

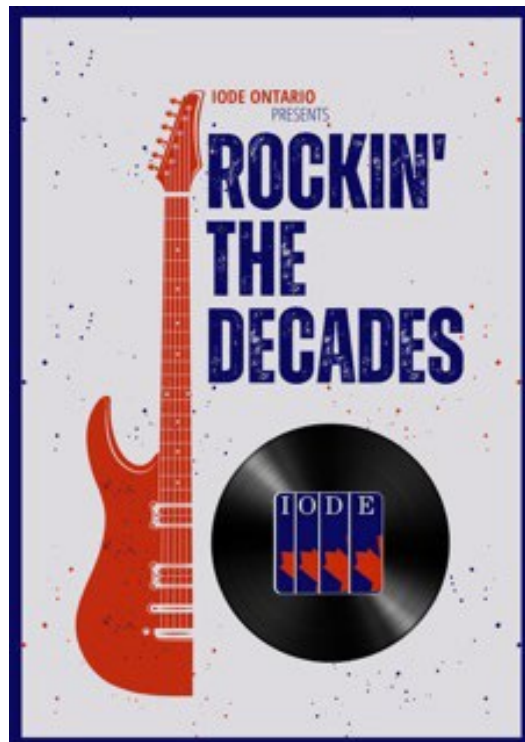


# **105<sup>th</sup> Provincial Annual Meeting**

## **Minutes**

**Friday, April 11, 2025**

**In – Person and Zoom Videoconference**

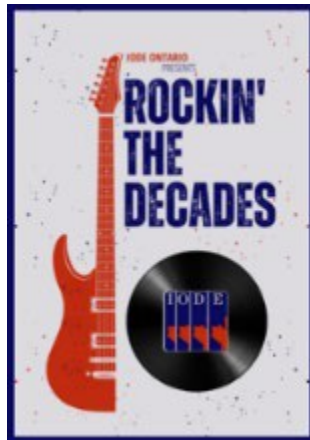


# 105<sup>th</sup> PROVINCIAL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

## April 11, 2025

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## **2025 PAM Theme “Rockin’ The Decades”**

### **OFFICIAL OPENING**

The 105<sup>th</sup> Provincial Annual Meeting began with the procession of the Canadian standard led by Piper, Major Richard Moll, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (WR) 13th Battalion Ceremonial Guard and carried by Provincial Standard Bearer, Kathryn Weston, IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter, Petrolia, followed by the Provincial Officers and head table guests, Dr. Stephen Veldhuis and IODE National President, Jane Cushing.

Following the procession, President of the Provincial Chapter of Ontario IODE, Helen Danby, asked everyone to please stand as she announced the entrance of Her Honour, The Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario preceded by her Aide de Camp and to remain standing for the playing of the Vice Regal Salute. President Helen welcomed everyone to the Provincial Annual Meeting, held in person and by Zoom videoconferencing, and declared it open for the transaction of business.

Following singing and video of “O Canada”, President Helen Danby, IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter, Petrolia recited the Acknowledgment of Indigenous Land Statement.

*“Ontario is located on the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples dating back countless generations. We show our respect for their contributions and recognize the role of treaty making in what is now Ontario. Hundreds of years after the first treaties were signed, they are still relevant today.”*

The members present then recited the IODE prayer and IODE affirmation and Statement of Values.

## **MOMENT OF SILENCE – IN MEMORIAM**

A moment of silence was observed while the names of the following 27 IODE Ontario members who passed away in 2024 were read by Gloria Saunders, IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter, Petrolia. As we remember our IODE sisters, let us be grateful for memories and meaningful moments, for days shared together and for times of joy and service to others.

### **IODE CHAPTER**

Lorna Dean	National President 1972—1974 Don Mills, Toronto, and Canadian Centennial, Toronto
Dailey Lee Anderson	Stirling, St. Thomas
Nan Brien	Kathleen Drope, Toronto
Patricia (Pat) Caldwell	White Cloud, Wiarton
Maureen Campbell	Angela Bruce, Oakville
Rosemary Carson-Rees	Maple Leaf, Goderich
Freda Dean	Victoria Guelph, Guelph
Lorraine Fraser	Angela Bruce, Oakville
Emily Elizabeth (Libby) Gibson	Dr. H. A. Bruce, North Bay, and Haileybury, Haileybury
Audrey Harris-Gaunt	Walter Baker, Ottawa
Pat Harding	Kent Regiment, Chatham
Mavis Heming	Victoria Guelph, Guelph
Jean Hof	Princess Margaret Rose, and Dr. Elizabeth Bagshaw, Hamilton
Marguerite (Marnie) Holloway	Honourable Malcolm Cameron, Sarnia
Suzanne Longpre	Royal Wyndham Chapter, Guelph
Iris Mary Lowe	Humber Valley, Toronto
Margo MacKinnon	Bridlewood, Toronto, and Rouge Valley, Toronto
Joyce MacTavish	Catherine McVean, Dresden
Margaret McRae	Dr. Norman A. McCormick, Windsor
Daphne Mayne	Manitou, North Bay
Ulrike (Rikki) Miller	Kathleen Drope, Toronto
Diane Myre	City of Lakes, Sudbury
Helen Reid	Val Griffiths, Dorchester
Linda Shannon	Margaret Stokes, Petrolia
Patricia Stringer	Maple Leaf, Goderich
Geraldine (Gerry) Turner	48 <sup>th</sup> Highlanders, Toronto

*May they rest in peace and live in our memories forever...*

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Attending the 105<sup>th</sup> Provincial Annual Meeting were 39 members from 19 Ontario primary chapters. Many guests included the Honourable Lieutenant Governor, Edith Dumont, her Senior Advisor and her Aide de Camp; Dr. Stephen Veldhuis, War Memorial Committee; three Ontario Provincial Police Officers and guest; and Dorothy Ellen Palmer, recipient of the IODE Jean Throop Book Award. This year's theme was "**Rockin' the Decades**" expertly depicted with a logo created by Communication Officer, Ashley Bonnell.

IODE Ontario's Past Provincial Presidents, who are now respectfully known as Honorary Vice-Presidents, were introduced with the National and Provincial Officers. Each person identified herself by standing if present in-person or waving if attending by Zoom.

### **Honorary Vice-Presidents:**

Ruth Ann Butler – London

Marty Dalton – London

Chris Bateman – Queensville

Sandra Smith – Pain Court

Bonnie Rees – Waterloo and Delhi

Karen Barker – Toronto

Renate Schuetz – Owen Sound

Linda Gryner – Plympton-Wyoming

*Unable to attend and sending regrets* were HVPs Lynda Rivard, of Simcoe, Marie Westlake, Norwood, Patricia Fabian, Waterloo and E. Anne Mason, Vancouver.

### **IODE Canada Officers and Committee Chairs present include:**

Jane Cushing – National President

Karen Dalton – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and National Education Officer

Renate Schuetz – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, National Communications and Public Relations Officer

Chris Bateman – Past National President and National Secretary

Carol McCall – Past National President, National Treasurer and National Constitution Officer

Catherine Moore – Past National President and Citizenship Officer

Hazel MacLeod – National War Memorial Scholarship Convenor

Bonnie Rees – Past National President and National Archivist

Ruth Ann Butler – National Life Membership Convenor

*National Officers unable to attend* were Natalie Denesovych, Celebrating IODE Officer; Nadine Fenton, Connecting IODE Officer and Labrador Adopt a Class Convenor; and Liz Hancock, National Services Officer.

### **Provincial Officers and Convenors present include:**

Helen Danby – President and Archivist

Michelle Batty – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Membership Officer, and PAM 2024 Co-Convenor & Registrar

Betsy Thompson – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, and PAM 2024 Co-Convenor

Jan Casbourn – Recording Secretary

Debbie Button – Treasurer

Kathryn Weston – Citizenship Officer and Standard Bearer

Lisa Cossar – Education Officer

Gloria Saunders – Services Co-Officer

Virginia Reade – Services Co-Officer

Ashley Bonnell – Communications, Website & Social Media Convenor (regrets)  
 Chris Bateman – Honorary Vice-President and North Central Ontario Area Vice-President (Zoom)  
 Susan Sibbitt – Eastern Ontario Area Vice-President  
 Heather Stuart – Northern Area Vice-President (Zoom)  
 Aileen Reid – Mid-Central Area Vice-President and Assistant Education in charge of Adopted Schools  
 Donna O'Reilly – South Central Area Vice-President and By-Laws Convenor (regrets)  
 Karen Barker – Honorary Vice-President, Area Vice President Toronto and IODE Jean Troop Book Award Convenor  
 Shirley Ann Elms – Provincial Life Membership Convenor  
 Sandra Smith – Honorary Vice-President and Provincial War Memorial Scholarship Convenor  
 Norma Lyttle Chicoine - Nominating Committee Convenor

**Provincial Life Members:**

The highest honour one can receive from their peers in IODE is a Life Membership and the following Provincial Life Members in attendance were:

Mary K. Anderson	Helen Danby	Aileen Reid
Chris Bateman (Zoom)	Shirley Ann Elms	Bonnie Rees
Karen Barker	Tory Garfat (Zoom)	Gloria Saunders
Jo Brodie (Zoom)	Linda Gryner	Renate Schuetz
Ruth Ann Butler	Gail McDiarmid (Zoom)	Sandra Smith
Marty Dalton	Virginia Reade	

*Life Members unable to attend were:*

Eleanor Bentley	Eula Evans	Caroline Rodgers
Jeannette Boyd	Patti Fabian	Ruth Stokes
Sheila DeJaegher	E. Anne Mason	Barbara Vivash
Sheila Dearing	Donna O'Reilly	Marie Westlake
June Elviage	Lynda Rivard	

**First Time Attendees:**

Four first-time attendees were:  
 Natalie Botzang, IODE Trillium 2023 Chapter, virtual  
 Patti McManus, IODE Maple Leaf Chapter, Goderich  
 Sandra Quick, IODE Val Griffiths Chapter, Dorchester  
 Jane Anema, IODE Errol Egremont Chapter, Sarnia

**Provincial Executive Councillors:**

The elected 48 Provincial Councillors are important members who act as liaisons between the Provincial and Primary Chapters. They are integral members of the governing body of IODE Ontario and many in attendance stood to be recognized.

**Office Staff:**

The Provincial office would not function without the valued assistance of Administrative Assistant, Lynn Hughes.

Thanks were extended to the following integral members who provided valuable assistance with the Provincial Annual Meeting:

**Official Photographer and Audio Visual Technician:**

Photographer Lisa Cossar, from IODE Bemersyde Chapter, Campbellford and HVP Linda Gryner, IODE Errol Egremont Chapter, Sarnia who volunteered to be the AV technology person.

**Provincial Recording Secretary:** Jan Casbourn, IODE Honourable Malcolm Cameron Chapter, Sarnia.

**Provincial Annual Meeting Convenors:**

Michelle Batty, Provincial 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Membership Officer and Registrar, IODE Errol Egremont Chapter, Sarnia and Betsy Thompson, Provincial 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, IODE Bemersyde Chapter, Campbellford.

**Communications Officer, Social Media and Website Convenor:**

Ashley Bonnell, IODE 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders Chapter, Toronto was unable to attend. A special thank you to Ashley for uploading pertinent documents on the website and for sharing our work on IODE Ontario Facebook, Twitter and Instagram Accounts.

## RESOLUTIONS OF LOYALTY

Resolution of Loyalty to  
**HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III**  
King of Canada

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY:

*The members of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE) in the Provincial Chapter of Ontario, assembled in person and virtually in the City of Hamilton, Province of Ontario, on the occasion of their 105<sup>th</sup> Provincial Annual Meeting, once again affirm their loyalty to you, our beloved King.*

*We pray for the return to good health of Your Majesty as well as your beloved daughter-in-law, Her Royal Highness, Catherine, Princess of Wales. May God speed a return to full vitality for you both.*

*Warm wishes are extended to Her Majesty Queen Camilla, His Royal Highness, William, Prince of Wales, and all members of the Royal Family. May they continue to provide you with their undying love and support.*

*Our members celebrate and salute your commitment and dedication to lifelong service, however heavy the burden. Your Majesty is an inspiration to all of your subjects in the United Kingdom and across the Commonwealth of Nations. May your influence on many laudable issues, such as environmental awareness and world peace, continue to grow in favour among the leaders of the nations and peoples everywhere.*

*The members of the IODE Provincial Chapter of Ontario proclaim this Resolution of Loyalty to Your Majesty with utmost sincerity. God Save The King.*

### **MOTION:**

**Moved by: Aileen Reid, IODE Val Griffiths Chapter, Dorchester.**

**Seconded by: Dana Bryant, IODE Angela Buce Chapter, Oakville.**

***“THAT the Resolution of Loyalty to His Majesty, King Charles III be adopted as presented and submitted to IODE Canada to be forwarded to His Majesty following the Annual Meeting.”***

**CARRIED unanimously by a standing vote.**

Resolution of Loyalty to  
**THE GOVERNOR GENERAL and COMMANDER IN CHIEF of CANADA**  
**Her Excellency, The Right Honourable**  
**Mary Simon, CC CMM COM OQ CD FRCGS**

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

*The members of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE) in the Provincial Chapter of Ontario, assembled in person and virtually in the City of Hamilton, Province of Ontario, on the occasion of their 105<sup>th</sup> Provincial Annual Meeting, once again affirm their loyalty to you as the 30<sup>th</sup> Governor General of Canada and as Representative of His Majesty, King Charles III, King of Canada.*

*Warm wishes are extended to your husband, His Excellency Whit Grant Fraser, your three children and all members of your family. May their love and devotion continue to uphold you in your desire to fulfil, nay, exceed the expectations of your formidable Office.*

*We are inspired by your mandated priorities of reconciliation, mental health, environment, youth and diversity and inclusion. May your influence in these matters continue to grow in favour among the people of Canada to the benefit of us all, but particularly Indigenous Peoples.*

*We commend your New Year's Message for 2025 to encourage "Canadians to treat their mental health with the same care as their physical health". This issue has resonated with IODE members for many years and resulted in several mental health initiatives, particularly among children and teens.*

*The members of the IODE Provincial Chapter of Ontario proclaim this Resolution of Loyalty to Your Excellency with utmost sincerity.*

**MOTION:**

**Moved by: Susan Sibbit, IODE Laurentian Chapter, Ottawa.**

**Seconded by: Norma Lyttle Chicoine, IODE Val Griffiths Chapter, Dorchester.**

***"THAT the Resolution of Loyalty to Her Excellency, The Governor General of Canada, The Right Honourable Mary Simon CC CMM COM OQ CD FRCGS be adopted as presented and submitted to IODE Canada to be forwarded to Her Excellency following the Annual Meeting."***

**CARRIED unanimously by a standing vote.**

Greetings to  
**THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO**  
**The Honourable Edith Dumont, O. Ont**

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

*The members of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE) in the Provincial Chapter of Ontario, assembled in person and virtually in the City of Hamilton, on the occasion of their 105<sup>th</sup> Provincial Annual Meeting, once again send fond Greetings to you as the 30<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and as Representative of His Majesty, King Charles III, in Ontario.*

*Warm wishes are extended to your husband, Tony Viscardi, your three children and all members of your family. May their love and devotion continue to uphold you in your desire to fulfil, nay, exceed the expectations of your formidable Office.*

*Your laudable career in education resonates with our members, as education is one of the cornerstones of IODE's aims and we count many teachers among our members. We commend your goals to build relationships, strengthen communities, create collaborative teams, and advocate for diversity, inclusion and the celebration of la francophonie. May your influence in these matters continue to grow in favour among the people of Ontario.*

*The members of the IODE Provincial Chapter of Ontario extend these Greetings with utmost sincerity and affection.*

**MOTION:**

**Moved by: Susan Lake, IODE 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders Chapter, Toronto.**

**Seconded by: Shirley Ann Elms, 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders Chapter, Toronto.**

***“THAT the Greetings to Her Honour, Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, be adopted and forwarded to Her Honour following the Annual Meeting.”***

**CARRIED unanimously by a standing vote.**

## **GREETINGS FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO**

**Her Honour Edith Dumont, *IODE Ontario's Honourary Patron.***

Honourable Edith Dumont is the 30<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, appointed following a long and distinguished career in education. She is the first Francophone to hold the office. Madame Dumont has always promoted diversity as a strength for every community, women as indispensable contributors to decision-making tables, collaboration as the foundation of high-performing teams and *la francophonie* as a source of pride in all aspects of society.

IODE Ontario was very pleased to have Her Honour Edith Dumont attend the 105<sup>th</sup> Provincial Annual Meeting. When Her Honour first entered The Hamilton Club, she took time to socialize with members in the display room before her official duties. The conversations flowed spontaneously and became very animated as she talked with each member about their volunteer work. Madame Dumont said she was touched by the greetings she received from IODE, wishing good health not only to her but her husband and children as well.

It was a huge surprise when Her Honour presented the King Charles III Coronation Medal to seven IODE Ontario members.



Congratulations to the IODE members that were honoured for their outstanding volunteer service with IODE Ontario: (L-R) Betsy Thompson, Campbellford; Jan Casbourn, Sarnia; Aileen Reid, Dorchester; Gloria Saunders, Forest; (Her Honour, Edith Dumont); Michelle Batty, Lambton Shores; Helen Danby, Petrolia; Virginia Reade, Hamilton and Debbie Button, London. Virginia had received her medal at a previous ceremony.

As a thank you and parting gift, our Patron Edith Dumont was given a copy of the IODE Jean Throop Award winning book *The Scooter Twins* by convenor, Karen Barker.

## **GREETINGS FROM IODE CANADA — *National President Jane Cushing***

“Thank you for the opportunity to join you for these two days. Thank you for modifying your Provincial Annual Meeting plans for the second time to increase the opportunities for an in-person National Annual Meeting to succeed. Teamwork strengthens the organization and makes it possible to magnify

the positive impact of IODE members. Today, you celebrate the accomplishments of IODE Ontario members in 2024 and they are varied and extensive. The potential of that variety is one of the strengths of IODE as an organization where *Every Member Counts and IODE Counts on Every Member*. Very few organizations last 125 years. Today will provide an opportunity to learn how IODE service has evolved over the last 124 years. Leading to continued purposefulness of the organization and reason to look ahead. The number of new members IODE Ontario has attracted this year is outstanding and helps to ensure the future of IODE. By establishing a chapter that meets electronically, and which is not limited geographically, the opportunities for membership have been expanded.

As technology has made it possible to meet across Canada and share questions and ideas, please take time to participate. After the cross Canada workshops about annual reports, reports came in sooner and contained much more information. There have been enthusiastic comments about ideas shared and solutions to nagging issues explained. These workshops provide an opportunity for members to learn about what is entailed in an officer's role and provide an opportunity to mentor potential officer candidates. The focus for next year's workshops /chats will include ideas about retaining new members and supporting struggling chapters.

Chapters have expanded their community work through grants and partnerships. This is another way to grow; and grow IODE membership as partner organizations and individuals become aware of IODE women and their activities.

Innovation and determination continued the work of IODE Ontario services when the workroom had to close. Combined with teamwork these qualities of IODE women ensure the success of the organization as it begins the second 125 years. Every member is needed to make IODE the best it can be.

Celebrate your successes and have fun celebrating 125 years ... take that enthusiasm into the future."

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATION — Shirley Ann Elms, IODE 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders Chapter, Toronto**

Life Memberships are granted for outstanding service to IODE over a number of years. At the Provincial level, a member is nominated to the Life Membership Convenor and that nomination is supported by three letters of reference from her peers recommending the individual based upon the participation of the IODE member at the Provincial level. A Life Membership is the highest honour bestowed upon a member by their peers.

***Citation for Citizenship and Standard Bearer Officer, Kathryn Weston,  
IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter, Petrolia:***

"Kathryn Weston was installed as a member of IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter in 2004 and was elected a Provincial Councillor in 2016. Her gregarious personality and team spirit have shone through in her dedication to IODE from her first days as a Councillor. In that first year she served as Chair of the Provincial Nominating Committee exhibiting her natural leadership. Kathryn continues to be an active member on many committees including By-laws, Citizenship, Editing, Finance, Services, and Relocation. In addition to leading the Citizenship committee Kathryn is an enthusiastic participant in the provincial Services committee, purchasing goods and attending packing sessions. She has been a contributing member of the Editing Committee for both Provincial Annual Reports and the book, *A Century of Memorable Ontario IODE Women*. The Relocation Committee has benefited from her valued contributions; Kathryn has made numerous trips to Hamilton to assist with the cleaning out of the office. Kathryn became the Provincial Standard Bearer Officer in 2019 and the Citizenship Officer in 2022. Her Citizenship reports are always well researched, informative and pertinent to the month in which they are presented.

Kathryn Weston continues to be an active participant in all provincial areas, making valuable, positive comments and suggestions.

On behalf of all members of IODE Ontario it is with great pleasure that a Provincial Life Membership is awarded to Kathryn Weston in recognition of her valuable and continuing service to the Provincial Chapter of Ontario IODE."

**WAR MEMORIAL RECOGNITION, DR. STEPHEN VELDHUIS** — *Helen Danby, IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter, Petrolia.*

“In the Echoes issue of 1994 – 95, it was announced that across Canada, there were 284 applicants for the War Memorial Scholarship. Six winners were selected for scholarships of \$12,000, and Stephen C. Veldhuis was one of them. Hailing from Burlington, he studied at McMaster University, receiving his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He then continued to Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh for his Master of Engineering degree and returned to McMaster to earn his Doctorate in 1998. His thesis at the time of his War Memorial Award was ‘World in Motion’, which encourages grade school students to pursue an interest in science and engineering.

Dr. Veldhuis's current research interests lie in the area of high-performance manufacturing, with a specific focus on precision and ultra-precision machining. The main objective of his research is to enhance the competitiveness of machining operations by improving productivity and quality while reducing costs. The approach taken involves a detailed framework for selecting and developing tooling, followed by process optimization, which aims to fully utilize the capabilities of the tool and machine.

This past March 2025, The Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) Student Competition was held in Austin, Texas. Dr. Veldhuis' student team was the only Canadian team to make it to the MCAA finals. There was one other Canadian team among 25 American competitors in the entire competition. The McMaster team felt the added pressure of positively representing both their university and their country. Not only did they rise to the occasion, but they also outperformed all other teams, securing first place and a \$10,000 USD cash prize. The project was to see what it takes to install the HVAC or Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning equipment needed to keep 40,000 people comfortable during a game or concert.

Since 2001, Dr. Veldhuis has worked with seven different War Memorial Convenors over the years and has read almost 1,000 (958 to be exact) PhD applications, averaging 46 applications per year. Each application requires at least 20 minutes to examine and evaluate, not counting the hours of annual selection meetings, usually about four hours per year or another 100 hours. Add to this time, 24 meetings of the committee, which is usually about a four-hour gathering. When calculating the time spent, it works out to 423 volunteer hours over 24 years, and at a modest salary of \$30 per hour, it would be \$12,690. Even if we estimated at minimum wage of \$15 per hour, we would owe Dr. Veldhuis \$6,345.

Thank you, Dr. Veldhuis, for giving your valuable time to IODE Ontario over the past 24 years to assist the War Memorial Committee in the selection of the excellent student applications for this worthy award. A framed certificate of appreciation and butter tarts were presented to Dr. Veldhuis who expressed thanks for this honour of recognition.”

**IODE ONTARIO WAR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE** thanked professors who could not attend.

*War Memorial Convenor, Sandra Smith, IODE Captain Garnet Brackin Chapter, Chatham.*

“It is my honor to recognize the IODE Ontario War Memorial Committee with gratitude for their body of work on the committee. ‘By Right Of Office’ has significant meaning when given the guidelines for presence on this committee with a very high learning curve. I thank Helen Danby, Michelle Batty, Lisa Cossar and Jo Brodie. The resulting actions, reading, scoring and selection gives one admiration of the talent in our Canadian War Memorial PHD applicants. As Dr. Fraser noted in his comments, ‘I am impressed by these fine folks. Our future is in good hands.’

In addition to the esteemed Dr. Stephen Veldhuis, the following two Professors are also given our special gratitude for their personal and professional contribution to the committee. A letter of thanks and certificate of appreciation has been sent to Dr. Robert Fraser and Dr. Kara Smith from IODE Ontario.

**Dr. Robert Fraser** attended McMaster University for his Bachelor of Arts, Carleton for his master's degree and the University of Toronto for his doctorate. Trained as a historian he took a position with the Dictionary of Canadian Biography where he is Executive Officer of this long running historical research project. He has taught Canadian history at both University of Toronto, McMaster University and Wordsworth College.

Robert is associated with the Argylls in numerous capacities as Regimental Historian, President of the Officer's Mess, member of the Senate, Regimental Foundation and the Honorary Advisory Group. He is author of two books *Provincial Justice* and *Black Yesterdays*.

We recognize and are grateful for his academic contributions to the committee decisions since 2019.

**Dr. Kara Smith** received her Bachelor of Arts from University of Waterloo; Bachelor of Commerce from University of Windsor; Bachelor of Education and Masters of Education from Western University and her doctorate from University of Stirling UK. She currently is Professor Emeritus, University of Windsor and creating a multidisciplinary curriculum with the University of Highlands and Islands Scotland, University of Windsor and La Roche D'Hys, France. She is best known for her poetry series, Gaelic language maintenance and former books editor of *The Canadian Journal of Education*. She has received Distinguished Contributions to University Teaching Awards at both University of Windsor and University of the Highlands and Islands, UK. Her present interests are teaching and mentor to the Masters and PhD student programs at her current faculties.

We are grateful and recognize her expertise in support of the committee review of applications over the past four years."

### **IODE JEAN THROOP BOOK AWARD PRESENTATION** — *IODE Jean Throop Book Award Convenor, Karen Barker, 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders Chapter, Toronto.*

The 2025 IODE Jean Throop Book Award was awarded to *The Scooter Twins* written by Dorothy Ellen Palmer and illustrated by Maria Sweeney.



Melanie and Melvin are twins but they couldn't be more different. Melanie is LOUD and Melvin is quiet. Melvin likes FROGS and Melanie loves MOTORCYCLES! When the twins learn that they will get their very own mobility scooters, Melanie is excited to race to school, but Melvin is worried he'll fall and that people will stare. And there's a problem, Grandma can't afford the scooters without selling one of Mom's treasured paintings, one of the only things the twins have left to remember their parents.

In the process of getting their scooters, Melanie and Melvin have to navigate challenges that people with disabilities face on a daily basis: rudeness from a store clerk and products that aren't made with kids in mind. But in the end, Melanie and Melvin choose scooters that are just right for them and make moving through their neighborhood a new adventure.

Written by disability advocate and mobility scooter user Dorothy Ellen Palmer and illustrated by Maria Sweeney. *The Scooter Twins* is an #ownvoices story that shares the joys and challenges of disabled childhood and offers many kids who get new wheels the opportunity to find themselves in the pages of a book.

**DOROTHY ELLEN PALMER** is a mother of two, an award-winning disabled senior writer, accessibility advocate and retired teacher. She served on the Accessibility Advisory Board of the Festival of Literary Diversity and regularly appears at literary festivals. She won the Helen Henderson Award for disability journalism and has published three novels and the memoir *Falling for Myself. The Scooter Twins* is her first children's book. She lives in Burlington, Ontario, with her mobility scooter, Rosie.



**MARIA SWEENEY**, the illustrator was not eligible for the IODE Jean Throop Book Award. She is a Moldovan-born, United States-based freelance illustrator and comic artist.

Dorothy Palmer, via Zoom, thanked the IODE for the recognition of her book and further explained it was based on her personal experience as someone who is disabled.

## **BUSINESS PORTION**

**CORRESPONDENCE** read by *Provincial Recording Secretary, Jan Casbourn, IODE Honourable Malcolm Cameron Chapter, Sarnia*

**GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR OF HAMILTON** — by *Her Worship Andrea Horwath*

“On behalf of the City of Hamilton, I am pleased to extend our warmest wishes as you gather for this year's IODE Provincial Annual Meeting.

For over a century, IODE Ontario has been a beacon of service, citizenship, and community engagement. Your legacy of supporting education, providing scholarships and bursaries, and helping children grow into confident and capable individuals is nothing short of inspiring.

The impact you have had on our local community and beyond is immeasurable. Each initiative speaks to the heart of IODE's mission: to improve the lives of those in need, particularly our children and families.

As you reflect on 125 years of remarkable service, I offer my sincere gratitude to every member of IODE Ontario. Your work is a testament to the power of women supporting one another, building communities, and making a real difference. I look forward to hearing about the continued growth and success of your initiatives and am excited to see what the future holds for IODE Ontario.

Thank you for all that you do for our community, and here's to another 125 years of making the world a better place.”

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED INCLUDES:** Letters with best wishes and congratulations were received from the following:

- Provincial Presidents of Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island,
- IODE Canada Board Members and several IODE Ontario Honorary Vice-Presidents including the following expressing regrets: Honorary Vice-President E. Anne Mason.

**ACCEPTANCE OF 2024 PAM MINUTES** — *Provincial Recording Secretary, Jan Casbourn*

The minutes of the 2024 Ontario Provincial Annual Meeting have been posted on the IODE Ontario website.

**Moved by Jan Casbourn, IODE Honourable Malcolm Cameron Chapter, Sarnia.**

**Seconded by: Michelle Batty, IODE Errol Egremont Chapter, Sarnia.**

**“THAT the minutes of the Provincial Annual Meeting 2024 be approved as posted on the IODE Ontario website.”**

**CARRIED**

## **SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT — *Provincial Secretary, Jan Casbourn.***

“Upon reflection of the year 2024, the secretarial position was found to be highly enjoyable, largely due to the strong friendships and unwavering support from President Helen Danby, the Provincial Councillors and Administrative Assistant Lynn Hughes.

Last year, the Provincial Officers and Councillors attended 14 meetings, conducted either in a hybrid format or exclusively via Zoom. These meetings included the Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) at the Hamilton office, the Provincial Annual Meeting (PAM) in Goderich, and a two-day Officer/Councillor's Retreat at a member's cottage. An additional meeting was convened in July to discuss future options for the Hamilton Provincial office.

Primary chapters reported that most of their meetings were held in person, ranging from four to twelve times throughout the year. Unfortunately, several chapters retired due to declining membership. Administrative Assistant Lynn Hughes and President Helen Danby facilitated Zoom meetings for those who preferred the hybrid option. Gratitude was extended to the many primary chapter secretaries who submitted their annual reports with detailed information about their chapter's activities.

The 104<sup>th</sup> Provincial Annual Meeting, themed 'Building Our Future,' was held as a hybrid event on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, in Goderich. The meeting was well-supported by the host chapter, IODE Maple Leaf and attended by 84 members from 26 primary chapters, including six guests and 13 first-time attendees.

The morning business session highlights included:

- The IODE Jean Throop Book Award for 2024 was presented to *Odd Couples, A Guide to Unlikely Animal Pairs*, written by Maria Birmingham and illustrated by Raz Latif.
- Provincial Treasurer and Bookkeeper Debbie Button received a Provincial Life Membership.

The afternoon session featured:

- Presentation of the OPP Community Relations Award to members of Lanark County OPP – Carleton Place Detachment.
- Membership Awards for growth were given to the first, second, and third place winners: IODE Chapters of Maple Leaf, Goderich; Honourable Malcolm Cameron, Sarnia; and Lord Dufferin, Orangeville.
- A membership panel of experienced officers from five IODE chapters participated in a Question-and-Answer session, providing insights that helped lay the foundation for 'Building Our Future.'

The day concluded with the installation of the 2024 – 2025 executive by National President Jane Cushing.

The Hamilton office remained a hub of activity, hosting many monthly meetings by PEC members and two local Hamilton chapters. Volunteers dedicated numerous days to sorting and packing boxes for northern communities. Administrative Assistant Lynn Hughes continued to work three days a week, generously offering her assistance whenever necessary.

A difficult but heartfelt decision was made in the fall to close the Hamilton office and transition the provincial chapter to a virtual format. In preparation for the lease termination by the end of February 2025, many volunteers assisted in purging, packing, and selling items. Plans were made to rent a storage area and relocate Lynn Hughes to a home office.

President Helen Danby attended numerous primary chapter events and meetings across the province, celebrating significant milestone anniversaries ranging from 45 to 97 years. Helen also attended the

104<sup>th</sup> Provincial Annual Meeting, the 124<sup>th</sup> National Annual Meeting (NAM) in Charlottetown, PEI, and a welcome tea with Her Honour, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island, The Honourable Antoinette Perry at Government House.

President Helen actively participated in virtual meetings of the National Advisory Committee and the National Board of Directors, as well as numerous committee meetings.

Personal communication between the provincial and primary chapters was highly valued. Many relevant E-blasts and four newsletters were distributed by Helen Danby, with the assistance of Lynn Hughes. Each newsletter celebrated primary chapter highlights, awards, and presentations, accompanied by an abundance of pictures from many chapters.

The cooperation and dedicated work of Administrative Assistant Lynn Hughes and all the officers and convenors of IODE Ontario were sincerely appreciated this past year.

The complete Secretary's Report can be found on pages 13 to 18 of the 2024 Annual Report."

#### **MOTION:**

**Moved by: Jan Casbourn, IODE Honourable Malcolm Cameron Chapter, Sarnia.**

**Seconded by: Susan Sibbit, IODE Laurentian Chapter, Ottawa.**

***"THAT the Provincial Secretary's Report as found on pages 13 to 18 of the 2024 Annual Report be adopted as presented."***

**CARRIED**

#### **SUMMARY OF THE 2024 ANNUAL REPORTS — *Second Vice President, Betsy Thompson, IODE Bemersyde Chapter, Campbellford.***

"It has been a pleasure to read the Officers' Annual Reports of 2024.

**Archives:** The IODE Ontario Archives database grew from 58,000 in 2023 to include over 59,100 names from 760 chapters, including information submitted by members and daily research by a dedicated archivist. Descendants of IODE members inquired about their mothers' and great grandmothers' chapters and what roles they had filled. Others donated keepsakes and sent boxes of primary and municipal chapter information such as scrapbooks and primary officer files. A recipient of an IODE award in grade 6 went on to earn a PhD and become a professor of English at Memorial University in Newfoundland where he taught for 40 years. Now you know where those students go. Dig into the archives on page 21.

**Citizenship:** Citizenship programs were valued at \$65,961. The total number of volunteer hours recorded by members was 104,507, and friends added 2,434 more. At \$15/hr., the value of volunteering time was \$1,604,115. Simple acts of kindness made the world brighter for veterans visited at Sunnybrook; for active military personnel overseas who received Christmas cards and deployment kits; for seniors driven to appointments and fun events, to name a few. Citizenship awards recognized the good deeds of youth in school, and 50 IODE members were presented with Ontario Volunteer Service Awards. IODE wreaths were laid by members at their community cenotaphs on Remembrance Day. Donations to Canadian Forces Bases Family Resource Centres in Ontario supported programs for military staff transitioning to civilian life. Many members flew the Canadian flag at their residences year-round. A must read is the remarkable perseverance of the IODE Ontario OPP Community Relations Award winning officers from Carleton Place Detachment who built an outdoor sports complex to change the life of troubled youths for the better. It all begins on page 22.

**Communications:** The total value of chapters' Communications was \$415,253 but they only spent \$5,083. The value of advertising upcoming events, celebrating milestones, contributions to a community venue, announcing fundraisers, and providing membership information on chapter social media pages and websites, radio, and local news agencies was highlighted in the successful outcomes of raising money to feed the hungry, buying hospital equipment and increasing the number of new members. Foundations and organizations supported by chapter donations towards mutual goals promoted IODE on their social media pages. The chapters thanked their community partners and sponsors on Facebook and in newspaper articles. Many primary chapters met via Zoom while all Provincial meetings were conducted with a virtual component. Personal connections were made with members at home through visits and phone calls, and minutes were hand delivered or emailed to keep every member informed of chapter business. The IODE Ontario website was updated for easy access to member resources and the quarterly Provincial newsletter kept members in touch across the province. Discover more about communication technology and strategies on pages 29 to 32.

**Education:** The total cost of education programs including Adopted Schools was \$199,346. Graduation awards, scholarships, subject awards, IODE award-winning books, library reading programs, bursaries, and funding for specialized class equipment were generously donated by chapters. Legacies included grants and awards for academic excellence at high school, university and doctoral program levels. Chapter donations to Provincial and National funds benefitted many students across Canada. The total Adopted Schools cost which included donations to adopted classes in Northern Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador was \$19,272. Savings through reduced shipping programs, such as Canada Post and from publishers, including a First Nations publisher at no cost, allowed members to purchase all the needed supplies requested by the teacher for their students. The members of two chapters exchanged pen pal letters, cards, and pictures with students in their adopted class. Pages 33 to 43 provide in depth details of education support.

**Membership:** The number of new members rose steadily in the past three years from 35 to 47 to 53. That is the equivalent of nine new chapters with 15 members each. New members were actively engaged in chapter service projects and community events. Social gatherings, guest speakers and refreshments at meetings, and volunteering together kept chapters going strong. Members of smaller communities were highly visible while participating in events. Members were recruited on social media and promoted at social gatherings, information booths, schools and fundraisers. The IODE Ontario website received inquiries about joining IODE, and contact was made with 16 women who were sent an IODE Ontario newsletter and invitation to join the virtual chapter. The Membership Committee invited all Primary Membership Officers and their Presidents to attend a National Membership Workshop which was posted on YouTube. Sixty-nine members were recognized for their years of service. One Provincial Life Membership and eight Primary Life Memberships were bestowed. Eight chapters celebrated milestone anniversaries. From pages 44 to 50, the joy of being an IODE member can be found.

**Services:** The total value of Services programs was \$626,691. Fourteen chapters donated items valued at \$17,425 to the Provincial packing room. Dedicated members of five chapters regularly sorted and packed boxes. Members, friends, and the OPP Indigenous Liaison Team coordinated with the Nishnawbe Aski Police Services (NAPS) to ship and deliver parcels to Northern nursing clinics. A total of 128 boxes valued at \$47,847 were transported to remote Northern Ontario communities. The contents of the IODE Ontario packing room were distributed to local charity locations and as far as Nunavut. An emergency evacuation of Kashechewan residents to Kirkland Lake and Kapuskasing occurred in April due to flooding. Clothing, footwear, toys, and activity sets were picked up by OPP Sergeant Gille LaChance in Hamilton and delivered by the NAPS. Thirteen primary chapters took on the role of connecting with Northern communities while IODE Ontario Services transitioned from a packing room to virtual management, which resulted in 40 parcels valued at \$10,500 being shipped

north. Other chapters continued their support by donating items for Services which were directed to chapters with Northern community connections. Chapters made financial and tangible donations to food banks, hospitals, parks, long-term care facilities, counselling services, schools, libraries, and to the addition of a hospice room. The cooperation and support throughout the province between chapters and the Provincial Services office transition was exemplary. Read the moving Services report of goodwill to others on pages 51 to 54.

**Standard Bearer:** The Canadian flag was present at all hybrid and Zoom meetings of the IODE Province of Ontario Chapter and proudly paraded into the first hybrid Provincial Annual Meeting in Goderich. Table standards were displayed at 171 meetings by 24 chapters. The Canadian flag was paraded on Remembrance Day and Canada Day and placed during funeral services of two members. The corporate flag was flown during Volunteer Week and IODE Awareness Week. Over a dozen chapters displayed Canada and Union Jack table standards. The Union Jack was paraded by two chapters on Canada Day and Remembrance Day.

The nurturing hand of IODE in Ontario brings assurance that no one goes hungry, there is shelter from harm, and that the quality of life for thousands of individuals is enhanced.

**It is my honour to move the adoption of the Archives, Citizenship, Communications, Education, Membership, Services and Standard Bearer reports as found in the 2024 Provincial Annual Report on pages 21 to 56."**

**SECONDING OF THE ANNUAL REPORT** — *Kathy Newnes, IODE Eldon House Chapter, London* "A very special thank you to Betsy for giving the membership an overview of the 2024 report. It is always astonishing to see the special accomplishments that each chapter has achieved throughout the year.

IODE Ontario members are very committed to helping their communities at all levels, from babies to seniors. That is evident in the many hours of volunteer work, the monies raised, the material support and the resourcefulness of chapters in the province. This year, the Provincial Officers of IODE were given challenges to overcome, even as the regular business of IODE continued. As in usual IODE fashion, they stepped right in and found solutions to keep IODE Ontario working and growing. Thank you to the Officers for all their hard work solving the problem of closing the office and still managing their daily tasks. Special congratulations to Services for the smooth transition to having the primary chapters help with northern communities. In general, it is this dedication of individual chapters, teamwork, support for others both financially and with physical goods, and promoting Canadian Citizenship that make IODE Ontario a remarkable organization. Congratulations to everyone!

**I am very pleased to second the 2024 Annual Reports of the Officers of IODE."**

**CARRIED**

**TREASURER REPORT** — *Provincial Treasurer, Debbie Button, IODE Confederation Chapter, Ridgetown.*

"The Treasurer's Report found on page 18 of the 2024 Annual Report contains a summary of Primary Chapters' reviewed financial statements.

Total revenues for Ontario chapters were \$967,237 and total expenditures were \$974,097.

Congratulations to all chapters on their success. Thank you to Chapter Treasurers for submitting your reports.

IODE Ontario is grateful for the generous donations from individuals and chapters to the IODE Donors Circle during 2024.

Thank you to the members of the Finance Committee and the Investment Committee. Your assistance and guidance throughout the year was invaluable.”

**MOTION:**

**Moved by: Debbie Button, IODE Confederation Chapter, Ridgeway.**

**Seconded by: Lisa Cossar, IODE Bemersyde Chapter, Campbellford.**

***“THAT the Treasurer’s Report as found on page 18 of the 2024 Provincial Annual Report be adopted.”***

**CARRIED**

The Provincial Executive Committee approved **2025 Operating Budget for IODE Ontario** may be found on page 19 of the 2024 Annual Report for your information.”

2024 Audited Financial Statements

**MOTION:**

**Moved by: Debbie Button, IODE Confederation Chapter, Ridgeway.**

**Seconded by: Kathy Newnes, IODE Eldon House Chapter, London.**

***“THAT the audited 2024 Financial Statements of the Provincial Chapter of Ontario IODE for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 and the Auditor’s Report as found on pages 20 to 30 of the 2024 Annual Report be adopted.”***

**CARRIED**

Appointment of Auditors

**MOTION:**

**Moved by: Debbie Button, IODE Confederation Chapter, Ridgeway.**

**Seconded by: Nancy Hughes, IODE Maple Leaf Chapter, Goderich.**

***“THAT the firm of DBK Accounting Professional Corporation, Chartered Accountants, be appointed auditors for the Provincial Chapter of Ontario IODE, for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.”***

**CARRIED**

**PROVINCIAL SERVICES UPDATE** — *Provincial Services Co-Officers, Gloria Saunders, IODE Margaret Stokes, Petrolia, and Virginia Reade, IODE Freelon Chapter, Freelon.*

“As you know, with the move to a virtual Provincial office, a new way needed to be found to continue supporting remote Northern Ontario Indigenous communities. Thirteen IODE Ontario primary chapters stepped forward to be the direct contacts with nine Indigenous communities. These chapters look after collecting and shipping items that the communities request. Other Ontario primary chapters assist these chapters by providing funds to purchase items and help with shipping costs as well as providing tangible items. During the fourth quarter of 2024, more than 40 parcels were sent with a total content value in excess of \$10,500. Well done, ladies!

In March 2025 we held our first Zoom meeting with the connecting chapters to listen to their experiences with this project thus far. All chapters were extremely enthusiastic. One very positive point that emerged is how much the chapters enjoy interacting with each other.

In early 2025, IODE Ontario discussed how we might help celebrate IODE’s 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We came up with the ‘Sock It To Us’ project. Ontario primary chapters were asked to donate socks for

children, women and men with the hope that we could collect 125 pairs. Well, that total has definitely been surpassed. The exact total is yet unknown but will be communicated once we have finished our counting. These socks will be shared – some will go to a Ukrainian Relief agency in Hamilton where they will be shipped to the Ukraine. The others will be shared with our connecting chapters to be sent to our remote northern communities. Thank you for your generosity.

Since our first project with socks was so successful, we have developed a second project – Christmas stockings. We will send a pattern out to the primary chapters and ask if members would knit or crochet stockings approximately the size shown. The stockings will be given to the connecting chapters to fill and send north in time for Christmas. If chapters would like to contribute small items for the stockings as well, we will provide a list of appropriate size gifts that could be included. The stockings will be collected at our Fall hybrid PEC meeting so that they can be distributed in time to be delivered north. Again, we are hoping to collect 125 stockings to celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.”

At the conclusion of the morning session the membership was asked to complete the report cards.

## AFTERNOON SESSION

IODE Ontario President, Helen Danby, welcomed everyone back to the afternoon session at 1:30 p.m.

**IODE ONTARIO POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AWARD** — *Provincial Citizenship Officer, Kathryn Weston, IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter, Petrolia.*



“Since 1979, the IODE Ontario Police Community Relations Award has recognized the contributions made by outstanding members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) in communities across Ontario. Beyond the scope of their professional duties, they actively volunteer in their communities often initiating programs where they see a need. Officers volunteer in many capacities including in fund-raisers for specific projects.

The IODE OPP Community Relations Award, which consists of a plaque, a certificate and a monetary gift of \$750.00 to the organization of the recipient’s choice, annually recognizes the contributions of an officer selected by the Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner. For the first time in many years the recipients of the IODE Ontario Police Community Service Award for 2025 were in person. They are Sergeant Jill Lewis and Detective Constable Vicky McGough of the Crime Prevention and Community Support Bureau. Attending also was one of the supportive husbands, David Lewis, who is also an OPP officer. Representing OPP Commissioner Thomas Carrique was Superintendent Kristen Clarke of the OPP Crime Prevention and Community Support Bureau. Prior to the preparations for this presentation, Deputy Commissioner Harkin wrote briefly about Jill and Vicky and what their initiative means to the OPP, in terms of community relations with their initiative, creativity and dedication to their community.

Sergeant Lewis and Detective Constable McGough spoke about their initiative, the ‘North Perth Police Camp’, and provided an impressive presentation. They are truly involved in the community of Listowel and have clearly demonstrated how a dedicated team can provide children with an excellent hands-on experience regarding police work which will no doubt improve community relations now and in the future.

To show the appreciation of IODE Ontario, the detachment will receive a plaque and certificates of appreciation. An honorarium in the amount of \$750.00 will be sent to the Municipality of North Perth, North Perth Police Camp.

## IODE ONTARIO POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AWARD



For the past two years, Provincial Sergeant Jill Lewis and Detective Constable Vicky McGough of the Ontario Provincial Police Crime Prevention and Community Support Bureau have partnered with the Municipality of North Perth to hold the 'North Perth Police Camp' for children between the ages of 6 and 12. The one week camp engages youth in fun activities that include crafts, games, scavenger hunts, and obstacle courses, while demonstrating the knowledge and skills required of a police officer. In addition, police equipment such as cruisers, marine vessels, motorcycles, and all-terrain vehicles is showcased as are members from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) specialized units such as the Canine Unit, and Tactics and Rescue. Sergeant Lewis and Detective Constable McGough created the camp curriculum, engaged other units and officers to attend, and spent their own time and money in support of the camp.

Each camper was provided with a notebook to keep track of their daily activities and observations, and each was provided with an OPP hat. They were taught skills essential to policing, such as observational skills to help solve crimes, how to search for a missing person, personal safety, and cooperating as part of a team. On the last day, each was presented with a badge. The youth who participated have become ambassadors within the community and speak positively about their police camp experiences. They proudly wear their OPP hats and keep up their notebooks.

In addition to building relationships with the campers themselves, OPP members taught the campers' parents, caregivers, and extended family about how the OPP operates and serves the community. The adults were keen to hear about what the campers had learned. Places for the second year of police camp filled within five minutes of becoming available, and community members are already expressing interest in the next camp sessions.

Sergeant Jill Lewis and Detective Constable Vicky McGough are tremendous ambassadors for the OPP. In creating the camp, developing the curriculum, and showcasing the organization, they have established long-lasting and positive relationships between the police and their local community.

### **COUNCILLORS VOTING RESULTS** — *Provincial Second Vice-President and Voting Convenor, Betsy Thompson, IODE Bemersyde Chapter, Campbellford.*

Voting ballots were sent by regular mail to the Primary Chapter Presidents and emailed to the chapters that meet virtually. Ballots were returned by March 10, 2025 through Canada post or by email at [iodeontario@gmail.com](mailto:iodeontario@gmail.com). Betsy Thompson read the bylaws and results of the Councillor voting by ballots as follows:

**Councillors-National: Article VIII, Section 8.06:** *Each province or territory shall be entitled to elect two National Chapter councillors for up to the first one hundred members in good standing within its jurisdiction and one councillor for each additional hundred members or major fraction thereof. In addition, each provincial chapter shall be entitled at its annual meeting to elect three further National councillors.*

**Provincial By-law #16:** *That a nominee for Provincial and/or National Councillor shall stand for election in the designated area in which active membership is held, with the exception of a nominee from a chapter already under Municipal jurisdiction. Such nominees shall stand for election in the area in which that Municipal Chapter is located.*

## **NATIONAL COUNCILLORS FOR 2025 – 2026 elected by ballots.**

**Northern Area:** (64 members), City of Lakes Chapter, Dr. Herbert A. Bruce Chapter and Elizabeth Barrett Browning Chapter.

- **Olivia Lobban**

**North Central:** (66 members), Bertha Cane Chapter, Headwaters Chapter, Holland Landing Chapter, Lord Dufferin Chapter, West Gwillimbury Chapter, White Cloud Chapter and Yellow Briar Chapter.

- **Pam Ainscough**

**Eastern Area:** (103 members), Bemersyde Chapter, Captain Hooper Chapter, Laurentian Chapter and Lorraine Chapter.

- **Lisa Cossar**
- **Susann Sibbit**

**Mid Central Area:** (151 members), Edith Benson Chapter, Eldon House Chapter, Festival Jubilee Chapter, Maple Leaf Chapter, Stirling Chapter and Val Griffiths Chapter.

- **Ruth Ann Butler**
- **Aileen Reid**

**Toronto Area:** (67 members), 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders Chapter, Captain Nichola Goddard Chapter, Dr. Innis Mary MacDonald Chapter, Kathleen Drope Chapter, and Susie Sorabji Chapter.

- **Shirley Ann Elms**

**South Central Area, (Formerly Provincial Headquarters):** (77 members), Angela Bruce Chapter, Dr. Elizabeth Bagshaw Chapter, Freulton Chapter, Royal Wyndham Chapter and The Princes Richard and Michael Chapter.

- **Dana Bryant**

**South Western Area:** (163 members), Captain Garnet Brackin Chapter, Catherine McVean Chapter, Confederation Chapter, Dr. Norman McCormick Chapter, Errol Egremont Chapter, Kent Regiment Chapter, Honourable Malcolm Cameron Chapter and Margaret Stokes Chapter.

- **Michelle Batty**
- **Helen Danby**

**Additional three National Councillors elected at April 11, 2024 PEC meeting via ballot and Zoom:**

Katherine Byles, IODE Trillium 2023 Chapter, virtual  
 Sherry Fergus, IODE Headwaters Chapter, Orangeville  
 Susan Lake, IODE 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders Chapter, Toronto

## **PROVINCIAL COUNCILLORS FOR 2025 – 2026 elected by ballots.**

**Provincial By-Law #11 (b):** *In each Provincial voting Area there shall be allocated one (1) Councillor for every approximately 40 members in good standing plus an additional four (4) Councillors to the area of Provincial Headquarters.*

**Provincial By-law #11 (e):** *That for the purpose of establishing the number of Provincial Councillors per Area, the President will be named as one of the additional four Councillors allocated to the South-Central Area, (Area of Provincial Headquarters), regardless of the location of her primary chapter*

**Provincial By-law #16:** *That a nominee for Provincial and/or National Councillor shall stand for election in the designated area in which active membership is held, except for a nominee from a chapter already under Municipal jurisdiction. Such nominees shall stand for election in the area in which that Municipal Chapter is located.*

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	CHAPTER	CITY
Pam	Ainscough	IODE Headwaters, Orangeville	Tottenham
Jane	Anema	IODE Errol Egremont	Bright's Grove
Garna	Argenti	IODE Kent Regiment, Chatham	Burford
Karen	Barker	IODE 48 <sup>th</sup> Highlanders	Toronto

Chris	Bateman	IODE West Gwillimbury	Queensville
Michelle	Batty	IODE Errol Egremont	Lambton Shores
Ashley	Bonnell	IODE 48 <sup>th</sup> Highlanders	Toronto
Jo	Brodie	IODE Laurentian	Ottawa
Debbie	Button	IODE Confederation	London
Katherine	Byles	IODE Trillium 2023	Bewdley
Jan	Casbourn	IODE Honourable Malcolm Cameron	Sarnia
Lisa	Cossar	IODE Bemersyde	Norwood
Mary	Cunningham	IODE Royal Wyndham	Guelph
Karen	Dalton	IODE Eldon House	London
Helen	Danby	IODE Margaret Stokes	Petrolia
Sheila	DeJaegher	IODE Kent Regiment	Chatham
Shirley Ann	Elms	IODE 48 <sup>th</sup> Highlanders	Dundas
Cara	Fabian	IODE The Princes Richard and Michael	Waterloo
Patricia	Fabian	IODE The Princes Richard and Michael	Waterloo
Sherry	Fergus	IODE Headwaters	East Garafraxa
Peggy	Gallipeau	IODE Captain Hooper	Carleton Place
Linda	Gryner	IODE Errol Egremont	Plympton-Wyoming
Ietje	Kerkhoff	IODE Eldon House	Ailsa Craig
Susan	Lake	IODE 48 <sup>th</sup> Highlanders	Stayner
Jayne	Little	IODE Honourable Malcolm Cameron	Sarnia
Olivia	Lobban	IODE Elizabeth Barrett Browning	Hanmer
Norma	Lyttle Chicoine	IODE Val Griffiths	London
Hazel	MacLeod	IODE Eldon House	London
Carol	McCall	IODE Kathleen Drope	Toronto
Gail	McDiarmid	IODE Angela Bruce	Mississauga
Catherine	Moore	IODE Kathleen Drope	Tiny
Kathy	Newnes	IODE Eldon House	London
Donna	O'Reilly	IODE Freelon	Hamilton
Virginia	Reade	IODE Freelon	Hamilton
Bonnie	Rees	IODE The Princes Richard and Michael	Waterloo
Aileen	Reid	IODE Val Griffiths	Ingersoll
Lynda	Rivard	IODE Claremont	Simcoe
Caroline	Rodgers	IODE Walter Baker	Richmond
Gloria	Saunders	IODE Margaret Stokes	Forest
Susan	Sibbit	IODE Laurentian	Ottawa
Sandra	Smith	IODE Captain Garnet Brackin	Pain Court
Renate	Schuetz	IODE White Cloud	Warton
Heather	Stuart	IODE Dr. Herbert A. Bruce	North Bay

Betsy	Thompson	IODE Bemersyde	Campbellford
Wendy	Weston	IODE Catherine McVean	Dresden
Kathryn	Weston	IODE Margaret Stokes	Sarnia

**Note: Past Presidents Helen Danby and Linda Gryner remain Provincial councillors by right of office for six years after their term of office has ended.**

Additional 20 Provincial Councillors acclaimed at the April 11, 2025, PEC meeting:

- |                     |                      |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Anema, Jane      | 8. Cossar, Lisa      | 15. Rivard, Lynda    |
| 2. Argenti, Garna   | 9. Elms, Shirley Ann | 16. Saunders, Gloria |
| 3. Barker Karen     | 10. Gallipeau, Peggy | 17. Schuetz, Renate  |
| 4. Bateman, Chris   | 11. Lake, Susan      | 18. Stuart, Heather  |
| 5. Bonnell, Ashley  | 12. Little, Jayne    | 19. Smith, Sandra    |
| 6. Byles, Katherine | 13. MacLeod, Hazel   | 20. Weston, Wendy    |
| 7. Chicoine, Norma  | 14. O'Reilly, Donna  |                      |

## **PROVINCIAL BYLAW CHANGES-THE ELECTION OF PROVINCIAL COUNCILLORS**

**A handout outlining the changes that were approved by PEC was provided for further discussion and explanation.**

### **Important Provincial By-Law Changes for Presentation and Approval by IODE Ontario Members at the April 11th, 2025, Provincial Annual Meeting (PAM) in session**

*From time to time, the Provincial Executive Committee (PEC), made up of your elected Councillors, reviews the Provincial By-Laws. The PEC approved several changes to the Ontario By-Laws and has complied with Article XI (11.02(d)). A Notice of Motion is hereby given to bring forward changes to the By-Laws of the Provincial Chapter of Ontario IODE for presentation and approval by the general membership at the Provincial Annual Meeting in session on April 11, 2025, in person and virtually. A brief preamble or background for each is included.*

*As a paid member of the Provincial Chapter of Ontario IODE, you are eligible to participate in the democratic process of voting at the April 11, 2025, Provincial Annual Meeting as per Article VI (6.07).*

*As the number of IODE Chapters in Ontario have decreased and there are significantly less members, IODE Ontario would like each primary chapter to have representation at the Provincial level to increase transparency and enhance their knowledge of the workings at this level.*

#### **By-law #7- Provincial Councillor Nominations**

Each Primary Chapter shall name at least one (1) member of their chapter and no more than four (4) additional nominees who must have consented in writing to stand as a Provincial Councillor of the Provincial Chapter. *(Revised 2025)*

#### **By-law #25 – Removal of Voting Areas**

**“That (a) (b) Deleted – there will be no Areas for voting.**

#### **By-law # 11**

**That (a)** The nominated councillors shall be proposed at the PEC meeting prior to the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Chapter of Ontario. All officers of the incoming year shall be Provincial Councillors. All Provincial Councillors will be declared elected at the Provincial Annual Meeting. *(Revised 2025)*

#### **By-law #11**

**(b) Deleted-** There shall be no maximum number of councillors.

**By-law #11**

*(d), (e) Deleted – There will be no Areas within the province for voting.*

**By-law #15 (a)**

*Deleted – National Councillors are not voted by Areas.*

**By-law #15 (c)**

The Provincial Chapter of Ontario IODE shall elect National Councillors as per Article VIII 8.06 and 8.10 in the IODE Constitution. Nomination forms will be sent to Primary Chapters for their input. *(Revised 2025)*

**By-law #16**

*Deleted – Does not apply as there are no Municipal Chapters.*

**By-law #20 (b)**

Following the election of Provincial Councillors nominees, and prior to the installation of Provincial Officers at the Annual Meeting, additional councillors may be nominated by the Provincial Executive Committee. The Provincial Executive Committee may nominate and elect additional Provincial Councillors throughout the year. *(Revised 2025)*

**By-law #20 (c)**

*Deleted – As there will be no election of councillors, all nominees will be acclaimed as councillor.*

**By-law #13**

That according to the Constitution, Article VII, 7.02, pertaining to elections, additional Vice-Presidents may be elected. *(Revised 2025)*

**MOTION:**

**Moved by: Betsy Thompson, IODE Bemersyde Chapter, Campbellford.**

**Seconded by: Shirley Ann Elms, IODE 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders Chapter, Toronto.**

***“THAT the proposed changes and deletions to the Provincial By-Laws #7, #25 (a, b), #11 (a, b, d, e), #15 (a, c), #16, #20 (b, c) and #13 under Voting, be approved by members at the April 11, 2025, Provincial Annual Meeting.”***

**CARRIED**

**MEMBERSHIP AWARDS** — *Membership Officer, Michelle Batty, IODE Errol Egremont Chapter, Sarnia.*

*“Every year, chapters who have installed new members are recognized. Congratulations to the following primary chapters for their efforts in IODE membership growth during 2024:*

**2024 Membership Awards:**

**First Place** with 12 new paid-up members: **IODE Maple Leaf Chapter**, Goderich

**Second Place** with 11 new paid-up members: **IODE Angela Bruce Chapter**, Oakville

**Third Place** with 8 new paid-up members: **IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter**, Petrolia

*Honourable Mention to Chapters who installed one to four new members in 2024 were:*

Four Members: IODE Errol Egremont Chapter, Sarnia  
IODE Trillium 2023 Chapter, virtual  
IODE Val Griffith’s Chapter, Dorchester

Two Members: IODE Honourable Malcolm Cameron Chapter, Sarnia  
IODE Festival Jubilee Chapter, Stratford

One Member: IODE Freelton Chapter, Freelton  
IODE Headwaters Chapter, Orangeville  
IODE Laurentian Chapter, Ottawa  
IODE Stirling Chapter, St. Thomas  
IODE West Gwillimbury Chapter, Bradford

*Note:* In 2024, a returning member who was a non-member for two years and returning to IODE, is now considered a new member. Members who transfer chapters are not recognized as new members.

**HISTORY OF IODE ONTARIO Through the Decades – a Summary — Guest Speaker, National Archivist HVP Bonnie Rees, IODE The Princes Richard and Michael Chapter, Kitchener.**

“This 40-minute presentation covered the history of both IODE Canada and IODE Ontario since 1900. Members Bonnie Rees, National Archivist, and her daughter Natalie Botzang, IODE Trillium 2023 Chapter, virtual, gave highlights of significant projects of the chapters over the years. To maintain interest, the audience was asked questions about the material. A few wry comments by the presenters peppered the material.

Information on the life of IODE Founder Margaret Polson Murray and her husband provided insight into her remarkable accomplishments and the support of her husband to promote women’s rights to university education. From the early years of IODE until this the 125<sup>th</sup> year, her vision created an organization that has provided countless benefits to the people of Canada. All IODE members, past and present, can be justifiably proud. They are truly fulfilling the Mission of IODE to improve the lives of all peoples in this great nation.”

Much appreciation was extended to President Helen Danby for her prodigious efforts in compiling a comprehensive record of the many projects IODE has completed. A historical handout was included in the registration material. A slide show of photos and information played on a loop during the session was created by the Provincial Archivist.”

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT — Nominating Committee Chair, Norma Lyttle Chicoine, IODE Val Griffiths Chapter Dorchester.**

“The Provincial Nominating Committee chair presented the 2025 – 2026 slate of Provincial Officers:

**President** – Michelle Batty

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** – Betsy Thompson

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** – Susan Sibbit

**Vice Presidents for the Areas of:**

Northern – Heather Stuart

North Central – Chris Bateman

Eastern – Susan Sibbit

Mid Central – Aileen Reid

South Central – vacant

South Western – Jayne Little

Toronto – Karen Barker

**Recording Secretary** – Jan Casbourn

**Corresponding Secretary** – Sherry Fergus

**Treasurer** – Debbie Button

**Citizenship Officer** – Kathryn Weston

**Communications Officer/ Social Media**

**Convenor** – Ashley Bonnell

**Education Officer** – Lisa Cossar

**Assistant Education, Adopted Schools** – Aileen Reid

**Membership Officer** – Pam Ainscough

**Services Co-Officer** – Gloria Saunders

**Services Co-Officer** – Virginia Reade

**Standard Bearer** – Kathryn Weston

As no further nominees eligible for election as Provincial Officers were submitted in writing up to and not later than 14 days, (April 6<sup>th</sup>), before the Provincial Annual Meeting by persons entitled to a PEC vote, therefore, the aforementioned nominees are acclaimed and will be installed.”

**MOTION:**

**Moved by:** Norma Lyttle Chicoine, IODE Val Griffiths Chapter, Dorchester.

**Seconded by:** Natalie Botzang, IODE Trillium 2023 Chapter, virtual.

**“That the 2025-2026 Slate of Officers for the Provincial Chapter of Ontario IODE be accepted as presented.”**

**CARRIED**

## **INSTALLATION OF 2025 – 2026 OFFICERS — IODE National President, Jane Cushing**

National President, Jane Cushing, installed the new Provincial Executive and congratulated them for stepping up to the challenges of their positions.

## **PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT REMARKS — Michelle Batty, IODE Errol Egremont Chapter, Sarnia.**

“I am honored to have been elected as IODE Ontario President. This is a wonderful organization of dedicated members who contribute so much to make a difference in their communities. It is exciting to be a part of the leadership as we move forward to continue the sustainability of primary chapters.

There have been many challenges and successes over the past 125 years. As Bonnie Rees shared in her presentation, IODE women have stepped up to the plate and made remarkable achievements. IODE women have been there throughout to support and help make a difference in the lives of Canadians. The resilience and enthusiasm to embrace the changes necessary to move forward have seen our members undeterred by the Great Depression, numerous wars, and yes, COVID.

Every one of our members has special skills and gifts that, when combined, allow us to make amazing things happen. The leadership and dedication of IODE Ontario Officers are inspiring. I am looking forward to being a part of the IODE team as we deliver the programs and support each other as ‘women dedicated to a better Canada.’

Finally, I would like to thank our past two presidents, Linda Gryner and Helen Danby, as they helped to mentor me and shared their abundance of knowledge and compassion for this work. And I know I will be leaning on them as I learn this new role. The opportunities are endless. Thank you.”

## **RECOMMENDATIONS — Recording Secretary, Jan Casbourn, IODE Honourable Malcolm Cameron Chapter, Sarnia.**

Appointment of Honourary Vice-Presidents:

### **MOTION:**

**Moved by: Jan Casbourn, IODE Honourable Malcolm Cameron Chapter, Sarnia.**

**Seconded by: Virginia Reade, IODE Freulton Chapter, Freulton.**

**“THAT the following Past Provincial Presidents be appointed as Honorary Vice-Presidents of the Provincial Chapter of Ontario for 2025 – 2026.**

***Marty Dalton***

***Lynda Rivard***

***Renate Schuetz***

***Marie Westlake***

***Sandra Smith***

***Linda Gryner***

***Ruth Ann Butler***

***E. Anne Mason***

***Helen Danby”***

***Patricia Fabian***

***Bonnie Rees***

***Chris Bateman***

***Karen Barker***

**CARRIED**

Letters to Honorary Vice-Presidents

**MOTION:**

**Moved by:** Jan Casbourn, IODE Honourable Malcolm Chapter, Sarnia.

**Seconded by:** Shirley Ann Elms, 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders Chapter, Toronto.

***“THAT a Letter of Greetings with our good wishes, along with a copy of the 2024 Annual Report be sent from this body to all our Honorary Vice-Presidents who are not in attendance today.”***

**CARRIED**

2026 Provincial Annual Meeting

**MOTION:**

**Moved by:** Jan Casbourn, IODE Honourable Malcolm Cameron Chapter, Sarnia.

**Seconded by:** Sue Lake, IODE 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders Chapter, Toronto.

***“THAT the Annual Meeting of IODE Ontario be held in April 2026 at a specific location with the date, and format to be determined by the Provincial Executive Committee.”***

**CARRIED**

At the conclusion of the afternoon session the membership was asked to complete the report cards.

**OFFICIAL CLOSING**

**Adjournment:** Jane Anema, IODE Errol Egremont Chapter, Sarnia has moved for the adjournment of the 105<sup>th</sup> Provincial Annual Meeting at 4:10 p.m.

President Helen Danby officially declared the end of the 105<sup>th</sup> Provincial Annual Meeting followed by the playing of God Save The King, the closing “God bless our King and Country” and the recession of the Canadian flag by Provincial Standard Bearer, Kathryn Weston, IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter, Petrolia.