. Come and join us in the fall.

Contact:

Bonnie Leistner: 905 563 - 4287 bonnie13@hotmail.ca

Barbara West: 905 935 - 5339 cats@vaxxine.com

Euchre

There are two groups for this very popular pastime. This group meets monthly in each other's homes. The members decide the time, date and place for this activity.

Contact:

Nadine Martin: 905 938 - 2593

nadinejoanmartin@gmail.com

Dining Divas

This is another very popular group. Kathleen makes reservations at a variety of wonderful venues the first Thursday monthly throughout the year for our dining enjoyment!

Contact:

Kathleen Bradley: 905 646 - 9581

kath49bradley@gmail.com

Travelogue Club (Slide and Video)

This group is perfect for travelers to share pictures, videos and a discussion of their trips. From September to June, this group meets at First Grantham United Church in the Fellowship room at 1:30. We also share tips on travel and photography. The meetings end with refreshments, and two times yearly the group goes out to lunch. If you enjoy travelling and want to learn from others about a new destination, check this group out!

Contact:

Marilyn Weber: 905 934 -3858

marilynw167@gmail.com

Bridge Marathon

This is another very popular endeavor. Over 45 women participate in the marathon.

Playing 16 hands of bridge, 6 times a year, this group includes players with a variety of playing ability. This social event begins in each other's homes with a light snack and tea or coffee. In June, a luncheon at The Beacon Hotel followed by the awarding of prizes and an afternoon of bridge concludes the year. If interested, please contact the leaders as the new schedule is made up in August. New members who sign up in the fall can be placed on a "substitute" list.

Contact:

Helen Self: 905 641 - 1376 hself@cogeco.ca
Alvine Robinson: 905 684 - 9318 alviner@vaxxine.com
Sharon Thorne: 905 934 - 6396 sthorne@cogeco.ca

Golf

This group meets every Tuesday morning at the Garden City Golf Course and welcomes golfers of all abilities. Playing for FUN is encouraged. As members arrive, foursomes are put together. Golfers play from May to November. Come out and join us!

Contact:

Sandra Philbrick: 905 562 - 5579 sphilbrick@cogeco.ca

Singing for Fun

This group provides a wonderful opportunity to sing with friends. Standards, pop tunes, and songs chosen by the group are incorporated monthly in this fun afternoon. Snacks are provided by the group. This really is a FUN activity!

Contact:

Laurie Benson: 905 229 - 0469 jetty22@hotmail.com

Afternoon Walkers

If you enjoy discovering nature, join Christine and this group as they explore trails in St. Catharines, Fonthill and Queenston. Meet up with friends Fridays at 1:30 at predetermined locations that will be provided on the Friday following Labour Day at Lakeside Park in Port Dalhousie.

Contact:

Christine Honsinger: 905 646 - 1828
Christine@honsinger.com

Morning Walkers

Meeting at 8:30am Monday at Lakeside Park and Thursday at the Port Dalhousie Lions Club, this group walks through Port Dalhousie streets, neighbourhoods and available piers. These varied walks provide an opportunity to share conversation, exercise and discover new sights along the way. Everyone is encouraged to join this group.

Contact:

Susan Burnison: 905 935 - 1568
susanburnison@gmail.com

Lunch Bunch

Peggy Allen organizes great places for this group to meet monthly. Reservations are required and the menus are quite interesting at the great variety of venues here in Niagara. Good food, good friends, and good fellowship are enjoyed!

Contact:

Peggy Allen: 905 934 - 8204
peggy.j.allen2@gmail.com

Our next Newsletter will be published in October.

Deadline for submissions (including pictures) is **October 1, 2018**, to be sent to:

Marilyn Emmett – marilyn.emmett5@gmail.com 905 646 - 5543



Your Branch Directories will be available for pick-up at the October luncheon. If you are unable to attend the luncheon, please ask a friend to pick up your Directory for you. If not collected, it will be mailed to you.