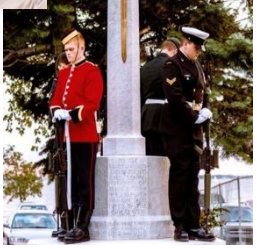

IODE Ontario

E-Newsletter

Fall 2026

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Provincial President Message....

Summer seemed to fly by in a flash and now autumn has arrived bringing busy routines, chapter projects and reconnecting at meetings. Volunteering is one of the most rewarding experiences you can take part in. Volunteering makes an immeasurable difference in people's lives. Your actions big or small can benefit your health as well. Please share the amazing initiatives that your chapters are involved in.

October 11 – 17 is IODE Awareness Week. This is a great time to promote your chapter activities and increase IODE membership. Invite women to join, to attend events, to help with projects and to be a part of a great organization. Organize some special events, advertise on social media and wear your IODE clothing, badges and buttons. Distribute widely IODE bookmarks, rack cards and brochures. Be visible in your community, brag about what you are doing and look for opportunities to collaborate and welcome new women to participate.

Mark your calendars to attend the Provincial Annual Meeting, PAM, 23, 24 April 2027 at the Four Points by Sheraton Point Edward Sarnia, ON. The 107th annual meeting will be a fun event not to be missed.

- IODE women are Inclusive, Organized, Dedicated and Enthusiastic!
- Women Dedicated to a Better Canada! Women Building Better Communities!
- Change Lives, Have Fun, Join IODE! IODE Cares!

Please reach out to me iodemichellebatty@outlook.com.

Citizenship

Kathryn Weston, Citizenship Officer & Standard Bearer

Annual Citizenship Reports:
It's time to start thinking about your annual report. Start by going over your calendar and the reports for the minutes of your primary chapter meeting. Review the Annual Report Forms from IODE Canada and compare them to last year looking for any changes to the report. Starting to gather and collate your information now will make the process much easier when preparing your report for discussion at your chapter's officer's meeting in early January. Please remember to include volunteer hours that you have given to IODE this year.

Balance and Falls:
As we age some things become more noticeable and potentially dangerous. One of the most notable is loss of muscle strength and subsequent loss of balance. Avoiding falls as much as possible is very important as they can lead to serious injury and perhaps life altering changes to our circumstances.
There are ways to improve balance and decrease the risk of falling. New research has shown that there are reasons that falls can occur more easily as we age. It has to do with reaction times. The length of time it takes our brain to recognize we are losing our balance increases with age and thus we cannot react fast enough to prevent or correct a fall. The treatment for this condition is called Perturbation-based Balance Training or PBT for short. Perturbation in this instance is a small, temporary change or disturbance in the normal state, motion, or system equilibrium of an object or environment.
Fortunately, there are simple exercises that can be done at home with very little equipment which help to recover some reaction time. This YouTube video shows one example of how to do three basic exercises to improve reaction time to sudden changes in your physical environment:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwJ4L9as460. These three exercises require one or two chairs, a towel and a pillow...very simple.

Preparing for the Fall and Winter Cold and Flu season:
Soon the newest COVID vaccines and 'Flu shots' will be available at public health units, doctor's offices and pharmacies. You do not need a prescription to get these inoculations. It is a good idea to protect yourself from these illnesses as they can lead to serious respiratory problems and hospitalization. Another 'shot' to consider is for the RSV, which can be given at pharmacies and does require a prescription from your physician.

Improving your balance and protecting yourself from viruses will make enjoying the beautiful days of autumn so enjoyable. For many people, it is their favourite time of year...no humidity, no bugs to speak of, and no oppressive heat, all combined with the beautiful foliage make for a special time of year. There's nothing like walking through a park and kicking your way through the leaves...fond memories of childhood revisited.

Stay safe and enjoy this time of year.

What is citizenship? Using the letters C-I-T-I-Z-E-N-S-H-I-P, acronyms can be formed to help clarify what it means. For example: Caring, Idealism, Tolerance, Integrity, Zero violence, Education, Nurturing, Service, History, Inspiration and Patriotism. It's an interesting thought process that could be used to clarify what Citizenship means in primary chapters.

IODE is a membership of women who are:
Inclusive, **O**rganized, **D**edicated and **E**nthusiastic.

Communications

Ashley Bonnell and Jane Anema, Communications Officers

IODE was promoted through its presence at the CNE on August 26 with members from IODE Trillium Chapter 2023, virtual, and our two youth members from IODE Errol Egremont Chapter, Sarnia. The number of individuals who gladly signed over 300 Christmas cards for the Canadian Armed Forces was impressive. Messages were heartwarming showing both appreciation and support from Canadians for our Canadian Armed Forces members.

Spreading the Good Works of IODE

IODE Bemersyde Chapter, Campbellford, participated in a Volunteer Fair at the local arena on June 4. There were lots of amazing volunteer organizations there promoting their involvement in the community. Kathy Byles from IODE Trillium 2023 Chapter, virtual, joined Bemersyde Chapter members. The chapter will be hosting a fall bus trip to the musical "*Come From Away"* at the Thousand Islands Theatre in Gananoque.

Education

Lisa Cossar, Education Officer

IODE Ontario OCADU (Ontario College of Art Design University) Bursary recipient was grateful and thanked IODE.

“My name is Kristiyan Bechev, a third-year Drawing & Painting major at OCAD University who lives in Oshawa and has been a follower of the Arts since the day I was born. I am deeply touched to know that generous philanthropists such as yourself exist in our world, and I am truly grateful to be the recipient of your scholarship. I sincerely thank you for giving me this opportunity to further my studies.

I have been making art for as long as I have conscious memories, painting people and places, both real and imaginary, however, it was in recent years that I gained an even deeper appreciation for the cultural and metaphysical importance that Art holds over our lives. Beyond expressing my own ideas through Art, my goals are continue studying Art History, Art Philosophy, and Aesthetics so that I could one day also serve and educate people in these sublime subjects.
Once more, a wholehearted thank you to your generosity!”

Sincerely, Kristiyan Bechev, Drawing & Painting

Tristan and Iseult
Kristiyan Bechev, oil on canvas, 2' x 3'

Allegory of Contemporary Painting
Kristiyan Bechev, oil on canvas, 18" x 24"

Thracian Lands
Kristiyan Bechev, oil on wood, 2' x 3'

Rota Fortunae
Kristiyan Bechev, oil on canvas and wood, 3' x 3'

IODE Angela Bruce Chapter honoured 11 students with scholarships this June at their Thrift Shop presentation.

Adopted Schools

Norma Lyttle-Chicoine, Assistant Education Officer

IODE Friend Assists with Adopted Schools and Services ...

Pictured is Kathy Byles, President IODE Trillium 2023 Chapter, virtual, with Sgt. Gilles Lachance, OPP liaison.

Kathy stated, “It has been a pleasure meeting with Gilles in Orillia. He is a very enthusiastic supporter of IODE and has offered to continue meeting with me as needed to transport supplies to the north. In September we met twice. I overloaded my car with bags of warm clothing and bedding donated by the Mission Thrift Store (110 lbs) and a Port Hope lady (50 lbs) who attended my IODE Workshop earlier this year. These parcels were specifically donated for the Thunder Bay Forest Fire evacuees. Gilles took all, as is, and assured me they will be properly distributed. We met again later in the month. This time I had boxed donations addressed to Muskrat Dam (6) and Attawapiskat (7 boxes).”
Kathy still has 12 boxes to ship to Muskrat Dam and Attawapiskat, plus 5 bags of donations to be packed and brought to October’s Provincial meeting in Hamilton. Gilles has offered to meet her in that area if needed to take anything. We just need to let him know. He was very excited to see 12 pairs of skates going to Attawapiskat.

Membership

Aileen Reid, Membership Officer

IODE NEEDS YOU!

WE NEED YOU TO:

- Spread the word about the good works of IODE
- Set up displays at events in your community
- Wear your badge or your IODE button
- Create a marketing plan
- Use Facebook and other social media to let people know who IODE is and what you are doing
- Use IODE banner
- Hand out brochures and IODE bookmarks
- Look for members who will do the work
- Be visible in your community
- Invite your friends, neighbours, family to come to a meeting or help with an event
- Find a common interest that IODE has with a potential member. Find their spark!
- Make your meetings fun, engaging and inclusive

If we **all** work together, we can attract new members and keep IODE growing for years to come.

Need more ideas?
Contact: Aileen Reid, IODE Ontario Membership Officer
Aileenreid13@gmail.com

Do you have an open invitation for your chapter?

Pictured is the Facebook invitation from Laurentian Chapter.

- If you are at all interested in volunteering for IODE, an amazing service club which has been helping those in need across Canada since 1900, come check us out!
- We are a dynamic group of welcoming women who are always looking to have other great women join us to do what we do.
- To learn more about IODE visit our chapter's website or phone.

Services

Gloria Saunders & Virginia Reade, Services Co-Officers

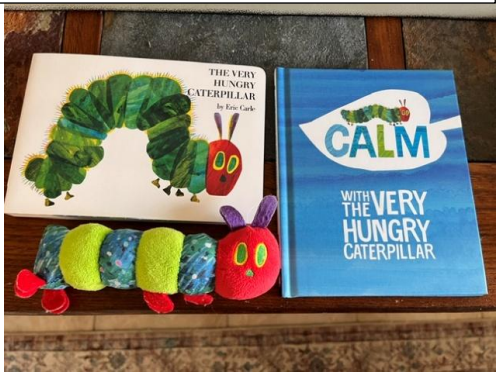
Friends of IODE have been contacting the Services Co-officers to volunteer donations to help support our communities. A Petrolia dentist has donated 144 units of dental floss for distribution to our connected chapters. A pair of Huntsville sisters have made their annual donation of many bags of knitted items and blankets. Some of the blankets were taken to a Hamilton Fire Dept to be sent to families displaced by the wildfires. A lady from Port Burwell has offered to donate pajamas, blankets and hats and a lady from Morrisburg has offered a collection of comfort dolls (see picture). Arrangements are underway to have these items picked up in time for the October PEC meeting.

A request has been received for indoor running shoes from the Education Centre in Angling Lake (Wapekeka), Northern Ontario. She cites that many of the students only wear socks at school and this has become a safety hazard, especially during gym class. The Services Co-officers have purchased many pairs of running shoes this summer and feel that this would be a good way to make use of them.

At the in-person October PEC meeting there will be a packing session held on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 7. Boxes will be packed to be taken north by Vice-President Betsy Thompson for further distribution to our connected communities. Clothing will be sorted, art kits created, and all packed into boxes with excess amounts being taken home by the contact chapters for future packings. Kathy Byles has received a donation of over 250 lbs of clothing which will be brought to the meeting. As previously mentioned, the Services Co-officers have been shopping for this session, and many donations have been made by friends of IODE. If you know of a chapter that has collected hats, mitts or slippers as requested in our Provincial Services project and can help get these donations to the meeting, it would be appreciated. Attendees at the meeting are encouraged to stay after the Officers and Convenors meeting to help with this fun packing event. The contact chapters are asked to bring mailing labels for their communities and scissors will also be needed.

Please contact Virginia or Gloria if you have questions.

Right: IODE Val Griffiths Chapter, Dorchester, added a couple of additional books and stuffies for the Ronald McDonald House in London to celebrate the IODE 125th Anniversary."



Congratulations

Primary Life Memberships:

IODE Val Griffiths Chapter**,** Dorchester, recognized Sharron McMillan with a Life Membership (right). Sharron became a member of IODE Val Griffiths Chapter in January 2015. For eleven years she has been a valuable member of this chapter. After only one year, in 2016, Sharron took on the position of first vice president for two years then became president in 2018 for two years. In 2020 Sharron became our Education and the Adopted Schools Officer and continues in that office with endless enthusiasm.

IODE Captain Garnet Brackin Chapter, Chatham, presented Cathy Reaume with a Life Membership. Cathy joined IODE in 1980 and has actively participated in all the chapter activities and fundraisers. She has been the chapter treasurer for the past 28 years. Cathy is a friend to all and is a very deserving recipient of the IODE Life Membership. Pictured (I to r), Jo-Anne Hendry (membership), Cathy Reaume and Chapter President, Donna Kuppers.

Library Author Walk of Fame... Congratulations Mary Cook.

Mary Cook's, member of IODE Captain Hooper Chapter, Carleton Place, dedication reaches far beyond writing. She has devoted an astonishing 70 years to the IODE, received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, the Carleton Place Outstanding Service Award, citations from premiers and prime ministers, and, alongside her husband Wally, the Carleton Place Lifetime Achievement Award. The couple also celebrated an extraordinary 70 years of marriage—a partnership as enduring as Mary's stories. It is only fitting that Mary Cook now joins the Carleton Place Public Library's Local Author Walk. Her words have preserved the Ottawa Valley's heart, humour, and heritage for generations

Volunteer of the Year Award, Lieutenant Governor's Lifetime Achievement, IODE Advocate

Debra Walker, IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter, Petrolia, was recently honoured with Volunteer of the Year Award from the Town of Petrolia Mayor, Brad Loosley.

Marie Carter, IODE Catherine McVean Chapter, Dresden was presented the Lieutenant Governor's Lifetime Achievement award for History Preservation in April 2025

Amber Batty, IODE Errol Egremont, Sarnia, Best speech award and shared her volunteering: Buying apples for our adopted classes in Attawapiskat plus writing Christmas cards for our Canadian troops.

Congratulations!!
Military Quilts of Valour

Quilts of Valour are specifically designated for living service members or veterans who have been "touched by war" (acknowledging both combat and service-related trauma). The mission of Quilts of Valour – Canada is to present quilts to injured or ill military members, past and present. Congratulations to two IODE members who have received their quilts of valour, Major Ruth Stokes and Sheila DeJaegher

IODE Captain Garnet Brackin, Chatham, congratulates member Major Ruth Stokes upon receiving her Quilt of Valor recently. Major Ruth Stokes was the first woman in Canada to be awarded an Officer of the Order of Military Merit in 1973. Ruth had a long and illustrious military career. She received her Quilt of Valor at a luncheon ceremony at the Blenheim Legion. Several members of the IODE Captain Garnet chapter were able to attend and celebrate this wonderful occasion. Well done Major Ruth Stokes.

Congratulations also to Sheila DeJaegher, IODE Kent Regiment Chapter, Chatham. The quilt was presented to Sheila, for her 90th birthday, by the 1st Hussars Regiment at the annual D Day commemorations in Victoria Park, London. Her husband Marshall was a WWII veteran. Sheila is highly regarded by members of the 1st Hussars regiment and association and often referred to as 'Mother of the Regiment'.

Congratulations!!!

Years of Service:

Congratulations to the following IODE members:

- **IODE Eldon House Chapter**, London member Marty Dalton, Past Provincial and National President was recognized for her 60 years of service.
- **IODE Catherine McVean Chapter,** Dresden, member Mary Whitson was recognized for 50 years.
- **IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter**, Petrolia, members recognized Diane Stinson 5 years, Betty Ann Popelier 5 years and Mary Jane Dennis 5 years of service.
- **IODE Angela Bruce Chapter**, Oakville members recognized Dana Bryant 10 years, Shelagh Leitch 10 years and Anne Weeks 10 years for their years of service.
- **IODE Maple Leaf Chapter**, Goderich members recognized Marjorie Duizer 10 years, Margo Morris 30 years, Nancy Hughes 30 years and Merle Stanbury 50 years of service.
- **IODE Val Griffiths Chapter**, Dorchester members recognized Meghan Kraehling 5 years, Cathy Miller 5 years, Marie Peden 5 years and Lyn Smale 5 years of IODE service.

Pictured (left) Marty Dalton, centre, of IODE Eldon House Chapter, London; (centre) Mary Whitson, IODE Catherine McVean Chapter, Dresden and (right) IODE Val Griffith, Dorchester, Membership Officer Marion Hearn presented to Lynn Smale and President, Cathy Miller.

(left and centre) IODE Maple Leaf Chapter, Goderich, Regent Penny Murray presents years of service pins. (right) Membership Co-Officers, IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter, Petrolia, Monica Deighton and Barb Stewart present 5 year service pins to Mary Jane Dennis and Betty Ann Popelier.

Happy Anniversary!

IODE Maple Leaf Chapter, Goderich, Celebrating 125 Years as a Chapter!

Here's to 125 years of community, friendship, and service, and to all the women who continue to make it possible. The 125th Anniversary committee members are (front, l-r) Tracy Maguire, Chair; Nancy Hughes, Penny Murray, Regent; Sharon Creighton (back) Sandi King, Karen Scott, Kristy Daley, Arlene Sager.

The IODE flag was raised at the Goderich Town Hall to celebrate IODE Maple Leaf Chapter Day. Wonderful conversations, laughter, memories, and connections were shared during our 125th Anniversary celebration, and we're filled with gratitude. A special thank you to the dedicated committee who have been planning this event since the fall. Their countless hours of work behind the scenes helped create a truly memorable afternoon celebrating the legacy of the IODE Maple Leaf Chapter.

Often each year, the women of IODE Maple Leaf Chapter choose a larger community project where our fundraising can make a meaningful difference. In 2025, proceeds from our IODE Christmas House Tour were dedicated to the Goderich Track Rebuild. Members were especially excited to present a cheque for $25,000 as the project on Bennett Street nears completion. What a wonderful feeling to see the community's generosity become something tangible that will be enjoyed for years to come.

IODE Laurentian Chapter, Ottawa, Celebrating 120 Years as a Chapter!

May was a time for celebration; Mayor Sutcliffe, Ottawa, declared May 3rd, 2026, as *IODE Laurentian Chapter Day* recognizing 120 years of service in Ottawa from the Chapter formed by Lady Sybil Grey, daughter of the Governor General Lord Grey. On Wednesday May 20th a Celebratory Luncheon and Silent Auction was held at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club. The Chapter was honoured to welcome Michelle Batty – President of IODE Ontario, who also brought greetings from National President Karen Dalton. Funds raised from the luncheon were allocated to the Youth Services Bureau – whose Executive Director (and member of the chapter) Patti Murphy was the guest speaker. Member Janet Uren provided a wonderful history of the chapter – which has been sent to local newspapers for publishing.

IODE Welcomes New Members

IODE Maple Leaf Chapter, Goderich, welcomed new members in September. Left to right: Anne Babin, new member Shannon MacLaren-Clark, Tory McDonald, Regent Penny Murray, new member Jen Miller, Heather Ball, Communications Officer. New members welcomed in April include Tracey Kipin, Joan Winter, Claire Mifsud, and Kendall Strome. Each of these women brings their own interests, talents, and enthusiasm for supporting our chapter's work in the community. We're so glad you've joined us and look forward to the ideas, friendships, and impact we'll create together.

IODE Eldon House Chapter, London (right) welcomed a new member, Jo Ann Culver, to their chapter in September. Jo Ann is the sister of Kathy Newnes. Pictured are Kathy Newnes, Jo Ann Culver, and Membership Officer, Lori Dickie.

Left: **IODE Catherine McVean Chapter**, Dresden, welcomed Joice Roel in December 2025. Sorry we missed her in previous issues.

Right: **IODE Captain Garnet Brackin Chapter**, Chatham, recently welcomed new member Courtney Spencer at our September meeting. Pictured is (left to right), Courtney Spencer, Jo-Anne Hendry (Membership) and Chapter President, Donna Kupper.

IODE Chapters in Action

Headwaters Chapter, Orangeville

IODE Headwaters Chapter, Orangeville, celebrated their 10th Anniversary, since their bestowal ceremony on September 27, 2016. This small chapter has accomplished a great deal over the past decade. Some achievements include reaching the Benefactor level with donations totalling between $25,000 and $49,000 to Headwaters Health Care Foundation, numerous contributions to the Orangeville Food Bank, support for the men's shelter, providing iPads to local public schools, assisting secondary students, and donating to Bethell Hospice and 'Branching Out Support Services' (supporting neurodiverse adults) along with many other community programs and services. None of this would be possible without the incredible people in their community who come out to support the events—golf tournaments, euchres, fashion shows, festive raffles, and more. Their generosity fuels everything the chapter does and helps make a meaningful difference at home.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined IODE Headwaters Chapter for euchre. Thanks to their generosity and community spirit, the chapter was able to donate $2,400 to Bethell Hospice. The community's kindness helped them deliver 191 pounds of food to the Orangeville Food Bank — a remarkable contribution that will support local families in need.

A few of the members enjoyed a wonderful day visiting local libraries to donate a copy of Iggy Included, one of the books shortlisted for the IODE Violet Downey Book Award. It was a pleasure to meet library staff and learn about the many activities and resources they offer to the community. We had the pleasure of visiting Grand Valley Public Library; another great community resource, a gathering place for activities for all.

IODE Chapters in Action

And another IODE Chapter from Orangeville... IODE Lord Dufferin Chapter

Headwaters Health Care Foundation were thrilled to receive a generous $5,000 donation from the **IODE Lord Dufferin Chapter,** Orangeville, annual Geranium Plant Sale. Every dollar donated helps bring essential equipment and technology to Headwaters, supporting better care for patients and families throughout our community. Thank you to everyone who purchased plants and helped make this contribution possible! Together, they are building a healthier future, close to home.

IODE Captain Garnet Brackin Chapter, Chatham, recently gave $200 to the Tilbury Library for their summer reading program. Pictured is Tilbury library staff member Brianne accepting the cheque. Thanks to the Riverview Bingo /Charitable Gaming Chatham Kent for their continued support allowing IODE to give back to the community.

This Fall to the Cultural Centre...Toddler Tuesdays!!! Thanks to a generous sponsorship from the IODE Captain Garnet Brackin Chapter, this program was offered at no charge to the participants. Little hands, big fun for a playful morning designed just for toddlers and their grown-ups. Hands-on crafts, sensory play, cozy story time, and tasty snacks were offered in a welcoming, family-friendly space.

The chapter recently gave $1,000 to the Chatham-Kent Student Nutrition Program to provide nutritious healthy food options. The program safely supplies food to students in elementary and secondary classrooms in all three school boards in Chatham-Kent.

Pictured below are the recipients of the IODE Captain Garnet Brackin Chapter's bursaries in secondary school to five local Chatham Kent schools ($5000). CKSS student Marcus Metcalfe with IODE member Marianne Johnstone and CKSS student Alyssa Jackson. McGregor SS student Noah Brinkman, IODE member Nancy Reissner and McGregor SS student Colbie Sterling. Bursaries were also awarded to Chatham Christian students Emily Dyck and Nate Quiring, Ecole Secondaire de Pain Court students Lauren Lacina and Dominique Mailloux, and Ursuline College students Evelyn DeMooy and Madison Cowgill.

Members of **IODE Confederation Chapter**, Ridgetown, recently presented John Thompson, a local Chatham Kent resident and volunteer with Hope Air, a donation towards the great work of Hope Air. Pilots volunteer their time and their plane to transport children from remote communities in Ontario to Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto.

The donation is made possible through their partnership with Charitable Gaming Chatham Kent at Riverview Gaming Centre.

For the Archives:

(submitted by Garna Argenti, member IODE Kent Regiment Chapter, Chatham)

Recently **IODE Kent Regiment Chapter**, (formerly known as the 24th Kent Regiment Chapter), Chatham, active from 1913, relinquished their Charter to the historical archives and retired in May 2026. Their minutes are being archived but here is a little history about one of their flags, the Union Jack...

The Kent Regiment Chapter's 1914 Union Jack was placed into the Essex & Kent Scottish Regiment Archives. At the end of June, members Cheryl Lambe and Donna Jean Pardoe-Cock enjoyed a lovely afternoon hosted by the Association at the Ansell Armoury in Chatham, where the presentation of the chapter's Union Jack was celebrated by the Regiment. At our final celebration luncheon on May 13th, the chapter was honoured to have Blake Harding and Jeff Morrison, the Essex and Kent Association Archivists, attend to accept our flag into their care for safekeeping, in their Regimental Archive, in Chatham. The flag has gone back to the roots of the Kent Regiment Chapter as it was Col H Smith of the 24th Kent Regiment, in 1913, who asked the ladies of Chatham to form an IODE Chapter, to support the soldiers, women and children of Kent County.

Our Chapter's Union Jack flag has an interesting provenance, which I've taken from the minutes of December 4, 1914: "*Mrs. Taylor announced that the Chapter's new flag was mounted on a pole presented to the Chapter, by Mrs. William Coltart. This flagpole was made from one of the ribs of the gunboat General Myers built at Detroit in 1800 and captured by the -- when they took Detroit. General Proctor was using it as a supply boat in his retreat up the Thames. To prevent its falling into the hands of the Kentucky Rangers under General Harrison it was burned and sunk at Pikeville on October 19th, 1812, about 6:30 pm. It was raised by The Kent Historical Society in 1906. The spike on the top of the pole is taken from one of the helmets of the old 24th Kent Regiment.*"

It seems fitting that the flag presentation was the final donation of our Chapter, as it was an early project of Kent Regiment Chapter, taking us full circle, if you will, after 113 years of service to the Chatham-Kent community. Our motto is that of the 24th Kent Regiment: *Unto the Last Ditch.*

Pictured left to right: Cheryl Lambe, Dan LeBlanc of the E&K Scottish Regiment Association, Donna Jean Pardoe-Cock.

Provincial Annual Meeting 2027

Do you know where you will be on April 23rd and 24th in 2027?

You are coming to Point Edward and Sarnia for the **107th Provincial Annual Meeting of IODE** for two whole fabulous days.

- Celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of IODE women.
- Meet an award-winning author and extraordinary volunteers deserving of recognition.
- Take notes of amazing marketing strategies from women who recruit members in their organizations with success.
- Does your chapter have a connection to a northern community or a local shelter?
- There are incredible opportunities to bridge connections by sharing resources to support those with the greatest need when you meet in person at the 2027 PAM!

Where is it? The quickest route to the 2027 PAM extravaganza so you won't miss a moment's fun is travel to the end of Highway 402. The gorgeous Four Points by Sheraton Hotel Point Edward-Sarnia is in the village a block from the city of Sarnia. Carpool to enhance the fun and friendship of others or take the train to Sarnia.

Where to Stay? The first thing to do is find a roomie and plan your party- starting now. Blocks of rooms are booked for Thursday April 22, Friday April 23, and Saturday April 24, checking out Sunday April 25. Phone (519) 336-4130 to reserve your accommodations.
Rates are a screaming deal at $135 /night for a double room with two queen beds, plus HST and MAT. Identify yourself as 'IODE Ontario' to receive the favourable rate. Boston Pizza inside the hotel serves a full breakfast.

What are we Doing? Friday morning tour the Petrolia's Victoria Playhouse built in 1888 and still operating today, and Petrolia's Oil Discovery museum- the living oil museum features authentic 1860s operational oilfields, traditional wooden derrick rigs, historic relocated buildings, and working jerk-line systems.

Create unique jewellery with beach glass collected from Canatara Park beach. Participate on **Friday afternoon** in a craft activity offered by The Greater Glass Company. A $25 kit includes all supplies, and for $35 the kit includes a Canadian author's book for children aged three to seven. The proceeds of the kits (yes, you get to keep your own jewellery, and there will be more for sale) go towards 'empowering survivors, protecting the vulnerable and raising awareness through education and craftsmanship'. The final goal is to build a shelter to help in the healing of young women who are victims of human trafficking.

Friday Night could bring music to your ears!

Saturday is the business portion of the Annual Meeting with guest speaker, great lunch, and super networking with IODE members from other chapters.

Shopping With Chapters has no vendor fees! All chapters are welcome to display and sell their wares without cost. Guests can shop and support these fundraiser projects and take home some beautiful and delicious items.

Remember to stuff your pockets with dollars for fantastic pieces at the eagerly anticipated **Silent Auction**. Ha - the bids got quite loud in Peterborough! You can outbid your friends for a good cause. E-transfers accepted. Proceeds help support youth in the community.

Try out some awesome restaurants. Sarnia is sure to have something that delights your palate. You may have to come sooner and stay later to experience it all.

Stay tuned for a November Eblast for the latest upcoming 2027 PAM events like a musical Friday night, a sumptuous Saturday luncheon menu, Services project, registration and excursions. You won't be just sitting, that's certain!

Sarnia Fact: Did you know Pauline McGibbon was National President of IODE Canada from 1963 to 1965? She then became the first female Lieutenant Governor of Ontario in 1974 and held the office until 1980. Sarnia has honoured her memory with a public elementary school named in her honour.

Help bring a proposed donation of a buddy bench to the P. E. McGibbon Public School for students and neighbourhood families? The school tagline is, '*We are grateful for community partners who believe in supporting local children and families*.' It is a poignant tale from a parent that when their little boy was feeling lonely, he sat on a buddy bench at school. Another student sat down beside him and started talking with him. He didn't feel lonely after that. Who doesn't love to see a smile of joy on a child's face when they are included? The local PAM Committee members and their chapters are seeking sponsors for this worthy cause.

Share this newsletter article out loud with your own chapter members. Registration forms will be available and sent to members in 2027.

Get plenty of sleep before you come because we are going to rock this PAM. Dream of bridging connections.

Be one who does it. Be the one who lets others learn how. We are IODE strong.

Save the dates 23-24 April 2027 in your National 2027 Planner that supports the National Education Fund.

Share your News with IODE Ontario email us at iodeontario@gmail.com

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IODE is a national women's charitable organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals through education support, community services and citizenship programs.